

IMPLEMENTATION OF ONCE PER WEEK RECYCLING

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that:

1. Once per week recycling collection, be implemented in conjunction with the implementation of the 3 stream waste collection program in 2005; and
2. That a further report be presented to Committee outlining the various waste collection options, taking into account the implementation of the 3 stream waste collection program.

Purpose

To provide an update with respect to implementing once per week recycling collection.

Background - Analysis and Options

At its meeting of March 29, 2004, Council requested staff to report on the implementation of once per week recycling collection , as a means to increase waste diversion.

In response to staff's request, the City's blue box collection contractor has submitted a response to this increase in service levels. In order to implement once per week recycling collection, the contractor has indicated they would need to purchase approximately 14 five-sort recycling vehicles. They do not have this number of surplus vehicles in Canada, and therefore, they would need to be ordered new. The contractor further indicated, that due to the fact that the current collection contract expires at December 31, 2004, they could not justify purchasing this equipment at this time.

In order to justify the purchase of this new equipment, the contractor has indicated that they would require, "a minimum 5 year contract extension, with a yearly increase in the cost per house collected." Given that the current method of collection and processing of recyclables will change with the introduction of the Region's 3 stream program mid-2005, this is not a reasonable proposition either.

With the introduction of the 3 stream system, and the new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), blue box materials will no longer need to be separated into the 5 different compartments on the vehicle. Instead, all materials will go to the MRF in a mixed fashion. This commingled approach may provide the City with an opportunity to use semi-opaque blue bags for recycling collection in addition to blue boxes, and due to better utilization of the available space within the collection vehicle, will result in a more efficient and cost effective collection process.

As was indicated earlier, the current contract expires at the end of December 2004. The contract expiration date was tied into the Region's new program being up and running as of January 1, 2005. However, due to delays at the Region, this will not take place at least July of 2005. Rather than go out for tender with 6 months of one collection method, and then change over to a 3 stream collection, staff was going to come forward to Council to seek direction with respect to extending the existing collection contracts (waste, blue box, yard waste, multi-residential, white goods), until such time as the new 3 stream process is up and running. This would allow the various contractors to bid on the new 3 stream collection process, without having to worry about purchasing new equipment or changing equipment over after 6 months of work.

However, should Council wish to implement once per week collection of recyclable materials as soon as possible, the blue box component could be tendered separately with the start date of the new contract set for January 1, 2005. This option would allow the earliest start of once per week blue box collection. However, due to only a single type of collection being tendered, and the fact that the existing means of collecting the materials (5 sort program) would be changed within the first 6-9 months after the contract started, it may not result in the best prices being bid. Tendering blue box materials on their own, would also limit the opportunity for co-collection of waste, blue box, and organics material under the 3 stream collection system. This may also impact the overall collection contract bid results and final costs.

In order to properly bring about an increase in the diversion rate, and allow for the timely introduction of the new 3 stream system, it would be better to negotiate a short-term (approx. 6-9 month) extension to the existing blue box and waste collection contracts. This extended contract's expiration would coincide with the start of the Region's 3 stream program and new MRF opening. In the interim, staff would go out for tender for all collection services (waste, blue box, organics, yard waste, multi-residential, and white goods), with the intent of starting all collection services at one date. This would allow for bidders to bid on multiple collection services, and allow for the co-collection of materials, which may result in lower overall bid prices. As was indicated earlier, with the 3 stream program, there is an option for co-collection of materials, whether they be organics and garbage collected together in a single truck, or organics and blue box materials collected together in a single truck.

As there still are a number of issues to be determined, including a firm commitment from the Region with respect to the opening of the new MRF, and, various collection options to be reviewed, staff will be preparing a separate report outlining in detail the 3 stream program, and the various collection options that would be available under such a program.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Once per week recycling collection should be implemented at the same time as the implementation of the 3 stream collection system. In the interim, staff will need to meet with the waste and blue box collection contractors to work on short-term extensions to their existing contracts. If such extensions could be successfully negotiated, all waste collection services could be tendered at the same time, and the programs would start in conjunction with the Region's 3 stream program, and opening of their new MRF.

However, should Council wish to implement once per week at the earliest possible time, a tender would need to be prepared as soon as possible so that the successful bidder could order the necessary equipment.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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