



**MINUTES**  
***ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE***  
**September 4, 2012**  
**1:00 PM**  
**York Room**

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<p><b>Members</b> Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Chair Councillor Valerie Burke Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Logan Kanapathi Mylene Bezerre, Markham Environmental Advisory Committee Representative</p>	<p><b>Staff</b> Peter Loukes, Director of Environmental Services Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator</p> <p><b>Other</b> Courtney Daniels, York Region</p>
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The Environmental Issues Committee convened at 1:05 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath presiding as Chair.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi  
Seconded by Mylene Batista

That the July 11, 2012 Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee, Minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

**2. PRESENTATION ON WASTE DIVERSION REPORT**

Ms. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management, provided a presentation on the “The Best of the Best” A Roadmap to 80% Diversion. The diversion report included the following ten (10) actions to be implemented between 2012 and 2014:

1. Mandatory Material Separation By-law
2. Clear Bags for Residue (unlimited)
3. Expanded Textile/Carpet Diversion Program
4. Zero Waste for Schools Program
5. Establish Retail Bag Ban Policy for Markham in line with Toronto and other GTA municipalities
6. Enhanced Promotion & Education
7. Encourage a Reuse Depot for Renovation Materials to open in Markham
8. Curbside Electronics & Battery Collection Ban
9. Spring & Fall Clean-up Days to replace “No Tag Days”
10. Expand Fall Leaf/Yard Waste Collection

The following discussion of the Diversion Report occurred:

i. Background

- The reference to the best in North America at waste diversion in the Diversion Report was requested to be changed to “the best in Canada and possibly in North America at waste diversion”.

1. Mandatory Material Separation By-Law

- Waste By-Law 32-95 will be amended to make separation of waste mandatory for residential homes and multi residential properties;
- The amendment to the by-law is to target households currently not participating in Markham’s waste diversion program and to help increase Markham’s waste diversion rate;
- Most residents think it is already mandatory to separate their waste;
- The program will be enforced by not picking up clear bags where the materials have not been sorted (note: a note will be provided to the resident providing the reason why the waste was not picked up);
- Residents who continuously fail to sort their waste could possibly lose their waste collection privileges;
- Residents will be educated to place their confidential papers in their green bin.

2. Unlimited Clear Bags-Residue

- The clear bag will be used as a tool to find the type of items that are not being sorted properly and to enforce mandatory separation of waste;
- The clear bag will make it easier to find hazardous waste and to ensure it is disposed of properly;
- There will be an education program on the use of the clear bag;

- The bag limit is being removed as it does not lead to a change in behaviour and it does not recognize that residents sometimes may have legitimate reasons for having more waste (e.g. having a party).

3. Textile Diversion

- 7% of residue is still from textiles;
- The program will work with legitimate and approved textile recyclers and will weed out the non approved textile recyclers;
- Existing textile programs will be expanded and a carpet recycling programs will be introduced.

4. Zero Waste for School

- Staff will help Markham Schools interested in implementing a zero waste program get started;
- The schools can either fund the program themselves or submit a grant application to the Environmental Sustainability Fund (ESF);
- It will cost a school approximately \$2,000 per school to implement the program (note: this amount is slightly higher for a high school);
- To date two (2) out of the ten (10) schools that have adopted the zero waste program have requested funds;
- This program was designed to teach youth how to sort waste, as youth will then teach their parents how to sort waste at home;
- It was recommended that Mavis Urquhart write a Report to Council outlining the ESF grant process for the Zero Waste School Program.

5. Retail Bag ban Policy

- A retail bag ban policy will be established for Markham that is consistent with other municipalities in Toronto and in the GTA;
- Staff will educate the public on the benefits of all bag types, as each bag type has a renewable benefit;
- There will be no by-law requiring residents to use the compostable bags in their green bins;
- In Accordance with York Region's audit, 28% of Markham residents currently use compostable bags in their green bins (the highest in York Region).

6. Promotion and Education

- The promotion and education of the program will be designed for a multicultural audience;
- Glad will assist with promotion of the clear bag;

- Staff were requested to promote a simpler explanation of the waste management process and to promote information on what happens to recycled materials;
- The public will be educated on the fact that 95% of waste is reusable.

7. Refuse Depot

- A store that recycles renovation materials will be encouraged to open in Markham;
- References to these types of stores should be generalized in the Diversion Report.

8. Curbside Electronics & Battery Collection Ban

- There will be a ban on placing electronics and batteries on your curbside;
- There will be more places to drop off your electronic goods, as there is revenue to be generated from these items.

9. Spring & Fall Clean-up Days to Replace “No Tag Days”

- Landlords or tenants will now be required to get a move out permit when disposing of large amounts of waste due to a change in occupancy;
- An agreement may be made with organizations like “U Got Junk” to pick up waste under a move out permit;
- The move-out permits will have an expiry date;
- Landlords that do not obtain a move out permit to remove large amounts of waste will be fined and the amount will be added to their tax bill if the fine is not paid;
- The purpose of having spring and fall clean up days is to provide residents with an opportunity to dispose of larger items and to encourage scavengers to pick up these items, as this reduces the amount of waste to be picked up by Miller;
- Markham will continue to pick up fridges due to environmental concerns regarding freon.

10. Expand Fall Leaf/Yard Waste Collection

- Current level of leaf and yard collection will be extended into December due to climate changes;
- Weekly leaf and yard collection was investigated by staff, but was very expensive.

Staff advised that Markham could reach an 80% diversion rate by implementing the ten (10) actions discussed above.

**3. NEXT**

**STEPS**

The Committee decided that there would be no Council Workshop on the Diversion Report. Rather the report will go directly to the General Committee for Council’s consideration.

It was requested that rather than providing information on a curbside audit in 2013 that staff report back to Council in 2013 on any progress with respect to the implementation of the Diversion Report.

It was also requested that clear bags and retail bags be discussed as two separate items in the presentation to Council.

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke

Seconded by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

That the Environmental Issues Committee approve the Diversion Report; and,

That the Diversion Report be brought forward to General Committee for Councils consideration.

CARREID.

Moved by Councillor Logan Kanapathi

Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the Environmental Issues Committee support the use of the clear bag for all types of waste.

CARREID.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Environmental Issues Committee adjourned at 2:57 p.m.