

Item:



Committee of the Whole (Working Session) Report

DATE: Wednesday, February 06, 2019

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: WASTE DIVISION PROGRAM UPDATE AND WASTE LEGISLATION UPDATE

FROM:

Tim Simmonds, Interim City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To update Council on the outcome of waste diversion programming, our involvement in the next five-year strategic plan for integrated waste management with York Region, and information on the Waste Free Ontario Act.

Report Highlights

- Update to accepted Blue Box material list from York Region
- Progress on service expansion to multi-residential condominiums
- Initiating study to consider funding waste collection through a user fee
- Progress on the Waste Free Ontario Act

Recommendations

1. That this report be received for information.

Background

York Region's SM4RT Living Plan (Integrated Waste Management Master Plan) is undergoing a five-year strategic review

The City of Vaughan is helping shape the next phase of the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan, reviewing the long-term strategy for waste services and programs throughout York Region. Environmental Services staff have attended multiple

in-person workshops to ensure our interests and ideas are well represented and expect to see a final strategy document in Q2 2019. Staff will update Council as information becomes available.

Black plastic and coffee cups will be removed from Blue Box collection to improve the sales of all materials in stricter international markets

Staff have also been participating in a local Blue Box Contamination Working Group, led by York Region. Due to international market changes, black plastic and coffee cups will be removed from the acceptable items in our Blue Box program. These items do not have markets and they mix with and degrade the quality of other material streams in our recycling facility. The Working Group has created a venue for all local municipalities to adopt this change and build a cohesive approach when communicating with residents. We anticipate this program change to be promoted widely spring 2019.

Additional multi-residential condominiums are now receiving municipal waste services

As per Council direction, Waste Division staff have extended municipal collection service to multi-residential condominiums in 2018 and town house complexes in 2019 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 properties have posed some logistical challenges that we are working to overcome. The Waste Collection By-law and Waste Collection Design Standards were updated in late 2017 to reflect the enforcement requirements of this new service, and the application, contractual agreement, and outreach plan have been executed. We now service approximately 4600 new multi-residential dwelling units representing a 71 per cent increase in units served. New condominiums are coming on-board each month. The Citizen Survey results continue to provide positive feedback with 91 per cent of respondents satisfied with municipal waste collections services.

The City continues to make progress towards our waste reduction goals

By providing and promoting comprehensive waste diversion programs, Vaughan remains the second lowest in waste generation per capita in the region, at 292 kg in 2017. This is slightly higher than the 2016 rate of 282 kg/per capita, created by higher waste, blue box and leaf and yard waste tonnage. There was also increased use of the York Region depot in Vaughan.

It must be noted that because we have added more multi-residential units to our service, which do not have access to organics collection and have low recycling rates, we may see a higher waste generation rate in 2018, given the per capita calculation – more units served divided by the same total population. To achieve greater reduction across all waste categories, the City will need to plan for and implement additional programs, which could include textile recycling at City facilities, organics collection in multi-residential buildings, clear bag garbage collection, and renewed resident

participation in existing diversion programs: organics and blue box. The City has committed in the 2019 budget, if approved, collection of textiles in our multi-residential sector.

Waste Division continues to participate in outreach activities, including our annual Environmental Days and Curbside Giveaway Weekends

Environmental Days are held annually in each Ward between April and June. We also provided residents with clothing and electronic waste recycling drop-off services at each event. During these events, we replaced over 1,500 damaged bins for residents, and sold over \$3,500 worth of inventory. We also provided residents with clothing and electronic waste recycling drop-off services at each event, achieving 6.5 tonnes of electronic waste and 2,900 lbs of clothing diverted from landfill. Curbside Giveaway Weekends were held on five weekends in 2017 and six weekends in 2018, promoted through social media, our waste collection calendar, and mobile signs.

Environmental Services staff members engaged with residents and students promoting waste diversion, City programs and career choices in Public Works. Through Environmental Services outreach to Vaughan schools, staff presented information on waste diversion and waste free lunches in classrooms in both YRDSB and YCDSB. Over the summer, the Environmental Services continued its partnership with the Vaughan Public Libraries, promoting waste diversion through our interactive recycling game.

Waste Reduction Week, an annual national event was celebrated at both City Hall and the Joint Operations Centre, engaging City staff on best practices for reducing waste at home and in the office. Environmental Services partnered with the Environmental Sustainability staff members in the week-long clothing and electronic donation drive, along with the new staff initiative of the swap table. Staff donated over 939 lbs of clothes and two 95 gallon containers of electronics.

Staff have also started the Solid Waste User Fee Study, a project approved in the 2016 Budget

The solid waste user fee study will examine different funding models for funding the solid waste program. The delay in starting this project, as reported through the Strategic Map update for the last term of Council, was due to waiting for information which was part of York Region's Full Cost Accounting Study for Solid Waste. As per the City's previous Term of Council Priority Strategy Map, the study supports the goal of meeting the Council tax rate target. The study will include a public consultation process throughout. Further updates on the project will be provided to Council this year.

Legislative Update

The provincial election stalled talks between the municipalities and producers who were working together to develop an implementation plan to transfer responsibility for Blue Box collection from municipalities to producers

Since staff last reported to Council, Item 3, Report No. 12 of the Committee of the Whole (Working Session) March 7, 2018, the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC), composed of representatives from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario, Municipal Waste Association and the City of Toronto, has continued to liaise with stakeholders and push for a transition of the Blue Box program. The M3RC has continued to consult on a draft regulatory framework for Blue Box materials under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 (RRCEA).

The provincial government's new draft Environmental Plan continues implementation of the Waste Free Ontario Act with specific goals for waste management

The provincial draft Environment Plan promotes greater organics and plastic waste reduction and continued push for a full producer responsibility model for the blue box recycling program, including a standardized list of accepted items. The plan acknowledges municipalities as key partners to implement their objectives. It also addresses a potential organics landfill ban, and a greater emphasis on the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector for achieving waste reduction.

Given the content of the plan, we can expect to see progress on the Blue Box program in the coming year. Environmental Services staff continue to consult with the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC), which has been actively promoting Full Producer Responsibility for the Blue Box Program with the new provincial government. Staff continue to provide comments on the legislation updates as required.

Previous Reports/Authority

[WASTE LEGISLATION AND WASTE DIVISION PROGRAM UPDATE](#)
[WASTE LEGISLATION UPDATE ON AMENDED BLUE BOX PROGRAM PLAN](#)

Analysis and Options

By incorporating initiatives set through the York Region's SM4RT Living Plan, we have benefited from aligning our programs with our neighbouring municipalities through cross promotion and support, as well as program evaluation. We will continue to collaborate with York Region on program enhancements and promotions to ensure Vaughan residents have the tools and resources to reduce waste and increase diversion.

Financial Impact

All current services and outreach activities were included in the 2018 Budget.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

York Region's Integrated Waste Management Master Plan is a collaborative plan with local area municipalities.

Conclusion

The Waste Division will continue to participate in the consultation process on the new provincial legislation, and work towards the revised objectives set out in York Region's Integrated Waste Management Master Plan.

For more information, please contact: Jennifer Rose, Director, Environmental Services

Attachments

1. N/A

Prepared by

Kate Dykman, Manager, Solid Waste Management ext. 6309