



Adopt & Implement Solid Waste Management Plan

Step 7

Preparing a Solid Waste Management Plan



Steps in Preparing a Solid Waste Management Plan



Adopt & Implement Solid Waste Management Plan

Once the plan has been approved, the focus moves from planning to action, encouraging participation and ongoing use.

This step involves:

- Adopting and communicating the plan
- Having a community celebration
- Implementing the plan
- Promoting participation and compliance
- Monitoring progress and supporting continuous improvement

Step 7

Adopting the Plan

When the SWM Plan has been revised to respond to community concerns and is considered complete by the First Nation, it is probably ready to be adopted.

Chief & Council may vote to adopt the SWM Plan

The SWM Plan may also be adopted through a membership vote

Regardless of the adoption method used, a First Nation should ensure that the SWM Plan is formally endorsed by the community and Council.

Such recognition will increase the plan's legitimacy as a guide to future actions and expenditures and will reinforce a First Nation's authority to govern its lands and resources.

Communicating the Final Plan

Implementing a communications plan will ensure that others know the SWM Plan has been adopted.

This communication plan:

- Shows other governments, regulators, and others that the First Nation is actively exercising its authority to govern its lands
- Supports compliance by informing members and businesses of the new policies, laws and regulations
- Builds community understanding allowing Chief and Council to implement the plan with confidence
- Informs businesses and developers that are active on reserves or that propose development on reserves of the SWM priorities, goals, and procedures established by the First Nation

Share your Thoughts

How do you ensure transparency when communicating implementation progress to the community?



Step 7

Community Celebration



A community celebration can mark the transition from planning to action and recognize the work completed so far. It's also an opportunity to:

- Build excitement and shared ownership around the adoption of the plan
- Reinforce the importance of community involvement in the success of implementing the plan
- Prepare the community for the next steps and the changes to how waste will be managed

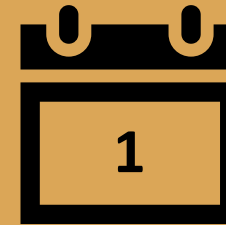
Community engagement should continue throughout implementation, not just during the planning stage.

Implementing the Plan

Implementing the SWM Plan is a long-term, multi-year process, which should be reflected in the implementation schedule.

After a First Nation adopts its SWM Plan, the First Nation's Lands or Environment Manager should develop a detailed annual (or multi year) workplan for implementation that includes:

- Specific staff assignments
- Deliverables
- Schedules
- Salaries
- Expenses
- Funding sources



Step 7

Implementing the Plan

Here are a few tips for implementing a SWM Plan to ensure the plan's goals are achieved:

**Assign
responsibility**

**Seek shared
success
through
collaboration**

**Be prepared
to change
course**

Implementing your SWM Plan: Law Development

Many SWM Plans identify laws to be developed as part of an effective response.

First Nations under a Land Code have the authority to develop laws “respecting the development, conservation, protection, management, use and possession of First Nation land.”

First Nation Laws could include:



Trespass, Enforcement & Ticketing



Residential Tenancy



Business Permitting & Licensing



Emergency Laws



Recycling, Solid Waste Management,
and Garbage Disposal



Land Use, Zoning, and Development



Allotments, Interests, and Licences



Environmental Assessment & Protection



Natural Resource Management



Environmental Emergencies & Natural
Disasters

Reducing the Need for Enforcement

Reducing the Risk of a Violation

Engage and educate the community

Incorporate culture, values, traditions

Develop programs to make compliance easy

Resolving Violations/ Diversion of Charges

Work towards voluntary compliance

Build corrective measures into your laws

Create incentives and disincentives

Using Elders, Mediation, Alternative Approaches

Promotes healing

Can be more effective than typical court punishments

Strong Governance Systems

Lands records and information, monitoring systems, coordination of laws, permit and lease systems, etc., policies and procedures

Restorative Justice

Recognizing that wrongs done to a person are also wrongs done to a community

Aim to restore relationships

Holds offenders responsible for making amends to the community

Step 7

Tips for Law Development

Follow the Law
Development
Process outlined in
your Land Code

- Engage legal counsel for assistance
- Identify in detail what the laws are intended to achieve
- Draft laws that are enforceable, understandable, and that will stand up in court
- Include enforcement mechanisms and penalties that are appropriate for the offence
 - e.g., allow for tickets to address minor offences requiring immediate response; establish fines higher than the cost savings for committing the offence
- Consider approaches taken by others but be cautious.
 - Such laws may be inappropriate for local circumstances, ineffective, excessively bureaucratic, or expensive to enforce
 - Avoid creating laws on reserve that create substantially different legal requirements (either more permissive or more restrictive) than prevail in surrounding communities.
 - It is more important to have laws that meet the needs and circumstances of a First Nation than to be consistent with neighbours' laws.

