

*General letter.*



*The City Above Toronto*

Clerk's Department  
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September 29, 2006

Ms. Sheila Birrell, Town Clerk  
Town of Markham  
101 Town Centre Boulevard  
Markham, ON  
L3R 9W3

Dear Ms. Birrell:

**RE: IN SUPPORT OF GREENING VAUGHAN – EXCESSIVE PACKAGING**

City of Vaughan Council is concerned about the significant waste due to excessive packaging and adopted a recommendation at its meeting held on September 25, 2006, addressing the issue as set out in the attached Minute No. 209.

Council is requesting that your Council join with the City of Vaughan to urge manufacturers across Ontario and Canada to address this issue.

Your assistance in bringing this matter to the attention of your Council is appreciated.

Sincerely,

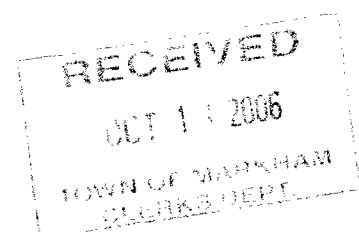
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Leach'.

J. D. Leach  
City Clerk

Attachment:  
Extract

JDL/as

*Copy Jim Bales jx*



CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

**209. IN SUPPORT OF GREENING VAUGHAN – EXCESSIVE PACKAGING**  
(Addendum No. 10)

MOVED by Councillor Shefman  
seconded by Councillor Yeung Racco

That the recommendation contained in the following report of Councillor Shefman, dated September 25, 2006, be approved subject to the following:

- i) That the word “all” be deleted and, “with a population over 100,000” be inserted following the word “municipalities” in Clause c.; and
- ii) That this resolution be forwarded to the Region of York.

CARRIED

**Recommendation:**

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That in conjunction with the launch of Phase 2 of Greening Vaughan, the City of Vaughan's waste management and recycling plan, that we address the significant waste issue of excessive packaging, by:
  - a. Bringing to the attention of all manufacturing companies residing in the City of Vaughan, our concerns, asking that they review the packaging used for their products for the purpose of intensifying their efforts to decrease waste coming from excessive packaging,
  - b. Bringing to the attention of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association these same concerns and requesting action from their membership across Canada,
  - c. Writing to all Ontario municipalities, asking that they join with the City of Vaughan to urge manufacturers across Ontario and Canada to address this issue,
  - d. Writing to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, requesting that this issue be addressed in upcoming meetings as a significant issue for all Canadian municipalities,
  - e. Writing to the Premier of the Province of Ontario, asking him to take a leadership role in decreasing the waste created by excessive packaging, including creating a yearly prize to be awarded to an Ontario manufacturing company that takes extraordinary steps to change its packaging in order to reduce waste.

**Economic Impact**

1. Minimal for the distribution of the information in this recommendation.
2. Significant cost saving are possible if residents have less waste to be collected as a result of manufacturers addressing the issue of excessive packaging.

**Purpose**

1. The purpose of this recommendation is to support the philosophy of Greening Vaughan by attempting to bring to the attention of manufacturers the need to reduce packaging of their products.

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 25, 2006

Minute No. 209 -- Page 2

2. To help reduce waste materials that would be collected and then sent to landfill.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

1. The City of Vaughan has embarked on an ambitious program to reduce waste and increase recycling. So far, in phase one of Greening Vaughan, we have seen a significant increase in recycling, thus reducing the amount of material going to landfill.
2. At the same time, a significant problem in reducing waste remains the excessive packaging of the products that residents of Vaughan need to dispose of. Even while some of it can be recycled, the energy and resources required to produce this excessive packaging is environmentally wasteful.
3. If manufacturers were to reduce their packaging, not only will their costs be reduced, they will also be contributing to a less wasteful society with its many implications.

**Conclusion**

Initiating this excessive packaging campaign is consistent with the goals of Greening Vaughan, may reduce costs of collection and disposal of waste and will contribute to efforts to preserve our environment.

**Attachments**

N/A

**Report prepared by:**

Councillor Alan Shefman

