

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON JUNE 14, 2017
FROM:	JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS REPORT #1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Director - Environment, Fleet and Solid Waste, this report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Update and Next Steps – Resource Recovery Strategy and residual Waste Disposal Strategy as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (February 7, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #10)
- Establishment of a Waste Management Working Group (December 5, 2016 meeting of the Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee (SPPC), Item #2)
- Individual Environmental Assessment Long Term Solid Waste Resource Recovery & Disposal Plans (October 6, 2015 meeting of the CWC, Item #14)

Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings – Advisory and other Committees) include:

- General Framework for the Community Engagement Program for the Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Disposal Strategies as part of the Environmental Assessment Process (January 19, 2017 meeting of the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG), Item #7)

COUNCIL'S 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2015-2019 - Strategic Plan for the City of London ([2015 – 2019 Strategic Plan](#)) as follows:

Building a Sustainable City

- Strong and healthy environment
- Robust infrastructure

Growing our Economy

- Local, regional, and global innovation
- Strategic, collaborative partnerships

Leading in Public Service

- Proactive financial management
- Innovative & supportive organizational practices
- Collaborative, engaged leadership
- Excellent service delivery

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE:

This report provides the Waste Management Working Group with an update on the Community Engagement Program for the Resource Recovery and Residual Waste Disposal Strategies.

CONTEXT:

In February 2017 Municipal Council directed City staff to undertake a number of actions with respect to the development of a long term Resource Recovery Strategy and a Residual Waste Disposal Strategy for the City of London. These actions included approving the general framework of the Community Engagement Program including:

- Use the following community engagement tools and forums: public notices, project website including use of the new getinvolved.london.ca website, interested stakeholders contact and distribution list, open houses, meetings/presentations, City of London Advisory Committees, and using a range of information and communications tools; and,
- Contact individuals and groups within the following broad stakeholder categories: the general public, the Government Review Team and Indigenous Communities

The objectives of Community Engagement Program are:

- To engage key stakeholders from the beginning of the process through a variety of community engagement tools, events and activities. This is to ensure that there are adequate opportunities to learn about the strategies and to provide input, feedback and comments and that these comments are considered by the Environmental Assessment (EA) project team;
- To engage Indigenous Communities as early as possible in the process and to facilitate their involvement in ways that meet their interests and needs;
- To ensure the consultation process is open, transparent and inclusive;
- To document issues and concerns identified by the public, agencies and other stakeholders and to demonstrate how these concerns and issues have been incorporated into the final Terms of Reference (ToR); and,
- To fulfill the EA Process public consultation requirements.

DISCUSSION

Overview

A formal Public Consultation Report (i.e., the file assigned by the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change) for the Residual Waste Disposal Strategy will be required as part of the EA process. This report will document all aspects of the Community Engagement Program including information on advertising, outreach, events and activities as well as all comments received. Staff will also prepare a similar report for the Resource Recovery Strategy. Below is a brief summary of the Community Engagement Program for a defined period of time. Complete details will ultimately be provided in the previously noted reports.

Summary of Community Engagement Activities

Table 1 provides a summary of the community engagement activities that took place from March 30, 2017 with the release of the Notice of Commencement to June 5, 2017.

Table 1 – Community Engagement Activities March 30 to June 5, 2017

Activity	Description
Notice of Commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertised in Londoner on March 30 and April 6, 2017 • Sent to 360 stakeholders (residents/property owners near the landfill; government agencies, Indigenous Communities, etc.) • 6 written comments received (5 from government agencies and 1 from a resident)