2026 Enforcement Conference

The Lands Advisory Board (LAB) and the First Nations Land Management Resource Centre (RC) will host the 2026 National Conference on the Future of Enforcement of First Nation Laws.

[Register Today](#)

November
17 & 18, 2026

**Hilton Lac Leamy,
Gatineau, Quebec**

Available for both in-person and virtual participation options

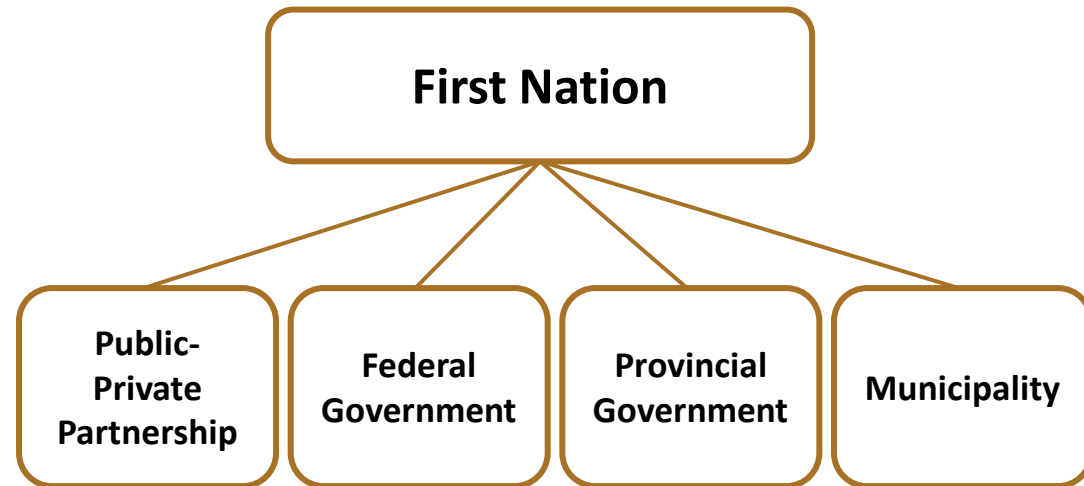
Step 7

Partnership Agreements

Partnership agreements in SWM are contractual arrangements, often public-private partnerships (PPPs), municipal type service agreements (MTSA), or federal/provincial government agreements.

They are designed to share financial, operational, and administrative burdens for waste collection, recycling, and disposal.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are long-term agreements between government entities and/or private firms to design, build, finance, or operate waste services such as collection, recycling, landfills, waste-to-energy.



A **Municipal Type Service Agreement (MTSA)** is a formal arrangement between a First Nation and a neighboring municipality to provide services such as waste management.

Partnership Agreements cont.

Key questions to consider when preparing to negotiate a partnership agreement:

- Which services could benefit from a partnership?
- What are my main concerns?
- Does my partner have any concerns?
- How will I address my partners concerns?
- What are my community's main restrictions?
- What are my communication expectations?
- Do I have an expected timeline to achieve the objectives?
- What does success look like to me?



Negotiating a Partnership Agreement



Negotiating a strong partnership requires good communication and trust and must be mutually beneficial.

A strong partnership agreement outlines:

- Growth & development
- Terms of the agreement
- Roles & responsibilities
- Duration of the agreement
- All costs & payments
(including how billing occurs, cost control, etc.)
- Service area
- Renewal terms
- Dispute resolution
- Level of service(s)
- Control & Governance

