



# **“Best of the Best 2” Markham's Diversion Strategy 2020-2023**

**General Committee  
July 6, 2020**



## Presentation Overview

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# 1. Purpose

“The Best of the Best 2” – is the next phase of Markham’s corporate waste diversion strategy to be implemented from 2020 - 2023 with a target of 85% municipal diversion

**The Waste Diversion Committee and Staff engaged in the following process:**

Performed comprehensive review of all City waste management and diversion programs

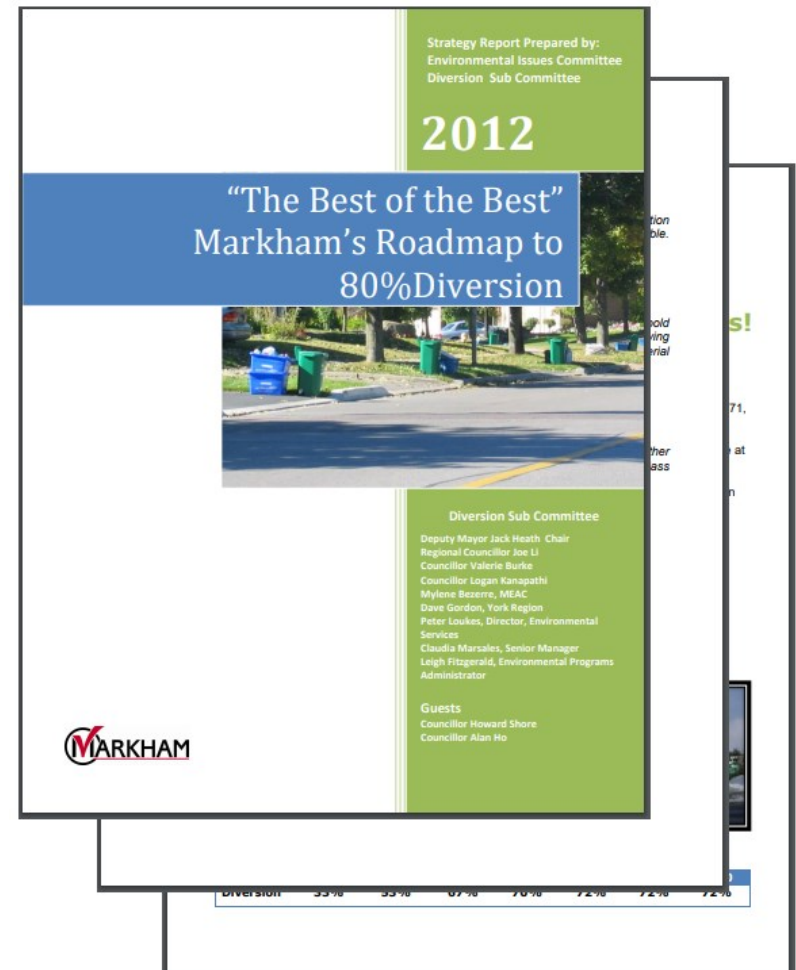
Found opportunities to support and align with BMFT, greenMarkham and York Region’s SM4RT Living Plan

Developed consolidated list of initiatives and program improvements designed to help achieve 85% diversion



## 2. “The Best of the Best” Markham’s Roadmap to 80% Diversion 2013-2016

- “The Best of the Best” Markham’s Roadmap to 80% Diversion was a three-year strategy approved in 2012 to increase diversion to 80%
- It featured key initiatives such as:
  - Clear bags for garbage
  - Textile recycling
  - Curbside ban on electronics
  - Expanded leaf & yard material collection
  - Zero Waste in Schools
- The strategy increased diversion from 74% to 82%
- Markham’s textile recycling program recognized with 3 significant awards





### 3. “The Best of the Best 2” Diversion Strategy Guiding Principles



#### **VISION**

“The Best of the Best 2” diversion strategy is designed to ensure Markham continues to be a provincial and national leader in waste management through the implementation and improvement of diversion programs that are socially, environmentally and economically responsible

#### **TARGET**

The newly proposed waste management initiatives and diversion program improvements outlined in “The Best of the Best 2” are intended to align with both Corporate and regional strategies to help achieve a goal of 85% diversion

85  
%



## i. Curbside Enhancements

### Blue Box Recycling

- No additional items due to future Provincial regulations
- City to retail only larger blue box (80L) at recycling depots and community centers to increase capacity
- Review damaged blue box and green bin replacement fee
- Continued public education directed at minimizing bagged recycling and other major contaminants

