Solid Waste Management Program Summary

First Nations
Technical Services
Advisory Group Inc.

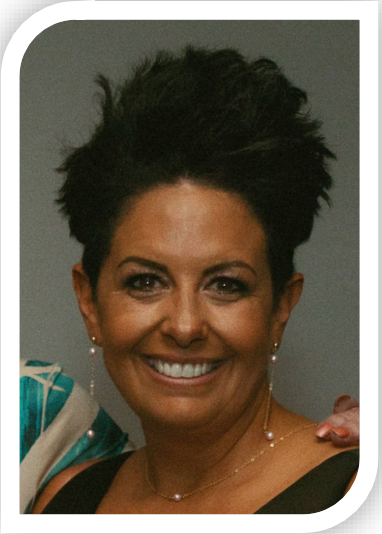
Vision

- Effective and safe solid waste management systems in every First Nation in Alberta.

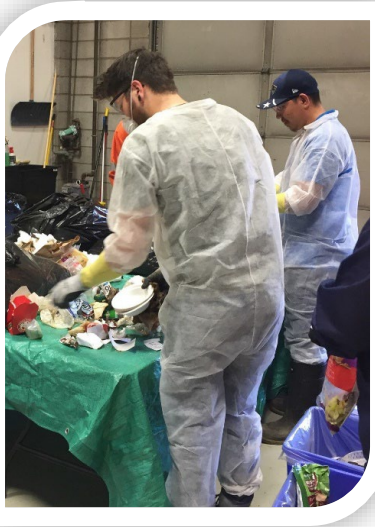
Mission

- To support First Nation autonomy in the development, operation, and maintenance of economically, socially, and environmentally sound solid waste management systems.

Sustainable Communities Team



Monica McColman
Program Director



Aaron Campbell
Environmental Specialist



Tom Kinderwater
Senior Waste Management Advisor



Roshan Boorada
Youth and Community Outreach

Sustainable Communities Program Overview

- Our team provides on-site, hands-on training and mentoring services to waste management operators to promote safe operations, environmentally responsible disposal of waste, and promotes participation in waste diversion programs to Alberta's First Nations.
- TSAG offers accredited classroom and on-site training for First Nations solid waste management operators.
- Our senior technical advisor and environmental specialist provide technical support and oversight on waste management capital projects at the request of the Nation.
- We respond to community requests to improve waste diversion and develop community plans to manage solid waste more effectively.



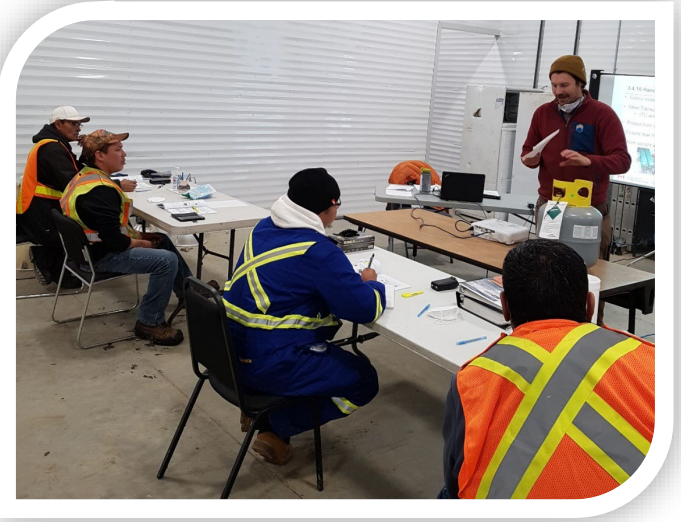
School and Community Outreach

- TSAG's Future Keeper's program is a hands-on resource designed to support teachers in First Nations schools across Alberta by providing engaging, age-appropriate environmental learning materials.
- Youth engagement and education activities.
- Community outreach and engagement to coordinate events that support waste diversion and sustainability.
- Grant and planning support for recycling round-up events.



Waste Management Operator Training

- **Transfer Station Basics Certification**
  - Provides certification and information to waste management operators on safe site operations, waste diversion, and material handling.
- **Ozone Depleting Substances Awareness Certification and Refrigerant Recovery Training**
  - Provides certification and hands-on training for removing and recovering refrigerant from appliances to reduce disposal costs and limit environmental risks.
- **Safety Certification Training (WHMIS, First Aid, and TDG)**
  - A suite of safety certifications courses for waste management operators based on feedback and job-specific activities.
- Support and funding for landfill operators to take SWANA Landfill Operator Certification Courses.





On-Site Waste Management Operator Training

- In addition to the classroom training courses, TSAG also provides on-site training for operators at their waste transfer station.
- This provides more customized training and operational assistance, especially for new operators and new waste management systems.
- Hands-on support and training includes material management, sorting storage, contacts, and procedures to effectively manage a waste transfer station.





Transfer Station Basics Online

- To respond to the need for new operators to receive training during the pandemic, our team migrated the Transfer Station Basics Course onto an online learning platform.
- Originally it was developed to be instructor-led online, but we have recently updated the course to be self-led to allow participants to go through the course at their own pace.
- Participants are able to receive the training virtually through completion of online modules and quizzes.



Zero Waste Circuit Rider Program

A Zero waste circuit rider is a solid waste management expert that visits communities with the intent to assess, educate, report, and support Alberta's First Nations communities.

