

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON AUGUST 13, 2020
FROM:	JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE
SUBJECT:	PROGRESS REPORT #11: UPDATES: 60% WASTE DIVERSION ACTION PLAN AND RESOURCE RECOVERY STRATEGY

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:

- Public Participation Meeting 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (September 25, 2018 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #3.2)
- 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (July 17, 2018 meeting of the CWC, Item #3.1)
- 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 CWC, Item #10)

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

- Progress Report #9: 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (December 18, 2019 meeting of the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG), Item #3.4)
- Progress Report #7: 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (April 18, 2019 meeting of the WMWG, Item #3.4)
- Decision Report #8: 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (July 13, 2018 meeting of the WMWG, Item #2.1)
- Background Report #3 - Development of 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (March 8, 2018 meeting of the WMWG, Item #3.3)
- Update Report #8 - Programs, Projects and Provincial Activities that will Inform and/or Influence Strategies (January 18, 2018 meeting of the WMWG, Item #8)
- Update Report #5 - Programs, Projects and Provincial Activities that will Inform and/or Influence Strategies (September 28, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #7)
- Update Report #2 - Programs, Projects and Provincial Activities that will Inform and/or Influence Strategies (June 14, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #8)
- Update Report #1 - Resource Recovery Update (January 19, 2017 meeting of the WMWG, Item #7)

COUNCIL'S 2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2019-2023 - Strategic Plan for the City of London as follows:

Building a Sustainable City

London has a strong and healthy environment

- Build infrastructure to support future development and protect the environment

Growing our Economy

London is a leader in Ontario for attracting new jobs and investments

- Build infrastructure to support future development and retain existing jobs

Leading in Public Service

Londoners experience exceptional and valued customer service

- Increase community and resident satisfaction of their service experience with the City

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

This report provides the Waste Management Working Group (WMWG) with an update on the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan and the Resource Recovery Strategy.

CONTEXT

In London, more than one tonne of waste is produced annually per person. This includes waste generated at home as well as waste generated by the industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) sectors. About a third of this waste is diverted through numerous waste reduction, reuse, recycling and composting programs. The overall waste diversion rate for London is between 30% and 35%. The residential (household) diversion rate has averaged about 45% over the last five years.

Regarding future waste diversion, Council has set a diversion goal of 60% by the end of 2022. On October 30, 2017 City Council passed the following resolution:

“The W12A Landfill expansion be sized assuming the residential waste diversion rate is 60% by 2022 noting this does not prevent increasing London’s residential waste diversion rate above 60% between 2022 and 2050.”

This 60% waste diversion goal was included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) submission as part of the List of Commitments made by the City for the EA.

In October 2018, Council passed the following resolution:

“...the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan (Action Plan) containing programs and initiatives to be phased in between 2019 and 2022 to achieve 60% waste diversion BE APPROVED...”

In March 2020, Council passed the following resolution:

*15. (4.12) Business Cases for Additional Investment - Administratively Prioritized That the following 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget business cases for additional investment that the Civic Administration has prioritized BE APPROVED:
i. Business Case 1 – 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan – 2020-2023 Total: Investment \$17,600,000; Net Levy \$17,600,000*

Addressing the Need for Action on Climate Change

On April 23, 2019, the following was approved by Municipal Council with respect to climate change:

Therefore, a climate emergency be declared by the City of London for the purposes of naming, framing, and deepening our commitment to protecting our economy, our eco systems, and our community from climate change.

Both the Resource Recovery Strategy and Waste Disposal Strategy (including the EA) address various aspects of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation. These elements are also a requirement that must be addressed as part of EA documentation.

DISCUSSION

60% Waste Diversion Action Plan

The 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan proposes a set of 21 actions to achieve 60% diversion of residential waste by the end of 2022. As noted previously, the budget for the multi-year implementation was approved March 2, 2020. Shortly after this date, the COVID-19 emergency was declared provincially on March 17, 2020, and locally March 20, 2020. Among many items and actions, this included a reallocation of corporate priorities, work activities, employee disruptions and impacts, financial challenges, community engagement restrictions, hiring freeze, etc.

As a result, the majority of the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan actions items were placed on hold to ensure that essential services were operated in a safe and wise manner following all rules from the Provincial Government and subsequent direction from public health officials, Council and the City's Senior Leadership Team.

