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<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 1, 2012</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS &amp; SOLID WASTE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>STATUS – GREEN BIN AND MODIFIED GARBAGE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT</b>

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
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That on the recommendation of the Director – Environmental Programs & Solid Waste, the following report **BE RECEIVED** for information.

<b>PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER</b>
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Relevant reports that can be found at [www.london.ca](http://www.london.ca) under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- Solid Waste Management Updates (April 23, 2012 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #17)
- Updates on Green Bin Program and Zero Waste Strategies August 16, 2011 meeting of the CNC, Item #18)
- Update - Green Bin and Modified Garbage Collection Pilot Project Update (February 15, 2011 meeting of the CNC, Item #13)
- Update: Interim Business Plan for Green Bin Program and Zero Waste Strategies (May 10, 2010 meeting of the Environment and Transportation Committee (ETC), Agenda Item #13)
- Interim Business Plan For The Green Bin Program and Zero Waste Strategies (January 11, 2010 meeting of the ETC, Agenda Item #11)

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Committee and Council with a:

- status on the Green Bin Pilot Project including the last day of curbside collection in the area
- the next steps for the residents within the pilot project area, and
- the timeline for completion of analysis of pilot project data and reporting including status of Green Bin programs in Ontario and elsewhere, and an update on new, emerging and next generation practices and technologies for achieving higher waste diversion levels

**CONTEXT:**

The Green Bin and Modified Garbage Collection Schedule Pilot Project (one year) began in mid-October 2011 with approximately 760 homes in the Glen Cairn area. Residents were given the option of participating in the Green Bin program and offered a choice of three different size bins to use to hold their household organics. Residents were also provided a kitchen catcher and educational material.

The Pilot Project is also being used to test a “modified” garbage collection schedule. The modified garbage collection schedule consists of weekly garbage collection during the summer (April to September) and bi-weekly collection during the winter (October to March). Testing the modified collection schedule will help determine public acceptance and the cost savings/increases with this type of collection schedule.

Council requested staff report back on this pilot project with updates.

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**DISCUSSION**

**Status on the Green Bin Pilot Project**

The last day of curbside collection in the Pilot project area is Thursday, November 8, 2012. Regular E Zone collection will begin on Monday, November 12, 2012. Data for a full year will have been collected by this date. The project is on schedule and on budget.

**Next Steps for the Residents within the Pilot Project Area**

To assist with winding down the Pilot Project, two steps are being taken as part of the notification and thank you process.

For the last two years City staff, at the direction of Council, have been examining the role of backyard composting as part of the waste management system through a number of pilot project initiatives (see update in CWC report, April 23, 2012). One key element of this project is to estimate maximum potential uptake and diversion levels from backyard composting. To add to this knowledge, City staff will extend the reach of the Backyard Composting Pilot into the Green Bin Pilot Project Area. For those that want to continue to separate food scraps such as vegetables, fruits, coffee grinds, the City will provide a subsidized backyard composter for \$10 as part of our Backyard Composting Pilot Project.

Of particular interest, City staff have heard from a number residents that they wish to continue to separate Green Bin materials and are prepared to drive them to another location. This interest is consistent with experience in some communities that are exploring the potential of “community or neighbourhood composting”. For those that wish to continue to separate Green Bin materials, a special area will be established at the Clarke Road EnviroDepot for Green Bin Pilot Project participants to drop off their separated Green Bin materials. Quantity and quality of material taken to the EnviroDepot will be tracked.

**Timeline for Completion of Analysis of Pilot Project Data and Reporting**

It will take about 3 months to complete the analysis of the data and prepare a final report for CWC In general (late January 2013), this report will include:

- resident participation and feedback
- waste diversion statistics
- estimated program costs
- operational learnings
- status of Green Bin programs in Ontario and elsewhere, and
- an update on new, emerging and next generation practices and technologies for achieving higher waste diversion levels

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