

## Working with the stewards to address material quality

Phil Zigby, City of Guelph/  
Association of Municipal Recycling  
Coordinators

## What is the AMRC?

- Formed in 1987
- Operational focus
- Information sharing
- Best practices

## **Where does AMRC fit in with AMO?**

- AMO is the politicians' organization
- AMRC is the municipal operations organization
- Consultation and assistance in developing policy matters

## **AMRC Markets, Operations & Contracts Committee**

- Meets approx. four times per year
- Organizes workshops and special sessions for the AMRC conference
- Material quality a growing issue

## The bad old days

- No communication between producers/importers and recycling program operators
- Little communication between municipalities and industry organizations
- Market problems usually followed by temporary task forces or increased PR

## The bad old days continued....

- Little incentive for industry to participate in solving operational problems
- Recycling programs funded by taxpayers

## The better old days

- 2003 – Waste Diversion Act
- Industry paying ½ net cost of recycling
- Fees designed to encourage stewards to more sustainable packaging by penalizing high cost materials
- Reducing costs in everyone's interests now

## Fall 2007 AMRC Material Quality Workshop

- Speakers from all the major markets
- Also had speakers giving the stewards' perspective
- Led to meetings with stewards  
(HBC, P&G, Stewardship Ontario, Retail Council, Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors)

## AMRC Fall conference

- Full morning session on product design and material quality
- Ongoing dialogue
- Increasing efficiency and decreasing costs in municipalities' AND stewards' interest