Delays on some of the 60% Waste Diversion actions including the Green Bin will range from 6 months to 12 months. City staff are taking a comprehensive look at current and potential timing challenges and will submit a report to Civic Works Committee in October 2020 with a revised timetable.

As part of essential services and related supporting activities to essential services, the following key waste diversion related initiatives have occurred between January and July 2020:

- The City of London is the Co-chair of the Waste Subcommittee of the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario (RPWCO). Between late March and the end of June 2020, the Waste Subcommittee was connected daily asking questions, sharing advice, and offering solutions for solid waste operations (essential service) during the first 3 months of the pandemic.
- The City of London continues to be a very active member of the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (M3RC) providing direct input into provincial legislation, regulation and policies for waste diversion and waste management. The collaborative partners include:



Among many items, perhaps the most important one, is the multi-million dollar transition plan and regulation for the Blue Box program to move to full industry financial and operational responsibility. This includes the most recent submission to the province entitled *Regulation under Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 for Packaging, Paper and Packaging-Like Products* (July 29, 2020). A draft regulation from the Province is expected in late summer, early fall 2020.

- As part of the Waste Free Ontario Strategy, the City continues to make contributions directly or indirectly towards the organics management and implementation framework in Ontario being undertaken by the Provincial Government. Further details are expected in late 2020. This includes input on source separated organics, mixed waste processing and composting, material quality and facility siting.
- Working through RPWCO and M3RCs, City staff have been engaged and/or tracking the development of extended producer responsibility programs for a range of materials. The status of the various initiatives, current and future financial benefit is identified on Table 1.

Table 1: Status of Various EPR Initiatives in Ontario

Material	Transition Status	Transition Date	How does the City get Involved?	Is City Receiving any Funding?	Annual Estimated Cost Savings or Expenditures
Used Tires	Complete	January 1, 2019	Accept at EnviroDepots on behalf of Producers	No	Collected at no cost.
Batteries	Complete	July 1, 2020	Accept at EnviroDepots on behalf of Producers	Yes	Expected Funding Revenue after July 1, 2020 = \$4,500
Electronics	Draft Regulation	January 1, 2021	Accept at EnviroDepots	Yes	Current Revenue: \$85,000
MHSW	Proposed Regulation for Comment	July 1, 2021	Accepted at W12A HSW Building	Yes	Current Funding Revenue = \$120,000 Future Funding will increase
Blue Box Materials	Transition process under detailed development	Proposed Transition January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025	Part of the Core Team participating in regulation and process development	Current = about 50% heading towards 90% to 100% funding	Current Funding Revenue: approximately \$3,400,000 Future Funding and/or Payment will likely increase by \$3 to \$4 million
Blue Box Materials (post transition)	Preliminary discussions	January 1, 2026	Limited activity at this time	n/a	n/a

- London's Hefty® EnergyBag® Pilot Project (for hard-to-recycle plastic items that are currently placed in the garbage) was launched in late October 2019 and proceeded as planned until March 2020. A number of adjustments have been made to address operating through the pandemic including measurement studies and postponing expansion until a clearer picture is available. Several project activities will resume in August including a revised overall project schedule and reporting. Also important to note is that similar to the City of London, a number of the Pilot Project partners had to deal with addressing other corporate priorities due to the pandemic.

Resource Recovery Strategy

Work on this strategy as has also been delayed. An update will be provided to Civic Works Committee in October 2020 as part of the 60% Waste Diversion Action Plan update.

Similar to above, as part of essential services and related supporting activities to essential services, the following key resource recovery initiatives have occurred between January and July 2020:

- Through RPWCO Waste Subcommittee, mixed waste processing updates and initiatives continued to be shared among the 20 members. The most active municipalities are City of Toronto, Region of Durham, Region of Peel and the City of London. Other municipalities such as Region of Niagara and Region of Waterloo continue to track progress of others. A number of private sector companies continue to be active in research and development in Ontario, benchscale or pilot scale facilities, through operational facilities in other jurisdictions such as United States and Europe.
- Research at the London Waste to Resources Innovation Centre including the NSERC Industrial Research Chair Thermochemical Conversion of Biomass and Waste to Bioindustrial Resources administered by Western University, has continued with most field activities curtailed. It is anticipated that field work will resume in August and September 2020. Work ranges from feedstock handling to material quality through to technologies and end market products (e.g., mechanical recycling, chemical recycling, material conversion, alternative low carbon fuel, solid recover fuel, etc.).

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