

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - AUGUST 31 , 2010**

### **NEW RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION BY-LAW**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, recommends:

1. That a new Waste Collection By-law be enacted; and,
2. By-law 350-94, as amended, be repealed.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

Through the City's Greening Vaughan waste collection programs and initiatives, a significant amount of waste is being diverted from landfill, thereby contributing to environmental sustainability. The proposed waste collection by-law is based primarily on the Greening Vaughan initiatives, and provides the legal footing required to mandate responsible waste management practices by the City's residents, including mandatory participation in the City's waste diversion programs.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

#### **Communications Plan**

With the exception of creating a maximum set-out limit of 13 items of residual waste, the proposed by-law will not have an immediate impact on those residents who participate in the City's waste diversion programs. The maximum set-out limit, or "upset limit", refers to the maximum number of residual waste items a resident can place out for collection on their designated collection day (3 free + 10 paid items). The collection programs, set-out requirements, and material types, have been in place for a number of years through the Greening Vaughan initiative. The proposed by-law simply formalizes the process.

Once enacted, staff will advise residents of the upset limit via the traditional avenues such as the City's web site, the Greening Vaughan web site, newsletters, and the collection calendar.

#### **Purpose**

To ensure the City's waste collection process and by-law is consistent with the initiatives and intent of Greening Vaughan program.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Notwithstanding that By-law 350-94 has been amended over the past 16 years, it does not adequately address the changes and initiatives that have been brought into place by the City's Greening Vaughan program. For example, by-law 350-94 is generally silent, or falls short, on defining waste prohibitions, owner responsibilities, waste limits, acceptable receptacle requirements and fees associated for large appliance collection and additional residual waste items. It also does not take into account the City's Source Separated Organics (Green Bin) collection program.

The proposed by-law will not only reflect the changes brought forth by the Greening Vaughan initiative, but also incorporate clauses that are intended to rectify some of the challenges the City has experienced delivering such a comprehensive waste collection program in a large community.

From a resident's perspective, nothing will have changed, save and except that the City now has a legal avenue to pursue non-compliant set outs should "owners" be in contravention of the City's waste management program.

Some of the other changes in the proposed by-law include:

- Requiring residents to participate in the City's diversion programs for those receiving curbside municipal waste collection services
- Establishment of a maximum limit of 13 residual waste items (3 free + 10 paid). This is consistent with other municipalities' maximum set out limits for residual waste and will further encourage residents to participate in waste diversion programs offered by the City and York Region
- Identifying various materials that have been added to the collection programs over the past number of years, such as empty paint containers, plastics 1-7, etc.
- Confirming the frequency of collection for collectible waste materials (i.e. recyclables, residual wastes, leaf and yard material, large appliances etc.).
- Setting out clearer definitions of hazardous and non-collectible wastes
- Setting out clearer definitions of acceptable containers and acceptable waste materials

As was noted earlier, the only immediate change a resident may notice would be the maximum items of residual waste (set at 13 items) permitted curbside. The overwhelming majority of residents currently set out less than the allowable 3 item limit. As such, imposing a maximum limit will likely impact very few people. The intent of the 13 item residual waste limit is to ensure that when large amounts of residual waste are generated, they are dealt with through appropriate avenues such as private disposal bins and/or the Region's Community Environmental Centre located at 130 McCleary Court in Vaughan.

Although not an immediate impact to residents, the proposed by-law also incorporates anticipated (or possible) future waste management program changes. The Regional Municipality of York has, through its Environmental Services Committee (December 16, 2009), recommended the mandatory use of certified compostable bags in the Region's Source Separated Organics program commencing May 1, 2011. The Region, in concert with the area municipalities, are currently working to develop a comprehensive waste management plan concerning the mandatory use of compostable bags in the green bin program. The new by-law takes this change into account.

There is also a provision in the proposed by-law banning Electrics and Electronic Waste (WEEE) curbside, should the Region or the City wish to pursue that initiative.

Finally, the proposed by-law will provide designated City staff the ability to enforce the by-law should issues of non compliance arise.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020/Strategic Plan**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and ties into the following Vaughan Vision 20/20 Goals and Objectives:

Goal: Service Excellence  
Objective: Lead and Promote Environmental Sustainability  
Objective: Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery

Goal: Management Excellence  
Objective: Demonstrate Leadership and Promote Effective Governance

### **Regional Implications**

The City's waste collection programs are, to a large extent, driven by the materials accepted by the Region for processing or disposal. The proposed by-law will comply with those Regional requirements, and takes into account potential future changes the Region may make to its programs.

### **Conclusion**

To ensure consistency with the City's Greening Vaughan initiative, a new by-law is required to confirm such things as collection frequency, organics collection, and charging for additional items. The proposed by-law will clearly identify resident responsibilities in terms of set out requirements, and participation in the City's waste diversion programs. It also will provide designated City staff with further mechanisms to enforce provisions of the by-law should there be issues of non-compliance.

### **Attachments**

N/A

### **Report prepared by:**

Brian T. Anthony  
Caroline Kirkpatrick

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Robinson, P. Eng  
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works

Brian T. Anthony, CRS-S, C. Tech  
Director of Public Works