

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

REPORT TO: Infrastructure and Recreation
 Committee
MEETING DATE: June 12th, 2012
REPORT NO.: EPW.12.047
SUBJECT: Draft Waste Diversion Plan - 2012
PREPARED BY: Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives
 Coordinator

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report EPW.12.045 entitled "Draft Waste Diversion Plan - 2012"; and

THAT Council endorse the Draft Waste Diversion Plan in principal for presentation to residents in a public information centre.

B. Background**Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for Council to review and provide feedback on the key recommendations outlined in the draft 2012 waste diversion plan (2012 WDP) completed by Staff. Furthermore, it is recommended that Council endorse the 2012 WDP in principal for presentation to the public in an effort to engage residents and solicit feedback and comment on the programs outlined in the 2012 WDP.

Background

Waste diversion is a key component of a successful, progressive waste management system. The Town has limited landfill capacity to service the community's waste management needs. Proactive initiatives that divert material from landfill can be a cost effective and environmental beneficial way to improve waste management services and reduce the community's reliance on landfills.

The Town completed a waste diversion plan in 2008 as part of an overall initiative titled 'The Blue Mountains Solid Waste Solution' that assessed the Town's waste management system. This plan identified the following goal:

"To define a system and criteria that will allow the Town to achieve or exceed the Provincial waste diversion target of 60%"

The 2008 plan also laid out a number of recommendations to improve the waste diversion of the Town, including the following:

- Enhance the current Blue and Grey box program to include additional materials and increase capture rates
- Implement a residential curbside collection and processing Source Separated Organics (SSO) program including the receipt institutional, commercial and industrial (IC&I) organic waste material at the Town's composting facility
- Enhance construction and demolition (C&D) recycling

Based on these recommendations the Town expanded the types of materials accepted at the curbside, augmented the traditional curbside recycling program with a number of diversion programs at the Waste Disposal Site, upgraded the waste disposal receiving area, conducted a curbside organics collections and processing feasibility study and completed an environmental screening process to expand the landfill capacity.

Moving forward, a new plan is required to re-energize waste diversion efforts, identify new initiatives and adapt to new challenges facing the community. The Town of The Blue Mountains 2012 Waste Diversion Plan has been completed to address these challenges.

2012 Waste Diversion Plan Highlights

The 2012 WDP provides a current overview of the Town's waste management system, the current conditions and identifies and recommends opportunities to improve waste diversion within the Town. The purpose of the plan is as follows:

- Establish a Municipal diversion target
- Enhance public participation rates
- Identify new waste diversion programs
- Maximize funding revenues

The current conditions analysis demonstrates that the Town's waste management system has matured as residents are familiar with the blue box service and actively participate in the program. Additionally, new diversion services offered at the Landfill Depot remain popular and generally well utilized. The residential diversion rate has remained steady at around 40% since 2008.

The analysis shows that there are opportunities to improve diversion in the residential sector by capturing and diverting household organic waste materials and enhancing participation and capture rates within multi-unit residences. To reach a 60% diversion target additional diversion activities must be undertaken to exploit these opportunities.

The following highlight the priority recommendations outlined within the 2012 WDP:

- Establish a curbside source separated organics program
- Strengthen the user pay curbside waste management system
- Modify the disposal fee structures
- Develop promotion and education material specific to multi-unit and condominium cart recycling and diversion

It should be emphasized that the analysis and corresponding indicators and results (such as diversion rate) identified in the 2012 WDP are unique and developed in manner that can be reproduced for future comparison. These indicators/results will not necessarily align with the data presented in the Waste Diversion Ontario Datacall or the Certificate of Approval Annual Landfill report. The structure and requirements of the WDO Datacall and Annual Landfill report include or exclude factors for their own purpose and thus cannot be directly compared to the figures outlined in the 2012 WDP.

Public Engagement & Plan Implementation

Staff plan to engage the public to solicit feedback on the ideas outlined within the 2012 WDP and identify any additional opportunities to improve the Town's diversion effort. Public comment, feedback and ideas will be incorporated into the plan as appropriate. Following the public engagement sessions Staff will report back to Council for final endorsement of the 2012 WDP.

Each recommended project or action outlined in the 2012 WDP will be brought forth to Council separately on a case-by-case basis for endorsement and approval. Financial analysis of these programs will be included for Council's consideration.

Waste Diversion Ontario Funding

Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) provides funding support for the Town's curbside blue box program. This funding is allocated to Municipalities based on a variety of performance indicators. The best practices indicator recommends that Municipalities update their waste diversion plan every 5 years and that the plan identify goals and targets for the community. To maximize the blue box funding revenues the 2012 WDP has incorporated the following goal and other necessary elements:

'Sustainably manage waste within the community as locally as possible' and 'Become a community that supports a movement towards a zero waste society' with targets to achieve a 'residential diversion rate of 60% by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050.'

Conclusion

The implementation of the 2012 WDP will provide direction for the Town's waste management system moving forward. Actions outlined within the plan will reduce the Town's reliance on waste landfilling, help to manage waste more sustainably, maximize funding revenues and improve the Town's waste diversion performance.

