



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
Waste Diversion Sub-Committee
November 23, 2011
1:00 PM
Canada Room

Members Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Councillor Logan Kanapathi Mylene Bezerre, Markham Environmental Advisory Committee Representative Guests Councillor Howard Shore Councillor Alan Ho	Staff Leigh Fitzgerald, Environmental Programs Administrator Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Alida Tari, Council/Committee Coordinator Other Dave Gordon, York Region
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The Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee convened at 10:14 a.m. with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

**1. MINUTES OF THE JULY 4, 2011 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE,
WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Moved by Councillor Valerie Burke
Seconded by Mylene Bezerre

That the Minutes of the July 4, 2011 Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. UPDATE FROM DAVE GORDON, YORK REGION

Master Plan Process Underway

Mr. Dave Gordon, York Region addressed the Committee providing an update regarding integrated waste management master plan study indicating that the process is underway. He advised that it is a comprehensive plan that has three main phases (Project Initiative; Where we are and Where we want to go).

There was brief discussion regarding Provincial policies.

Audits of multi-residential, organic, blue boxes

Mr. Gordon advised the Committee that York Region has done a series of audits. He indicated that the focus for the blue box is contamination. The Committee discussed the impacts on the process when there are contaminated materials in the recycling boxes. Mr. Gordon pointed out that Regional Council did approve the initiative to move to compostable bags in the green bin and that a report is anticipated to be presented to the Regional Environmental Services Committee in February 2012. He also advised that a report regarding the results of the audits is anticipated to be brought forward in May 2012.

There was discussion regarding what the Region and municipalities can do to achieve better participation with respect to recycling from industrial and commercial locations.

Mr. Gordon advised the Committee that the Elgin Mills Community Environmental Centre has opened and it is similar to the McCleary Court in Vaughan.

The Committee discussed the importance of ensuring the public is well educated and ensuring that new immigrants are well aware of the system.

3. PRESENTATION FROM CLAUDIA MARSALES, SENIOR MANAGER WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ms. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management, presented the Committee with the following items for discussion:

- Position Markham as Diversion Leader – Best of the Best
- Establish new Diversion Target - 80% by 2014
- Mandatory By-law separation of waste – residential and multi residential
- Reduce Residue bags from 3 to 2 bi weekly
- Clear bags for Residue
- Eliminate free tag program
- Spring and Fall clean up - encourage scavenging

- Establish per capita waste reduction target
- Weekly yard waste November - December
- Increase opportunities for reuse – Habitat for Humanities
- Mandatory Zero Waste – all facilities and events
- Support private sector employment – appliance recycling, scrap metal
- Ask major retailers to provide compostable bags
- Expand depot hours and include electronics

The Committee suggested that staff consider the following and present at the next Environmental Issues Committee meeting:

- Development of an educational program
- Include compostable bags for discussion
- Financial impacts (eg. Money that the Town will save by eliminating free tag program)
- Remove the reference "encourage scavenging"
- Potential elimination of major appliance pick up by the Town
- Include target dates

4. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Howard Shore reported on his first hand experience with Miller Waste during a garbage pick up run through the Town of Markham. He thanked Ms. Claudia Marsales for all her help in facilitating it.

Mylene Bezerre, Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) Representative distributed a list of recommendations from MEAC and suggested that the Committee review them.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee adjourned at 12:05 p.m.