



**MINUTES**  
**Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) Feasibility**  
**Working Group**  
**March 31, 2014**  
**Council Chamber**

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**Committee Members**

Regional Councillor Joe Li (Chair)  
Deputy Mayor Jack Heath  
Councillor Alan Ho

**Staff**

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrator Officer  
Rino Mostacci, Director of Planning and Urban Design  
Paul Ingham, Director, Operations  
Peter Loukes, Director Environmental Services  
Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager of Waste & Environmental Management  
Geoff Day, Senior Planner Zoning & Special Projects  
Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator

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The Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) Feasibility Working Group meeting convened at 1:06 p.m. with Regional Councillor Joe Li in the Chair.

**1. Review Terms of Reference and Deliverables and General Discussion**

There was discussion regarding the importance of establishing an influential vision that will guide the City of Markham on developing guiding principles relative to pneumatic waste collection. It was suggested that staff report back with a proposed vision at the next meeting.

The working group discussed the following with respect to pneumatic waste collection:

- will this advance waste conversion
- the importance of ensuring that the current standards set out by City of Markham continue
- can pneumatic waste collection be used in public spaces
- must be clear of expectations of the private sector and how will they recover their capital costs if pneumatic waste collection is considered
- should Markham Centre be considered as one of the study areas

Staff advised that there are three aspects to consider with respect to pneumatic waste collection:

- Collection - is it an efficient way of collecting garbage
- Urban Experience - ability to collect garbage without having to drive large waste disposal trucks through urban areas
- Cogeneration - can the waste be harvested into energy

## **2. PRESENTATION FROM ENVAC - QUEBEC PROJECTS**

Sean Monclus, Envac Systems Canada delivered a PowerPoint presentation regarding their waste vacuum collection system.

There was brief discussion regarding approximate price to install the system.

Jonas Tornblom, Marketing Director delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining the value of the Envac System to Ontario builders.

The working group requested that a soft copy of the presentation be forwarded to them.

## **3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Staff inquired whether smart/swipe cards can be used with the Envac system and if that information can be used to invoice. It was noted that smart cards are used to track weight, but not to invoice.

The working group inquired whether district energy is combined with the installation of the Envac systems. It was noted that in Norway they have installed district energy pipes along side the Envac system.

How does the Envac system deal with bulk items? Those items will have to be dealt with separately.

## **4. NEXT MEETING**

The next Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) Feasibility Working Group Meeting will be scheduled for late April 2014.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Automated Vacuum Collection (AVAC) Feasibility Working Group meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.