

# **MISSION GREEN PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

**GENERAL COMMITTEE  
Finance &  
Administration**

**April 24, 2006**

# MISSION GREEN

## 2005 Achievements

Markham established target to recycle 70% of residential curbside waste by 2006

In December 2005 Integrated Environmental Waste Services conducted an independent waste audit of Markham's program:

- Blue box: 38% diversion
- Green Bin: 31% diversion
- Garbage: 31%
- 90% participation
- 2 – 3 bags every two weeks - 76% Compliance with 3 Bag Limit

**69% DIVERSION RATE**

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## 2005 Audit Results

Audit demonstrated opportunity to increase diversion by targeting recyclable material still in the garbage:

- Polystyrene foam/meat trays, plastic bags
- Paperboard rolls, fast food packaging, cigarette packaging
- Mail/shredded paper
- Aerosol containers/Aluminium foil
- Tissue/diapers/personal hygiene products
- Clothing/textiles

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## 2005 Litter

- Litter education is on going at municipal/regional/provincial level. Continued focus on education – schools/special events
- Successful participation in GTA 20-Minute Makeover
- Public space recycling program expanded - transit
- Street cleaning/sweeping
- Park litter pick-up
- Property Standards enforcement
- Support of community cleanup events - Pitch In Canada cleanups

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## Focus Groups Feb 2006

Held Focus group sessions in Feb 2006:

- Residents proud of Markham's new 3-stream recycling program and high diversion achieved
- Positive support for bi-weekly garbage collection
- Some would like a second Green Bin
- Want more communication - education
- Support public place recycling
- Support for mandatory participation and Town should ticket residents that don't participate

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## Focus Groups

- No support for Pay per Bag system
- Support for reducing bag limit (from 3 to 2 bags)
  - **With continued use of free garbage tags when needed**
  - **With more education/communication**
  - **With more access to re-use alternatives**
- Mixed support for mandatory clear garbage bags to encourage recycling
- Would prefer clear bags over pay per bag
- Support for re-use drop-off depots

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## 2006 Initiatives

- Provide expanded co-mingled recycling to Markham's 51 apartment/condo complexes
- MISSION GREEN at WORK expanded to
  - 4 Community Centres / 4 Arenas
  - 7 other facilities
- Recycling/organic collection will be piloted at targeted Special Events
- Recycling pilot project in Markham parks
- Promote 20-Minute Makeover April 21, 2006
- Residential "Thank You" feedback program

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## 2006 Initiatives

Clean-up Markham's 1,500 Community Mail Boxes

### OPTIONS:

- Town develop a program to provide recycling containers for unwanted mail with collection provided by Miller
- Provide “OMG” style bins at Markham's Community Mail Boxes - bins and collection paid for through advertising revenues





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## 2006 Initiatives

- Develop a program to target abandoned shopping carts
- Create By-law requiring all carts to be labelled with store name and phone number
- Targeted education program to business owners/Board of Trade
- Business responsible for full cost of cart retrieval



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## 2007 and Beyond

- Request Region to expand blue box to include plastic bags, polystyrene foam
- Expand reuse program for clothes/textiles
- Reduce 3 bag limit to 2 bags in 2007 with free bag tag program
- Target chronic non-recyclers
- Pilot use of clear bags for garbage
- Increase diversion target: Zero Waste 2010?