

CITY OF VAUGHAN

EXTRACT FROM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2017

Item 2, Report No. 37, of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session), which was adopted without amendment by the Council of the City of Vaughan on October 24, 2017.

2 WASTE LEGISLATION AND WASTE DIVISION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Committee of the Whole (Working Session) recommends:

- 1) That the recommendation contained in the following report of the Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Environmental Services, dated October 10, 2017, be approved; and
- 2) That Communication C2 presentation material entitled, *“Waste Legislation and Waste Division Program Update”*, be received.

Recommendation

The Deputy City Manager of Public Works and the Director of Environmental Services recommend:

1. That this report be received for information.

Contribution to Sustainability

Waste Division services and programming contributes to Green Directions Vaughan Goal 1:

To significantly reduce our use of natural resources and the amount of waste generated by encouraging all residents to adopt more environmentally conscious choices and consider new ways to reduce their waste.

The Waste Division of Environmental Services provides waste collection services for eligible residential properties in Vaughan. The City's waste collection program supports regional goals set through York Region's SM4RT Living Plan (Integrated Waste Management Master Plan), by providing and promoting comprehensive diversion services.

Economic Impact

All current services and outreach activities were included in the 2017 Budget.

Communications Plan

Environmental Services staff continue to work with Corporate Communications staff to carry out an annual communication strategy related to Waste Division programs and services.

Purpose

To inform Council of new and on-going Waste Division programs and changes to governing provincial legislation.

Background - Analysis and Options

The Waste Free Ontario Act consists of two schedules: The Waste Diversion Transition Act and the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act

An overview of the Waste Free Ontario Act was provided as Item 9, Report 3, at Committee of the Whole on February 2, 2016. Based on this report, Council recommended that staff continue to collaborate with York Region and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) throughout

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the legislative process. Since that time, the Waste Free Ontario Act has been enacted, replacing the Waste Diversion Act (2002). The new Act is comprised of two schedules, 1) the Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA) and 2) the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA). This new legislation passed on June 1, 2016.

As outlined in a Memo to Council March 9, 2017, the Waste Diversion Transition Act (WDTA) provides an interim step to wind-up and transition existing diversion programs (Blue Box, WEEE, MHSW, and Used Tires), with the goal of minimizing disruptions to recycling services. The Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act (RRCEA) creates a system of full producer responsibility where producers, brand holders, or those with a commercial connection are accountable for recovery and management of their products and packaging. The RRCEA has empowered a new Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA), which replaced Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO). This new body holds delegated authority for oversight, compliance and enforcement in support of the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime. New regulations will designate waste materials, targets and standards that producers will have to follow when fulfilling their obligations. RPRA continues their contribution to the City of Vaughan's Blue Bin costs. Their grant totalled \$1.28 million in 2016. The funding formula is based on collection costs for printed materials, paper packaging, plastics, steel, aluminum and glass packaging, and represents approximately 50 percent of net Blue Box program costs submitted by municipalities.

Environmental Services provided comments on the Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario

As part of the on-going consultation on the new legislation, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) provided the Discussion Paper: Addressing Food and Organic Waste in Ontario – EBR Number 013-0094 for comment. Environmental Services provided a response on July 26. The main points of this letter included a request that an Ontario-wide organics communications plan be developed and that the Province consider providing credit for municipal costs associated with organics collection through the Climate Action Plan, due to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions achieved through organics processing. We also addressed the unique challenges posed by multi-residential buildings should organics diversion become a requirement for this sector. We requested possible assistance to service these types of buildings, including incentives for retrofits, changes to the building code and investment in research to set best practices.

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative has been formed to protect municipal interests

In response to this new legislation, attendees of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) meeting February 8, 2017, municipal representatives decided to form an advocacy working group to promote and protect municipal interests pertaining to EPR and help municipalities make informed decisions on transitioning the blue box program. This group has been struck as the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative, composed of representatives from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, Municipal Waste Association and the City of Toronto. The City of Vaughan has been following their work closely, through staff representation on the MWA Board of Directors and through staff updates from York Region.

