

WASTE DIVERSION IMPROVEMENTS

Recommendation

Councillor Alan Shefman recommends:

That a project to improve the level of recycling in the City of Vaughan be implemented;

And that this project will take place over a one-year term;

And that the project will include both educational and receptacle distribution components;

And that the project will culminate in moving from once every two weeks to weekly pickup of recyclables.

Purpose

To improve Vaughan's waste diversion and implement a "Garbage to Recycling" project.

Background - Analysis and Options

Vaughan's level of diversion of waste to recycling stream is the lowest compared to all other York Region Municipalities. The City of Vaughan is paying extraordinary amounts of money to ship garbage to Michigan. There are increasing restrictions on what materials may be shipped to the Michigan site. There is currently a move in York Region to expand the blue box system to include wet or organic waste. There is little sense in expanding the recycling program until the current system is working efficiently and effectively. More ads in the media or written information sent to homeowners will not work by themselves. The project has its genesis from talking to thousands of Vaughan homeowners over the past two months. It reflects both an interest emanating from homeowners as well as their responses to suggestions initiated by myself.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

The proposed implementation of this program is consistent with the priorities set by Council in Section 4.4.2. of the Vaughan Vision, to " promote waste diversion and reduction through municipal programs, incentives and initiatives.

Conclusion

From Garbage to Recycling is a project envisaged to address both financial and environmental issues confronting the City of Vaughan. It is intended to cut costs and the environmental impact of shipping garbage to Michigan as well as meet the environmental imperative to ensure that waste materials that can be recycled are directed to that stream.

Attachments

None.

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman