



**MINUTES**  
***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE***  
***WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE***  
***WASTE DIVERSION WORKSHOP – SESSION 1***  
**August 30, 2018**  
**10:00 AM**  
**Canada Room**

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**Members**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Councillor Valerie Burke  
Regional Councillor Joe Li  
Councillor Karen Rea

**Others in Attendance**

Councillor Don Hamilton  
Councillor Alex Chiu  
Kevin Boon, MEAC Member

**Regrets**

Councillor Karen Rea  
Karl Lyew, MEAC Representative

**Staff**

Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management  
Phoebe Fu, Director of Environmental Services  
Bridget Mitchell, Supervisor, Waste Management Operations  
Holena Newton, Water Conservation Program Specialist  
Michael DiPasquale, Special Projects, Waste Diversion Coordinator  
Juliana Aparicio, Waste Operations Assistant  
Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee, Waste Diversion Workshop convened at 10:05 a.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

**1. ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 27, 2018 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE – WASTE DIVERSION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li  
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the March 27, 2018 Environmental Issues Committee – Waste Diversion Subcommittee meeting be adopted.

Carried

## **2. WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND SERVICE REVIEW WORKSHOP**

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that the objective of the workshop is to build on the ‘Best of the Best’ a Roadmap to 80% Diversion and determine Markham’s waste management strategy for the next 5-10 years. VisionQuest Consulting has been retained to facilitate the workshop.

### *A. Diversion Programs – Milestones*

Committee reviewed the City’s waste diversion milestones.

### *B. “The Best of the Best” – 2013 to 2016*

Committee reviewed the City’s “The Best of the Best” waste diversion program from 2013-2016.

### *C. Garbage Generation in Markham (15 years)*

Committee reviewed Markham garbage generation over the last 15 years. Curbside garbage has been reduced from 51,854 to 15,317 metric tonnes during this timeframe. At the same time the population grew from 241,373 to 353,899. The reduction in garbage generation was attributed to the programs Markham implemented over the past 10 years that diverted the waste to recycling, green bin, and other waste management programs.

### *D. York Region Balanced Score Card*

Committee reviewed York Region’s Balanced Score Card. In accordance with the Score Card, Markham has the lowest waste generation for kg/capita and has achieved York Region’s waste generation 2031 target.

### *E. Diversion Rate*

Committee reviewed Markham’s curbside waste diversion rate over the last 15 years. Markham’s diversion rate increased from 41% in 2003, to 81% in 2017.

### *F. Waste Staffing*

Committee reviewed the City’s Waste Management organizational chart noting the addition of Water Conservation/Education.

### *G. Blue Box*

Committee discussed the City’s current Blue Box program and provided the following feedback:

- York Region approves materials that residents can recycle in Blue Box. Need for approved guiding principles when planning for Blue Box program changes to ensure maximum use by residents.

- Potential to request York Region to add materials to its recycling program such as plastic bags to align with GTA Blue Box programs.
- Need to address resident confusion over what is recyclable and compostable;
- Need more consistency across the province in regards to recycling programs (e.g. in Toronto you can recycle plastic bags and Styrofoam, but in Markham you cannot);
- Strong support expressed to ask the Region to accept blue recycling bags, as they are easier for residents to manage, residents continue to use them, and it is less expensive for the City;
- Review the fee for purchasing or exchanging a recycling bin needed, as the cost could deter residents from participating in the program;
- Permit residents to put all types of recycling in the bin and have York Region remove items not currently being accepted, as the items permitted are constantly changing confusing residents;
- Assess how local businesses comply with the City's recycling programs;
- Develop a strategy to reduce use of single-use plastic – straws, grocery bags.

#### H. Green Bin

Committee discussed the City's Green Bin Program and provided the following feedback:

- Reducing food waste is a global priority ;
- Educate residents with respect to what can be put into the green bin;
- No additional items to be added to Green Bin – very inclusive program
- Need for anaerobic digester in York Region identified. Potential tour of Toronto's organics processing facilities in future

#### I. Other

Committee provided the following additional feedback:

- Identify the City's overarching mission statement/philosophies for waste management then develop more specific mission statements/philosophies for each type of waste management;
- Come up with a new title for Markham's new waste management strategy, suggestions included: "Working Together for a Greener Markham, and "The Bestest of the Best"
- Tackle restaurant and business waste and recycling;
- Refresh Civic Centres Zero Waste program with a focus on education;
- Review bringing the 8 condos not participating in the City's waste management program into the program;
- Investigate the possibility of establishing a "poop-to-power" program;
- Tackle issues like single use plastic, and cigarette butts.
- Analysis of York Region's surcharge on AMICA Retirement Facility's effluent discharge due to use of on-site ORCA food waste digester.
- Review potential for deployment of garburators in new Markham residential developments.

- Markham to review potential for taking a hard stance with producers who label their products as flushable (i.e. baby wipes) – these products can negatively affect the sanitary sewer system.
- Review potential for Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) in new high-density developments.
- Explore options to improve community cleanliness on collection days (i.e. increased enforcement for early set outs, policy changes to reduce blowing litter).

VisionQuest was asked to present at an upcoming workshop interesting waste management initiatives from elsewhere in the Country.

### **3. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Clerk was asked to book a meeting in September, and a meeting in October. The agenda from today's meeting will be continued at the next meeting.

### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned at 1:06 pm.