

Waste Management Feedback

June 26, 2018

For consideration at the July 4, 2018 meeting of ACE

Following review and receipt of the presentation “Markham Diversion Strategy – Mission Green” at the June 6, 2018 meeting of ACE, and further discussion amongst ACE members, this report summarizes key items we will be watching for in the expected Waste Diversion Action Plan.

Proposed Motion

Option A - That the Civic Administration BE REQUESTED to

- review this report and refer it to the Civic Works Committee for further review where ACE would request a delegation
- as possible, specifically address these items when preparing the Waste Diversion Action Plan
- a staff representative attend a future ACE meeting to discuss these items with the committee

Option B – That the report be received.

Key Items

(numbering is for reference only, and does not necessarily reflect priority)

1. A strong focus on the first R- Reduce – not only in terms of individuals, but for businesses, organizations and schools. To have other departments including planning consider waste generation in all projects including residential and commercial development. For example, how will these future developments impact waste generation and processing?
2. A recognition that the decision to create waste is not made when individuals or businesses decide to throw something out. That largely the decision to create waste, is when a purchase is made, and the item(s) are acquired.
3. Consider the potential impact of Climate Change on waste quantities. For example, the possibility that severe weather events could cause significant damage, and increase waste amounts.
4. The ability to ensure consistent programming regardless of the residential situation - house, condo or apartment/ or business /organization setting such as restaurants, community centres, schools, offices, manufacturing facilities etc.

5. Ensure there is a specific program where municipal facilities and staff are required to meet, and hopefully exceed, diversion objectives including specific actions such as:
 - Removal of individual garbage cans from work areas & provide one central garbage can per work area to increase awareness of garbage generation and potentially recognize cost savings on janitorial costs.
 - Acquiring composting equipment for the City Hall cafeteria which would allow for on-site composting of organics.
6. Will the program be designed in a way that strongly encourages participation by residents? Including, but not limited to:
 - Bi-weekly collection of garbage vs weekly green bin/recycling pick ups
 - Use of clear plastic bags to discourage the hiding of recyclables, hazardous waste and other items in the garbage.
 - Large, bright Oops stickers to be used on containers which are not sorted properly to reinforce education, enforcement and compliance.
 - A full and clear communications and marketing plan to support the launch and first 2 years of any new waste diversion program.
7. Specifically address pet waste and diaper waste. There are concerns that these items are not appropriate for processing systems designed for organic waste. Review and consider programs to encourage more environmentally friendly options versus disposable diapers and non-biodegradable cat litter.
8. Beyond pet waste and diaper waste, how green bin contamination will be dealt with.
9. Identify the organic waste processing options for City of London organic waste.
10. Review and encourage backyard composting and vermicomposting. Look for ways to make it even more convenient to purchase composters, and obtain brown materials and other helpful ingredients.
11. Incorporation of feedback measures to identify citizen concerns with proposed actions. I.e. Specifically identify top 10 motivators and top 10 concerns with the new program. Allow time and resources to trouble shoot these issues, and ensure communication materials specifically address concerns / celebrate the motivations.
12. How garbage pick up staff will be trained regarding the new program.
13. Expansion of depots for speciality recycling and possibly hazardous waste materials – possibly at existing municipal facilities such as arenas/community centres to make drop off easier and/or the possibility of working with community groups to facilitate special collection days.

14. Review of fibre recycling and furniture/tool/ building material recycling programs in the city.
 - Consider having drop off areas at community centres/arenas.
 - Liaise with charities and businesses providing these services in the city. Identify how the City can work with them to continue to increase capacity and awareness of these programs.
 - Introduce a program where useable items (furniture, bikes etc.) in good condition would no longer be picked up via regular garbage pick up but stickered with information promoting charity pick up.
 - Review whether all fibre recycling boxes should be city branded to increase credibility and use of such programs.
15. Consider the establishment of Spring & Fall “Free Days” where citizens can put items that others can have for free at the curb. Although individuals sometimes do this on their own, having an organized & promoted event would increase participation and encourage others to pick up items.
16. Review of current policies and enforcement resources in relation to illegal dumping. As well, consider incorporation of measures that would document and track illegal dumping before and after implementation of any new programs.
17. Remove all single use plastics from municipal facilities. I.e. drinks in plastic bottles.
18. Specifically identify how the existing FOG (Fats, Oils and Greases) program and cups as well as the “Toilets are not Garbage Cans” program will be integrated into Waste Diversion efforts. For example, will FOG collection points be expanded? If not, and FOG cups are meant to initiate FOG collection but not necessarily be relied upon going forward, the messaging on the cups could be reviewed and adjusted.
19. Will waste studies similar to the Food Waste review be undertaken to better understand and pinpoint waste issues specific to London.
20. How would residents be further educated, perhaps in partnership with community groups, on composting, reducing food waste and other topics.