Table 1 – Community Engagement Activities March 30 to June 5, 2017

Activity	Description
Project Website (<i>Getinvolved.London.ca</i>)	<p><i>Residual Waste Disposal Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 600 visits (395 unique visitors); over 50 feedback responses received of June 5 <p>Feedback is currently being requested on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Guiding Principles • Key Project Parameters - The Residual Waste Disposal Strategy, including a proposed landfill expansion that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find solutions that will manage Residual Waste (garbage) until 2050 (25 years beyond the current approved capacity of the W12A Landfill) • Look at the possibility of allowing neighbouring municipalities to use any new waste disposal facilities developed by the City of London • Place limits on the amount of Residual Waste that will be accepted at any new waste disposal facilities • Commit to increasing the current household waste diversion rate to 60% by 2022 from the current rate of 45% <p><i>Resource Recovery Strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 100 visits (76 unique visitors), 2 provided feedback as of June 5 <p>Feedback is currently being requested on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Guiding Principles • Household Food Waste Survey (being undertaken by Western University)
Waste Management Social (May 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 participants attended this informal (social) designed to acquaint participants with members from the Waste Management Working Group and City staff
Open Houses (May 24 & 25)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertised in Londoner, London Free Press, social media, community boards at City facilities • Notices sent to stakeholders • 65 visitors • Many people stayed for over 30 minutes and some over an hour • 3 completed comment sheets, numerous verbal comments
Virtual Open House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located at project website • The materials presented at the May 24 and 25 open houses are presented along with the opportunity to provide feedback. The Virtual Open House will remain active until June 25, 2017.
Indigenous Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact made with 9 Indigenous Communities • Request for meeting from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Community Liaison Committee (CLC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine members accepted representing various groups (W12A Landfill Public Liaison Committee, business community, W12A Landfill customers, residents, local environmental organizations) • First meeting on June 5
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to the W12A Landfill PLC on April 20 • Presentation to Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) on May 3 • Booth at Gathering on the Green (Wortley Village) on June 3 • Booth at public screening of The Big Leak (Wolf Performance Hall) June 5

Summary of Comments Received at the Open Houses

Residual Waste Disposal Strategy

With respect to the proposed landfill expansion, concerns were expressed about:

- The potential for more odours because of additional garbage;
- Litter blowing from the landfill and litter from trucks arriving at the landfill;
- Increase in garbage trucks in the area. Concerns also expressed about gravel trucks from the aggregate pits;
- Water quality concerns for the neighbours using groundwater wells;
- Allowing neighbouring municipalities to use the City landfill if they do not have waste diversion programs as comprehensive as London's;
- Fairness, why isn't it someone else's turn for the landfill site?
- Landfill gas and the resulting greenhouse gas emissions;
- The height of the landfill and what that would look like; and
- How property values in the area would be impacted.

Other comments on the Residual Waste Disposal Strategy included:

- Managing London's garbage within its boundaries is a good thing to do;
- Being neighbourly with appropriate rules on disposal use can be achieved if Council sticks to its policies;
- Current landfill is in a good location to protect groundwater; and
- Energy-From-Waste (EFW) makes the most sense to manage waste.

Resource Recovery Strategy

With respect to reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and resource recovery, the following types of comments were shared:

- Support for a Green Bin program;
- Need to include additional products like foam plastic and grocery bags in the recycling program;
- Some were very interested in newer and emerging technologies and what role they might play in London. These included biogas facilities, gasification facilities and pyrolysis facilities; and
- The City is moving too slow. It needs to catch up to other municipalities.

Other Comments

- Many comments were shared on existing waste management programs offered by the City of London or by private companies in or near London;
- Many personal experiences shared; and
- Questions on the evolution of some of the services such as the "different day" garbage pickup system.

Next Steps for the Community Engagement Program

The Community Engagement program will continue throughout the summer culminating with a second series of open houses in the fall 2017. Summer events will include

- Presentations to City advisory committees (Agricultural Advisory Committee on June 21, Environment and Ecological Planning Advisory Committee on June 22);
- Individual stakeholder meetings (2 groups have requested meetings to-date);
- Waste Management Community Liaison Committee and W12A Landfill Public Liaison Committee meetings;
- Attendance at community events (e.g., Sunfest, Home County Music and Art Festival, etc.); and
- Feedback opportunities on the project website.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was prepared with assistance from Mike Losee, Division Manager, Solid Waste Management.

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