



There is growing interest within the IC&I sector to do more. Many organizations in the sector want the recognition of being perceived as an environmental leader; others are coming to understand there may be bottom-line benefits to understanding the wastes they generate and maximize the opportunity to eliminate wastes.

To address this issue, Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) has introduced the 3RCertified waste diversion certification initiative. This innovative program is designed to offer support and recognition to businesses and institutions that want to be recognized for their waste reduction performance and seek continuous improvement.

3RCertified™

WHY?

Stakeholder awareness --- Cost Avoidance --- Wasted Resources

- ⇒ Industry and public recognition of leadership in waste reduction and diversion performance and management.
- ⇒ Reduced liability by meeting and exceeding regulatory requirements, reducing future risks associated with high landfill fees, and reduction in Greenhouse Gases attributed to waste.
- ⇒ Tenant engagement through sophisticated waste diversion and recycling programs.
- ⇒ Peer-to-peer learning through online case studies; shared best practices; and other resources.
- ⇒ Improved environmental compliance
- ⇒ Use of standardized tools for tracking, measuring and preventing solid waste disposal.
- ⇒ Reaping the sustained benefits of cost controls and reduction of material.
- ⇒ Contribute to an externally verified waste stream database to enable sector performance benchmarking.

WHAT?

3RCertified™ is a voluntary program for the Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (IC&I) sector, recognizing organizations taking a leadership position in waste reduction and diversion. Certification awarded on the basis of an onsite evaluation.

Central to the 3RCertified program, is a set of criteria that participating businesses and institutions are required to meet. The criteria covers the various ways an organization manages its solid waste – from policies and waste audits through operations, procurement of products and services, management reviews, and many other categories. The applicant organization earns a specified number of points for each criterion that it meets, and certification is awarded at one of four levels based on the total number of points earned.

In conjunction with 3RCertified, RCO is developing a number of tools and resources to support members of the IC&I sector as they seek to understand and manage solid waste and their associated costs in a more sustainable way. A key resource is RCO's Accredited Waste Auditor program which is anticipated to launch January 2013.



How?



- Apply online at: www.3RCertified.ca. Once payment received, applicants are then able to create a profile *Re-TRAC Connect* – a secure platform where 3RCertified surveys and resources are found.
- 3RCertified surveys are comprised of: *3R Program Management Survey* and *Waste Stream Survey*. Applicants are required to enter two (2) years of waste stream data.
- Once an application is submitted (data locked online) a preliminary document review is conducted.
- On-site evaluation is conducted include a site tour, interviews and document review.
- Certification is awarded to successful applicants based on achieving a minimum set of points and meeting a set of mandatory criteria. There are four (4) levels of certification.
- To maintain certification, users are required to update the Waste Stream Survey at months 12 and 24 from original certification date. Known as the surveillance period, an abridged on-site evaluation will also be conducted. Users have the opportunity to upgrade their score by increasing their diversion and capture performance.

3RCERTIFIED ALLIED TOOLS

In conjunction with 3RCertified, RCO is developing a number of tools and resources to support members of the IC&I sector to better understand and manage solid waste and associated costs in a more sustainable way.

➤ **Standard Waste Audit Methodology (SWAM)**

RCO has standardized the methodology for conducting waste audits. 3RCertified applicants will be required to use the SWAM in order for waste audits to be accepted in the 3RCertified evaluation.

➤ **Ontario Waste Auditor Training (OWAT) Program**

The OWAT program is based on the Standard Waste Audit Method and focuses on auditing principles, sampling methods, benchmarking and data analysis, and accurate methods of measuring and reporting performance.

➤ **Accredited Waste Auditor (AWA) program**

The purpose of the AWA program is to independently verify waste auditor credentials and provide access to these professional waste auditors by the IC&I sector within a public registry.

To learn more about 3RCertified™:

Web: www.3RCertified.ca -- Email: 3RCertified@rco.on.ca -- Phone: **416.657.2797 / 1.888.501.9637 ext. 8**



About RCO

Recycling Council of Ontario (RCO) is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization involved in policy, education and project work around the issues of consumption, waste generation, reduction and diversion, and recycling.

T. **416-657-2797 / 1-888-501-9637**

W. www.RCO.on.ca

E. RCO@rco.on.ca