

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - JUNE 18, 2007**

### **PROVISION OF MUNICIPAL RECYCLING COLLECTION AT CATHOLIC SCHOOL LOCATIONS IN VAUGHAN**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works, recommends that:

The City offer to provide recycling collection service to the York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB), for school locations in Vaughan, subject to the conditions outlined in this report.

#### **Economic Impact**

The program is being offered to the YCDSB on a cost recovery basis, including City administration costs. The YCDSB would be invoiced the full cost by the City for this service, and as such, there is no economic impact.

#### **Communications Plan**

Should the YCDSB agree to the conditions set by the City for commencing recycling collection services, City staff will contact YCDSB staff to initiate the process and develop a communications plan.

City of Vaughan staff will continue to go into schools (both public and catholic) and educate students about the City's recycling programs.

#### **Purpose**

Although it is recognized that the YCDSB is responsible for providing a recycling program (and by extension a recycling collection service) consistent with the Ministry of Environment's regulations, the purpose of this report is to provide an option for the provision of recycling collection services for the YCDSB to explore, should they wish to do so.

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

At a previous Greening Vaughan Advisory Committee meeting, the issue of recycling at catholic schools was raised. YCDSB staff had indicated at a public meeting that Vaughan was not providing recycling collection services to their schools. As a result of these comments made by YCDSB staff at a public meeting, residents were contacting members of Vaughan Council to complain about the lack of recycling at these schools. As a result, staff were asked to investigate this issue and report back. As recycling programs are already in place at schools under the jurisdiction of the York Region District School Board, there is no need for the City to provide recycling collection services to them.

In 2004 and 2005, area municipalities met with YCDSB to express concerns about the lack of recycling in the schools and to remind them of their obligations pursuant to the Ministry of Environment's Regulations on source separation and waste reduction.

In 2006, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) audited numerous catholic schools affiliated with different school boards in the Greater Toronto Area. The objective was to determine if the schools were in compliance with the Ministry's Regulation 103/94 (Source Separation) and 102/94 (Waste Audits and Waste Reduction Work Plan). Included in this audit were a number of schools under the jurisdiction of the YCDSB.

The City of Vaughan is home to the vast majority of catholic schools in York Region. Almost 38% of all of YCDSB schools are in Vaughan, with the distant second being Markham at 23%. As identified in the table 1 (below), 4 of the 9 municipalities do provide some form of recycling collection service to the catholic schools and similarly 4 of 9 do not. The Town of Georgina provides recycling collection to one catholic school that is attached to their Community Centre.

The collection requirements for those that do provide municipal collection services vary, as some of the municipalities may enter private property to provide collection, some municipalities may permit the use of blue boxes, some municipalities may provide a limited number of blue boxes/containers to the school etc. As depicted in the table, because YCDSB does not provide a recycling collection service for their schools, the system currently in place is very piece-meal, and in some municipalities non-existent.

Table 1: Municipal recycling collection services for catholic schools (by municipality)				
Municipality	Does the municipality provide recycling collection to catholic schools?	Number of Schools (including both elementary and high schools)	Corresponding Percentage	Cost Recovery
Aurora	Yes	6 + Board Office	6%	No
Markham	Yes	22	23%	No – but may do so in the future
<b>Vaughan</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>38%</b>	n/a
Richmond Hill	Yes	13	14%	Yes
East Gwillimbury	Yes	2	2%	No
Whitchurch – Stouffville	No	2	2%	n/a
King	No	3	3%	n/a
Georgina	Some*	4	4%	No (*only collect from one catholic school that is attached to their community centre)
Newmarket	No	7	8%	n/a
<b>Total</b>		<b>93</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Source: YCDSB website for number and location of schools & communication with area municipalities to determine whether collections services are provided, April 2007

It is worthy to note that school recycling can be problematic, as contamination levels can become quite high. It is not uncommon to find partially full juice boxes, pop cans, food trays containing beverage/food waste in the recycling containers set out for collection. As a result, set outs may become odorous and may be messy when collected due to the liquid waste.