Staff recommends that Council endorse the 2012 WDP in principal for review by, and presentation to, the public.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Improving the waste diversion performance of the Town furthers the Town's Strategic Goal #2 "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs".

D. Environmental Impacts

The 2012 WDP will help to meet a number of environmental goals outlined in The Blue Mountains Sustainable Path, including:

- Assume full responsibility for the management of our wastes within regional borders
- Sustainably manage waste generated within the community as locally as possible
- Become a community that supports a movement towards a zero waste society
- Reduce solid and hazardous waste generation in the community
- Increase the Town's diversion rate through implementation of various reduce, reuse and recycle programs
- Update the Town's Waste Reduction Action Plan with residential diversion rate targets of 60% by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050
- Implement a permanent curbside organics program in urban areas throughout the municipality
- Develop local and regional waste diversion services specific to industrial, institutional and commercial sectors

E. Financial Impact

The 2012 WDP will fulfill the WDO best practices funding requirement and maximize funding for costs associated with the blue box program.

F. In Consultation With

Jeffery Fletcher, Manager of Solid Waste & Environmental Initiatives.

G. Attached

1. Executive Summary and Conclusions & Recommendations section of the Town of The Blue Mountains 2012 Waste Diversion Plan (draft)

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Summary

This waste diversion plan document provides an overview of the Town's waste management system, the current conditions and identifies and recommends opportunities to improve waste diversion within the Town.

Reduction, reuse and recycling of waste materials are positive actions that reduce our impact on the earth's natural systems. These actions have environmental, societal and economic benefits and are fundamental tenets of a sustainable community.

The Town's waste disposal site currently has a limited capacity, with approximately 4 years of disposal space remaining. The existing waste management system includes traditional curbside waste and recyclables collection (the blue and grey box) augmented by a variety of depot based diversion programs offered at the landfill. These programs include:

- Cardboard, plastic, metal and paper recycling (blue and grey box)
- Household hazardous waste diversion
- Electronics recycling
- Used tire recycling
- Leaf, yard and brush composting
- Wood / lumber recycling
- White goods and scrap metal recycling
- Concrete and asphalt recycling

The Town diverted 39.2% of residential waste from landfill in 2011. The Town's residential diversion rate has remained steady, at approximately 42% over the past four years.

This plan establishes the following goal and targets:

'Sustainably manage waste within the community as locally as possible' and 'Become a community that supports a movement towards a zero waste society' with targets to achieve a 'residential diversion rate of 60% by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050.'

In order to achieve 60% residential diversion by 2015, additional action must be taken. There is an estimated 1,500 tonnes of divertible material present within the residential waste stream, providing a tremendous opportunity to improve the Town's waste diversion efforts. The following highlight the priority recommendations required to achieve 60% waste diversion:

- Establish a curbside source separated organics program
- Strengthen the user pay curbside waste management system
- Modify the disposal fee structures
- Develop promotion and education material specific to multi-unit and condominium cart recycling and diversion

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The Blue Mountains residential waste diversion rate has remained steady at 40% over the past 4 years. The residential curbside collection system has matured as the blue and grey box programs are generally well utilized and effective at diverting paper and plastics from landfill. Diversion programs offered at the Landfill are popular with residents and provide alternatives to traditional curbside waste collection services. The IC&I and C&D waste disposal and diversion rates have fluctuated from 2008 – 2011, indicating that there is opportunity for diversion within this sector.

Diverting residential organic waste and strengthening the user pay curbside program represent the most effective way to achieve a residential waste diversion rate of 60%. Based on the opportunities identified in Section 5.0, the following recommendations are:

- Establish a curbside source-separated organics program (17%)⁵
- Implement proactive bag tag enforcement program and increase the bag tag fee to \$2.00 (2.0%)
- Biennially assess the residential waste stream and identify new materials to be added to curbside recyclables collection (0.1%)
- Establish a recycling incentive award program in collaboration with the County (0.5%)
- Host workshops with property management companies to develop new promotion and education materials (2.0%)
- Establish a reuse depot centre in collaboration with local organizations (0.1%)
- Implement the following waste management fee changes:
 - Review fee structure to ensure they are in line with market demands and operational goals
 - Align the Town's littering fine with the provincial offences act
- Council adopt the following waste management goal and targets:
 - **Goal:** Sustainably manage waste within the community as locally as possible
 - **Targets:** Achieve a residential diversion rate of 60% by 2015, 75% by 2025 and 85% by 2050.
- Implement the identified WDO best practices and report annually to Council
- Develop and circulate an informational waste management package specific to the IC&I and C&D sectors
- Assess the feasibility of implementing a shingle and drywall diversion program
- Implement waste box indicator program
- On an annual basis investigate diversion programs offered within the industry and assess the opportunity for deployment within the Town

Implementing the identified recommendations is estimated to improve the residential diversion rate by 21.7%, exceeding the goal of 60% residential diversion.

Next Steps: Town Staff will develop individual program plans and bring forward to Council for approval. Each initiative has an estimated diversion impact and related initiative costs will vary greatly depending on the extent of the implementation. However, all initiatives will include an analysis of budget impact.

⁵ Figures in bracket delineate the estimated increase to the residential diversion rate. For recommendations without brackets an estimate could not be determined or it is not applicable.