### Green Bin Organics

- Offer residents ability to purchase 70-120L larger size Green Bins at recycling depots (full cost recovery)
- Require cart tipper equipment on co-collection vehicles (in RFP)
- Continue contamination reduction to reduce mixing of materials in co-collection vehicles
- Outreach program on use and maintenance of back yard composters
- Promote use of Green Bin and leaf and yard collection instead of composters
- Amend Waste By-law to address abandoned back yard composters

### Clear Bag Garbage

- Current landfill bans on: packaging polystyrene, textiles, e-waste, batteries
- Potential items to ban include:
  - toilets/sinks (collected as porcelain in new contract)
  - infant car seats (accepted at recycling depots for recycling fee)
  - mattresses
- Retail approved clear bags and clear “kitchen bags” at recycling depots to address affordability and reduce use of non-clear / tinted garbage bags



## ii. Multi-residential Improvements

Revise design criteria for new high rise developments to require 3 separate chutes to increase 3 stream diversion

Increase letter of credit securities for developments being built with a three-stream sorting system (diverter)

Partner with York Region on in-sink grinder pilot at 18 Water Street

Pilot access control monitoring technology for multi-residential sites with a centralized recycling room to increase participation

Develop program to increase diversion of home delivery packaging

Explore opportunities to pilot emerging waste systems and collection technologies in new development areas

Review the eight grandfathered multi-residential buildings currently receiving private waste collection and receiving tax rebate

Amend refuse by-law and use development powers to compel property management staff and condo boards to provide semi-annual recycling education to residents and provide evidence of training to City

Continue to expand textile recycling and E-waste recycling opportunities to multi-residential sites





### iii. Single Use Plastics Reduction

**Reported to Council with Phase 1 targets  
and enforcement plan:**

**Ban packaging  
styrofoam  
in Q4 2020**



**Community-wide  
education  
program to raise  
awareness**

**Eliminate  
single use  
plastics at City  
facilities**

**Research and develop possible single-use  
plastics bylaw for Phase 2**



## iv. Recycling Depot Improvements

**Revamp all internal and external recycling depot signage**

**Provide internet connectivity at recycling depots to allow for:**

- Automated transaction reporting and inventory control
- Digital visitor tracking
- Wireless surveillance

**Expand accepted materials:**

- E-waste (see next slide)
- Coffee pods (pilot)

**Review all Depot operations including:**

- Milliken Depot hours and accepted materials
- New Depot location in Future Urban Area



## v. Review & Update Zero Waste Policy

**Perform comprehensive review and update the City's Zero Waste Policy (planned for Q1 2021)**

## vi. Expand Electronics recycling opportunities

Expand locations that accept E-waste including recycling depots and private businesses

Partner with local E-waste recycler to provide standardized E-waste collection bins for Civic Facilities and multi-res (similar to textile program containers)



## vii. Enhanced Promotion and Education

### Alignment with BMFT, greenMarkham and Neighbourhood Strategy

#### External Outreach

**Promote & educate on City waste programs, policy & compliance and new diversion initiatives:**

- Photo imaging to proactively address improper set-outs/complaints
- Mobile App & ReCollect software (collection schedule/"What Goes Where?" tool
- Annual Mission Green newsletter, quarterly e-newsletter, info for Councillor newsletters

#### Internal Outreach

**Promote & educate Staff/vendors on corporate Zero Waste Policy**

- e-Newsletter, posters, group staff education seminars and training modules



## viii. Supplementary Service Improvements

Incorporate ceramics recycling program under White Goods collection appointment program for toilets and sinks

Explore by-law + fine banning scavenging of appliances containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs, i.e. freon) – certified haulers only

## ix. Super Mailbox Recycling

Mandatory placement of mailbox recycling bins in all wards

Review possible bin and lid improvements to minimize contamination from public waste, pet waste

## x. Specialized Diversion Programs

Pilot use of cigarette butt containers in public spaces (York Region Transit stops, Creative Outdoor Advertising bins) and provide education

Pilot dog waste collection system at condo/multi residential development



## 5. Waste Management at Events

Corporate Communications identified the following strategies to reduce contamination and improve waste diversion at City & community events