#### Going Forward - City of Vaughan Option for YCDSB

As noted previously, the YCDSB is required to provide a source separation and waste reduction plan in place for all catholic schools in the Region of York. In order to have this plan in place, they also have to secure a collection service for recycling. The recommendation set forth in this report provides an option for the YCDSB to pursue (specific to Vaughan), if they so desire.

In seeking out a price for this service with our contractor, City staff asked for a cost for a dedicated service run and a cost for adding the 35+ catholic school locations onto the existing curbside residential runs. Not surprisingly, piggy backing the catholic school locations onto the curbside residential run was less expensive. The collection requirements for the schools will be the same as for the residential sector receiving curbside collection, save and except the requirement for the schools will be to use the 90 – 95 gallon recycling carts.

At the most recent meeting of the GVAC, staff reported back on its findings and costs associated with the provision of recycling services to the YCDSB. In turn, the GVAC recommended that the City offer recycling collection to the YCDSB on a cost recovery basis. In addition to the recovery of costs aspect, staff have also included other conditions necessary to ensure that the program is successful and requires the YCDSB to take an active role in this program.

Based on the recommendation from the GVAC, and staff's further input, It is recommended that the City offer recycling collection services to the YCDSB on the following basis:

- That the service is provided on a full cost recovery basis, plus City administration costs and applicable taxes;
- That a recycling program be implemented in all YCDSB schools in Vaughan, regardless of the number of persons enrolled in the school;
- That all of the City's set out requirements for recycling are met, and that chronic failure to meet any aspect of the City's collection requirements (i.e. contamination due to food waste & plastic bags, set out time etc.) or any of the conditions set out in this report may result in temporary suspension or termination of collection services;
- That collection occur once a week, on days and times designated by the City;
- That collections occur curbside only, i.e. collection vehicles will not enter onto school property to provide collection services;
- That collections will be done using the 90 – 95 gallon cart system only. To ensure compatibility with the City's collection vehicles, all recycling carts are to be purchased from the City of Vaughan (at cost);
- That the recycling program in the schools include all materials that are currently accepted in the City's blue box collection program, including all fibre products;
- That YCDSB accept all responsibility for issues as a result of vandalism, knocked over carts, or similar type calls concerning recycling containers at the schools;
- That any concerns or issues the YCDSB may have with respect to the City's recycling program and/or the collection services be directed to the staff in the City's waste management section;
- That a designated person at the YCDSB be responsible for educating the schools' custodial / maintenance staff about the City's recycling program and set out requirements;
- That the YCDSB actively promote recycling in their schools located in Vaughan and prepare and supply promotional material for the schools and that this material be consistent with the City of Vaughan's collection programs; and,
- That the City reserves the right to terminate recycling collection services at YCDSB's schools located in Vaughan at any time, provided that the City issue a 60 day notice in advance of termination date.

The intent of the numerous conditions identified above is to:

- avoid any additional costs to the City;

- ensure matters related to vandalized containers (eg. full totes being knocked over onto the road) are addressed by YCDSB staff and not City staff;
- ensure YCDSB are making a concerted effort to recycle in the schools; and,
- to articulate some of the more significant aspects of our collection program.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007**

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council, specifically Vaughan Vision:

A-1 "Pursue Excellence in the Delivery of Core Services"

A-3 "Safeguard Our Environment"

D-2 "Develop Internal/External Collaborative Solutions"

D-4 "Communicate Effectively"

### **Regional Implications**

Should the YCDSB wish to pursue the offer by the City to provide collection services at their schools, there will be an increase in materials delivered to the Region's facility. Depending upon the "cleanliness" of the materials from the schools, there is a possibility of higher contamination of the material brought in to the Region's Material Recovery Facility.

### **Conclusion**

The recommendation is consistent with the intent of the GVAC's recommendation to offer recycling services to the YCDSB on a cost recovery basis. This service offered in this report is intended to provide the YCDSB an option as it relates to recycling collection at catholic schools located in Vaughan.

The conditions developed by staff are intended to safeguard the City from any costs, while ensuring the YCDSB is making concerted efforts to promote recycling in its schools.

### **Attachments**

N/A

### **Report prepared by:**

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