



**Minutes
Waste Diversion Committee
June 19, 2019
9:00 am
Council Chamber**

Members Regional Councillor Jack Heath Councillor Reid McAlpine Guests Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Jim Jones Karl Lyew, MEAC Representative Regrets Regional Councillor Joe Li Councilor Khalid Usman	Staff Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Juliana Aparicio, Diversion Programs Technician Angela Perry, Waste Operations Assistant Michael DiPasquale, Supervisor, Waste Operations Kimberley Dunsmoor, Community Outreach Assistant Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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1. Call to Order

The Waste Diversion Committee convened without quorum at 9:13 am with Regional Councillor Jack Heath in the Chair.

Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management facilitated the meeting.

2. Welcome Committee Members

The membership of the Committee was reviewed.

Regional Councillor Jack Heath will seek approval for past councillor Valerie Burke be appointed to the Committee as an adhoc, non-voting member. Claudia Marsales suggested Sara Tam, Manager of Business Planning & Innovation may attend meetings to provide strategic direction as needed.

3. Guest Speaker: Farid Parhami, President – The Recycle People

Farid Parhami, President – The Recycle People attended with a presentation on Markham's process for recycling polystyrene. The polystyrene is densified and sold. The densified blocks are then used by organizations to make building material and plastic lumber. Markham is a leader in the recycling of polystyrene. York Region and Northumberland County are now sending their material to Markham for processing.

The Committee suggested that Markham's Recycling Depot hours be reviewed, so that they are open with hours that are more consistent and when residents are available to drop off their recycled goods.

4. 2018 Waste Program Workshops – Review

A brief overview of the 2018 Waste Program Workshops was provided. The minutes from the workshops were circulated with the agenda package. The feedback from the workshops was used to develop the "Best of the Best #2" framework. Claudia Marsales provided a recent CIF study that indicated clear bags and material bans are the most effective diversion tools when compared to bag fees and bag limits.

5. York Region – Blue Box Contamination Update

Committee discussed York Region's recent blue box contamination report. York Region advised that the top contaminants are bagged recyclables, waste material in bags, organics, coffee cups and coffee pods. According to the Region's audit, recyclables put out in plastic bags are the greatest contaminant and that bagged recycling is sent for disposal.

Staff believe the best solution to resolving the contamination of blue boxes in York Region is to purchase and install a bag breaker like the City of Toronto, Region of Peel and Region of Halton. However, York Region's position is to leave bagged recyclables behind at the curb.

Staff indicated a bag breaker feasibility study was completed along with a business case several years ago.

A brief overview of the market for recycled goods was provided that indicated the market for plastics is still good but the market for newspaper is lower due to the availability of on-line newspapers.

Committee suggested staff request a more specific list of the blue box contaminations from York Region and concern was expressed regarding bagged recyclables being sent for disposal.

6. Provincial Direction

The Province posted a paper "Reducing Litter and Waste in our Communities". Both York Region and Markham provided feedback on the report. Markham requested that the Province implement a deposit-

return program for beverage drinking containers like other provinces and beer. This was recommended as it provides an incentive to return drinking containers, reduce litter and it helps keep the recycling clean.

The Province's goals indicated in the report are: 1) standardize recycling across the province; 2) improve diversion rate and increase what materials can be recycled; 3) reduce litter in communities and parks; 4) require producers to pay for recycling of products they produce; and 4) maintain or improve frequency of BB collection.

7. Federal Plastic Waste Plan

The Government of Canada announced on June 10th that it will work with other levels of government and businesses to: 1) introduce standards for manufacturing plastic; 2) ban single-use plastic where supported by scientific evidence; 3) and 4) take steps to reduce pollution from packaging and plastic products.

8. “Best Of The Best #2” – Overview

The “Best of the Best #2” will focus on the following ten items:

1. Curbside collection enhancement
2. Multi-residential and new development advancements
3. Recycling depot upgrades
4. Single-serve & disposable plastics strategy
5. Zero waste facilities and events
6. Expand e-waste & tire collection (stewardship)
7. Promotion and education
8. White goods improvement (CFC management)
9. Super mailbox recycling (city wide)
10. Specialized diversion programs

One specific initiative staff are pursuing in regards to 3) Recycling depot upgrades is to sell clear garbage bags at the Recycling Depots. This would ensure residents purchase the correct type of bag, and it would provide a new revenue source for the City.

9. “Short-Lived” Plastic A.K.A “Single-Use”

Ontario and its municipalities are behind in introducing legislation, regulatory requirements or by-laws to control the use of single use plastic. An overview of some of the policy implemented around the world to regulate the use of single use plastic was presented to the Committee.

Staff focused specifically on the efforts of Victoria, British Columbia and PEI. Victoria passed a “Checkout Bag” by-law in 2018, which requires local businesses to charge prescribed fees to patrons requesting bags. The Canadian Plastic Bag Association petitioned the by-law but the Supreme Court

of British Columbia ruled that the by-law was within the City's authority and the petition was dismissed.

10. New Business

There was no new business.

11. Next Meeting Date

Committee requested that a meeting be scheduled in July to discuss: 1. curbside collection enhancements; and 2. single-serve & disposable plastics. However, the main focus of the meeting will be on single-serve & disposable plastics.

12. Adjournment

The Waste Diversion Committee adjourned at 12:03 PM.