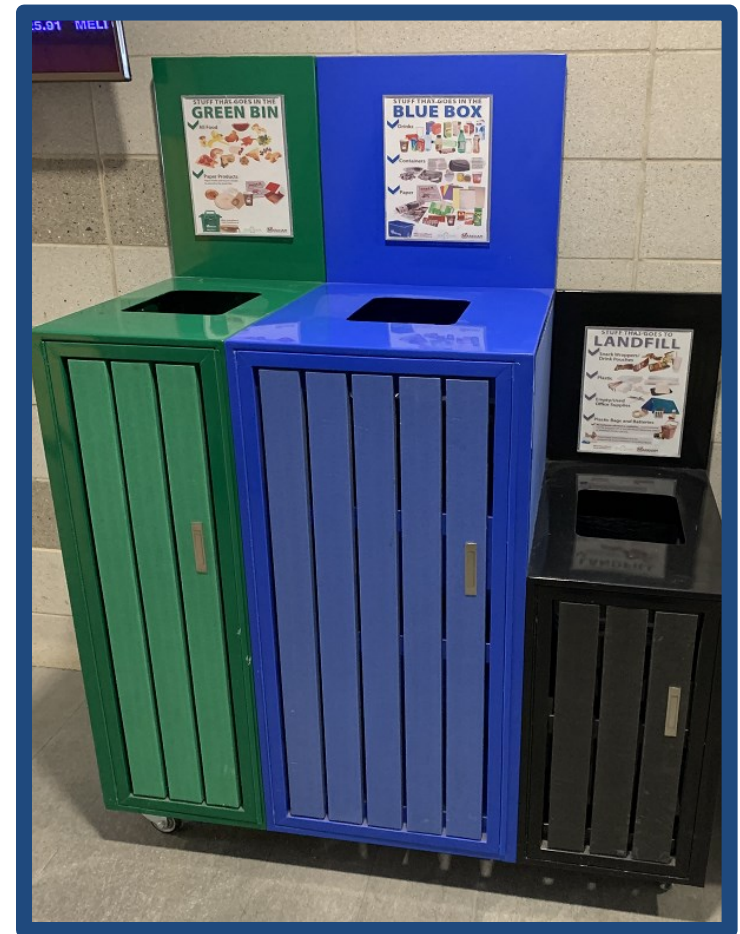
- Explore offering organic collection for “after hours” events
- Explore “Green Team” liaison and develop information package to assist event organizers interested in working with volunteers to improve diversion/reduce contamination
- Explore the deployment of additional water bottle re-fill stations
- Ensure vendor adherence to the corporate Zero Waste Policy
- Provide additional education to event vendors concerning single-use plastics
- Perform annual assessment of event-related initiatives to ensure continuous improvement



## 6. Waste Management in Recreation Facilities

Recreation identified the following strategies to reduce contamination and improve waste diversion at the City's community facilities

- Ensure all “recycling stations” have proper bins that are designed to accept recycling, organics and garbage
- Develop refreshed signage to be more explicit about ‘what goes where’
- Work with vendors and rentals to ensure adherence to corporate Zero Waste Policy (i.e. no single-use plastics)





## 7. Waste Management at Administrative Buildings

Sustainability & Asset Management identified the following strategies to reduce contamination and improve waste diversion at the Civic Centre and 8100 Warden

- S&AM to place recycling compactor in parking garage at Civic Centre - reduce collection frequency and costs, and eliminate dumping
- Continue to monitor proper end sorting by contracted cleaners
- Support Waste Management to continually audit all recycling stations and provide ongoing internal education
- Review supply sourcing to reduce contamination ie washroom brown paper towels







## 8. Waste Management in Parks

Operations identified the following strategies to reduce contamination, litter, illegal dumping and improve waste diversion in City parks and public space

- Engage By-laws to address dumping of household waste in park bins and Moloks
- Pilot the elimination of waste receptacles in parks and require users to take waste home to determine effectiveness
- Work with Waste Management to educate residents on how to properly load Blue Boxes to reduce wind-blow litter and to bring pet waste home for disposal in green bin





## 9. Summary

- By moving forward with “The Best of the Best 2”, Markham will maintain its leadership role and continue to demonstrate the City’s commitment to environmental sustainability
- This multi-year approach (2020 - 2023) will allow Staff to work towards a target 85% municipal diversion and improved customer service
- Staff will report back to Council concerning:
  - Any anticipated financial impacts for initiatives and program improvements
  - Updates on strategy implementation



## 10. Recommendations

1. That the presentation entitled “The Best of the Best 2” Markham's Diversion Strategy 2020-2023 be received; and,
2. That Council endorse “The Best of the Best 2” Markham's Diversion Strategy 2020-2023 and the initiatives and programs outlined in the strategy that form the basis of Markham’s multi-year plan to attain 85% municipal diversion; and,
3. That Staff report back to Council concerning any anticipated financial impacts for initiatives and program improvements and updates on strategy implementation; and,
4. That a copy of the presentation be forwarded to York Region and the Local municipalities for their information; and further,
5. That Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.