- Used successfully in British Columbia for many years
- Mirrors the Water and Wastewater Circuit Rider program operated by TSAG.

The circuit rider will collaborate with solid waste management operators and administrators for each community to improve their waste management systems.



Zero Waste Circuit Rider Program

- Providing hands-on support to operators to participate in stewardship recycling programs.
- Assisting in coordination of materials collections and site services for non-stewardship materials.
- Assessing training needs, and providing on-site training for new and existing operators.
- Assessing equipment, infrastructure, and funding needs and provide feedback to ISC and First Nations administration and leadership.



Supporting Relationships with External Agencies

Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA)

- Supporting and encouraging Nations to participate in waste diversion programming for tires, electronics, paint, and used oil.
- Meetings on program updates and how these updates affect First Nations communities. Ongoing education regarding how FN communities differ from municipalities.

Regional Landfills and Waste Authorities

- TSAG continues to support relationships between First Nations and Regional Landfills. Opening lines of communication has lead to better service and dispute resolution.





Alberta recycling MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY | electronics | paint | tires | used oil

Extended Producer Responsibility

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing and recycling waste to the producer and away from local governments and taxpayers.
- Phase 2 will begin in October 2026 to expand the program to communities that did not already have a curbside recycling program.
- TSAG is working with ARMA, ISC, and PROs to help Alberta First Nations sign up and participate in the program.



Solid Waste Project Support

- TSAG provides technical support and input for First Nations that are constructing or purchasing solid waste management infrastructure as required. This can include:
  - Providing input on infrastructure needs based on site visits, meetings, and waste management experience to Indigenous Services and First Nations
  - Providing design input on infrastructure projects as required.
  - Providing input, recommendations, and contacts for equipment purchases including vehicles and waste bins.



Solid Waste Annual Performance Assessment

This program follows a data collection process similar to water and wastewater API and EACRS but focus on solid waste assets and operations:

- Assessments are typically completed on the same schedule as EACRS and provided back to the First Nation and to ISC when completed.
- The goal of the assessments is to ensure that First Nations have everything they need to run an effective waste management system.



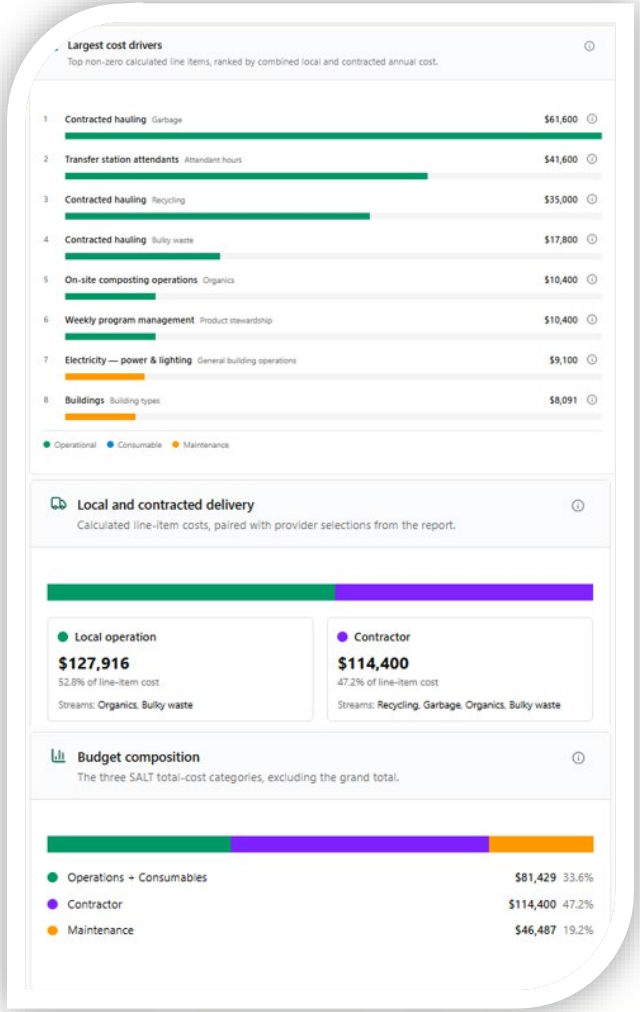
Solid Waste Performance Assessments - WASKI

- Providing a new way to view and interact with your community's waste management information in our online database – WASKI
- This will allow easier access to all your data including EACRS inspections, Circuit Rider reports, Housing and Fire assessments, ect…
- Users can comment on information contained in the assessment and can be updated more regularly.



Solid Waste O&M Calculator and Tracking

- TSAG is working on a solid waste operations and maintenance calculator and cost tracking system to help communities better estimate and track expenditures on waste management.
- Still in development and will be hosted on WASKI for convenient access.
- The calculations are based on O&M calculators developed by Saskatchewan Aboriginal Land Technicians (SALT) and Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) in BC.



Summary – Positive Outcomes

- Alberta First Nations have made significant progress on improving waste management infrastructure and equipment with funding and support from ISC and TSAG since 2016.
- Improved infrastructure has led to improved waste diversion practices and more waste being removed from First Nations and transferred to regional landfills.





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Summary - Areas to Improve

- Waste diversion practices and participation still have significant room for improvement.
- First Nations' waste management practices are still lagging behind most municipalities in Alberta.
- Environmental contamination risks related to waste management On-Reserve are higher than their Provincial counterparts.





THANK YOU!

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