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative have been successful in encouraging an early transition of the Blue Box program

The Municipal 3Rs Collaborative have been very active in the last few months. They have met with key producers and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change in a process to consult on revisions to the current Blue Box Program Plan. This culminated in a letter on July 7,

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to the MOECC, encouraging them to provide for an early transition of the Blue Box program. The MOECC took action on this issue, directing RPRA in a letter from August 14, 2017, to produce a proposal to amend the Blue Box Program Plan in collaboration with municipalities. This proposal is to be provided to the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), Chris Ballard, for approval by February 15, 2018.

RPRA's proposal to amend the Blue Box program will provide a template for other transitioned diversion programs in the future. Once the program is transitioned to EPR, it will create new regulations for paper products and packaging currently part of the Blue Box program. Each municipal Council will decide how to transition their local programs, and will have the option to continue to act as a Blue Box service provider to Producer groups, who will be required to pay for these services, or a municipality can opt-out and allow Producer groups to manage the program independently.

Blue Box program costs remain a burden for municipalities, and it may be possible to achieve a progressive increase from the current 50% cost share of Producer contributions, and shift costs from the municipal tax base to Producers, who are well positioned to improve the environmental performance of their products and see gains in achieving a circular economy of recycled goods in Ontario. As the consultation process unfolds, the City of Vaughan will work collaboratively with the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative and other interested parties to help set the agenda for these changes. As per Council's directive, we will offer comments and recommendations through the Environmental Registry as opportunities arise.

The City of Vaughan continues to demonstrate waste reduction achievements, and through implementing best practices and program changes, we will meet our progressive waste diversion and reduction goals set collaboratively through York Region's SM4RT Living Plan (Integrated Waste Management Master Plan).

The Waste Division of Environmental Services provides waste collection services for eligible residential properties in Vaughan. Our waste collection program supports regional goals set through York Region's SM4RT Living Plan (Integrated Waste Management Master Plan), by offering diversion services and providing sensible limits to residual waste. As reported previously, The Region of York has recently calculated waste generation for the City of Vaughan as 284 kg/capita – one of the lowest in the Region of York and down slightly from our rate of 297 kg/capita in 2015. This was partly due to due to a drier summer, and lower leaf and yard waste tonnage, as well as the overarching trend to lighter recyclable materials.

All materials collected by the City's contractor are transferred to Regional facilities for recovery, additional processing and final disposal. The Region manages Community Environmental Centres (CEC) for resident drop offs, including the newly updated McCleary Court CEC, which will now house the Households Hazardous Waste Drop-off Depot as of this fall, 2017.

The Waste Division continues to participate in outreach activities, including our annual Environmental Days, coordinated through Environmental Services.

Environmental Days are held annually in each Ward between April and June. During these events, we replaced nearly one thousand damaged bins for residents, and sold over one hundred additional units. We also provided residents with clothing and electronic waste recycling drop-off services at each event, achieving 8 tonnes of electronic waste and 1,750 lbs of clothing of diverted from landfill. For the National Public Works Week celebration on May 27, we had our waste collection contractor, Miller Waste Inc. provide a collection vehicle for display to the public, and Environmental Services developed a waste diversion game for children to engage with our waste programs.

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For 2017, we launched a new reuse program, Curbside Giveaway Weekends, held the last Saturday and Sunday of each month, May to October.

We promoted the new program, Curbside Giveaway Weekends, based on the positive results from other Canadian municipalities, and York Region communities. Given the departure of Goodwill Industries from York Region's Community Environmental Centers, this program provides a new avenue for re-use for household items that would otherwise end up in landfill. It also supports our target of 5% waste reduction from re-use by 2031 as laid out in York Region's SM4RT Living Plan, Reuse, Repair and Repurpose Strategy. Our program builds on the success of equivalent programs in Newmarket, Georgina, Aurora and King, who have adopted a similar model.

