

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

GREENING VAUGHAN'S "DOUBLE-UP DAYS"

RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends:

1. That Council approve the provision of 4 designated "Double-Up Day" events to be provided throughout the calendar year, whereby residents would be allowed to place out 6 items of waste per designated garbage collection day, without the need to purchase garbage tags;
2. That these "Double-Up Day" events be determined with input from the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee; and
3. That the current number of items collected without the need for a paid tag remain at 3.

Economic Impact

It is estimated that there is minimal impact to the City's annual Operating Budget in terms of advertising costs and "lost" revenue from the sales of the garbage tags should the "Double-up Day" concept be approved. However, the provision of "Double-Up Day" events (collection of extra garbage) is outside the parameters of the current waste collection contract and therefore the City will accrue some additional collection costs to implement this program. Preliminary discussions with the City's waste collection contractor have estimated that the cost to implement a "Double-Up Day" event would be approximately \$10,000 per event (representing 8 collection days because of the bi-weekly collection of garbage). Assuming one of the "Double-Up Day" events is launched in the latter part of 2007, the projected impact to the 2007 Operating Budget would be approximately \$10,000 (representing 1 event between September and December 2007). This cost have not been incorporated into the 2007 Operating Budget. In subsequent years, the projected cost to implement 4 "Double-Up Day" events on an annual basis is \$40,000.

The concept of increasing the number of items collected without the need for a paid tag from 3 to 4 has been discussed also. This too is outside the scope of the current waste collection contract. The contract was bid based on the original Greening Vaughan plan of 3 "free" bags, and collection vehicles were obtained based on projected tonnages for each waste stream. In discussions with our contractor, they have indicated that a change from 3 to 4 "free" items would result in a 12% price increase for the waste collection component of the contract. This translates into a \$375,000 cost increase over a 12 month period.

Communications Plan

Prior to the "Double-Up Day" concept coming forward, the matter of providing periodic relief to residents was discussed at the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee (GVAC). A number of options were looked at, and cost implications discussed.

Should Council approve the recommendation to provide these designated "Double-Up Days", an extensive advertising campaign will take place using local newspapers, mobile signs, the City's web site, and other means to get the message across to residents.

Purpose

The purpose is to provide all residents of the City of Vaughan with an opportunity to dispose of a limited amount of excess garbage at no additional cost (i.e. no paid garbage tags) on designated days throughout the year. This will assist with seasonal clean-ups and may help reduce illegal dumping of material on the City's streets and in the City's open spaces.

Background - Analysis and Options

The intent of the "Greening Vaughan" initiative is to divert the vast majority of household waste through the various diversion programs offered by the City. The most predominant programs to facilitate this are the green bin, blue box and leaf and yard collection programs. As Council is aware, there is no limit on the number of blue boxes or green bins (or leaf and yard bags) a resident may set out at the curbside for collection. The green bin and blue box programs are offered weekly, whereas the leaf and yard collection program is offered seasonally (34 collections per year).

Phase 3 of Greening Vaughan will be launched in September of 2007. Phase 3 will bring about every other week collection of garbage. The garbage item limit will be set at 3 garbage items every other week. A paid garbage tag will be required for any garbage items over the 3 item garbage limit. All other aspects of the City's collection programs will remain unchanged.

In light of all these changes brought about by the "Greening Vaughan" initiative (specifically relating to the garbage limits), it is recognized that at certain times of the year, residents may generate excess amount of waste material that cannot be disposed of through the green bin, blue box or other recycling / re-use programs.

Staff has explored various options that would allow residents to set out additional household waste. The options included:

- A limited number of free Garbage Tags inserted with the Tax Bill
- A limited number of free Garbage Tags inserted in the PowerStream (Electric) Bill
- A limited number of free Garbage Tags inserted in the Collection Calendar
- A limited number of free Garbage Tags sent via self addressed / direct mail
- Designated "Double-Up Day" events whereby residents would be allowed to place out 6 items of waste per designated garbage collection day, without the need to purchase garbage tags.

