

December 19, 2018

Civics Works Committee!

You have my permission to share this letter in the City public record.

I request that this letter be added to the agenda for the Civics Works Committee meeting that is to be held on February 5, 2019. Since this letter pertains to the City's new plans to begin a Green Bin Program, I would also request that this letter be added to the working files in all City departments responsible for this program.

On October 3, 2018, I was in attendance at the Civics Works Committee where the Waste Diversion Action Plan was approved to move forward to become a part of London's evolving culture. The portion of this plan that concerns me the most is the Green Bin Program! As a community environmental activist, I was more than delighted to learn that London is finally moving forward with a program that will (if instigated in a sustainable manner) bring many benefits to the London community. However, my confidence gained no momentum at the October 3rd meeting and I wish to address these concerns in this communication...

There are cities and communities around the world (and I believe our own Canadian city of Edmonton) that are making money off organic waste. Through various types of anaerobic digestive systems, organic waste is turned into natural gas and/or hydro-electricity! By creating energy systems of this nature, our landfill deposits are decreased, our energy supply becomes sustainable and our carbon footprint is significantly decreased.

I was shocked that I was the only one present at the October 3rd CWC meeting to speak about these systems that exist in other cities and communities around the world! This is not new technology! This is not a new way of processing organic waste material! This is not a new way of creating sustainable energy!

I am also rather displeased with the fact that London's WDAP was not initiated before this time! I would love to believe that I live in a city that has inspirational objectives to create a healthier and happier city for all, but as the WDAP shows, many of London's plans are re-actionary instead of being actionary! The WDAP exists because of Provincial legislation, not because our city departments are overflowing with inspirationally motivated individuals concerned for our united future! I believe that it is now time for the City of London to begin looking for and working with true community leaders, planners and developers! Our city has so much potential, because of its relatively small size, to retro-fit, redesign, reshape and remold its landscapes and all developments, to become a world leader in so many areas of significance

The success of a sustainable Green Bin Program will need all City departments to re-evaluate their priorities. In just the last two years, we've seen a \$50 million dollar community complex built on Southdale Road, another massive complex (I'd estimate at around \$25 million dollars) in the west end of the City along Wavell Road, a \$2.8 million dollar heated pool installed in Byron as well as miles of useless sidewalks built along the most western reaches of Oxford Street! If projects of these natures continue to pull the needed funding away from the Green Bin Program,

London residents will indeed be put in a position where a raise in property tax will be the only option available to secure the needed funding for this program. The City needs to re-evaluate budget plans and put the Green Bin Program into the forefront of the **needs** of residents! It's that simple!!

I find it interesting that I am probably the most excited person in London to think about a future Green Bin Program... while at the same time, the most concerned person about how this program will be created and how this will impact residents for many years to come!

Let's do this, London! But let's do this right! Let's do this sustainably!!

Jim Kogelheide