

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 8, 2002**

**RAIN BARREL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**Recommendation**

Councillor Kadis recommends that staff prepare a report regarding the feasibility of implementing a rain barrel water conservation program for City of Vaughan residents.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this program would be encourage outdoor water use by allowing residents to obtain free barrels to collect rainwater for various gardening purposes.

**Background - Analysis and Options**

To encourage a reduction in outdoor water use, and prevent surcharging of sewers, many towns and cities encourage residents to disconnect their downspouts from the sewer system, and collect the rainwater in barrels to use for outdoor garden watering at a later date. To reduce outdoor water use and encourage water conservation in Vaughan, it is proposed that the City implement an outdoor water conservation program that would provide a maximum of 2 free rain barrels to each household that wishes to participate in the program, and, provide downspout disconnect services at no cost to the residents, if so required.

**Conclusion**

This initiative would create an ideal tool for residents to practice outdoor water conservation through the capture of rainwater to be used for outdoor watering at a later time.

**Attachments**

none

**Report prepared by:**

Debi Traub, Council Administrative Assistant

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Susan Kadis