Staff conducted a cost-benefit analysis on the options noted above and presented a summary of the analysis to the Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee (GVAC) in May of 2007. Weight limits and restricted timelines on mail outs and additional printing and mailing costs were either too restrictive and / or expensive for all but the "Double Up Day" option. The placement of tags in the calendar could result in issues with staff at the various community centres and the city facilities with residents claiming that they did not receive their calendar or tags. Without a tracking system in place on a network wide basis, this would be subject to abuse as residents could continually claim and receive free tags. The GVAC concluded (and approved) that the "Double-Up Day" option was the most economically responsible vehicle for residents to dispose of a limited amount of excess household at no additional cost to the resident.

In response, staff has developed a program called "Double-Up Days". The purpose of these days is to provide residents with an opportunity to place a limited amount of excess garbage at the curbside for collection on designated days throughout the year, without the need to purchase garbage tags for these additional items.

This concept would be to "double-up" the amount of garbage permitted at curbside on the residents designated collection week. As such, on the designated "Double-Up Days", residents would be permitted to place out 6 items of garbage instead of 3 every other week without the need for a paid garbage tag. However, any additional items over the 6 (every other week) would still require a paid garbage tag.

It is intended that a maximum of 4 designated "Double-Up Day" events be offered throughout the year on an ongoing basis. The designated days will be spread out throughout the calendar year to accommodate these somewhat seasonal fluctuations in waste generation. The program would commence after the implementation of Phase 3, when the City moves to every other week garbage collection. Given collection will be bi-weekly after September 2007, the "Double-Up Days" would be offered for two consecutive weeks per event to capture both collection cycles (i.e. "Blue Week" and "Yellow Week").

The cost to implement "Double-Up Days" is anticipated to be approximately \$1,200 per collection day. This represents approximately \$10,000 per Double-Up Day event (\$1,200/day x 4 collection days/week x 2 weeks (for bi-weekly collection)). The annual cost is anticipated to be approximately \$40,000 per year (representing 4 Double-Up Day events per year).

The provision of 4 events per year is not anticipated to have a severe impact on the City achieving its 65% waste diversion rate.

As noted earlier, the concept of increasing the number of "free" items collected had come up in discussions as well. This change is also outside the scope of the current waste collection contract. The contract was bid with unit prices for each component of the waste stream, and each phase of the Greening Vaughan program. Collection vehicles and staffing needs were based on projected tonnages for each waste stream to be collected. In discussions with our contractor about a potential change from 3 to 4 "free" items, they have indicated that such a change would result in a 12% price increase for the waste collection component of the contract. This translates into a \$375,000 cost increase over a 12 month period. In addition to the cost, it is anticipated that such a change would have a negative impact on the City achieving the 65% diversion target. Due to both of these factors, it is recommended that no change be made to the number of "free" items collected per household.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, specifically Vaughan Vision A1 "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services", and D4 "Communicate Effectively".

Regional Implications

In 2006, the City took part in the Joint Municipal Waste Diversion Strategy. Through the City's Greening Vaughan program, and waste diversion initiatives in partnership with the Region of York, the City is working towards a minimum of 65% diversion of waste from landfill. The provision of the 4 annual designated "Double-Up Days", will not severely impact the City's efforts in achieving this target. However, any initiative that would hinder the City in achieving this target would impact the Region in terms of increased waste disposal costs, and additional landfill/disposal needs. For that reason, it is recommended that the City not increase the number of "free" items collected per collection day.

Conclusion

Staff recognizes that it would be beneficial to residents if there were some allowances made to the garbage limit on designated days throughout the year to accommodate seasonal fluctuations in waste generation. The "Double-Up Days" initiative addresses this need and provides residents an opportunity to dispose of a limited amount of excess household garbage over and above the permitted limit at no additional cost. The timing for these events will be established with consultation from the GVAC. It is not anticipated that providing 4 such "Double-Up Day" events will severely impact the City's waste diversion target of 65%.

Increasing the amount of items collected without the need for a paid garbage tag would require additional funding in the amount of \$375,000 per year, and such a change would have a negative impact on achieving the City's 65% diversion target, and therefore is not recommended.

Attachments

N/A

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Respectfully submitted,

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