

From: Mike Bloxam [<mailto:mike@bloxam.ca>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2015 2:29 PM
To: Mercier, Betty
Subject: ACE: potential topics

Dear Betty,

Could you please forward this to all members of the ACE? We should discuss a list of priority topics at our next meeting. Here are some suggestions sent to me so far for everyone to consider, beyond the topics covered by ACE in the previous term: I ask that members please make your own private list and bring with you to our May meeting.

1) Municipal Waste & Resource Materials Collection By-law

The reason for this is because I don't know how else to approach this. In reality what can and cannot go into the blue bins isn't listed in the text of the bylaw and I cannot seem to find the information on the city website. One of the things I noted upon moving here to London was that things like foam polystyrene and plastic retail shopping bags are not recyclable here, but are in other Ontario cities. I imagine there's been some internal reports on the rationale for why London is not currently recycling stuff like that so it would probably help if we had copies of those or at least summaries made available to have an informed discussion about the current recycling regime in place.

2) A London Solution to CFL bulb recycling

Stats Can says only 1/3 of Canadian households are even attempting to recycle CFL bulbs with the rest going into landfill. As I'm sure you know that results in mercury getting into the soil and groundwater table.

With relation to this topic, London has to update its materials on the city website it says you can return CFL bulbs to Home Depots that's two years out of date because they cancelled that program in 2013. Now other retailers do still collect them, but if fully 2/3rds of households are not recycling them then we're doing something wrong. https://www.london.ca/residents/Garbage-Recycling/Recycling/Documents/Reuse_Locations_2014.pdf and even better if you go to Home Depot's website it points you to a dead link on the [london.ca](http://www.london.ca) website <http://www.homedepot.ca/eco-options/initiatives/recycling-programs>

3) Living Building Challenge

<http://living-future.org> So as you and I discussed briefly today, I think this is just simply something excellent and I would love to see London commit to even one new building going for this recognition.

4) Sale of invasive plant species within London

Here's some information on the sort of program I would love to see encouraged to take hold here

<http://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/index.php/gardenersandhorticulturalists> A lot of people are in the dark about invasive tree species and there's plenty of them for sale in the local tree farms.

5) Heated Sidewalk in Retail Areas

If a stretch of Dundas is set to be hauled out and rebuilt anyways maybe we should look at this as a great way to reduce salt use in the downtown core.

Holland, MI has been doing it since the late 1980s and I'm pretty sure Sean Galloway and a few of the Urban Designers has been there to see it. It's a terrible example however because as I understand it they heat it with excess steam from a Coal Power Plant but there are precedents where it's been done or is contemplated as being done in a green fashion

<http://ipf.msu.edu/green/practices/heated-sidewalks.html>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/ste-catherine-street-to-get-heated-sidewalks-1.3001588> <http://www.mtlblog.com/2014/10/montreals-saint-catherine-street-may-be-getting-heated-sidewalks/#>

6) TCE Contamination to homes on Brydges Street

<http://london.ctvnews.ca/elevated-trichloroethylene-levels-in-groundwater-along-brydges-street-1.2273080>

The reporting on this has been very sparse, but if you look at TCE contamination in Cambridge it can be incredibly expensive. The city's health officer seems to only talk about the fact that the levels of TCE leaching into people's basements is at 'low' levels. But from my perspective those sites are now contaminated and these people have a duty to disclose the TCE presence to prospective buyers when selling. I was involved in a small claims lawsuit dealing with TCE contamination and was also involved in a large commercial land sale that incurred a huge remediation obligation on our client that involved TCE and other chemicals. If I was a class action lawyer I would be driving up and down Brydges trying to sign them up to see who they can sue and I'd definitely include the city in my list of targets.

I know that there's a big court of appeal case dealing with Ministry of the Environment site protection/monitoring orders with relation to Nortel that involved properties around the province including London but I don't know where that property is.

7) Did you have a chance to listen to this when it first

aired? <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/how-urban-soil-farming-could-help-feed-more-people-1.3017780>

Given that it's the year of the "soil" maybe there's still time for the city to get something underway that would have traction by next year with relation to composting or urban farming?

Thanks!

... Mike.