Step 7

Strengthening Regional Commitment



6 mins 30 seconds

Legal Review

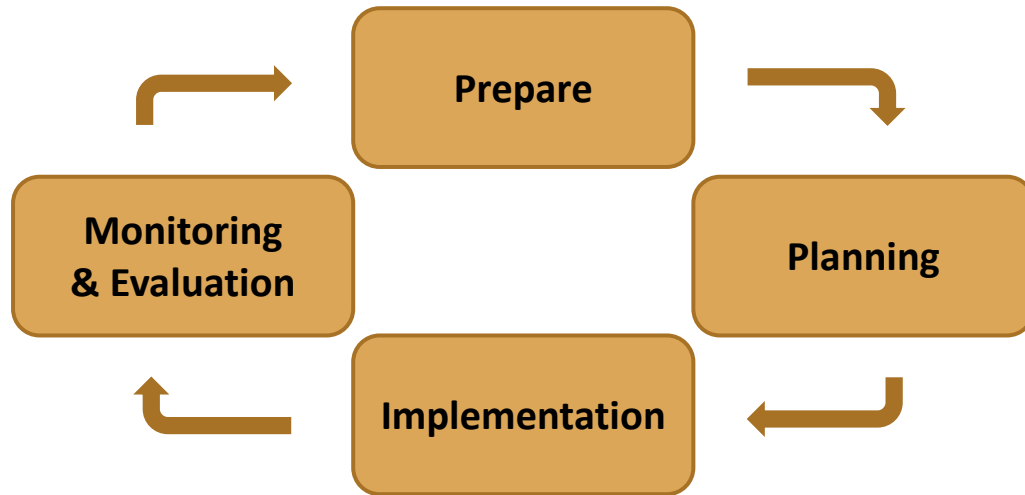
Legal review of partnership agreements focuses on allocating risks, ensuring regulatory compliance, and defining service performance metrics.

Effective agreements often address long-term landfill capacity, waste reduction targets, and shared financial responsibility for recycling contamination.

A legal review will:

- Ensure consistency
- Confirm the Scope & Services to be received
- Clarify Liability and Risk Allocation
- Validate regulatory compliance

What comes after Implementation



Planning is not a linear process
– i.e. there is no ‘after’.

All planning is cyclical and should be considered an ‘evergreen’ process.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Solid Waste Management Plan identifies where we are now and where we are going
- A good Monitoring and Evaluation program can help us see when we have arrived
- Determine your metrics for success and identify how often you will measure

We expect SWM Plan Implementation to evolve over time, shaped by new technologies, regulations, and the needs of individual First Nations. We also anticipate SWM Plan Implementation may identify a need for changes to government programs (e.g., public works, infrastructure, etc.).

Step 7

Monitoring & Continuous Improvement

Although the recommended planning timeline for a SWM Plan is 25-30 years, reviews and updates should be undertaken every 5 years (or as appropriate).




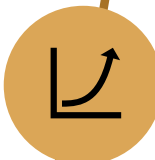

These reviews and updates allow you to accommodate changes in the vision and goals of the community.

As part of a review, consider:

- Including an evaluation of progress made under the waste management plan
- Comparing planned results with actual results

