



Report to: General Committee

Date Report Authored: January 12, 2014

SUBJECT: York Region SM4RT Living Long Term Waste Master Plan - Staff Comments

PREPARED BY: Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste & Environmental Management Department x3560

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report entitled “York Region SM4RT Living Long Term Waste Master Plan - Staff Comments “ be received;
2. THAT a copy of this report is forwarded to York Region and the Local Municipalities for their information.
3. AND THAT Staff be authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Report is to provide staff comment on York Region’s ‘SM4RT Living Long Term Waste Master Plan’.

SMART LIVING WASTE MASTER PLAN SETS COURSE FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR THE NEXT 40 YEARS

York Region in partnership with the local municipalities developed a plan on how waste management services will guide the next 25 to 40 years of waste management in the Region. The Region’s first master plan for waste management in York Region, the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan or SM4RT Living Solid Waste Master Plan’, was initiated in 2011 and completed in 2013.

Key stakeholders throughout the development of the SM4RT Living Plan have been the Project Team members comprised of Regional staff, local municipal staff, and the consultant team.

Specifically, the Plan supports the following goals:

- Reduction in solid waste generation per capita
- Increased diversion

Concurrently, Markham Council approved the formation of a Diversion Sub- Committee to develop a package of program changes and improvements designed to provide a roadmap to 80% diversion and bring Markham closer to being a Sustainable Community as recommended in the Council approved Green Print.

The result was a 10 point action plan to design to achieve difficult and complex behaviour change which removes from the waste, destined for the York Durham incinerator, non

compliant material such as batteries, electronics, and hazardous liquid waste containers that could potentially impact air quality in the GTA.

MARKHAM STAFF SUPPORT THE SM4RT LIVING PLAN

The SM4RT Living Plan is both innovative and forward thinking in its approach to the 3R's – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The Plan places focus on new opportunities to drive the reduction of food waste and plan for growth and intensification.

With one of Ontario's most successful two tier waste management delivery systems, the formalization of the Integrated Partnership model will further improve coordination, communication, and common goals for all ten municipal partners while recognizing local autonomy.

As part of the Integrated Partnership, the ten municipal partners have agreed to jointly develop pilot initiatives. Markham will be working with the Region to:

- i) Increase textile recovery through partnerships with charitable organizations
- ii) Increase the number of licensed, reputable and secure drop off locations for E waste including apartment buildings, schools, community centers, and depots
- iii) Various multi-residential collection opportunities such as Groundhog units, on- site composting and Envac systems for high density developments.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

While Markham staff actively participated in the development of the SM4RT Living Plan, the following comments are provided for consideration:

1. Accelerate Regional Zero Waste for Schools Program

Schools play an important role in the community encouraging sustainable waste management and recycling behavior and practices, with benefits extending to the wider community. Children who learn how to recycle will continue the practice into adulthood.

Building on Markham's successful Zero Waste school program, staff supports the acceleration of a Regional Zero Waste for Schools' program starting in 2014.

2. Implement Regional ban of Electronics and Textiles in waste residue

Textiles and electronics (E waste) recycling has become an extremely profitable business in recent years. In addition to the high market value for electronic material, electronic recycling (E-recycling) has encouraged economic and job growth in the province. Yet waste audits indicate Ontario's waste residue continues to contain large amounts of recyclable textile materials and electronics.

It is estimated that 95 per cent of textiles thrown in the garbage can either be reused as second-hand clothing or recycled into other goods such as industrial rags.

Like textiles, unwanted electronics should never end up in the residue. Much of the plastic and metal in computers and monitors can be reclaimed and used to make everything from irrigation piping to coins. As well, many older electronics contain heavy metals that, if not handled properly, could have environmental impacts and cause health and safety issues. Some computer monitors contain lead oxide, while printed circuit boards contain a range of heavy metals.

Markham successfully banned the curbside collection of electronics and batteries in 2013. It is recommended that the Region consider implementing a regional disposal ban of electronics, batteries and textiles in preparation for the opening of the York Durham incinerator in 2014.

3. Accelerate approval for Blue Bag recycling and allow plastic bags in Blue Box

Public feedback and past Markham pilot projects indicate that residents sometimes prefer to use blue bags for their excess recyclables. Since 2002, the local municipalities have been requesting approval from the Region to allow residents to use Blue bags for over flow material.

To facilitate the use of blue bags, the Region would require the addition of a bag breaker at the Regional recycling facility. A bag breaker would mechanically tear open the bags for material sorting and the blue bags could then be recycled.

Peel, Toronto, and Edmonton and have successfully incorporated bag breakers at their recycling facilities.

Benefits of a blue bag program include reduction of litter, increased collection efficiency and elimination of blue box replacement costs.

4. Accelerate development of Regional Compost Facility Strategic Plan

A key recommendation of the SM4RT Living Plan is the postponement of a Green Bin organics processing facility beyond 2016. Staff support acceleration of this project timeframe and request that the Region consider alternative technologies (i.e. anaerobic digestion, bio-fuel generation, and/or combined heat & power technologies) to supplement aerobic composting techniques.

A more diversified strategy can marginalize system disruptions that can happen with single technology approaches, as well as integrating these processes into the community reducing transportation costs and enhancing community sustainability.

CONCLUSION

Markham staff will continue to work collaboratively with the Region and all of local partners to meet the vision of the SM4RT Living Plan. The Plan will facilitate greater

communication, co-operation and sharing of information among all 10 municipal partners as we work together to implement innovative 3R programs.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

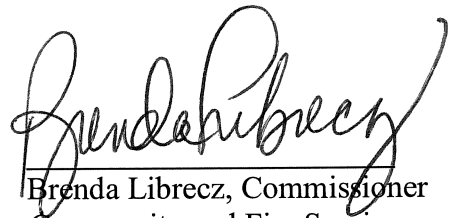
Aligns with Environmental Strategic priorities and Green Print principals.

BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:

RECOMMENDED BY:



Peter Loukes, Director
Environmental Services



Brenda Librecz, Commissioner
Community and Fire Services