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DATE 15/02/10
SUBJECT Steel Extraction Trial at Tip Face

Background

In response to Action B10.1 Remove Steel from Waste from EMRC's Strategic Waste Management Plan December 2008 - On 9th November 2009 an excavator with a magnet was employed on site for a cost \$115.00 per hour plus GST to extract steel from the commercial waste at the tip face. The trial ran until 4th December 2009 a total of 20 days, the final cost for the excavator was \$21,881.75

Initially the main difficulty with the trial was sourcing companies to provide scrap metal bins for collection. We originally tried to source 30m³ bins from a number of companies and were told that no bins were available. We therefore had to settle on 2 companies, Hills Scrap Metal and Lawrence Scrap Metal who provided 9m³ bins. Unfortunately, due to the type of scrap metal being collected the bins were filled before the companies could collect them and resulted in piles of scrap metal left at the tip face. The whole collection system could be best described as "chaotic".

Outcome

A potential amount of 8,624.81 tonnes of commercial waste was available to sort through during this period. Due to the high volume of traffic flow at the tip face it was not possible to sort through each commercial load without holding up the traffic. A total of 61.68 tonnes of scrap steel was extracted during the trial, the material collected was mainly light gauge steel such as tin sheeting, guttering and small empty drums. Very little heavy steel was extracted during the trial as we believe the customers are aware of the value of the scrap product and are prepared to sort through the waste before arriving on site. The income generated from the sale of the scrap metal was \$2,150.72

Conclusion

Due to the time taken by the excavator to "sweep" through the waste and the small amount of steel extracted from the waste - the implementation of this system full-time on site would not provide any significant saving of airspace and would not be financially viable.