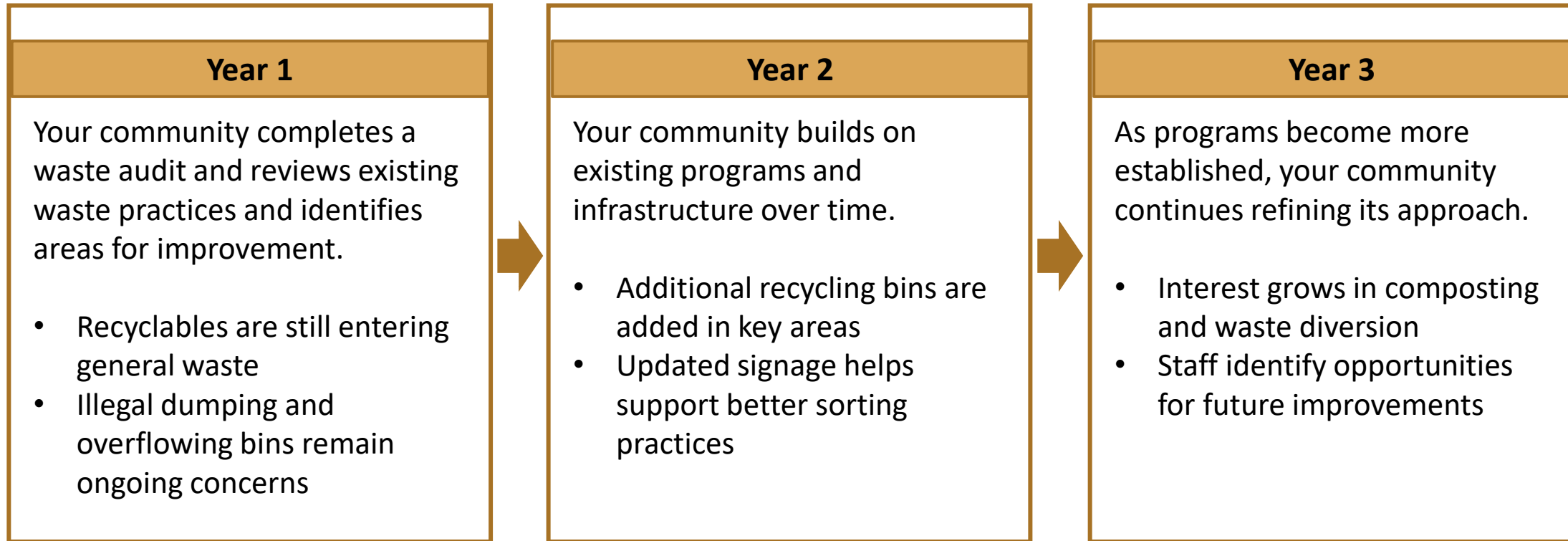


Examples of Measures of Success

-  Quantity of household hazardous waste and special waste diverted
-  Quantity of compost produced
-  Quantity of recyclables diverted
-  Number of visits to the free store and current inventory
-  Number of end-of-life-vehicles shipped out of the community

Sample Timeline: Development to Continuous Improvement

As possible options are identified and considered, it's important to recognize that effective solutions don't always require new programs; in many cases, existing systems can be strengthened or expanded to meet community needs.



Ongoing Communication

Regular communication can help community members stay informed and feel more involved as changes are introduced during implementation:



Community Updates

- Post information on social media
- Share progress photos and provide regular updates
- Share timelines for upcoming changes



Community Involvement

- Teach sorting practices at schools or events
- Host community clean-ups



Visual Communication

- Use clear labels on waste and recycling bins
- Display instruction near sorting areas

Group Workshop Activity



2026 Solid Waste

Community Profile

XYZ First Nation

About the Community
XYZ First Nation is a slowly growing community focused on long-term environmental stewardship, infrastructure planning, and community well-being. Recent growth, increased waste volumes, and concerns about existing waste systems have led the community to begin developing a solid waste management plan.

Community Snapshot

- Population: 1,222
- Households: 426
- Growth trend: Steady increase
- Distance to landfill: 23 km

- Main industries: Construction & Trades, Forestry, and Tourism & Recreation
- Waste management staff: 2 full-time + seasonal support
- New housing expansion planned over the next 10 years
- Community concern: wildfire risk, illegal dumping, and runoff/water protection

PROJECTED GROWTH

POPULATION GROWTH 1,222 people in 2024 Projected 1,320+ by 2034	HOUSING DEVELOPMENT 30 new housing units planned over the next 10 years	PROJECTED WASTE VOLUMES Estimated waste volumes may increase by 10-15% over the next decade	INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES Projected waste volumes may place additional pressure on current transfer station capacity	CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS 1 Waste hauling and landfill services are coordinated through municipal partnerships
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Solid Waste Management Planning Activity

Instructions

For this activity, you and your table group will work together as a planning team for XYZ First Nation to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan.

You will discuss ideas, analyze information from the provided Community Profile, and make planning decisions in the best interest of the community.

As a group, complete each section of the activity during the provided activity time.

Introduction

1.1 Introduction and Purpose
Think about a solid waste management plan and why it is important for XYZ First Nation.
What do you think led to their decision to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan? (Examples:...


Thank you



Post Workshop Survey

Please take 5 minutes to fill out the post-workshop survey. Your feedback is extremely important!



 **Solid Waste Management Post-Workshop Feedback Survey**

Thank you for your participation in the Strengthening Environmental Governance Through Solid Waste Management workshop. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect your feedback, which will help us improve events in the future. All responses will remain confidential.

1. Which category reflects your primary roles & responsibilities?

Leads Manager

Leads Officers/Technicians

Chief & Council

Other

2. How satisfied are you with the following aspects of the workshop? *

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied
Speakers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Materials provided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Topic relevance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Group activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall content	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use of technology	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Did the session provide you with a deeper understanding of the Solid Waste Management Planning process?

4. Did you feel like the workshop content is relevant to your current position and needs?

Yes

No

5. How could the event be improved?

6. Would you like to provide further comments?

7. Please provide your email address if you would like us to contact you about your feedback.

[Add new question](#)