

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – FEBRUARY 20, 2006

JOINT WASTE DIVERSION STRATEGY BETWEEN THE REGION OF YORK AND THE LOCAL AREA MUNICIPALITIES

RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works recommends that:

1. Council support the development of a joint waste diversion strategy involving the Region of York and the nine local municipalities;
2. The City of Vaughan be a willing partner in the development of the joint waste diversion strategy; and,
3. The City of Vaughan contribute monies not exceeding \$4,000 (including \$2,000 in-kind staff time) subject to:
 - a. The need for additional public consultation events is deemed warranted in the City of Vaughan; and,
 - b. The monies will be partially reimbursed through the Federation of Canadian Green Municipalities Fund.

Economic Impact

The Region has set aside \$35K for the consultant and up to \$30K for public consultation for the development of this joint waste diversion strategy. However, if a municipality wants to do their own focus group(s), survey(s) or additional public meetings with their residents, it is at that municipalities' cost.

As such, if the City wanted to conduct public consultation events over and above the public consultation events that will be identified in the early stages of this initiative, the City would be required to absorb that cost. The additional costs would include possible room rental (if a City facility is unavailable), advertising for the event, refreshments as well as staff time. This cost is not expected to exceed \$4,000 including in-kind services.

The Region of York is applying for funding for the Strategy from the Federation of Canadian Green Municipalities Fund. If the City elects to proceed with additional public consultation events, it is possible that a portion of the costs may be reimbursed through this fund.

Purpose

This report discusses the need and justification for developing a joint waste diversion strategy involving the Region and the nine local municipalities.

Background - Analysis and Options

At a Regional Council meeting (Solid Waste Management Committee) of January 26, 2006, it was recommended, *"That Council request the nine local municipalities in the Region to participate in the development of a joint waste diversion strategy"*.

The Region's current waste management strategy is over eight years old and in many ways is dated in terms of the current waste management issues facing the Region (and its municipalities) and the Province of Ontario. The Region's current waste management study is also silent on local municipalities' waste management objectives and fails to identify the challenges and opportunities that exist at the local municipal level.

Waste management service delivery is a two-tier function in York Region with the local municipalities providing collection and the Region providing processing, transfer and disposal.

The Region of York recognizes the need to include the voice of the front-end service providers for waste collection – the local municipalities. As such, the revised strategy will require participation and agreement of both levels of government.

The joint waste diversion strategy will discuss current waste diversion efforts and possible paths to increase diversion rates throughout the Region and the cost implications associated with each option provided. The waste diversion strategy will address the role and responsibilities of the Region and local municipalities in implementing the various options available.

It is proposed that a draft report be completed by May of 2006. The proposed timeline for the joint waste diversion strategy is identified in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed Timeline for the Joint Waste Diversion Strategy

Date	Activity
January 2006	Project initiation
February 2006	Local Municipal Councils agreement to participate in study
February 2006	Discussions with local municipalities
March 2006	Joint strategy development
April 2006	Draft Report
May 2006	Endorsement of the draft strategy by Regional and local councils
Summer 2006	Public Consultation
Fall 2006	Report to Committee and council on Public Feedback
Fall 2006	Endorsement of final strategy of by Regional and local municipal councils

Source: RMY Report 1 of SWMC Regional Council Mtg. January 26, 2006

The Region has budgeted approximately \$65,000 for this undertaking. The Region has retained Lura Consulting for \$35,000 to assist staff in the facilitation and development of the proposed waste diversion strategy. Public consultation and/or surveys may cost up to an additional \$30,000.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and is consistent with the Greening Vaughan initiatives previously approved by Council, specifically A-3 "Safeguard Our Environment", and D-2 "Develop Internal/External Collaborative Solutions".

Conclusion

Given the inter-relationship between the local municipalities and the Region of York for waste management service delivery, it is imperative that a Region-wide waste diversion strategy involves both tiers of government.

A renewed strategy would help to identify and prioritize various waste diversion initiatives and assist in clarifying the roles and responsibilities for the Region of York and the local municipalities.

Attachments

N/A

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