



MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
Waste Diversion Sub-Committee
July 4, 2011
1:00 PM
Canada Room

Members Deputy Mayor Jack Heath Regional Councillor Joe Li Councillor Valerie Burke Mylene Bezerre, Environmental Advisory Committee Representative	Staff Kimberley Dunsmoor, Committee Outreach Assistant Leigh Fitzgerald, Environmental Programs Administrator Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator
Guests Councillor Howard Shore	
Regrets Councillor Logan Kanapathi	

The Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee convened at 1:13 pm with Deputy Mayor Jack Heath as Chair.

**1. MINUTES OF THE MAY 19, 2011 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE,
WASTE DIVERSION SUB-COMMITTEE**

Moved by Regional Councillor Joe Li
Seconded by Councillor Valerie Burke

That the Minutes of the May 19, 2011 Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee be approved as presented.

CARRIED.

2. UPDATE

Deputy Mayor Jack Heath advised that he will prepare a written report on his visit and research of the County of Kings and Yarmouth's clear waste bag programs. Handouts were distributed on their waste management programs.

3. FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Ms. Claudia Marsales, Senior Manager, Waste and Environmental Management, presented the focus group results on waste management. Some of the highlights included the following: that most participants thought it was acceptable to reduce the number of residue bags permitted biweekly from three (3) to two (2); men generally disapproved of clear garbage bags due to concerns regarding the privacy of their financial statements; the majority of participants were in favour of using plastic bags for organics; the majority of participants felt more of their garbage could be diverted from landfills; and the majority of participants were confused with respect to what can be recycled.

There was a discussion regarding the need to continue to educate residents on the Town's waste management programs and on ways to reduce their garbage. It was agreed that all of the Town's waste management programs should be reviewed from a resident's perspective. Based on this analysis the Committee will prepare a report with recommendations on the "best of the best" proposed waste management system.

The Committee discussed increasing the Town's waste diversion target from 75% to 80% in order to remain a recycling leader. It was noted that San Francisco had reached 75% and many municipalities were at 70% diversion. It was suggested that the target for waste diversion at Town Facilities be set at 90% to be a champion of the cause. Staff advised that a policy for the handling of waste at all Markham Community Centres be created. The Committee felt there is an opportunity to work with small businesses and industry to reduce their garbage residue also.

It was reported that a strategy needs to be developed for the management of multi residential structures and for landlords who throw out large quantities of garbage after a tenant moves out. It was suggested that landlords be required to purchase a permit for extra garbage volumes when a tenant moves out.

There was a suggestion that an incentive program - award program be created for residents who are successfully complying with the Town's waste management programs. Recognition could also be provided to schools and businesses that implement a zero waste policy.

The Committee agreed to the following initial potential program changes:

- Reducing the number of residue bags permitted biweekly from three (3) to one (2)
- Switching from black to clear residue bags
- Eliminating the free tag program altogether
- Reducing the Bulky Collection Day from two (2) to one (1) per annum;
- Changing the name of Bulky Collection Day or No Tag Day to Spring Cleaning Day.

4. NEW MEMBERS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. DEVELOPMENT ENHANCEMENT

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Environmental Issues Committee, Waste Diversion Sub-Committee adjourned at 3:03 p.m.