

<b>TO:</b>	<b>CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2019</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>TOILETS ARE NOT GARBAGE CANS STICKER INITIATIVE</b>

**RECOMMENDATION**

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director of Environmental and Engineering Services and City Engineer, the following actions **BE TAKEN** with respect to the requests of the 7<sup>th</sup> Report of the Advisory Committee on the Environment, June 6, 2018:

- a) The “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative **CONTINUE** as a voluntary program rather than a required program at all City of London facilities.

**PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER**

None.

**2015-19 STRATEGIC PLAN**

This project initiative supports the Strategic Plan with respect to Building a Sustainable City-Robust Infrastructure through a public information campaign to protect the sanitary sewer system.

**BACKGROUND**

**Purpose**

This report is in response to requests received from the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) to replace the voluntary “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative with a required program at all City of London facilities.

**Context**

Wastewater Treatment Operations in conjunction with Corporate Communications have developed a sticker for placement in washrooms advising that “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans”. A presentation was given on June 6, 2018 to the Waste Sub-committee of ACE to outline the goal of the sticker initiative. The presentation was well received and led to the following requests, resolutions b) i,ii and iii from ACE, attached as Appendix ‘A’:

- Require all bathroom stalls within City of London facilities to display the stickers;
- Assign a staff member to the initiative for follow up by ACE; and
- Report back to ACE on the feasibility of requiring all facilities that receive City of London funding to display the sticker in all bathroom stalls.

## DISCUSSION

Non-human waste material including wipes, dental floss, feminine hygiene products, condoms and other debris can plug wastewater equipment and collection systems and can also combine with other wastes such as fats, oils and greases (FOG) to form large “reinforced” masses throughout the sanitary system; both lead to additional operational and maintenance costs and increase the risk of system overflows. The washroom sticker was developed to inform residents that toilets and the sanitary system are not designed for garbage disposal. The sticker campaign also compliments the “Your Turn” grease cups which are promoted at many events and distributed to organizations across the City. Both initiatives are intended to raise the awareness of the problems associated with disposing these materials into the sanitary system.

There are approximately 1,000 toilets in 128 City operated facilities. From the outset installing the stickers has been voluntary with some facilities receiving a direct benefit if their sanitary systems are prone to plugging with flushed debris. Other sites may be more prone to vandalism and replacing the stickers can become an additional maintenance item. The labour and material costs to install the stickers in the 128 sites is estimated at \$5,200.00 plus ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Expanding the program to all city funded facilities could easily double this cost in addition to the resources required to maintain a site inventory and contact list; the stickers cost \$187.00 per 1000.

The “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” sticker initiative is voluntary and is also available to institutions outside of those operated or funded by the City. The sites voluntarily displaying the stickers maintain them at no cost to the City outside of the cost of the stickers themselves. Low cost is important in an information program as its effectiveness cannot be easily quantified and it allows complimentary programs such as the grease cups to be implemented. Making the stickers mandatory at all City of London sites will dramatically increase the cost of the initiative and may displace current and future programs aimed at improving the reliability of the wastewater system.

As an alternative to a mandatory program the stickers can be offered to other City facilities for voluntary installation and maintenance as part of their normal washroom maintenance activities. This will increase the exposure of the stickers without the resources required to manage a mandatory program.

## CONCLUSIONS

While it may be desirable to have these stickers displayed in all City of London facilities, it is not cost effective to implement the program as requested by Advisory Committee on the Environment. Expanding the distribution and maintenance of the “Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans” stickers on a voluntary basis is the recommended approach.

## Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with the assistance of Tony Van Rossum, Environmental Services Engineer, Barry Orr, Sewer Outreach and Control Inspector, Wastewater Treatment Operations and Val Morgado, Manager, Facilities Maintenance and Operations.

<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	<b>REVIEWED BY:</b>
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<b>RECOMMENDED BY:</b>	
<b>KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER</b>	

Attach: Appendix 'A' - Municipal Council Resolution, June 26, 2018  
Appendix 'B' - Toilets Are Not Garbage Cans Sticker

cc: Tony Van Rossum, Wastewater Treatment Operations  
Barry Orr, Wastewater Treatment Operations  
Val Morgado, Manager, Facilities Maintenance and Operations  
Glynis Tucker, Corporate Communications  
Alan Dunbar, Financial and Corporate Services  
Jason Davies, Financial Policy and Planning