



**Waste Diversion Committee  
April 14, 2021  
Zoom Meeting  
9:00 AM**

<b>Members</b> Regional Councillor Jack Heath, Chair Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Reid McAlpine Valerie Burke Karl Lyew  <b>Guests</b> Councillor Isa Lee Councillor Alan Ho  <b>Regrets</b> Councillor Khalid Usman	<b>Staff</b> Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Juliana Aparicio, Diversion Programs Technician Michael DiPasquale, Supervisor, Waste Operations Sara Tam, Manager, Business Planning & Innovation David Plant, Senior Manager, Horticulture & Forestry Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
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**1. Call to Order**

The Waste Diversion Committee convened at 9:05 AM with Regional Councillor Jack Heath in the Chair.

**2. Pecuniary Interest**

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton  
Seconded by Valerie Burke

That the Minutes of the March 16, 2021 Waste Diversion Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

#### **4. Update on Blue Box**

Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management, reported that staff are waiting for the updated proposed legislation on the blue box program to be brought back to the Provincial Legislature. Staff have concerns that the new regulation does not add a user fee to the cost of blue box products, as this does not encourage the Producers to think of innovative ways to reduce packaging.

#### **5. Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators (CAMA) Award**

Claudia Marsales advised that the City is being awarded the CAMA Environment Award, in the over 100,000 population category, for its “Taking the Lead – Markham Targets Single-Use Plastics” initiative. The award ceremony will be held on May 11, 2021 at 2:00 PM. All Members of Council are welcome to attend.

In April, Markham was also selected to present at a Quebec Commission (BAPE Event) on its best practices in waste management. The Commission was very impressed with Markham’s waste diversion journey.

#### **6. Update on Target Zero**

Claudia Marsales presented the Refuse By-Law amendment to the definition of “recyclable material”. It was noted that York Region would like this amendment to be made to the City’s by-law and that the amendment is required to enforce compliance resulting in fines for putting PPE in the blue box.

Committee suggested that a blue box section be included in the by-law to list all items that are not recyclable including Styrofoam. It was suggested that the amendment to the by-law be brought back for review at a future meeting.

#### **7. Update on Green Fleet Pilot with Miller Waste**

Claudia Marsales advised that, as per the new waste collection contract, Miller is required to pilot “Green Fleet” technology on one (1) collection vehicle. A video of the technology proposed by Miller was displayed to the Committee. The technology is projected to reduce green house gas emissions by 20-30% per collection vehicle. This technology has been deployed on fleets used in other countries, however it is currently not used in Ontario. Staff are exploring the potential for FCM funding to expand from one (1) collection vehicle to additional units.

The truck will be branded to let the public know the City supports a greener fleet.

This technology would help Markham meet its goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Committee suggested that the City express its desire to have all electric waste collection vehicles in its next waste collection contract to Miller.

A Member noted that green fleet technology may also reduce noise pollution.

## **8. Best of the Best #2 - Litter**

Claudia Marsales advised that litter has become a growing problem as a result of the pandemic. Municipalities across North America are experiencing this issue. Some of the concerns include wind-blown recycling and dumping of household waste in local parks. Currently, Operations staff are tasked with picking up this litter. Operations provided some examples of potential strategies that could be considered:

- 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;
- Educate residents on how to properly load blue boxes to reduce wind-blown litter.

David Plant, Senior Manager, Horticulture & Forestry, advised that Operations Staff have been educating the community on littering with a mobile sign, which is being moved around the City to problematic areas. The sign has temporarily stopped the behaviour in some of the parks.

The Committee suggested the following ideas to help resolve the issue:

- Hosting or promoting community wide clean ups;
- Ensuring businesses have the appropriate number of garbage bins;
- Promoting the Adopt a Park program and better recognizing volunteers that support these types of programs;
- Using the windblown recyclables as an opportunity to build a business case to get the Region to purchase a bag breaker.

Staff requested that a sub-committee be formed to develop a strategy for consideration by the Committee.

**Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine**

**Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke**

**That a Sub-Committee be created to develop a strategy to address litter; and,**

**That the Sub-Committee be comprised of the following Members:**

- **Councillor Isa Lee**
- **Councillor Usman (suggested)**
- **Valerie Burke**
- **Karl Lyew**
- **Regional Councillor Jack Heath**

**That the Sub-Committee be open for other Councillors or Members of the Committee and required staff (as needed) to join.**

**Carried**

### **New Business**

a. Automated Vacuum Waste Collection System

Regional Councillor Li advised that he will be meeting with Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, on the automated vacuum waste collection system. After the meeting, Regional Councillor Li will reach out to Claudia Marsales on how she can play a role in this initiative.

b. Rain Barrels

Staff clarified that Markham supports rain barrels, but does not support outdoor composters.

c. Earth Day

Karl Lyew advised that a virtual event is scheduled to be held on Earth Day.

### **Adjournment**

That the Waste Diversion Committee adjourn at 10:34 AM.