

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARCH, 26, 2007

REFRIGERATOR RETIREMENT PROGRAM IN CO-OPERATION WITH POWERSTREAM

Recommendation

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

That the Public Works Department be authorized to partner with PowerStream and/or its agents, to initiate a program that would allow for up to 1,000 refrigerators be removed from people's houses and recycled at no cost to the resident.

Economic Impact

PowerStream staff have confirmed that the City's participation would be limited to sharing advertising costs, which can be accommodated within the proposed 2007 Draft Operating Budget.

As the current appliance collection program run by the City is on a cost recovery basis, there would be no negative impact as a result of this program on that aspect of the budget.

Communications Plan

Staff have met with representatives from PowerStream over the past month regarding this initiative. As one way of reducing the demand for electricity, PowerStream would like to encourage residents to get rid of their second, often old and energy inefficient, refrigerators from their houses.

If approved by Council, Public Works will work with PowerStream and their agent to promote this initiative, and will act as the call answering and booking agent. The promotional aspect would:

- Appeal to customers to retire an older fridge that they don't need as many empty nesters no longer need a second fridge
- Appeal to customers to upgrade to a newer primary fridge
- Advocate that customers to buy 1 large fridge to replace 2 older fridges
- Offer to remove the appliances from the house as getting it to the curb is often the impediment

Purpose

To seek Council's approval to work with PowerStream and or its agents with this initiative. As this initiative will benefit the City's residents, this report is being presented to Council in order to expedite the approvals process.

Background - Analysis and Options

As part of PowerStream's conservation and energy demand management program, they have identified older refrigerators as being particularly inefficient in terms of energy consumption. When many residents purchase a new refrigerator, they simply move the old unit to the basement or into the garage. These older units consume significantly higher amounts of electricity in comparison to the new units. In addition, many of these units are not really being used, and simply are there consuming power. The major holdback for residents to get rid of these units is simply getting them out of their basements.

In order to help residents get rid of these older inefficient units, PowerStream has joined up with the Energy Shop to create a refrigerator retirement program. This program would see up to 1,000 units be collected from within a resident's house at no cost.

Under this joint project, City of Vaughan residents would call the City's Public Works Department to arrange for collection, and a third party under contract with PowerStream would go into the resident's house and collect the refrigerator and recycle the unit. As part of this program, the City would waive its normal \$25 collection fee.

The benefits of the program are:

- Reduced load for electricity.
- Removal of several objections that homeowners may have to getting rid of an older appliance by going into the house and removing it free of charge.
- Reducing the amount of CFC's released into the atmosphere by improper disposal.
- Enhance the City's image as being environmentally friendly.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council in terms of its environmental initiatives, and complies with Vaughan Vision strategies:

A-1 "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services",
A-3 "Safeguard Our Environment", and
D-2 "Develop Internal/External Collaborative Solutions"

Regional Implications

N/A

Conclusion

By partnering with PowerStream or its agents, the City will be assisting residents in becoming more energy efficient through the retirement of older inefficient refrigerators.

As the City already has the infrastructure in place to handle appliance collection calls, it makes sense for the City to be involved, and makes it easier for the residents to participate in this program.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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