In collaboration with Corporate Communications, we promoted an on-line survey for residents through social media, and began gathering responses following the first event in May. Based on the latest results in August, we have learned that of those surveyed, the majority (65 per cent) participated by putting items out to the curb, and that 68 per cent of respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with the event series. Most respondents heard about the event via social media (42 per cent). The majority of the open ended comments we received recommended that we increase promotions to gain greater participation.

We had requested that By-law record complaints due to these events, especially those related to items placed on the boulevard outside the designated event timeframe of Saturday morning at 7 a.m., to Sunday evening at 5 p.m. Although By-law did not record any complaints related to the Curbside Giveaway Weekends to date, the Waste Division identified one related complaint due to reusable items placed out too early. This indicates that either participation is still low, or that the program is not generating additional by-law violations among residents. We intend to resume Curbside Giveaway Weekends in spring 2018, with renewed communications in collaboration with York Region.

Environmental Services initiated a new outreach activity in partnership with Vaughan libraries, promoting waste diversion through our interactive recycling game.

Environmental Services developed an interactive recycling game to engage children at public events such as the National Public Works Day. Two games - waste diversion basketball and pipes & running water - to play with young patrons at five local libraries in July and August. We received an excellent response from library staff, parents and our nearly 200 youth participants, ranging in age from 16 months to 12 years. Library staff recorded a video of children playing the waste diversion basketball game and posted it to Facebook, where it garnered 2.5 thousand views to date. We intend to explore this partnership with Vaughan libraries based on the positive feedback we received throughout the event series, and the useful learning platform it provides for environmental behavior change at home.

Vaughan schools were engaged through an interactive pilot program, targeting grade five students

Through Environmental Services outreach to Vaughan schools, staff piloted a program with an external service provider, The Planet Protector Academy. This organization produces an interactive program designed inspire students to become zero waste superheroes, helping them understand core issues through classroom activities, with superhero missions at home to change their families' waste and consumption habits. Forty-nine children participated, reporting positive results, including 81% of families wasting less food, and 100% of children pledging to make more sustainable purchases. This pilot will continue in the fall 2017 with two additional classes.

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Multi-residential condominiums have been invited to receive municipal waste services

As per Council direction, Waste Division staff have contacted multi-residential condominiums to facilitate the process of adding their buildings to municipal waste services as per Phase 1 of this program roll-out. Through site visits and communication with Property Managers, we have determined the collection needs for these buildings in collaboration with our waste contractor, Miller Waste Inc. A small number of these properties have posed some logistical challenges, that we are working to overcome. The Waste Collection By-law has been updated to reflect the enforcement requirements of this new service, and the application, contractual agreement, and outreach plan have been developed.

Future waste programming will begin to roll out best practices in waste reduction and diversion, and include additional household waste items.

The Waste Division business plan for 2018 and 2019-2022 includes program offerings focused on additional components of the waste stream. The new solid waste collection contract included optional pricing for twice annual curbside battery collection, which can be offered in 2019 dependent on approved budget. In collaboration with other departments, Waste Division staff intend to pursue by-law changes to allow for textile collection bins to be placed on City properties. According to waste audits, textiles and clothing make up 5% of household waste, and the majority of these materials are not diverted for reuse or recycling. Following the lead of communities like the City of Markham and the Town of Aurora, municipal programs are very successful in providing convenient, responsible textile and clothing diversion reuse opportunities.

Relationship to Term of Council Service Excellence Strategy Map (2014-2018)

T12 Continue to cultivate an environmentally sustainable city.

Regional Implications

SM4RT Living – York Region's Integrated Waste Management Master Plan is a collaboration plan with local area municipalities.

Conclusion

The Waste Division will continue to participate in the consultation process on the new provincial legislation in collaboration with our partners in the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative, and work towards our goals set out in the SM4RT Living Plan.

Attachments

N/A

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