

STAFF REPORT: ENGINEERING AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



REPORT TO: **Infrastructure and Recreation Committee**
MEETING DATE: **April 14, 2009**
REPORT NO.: **EPW.09.036**
SUBJECT: **Curbside Organics Collection Study Update**
PREPARED BY: **Adam McMullin, Environmental Initiatives Coordinator**

A. Recommendation

THAT Council receives Report EPW.09.036 entitled "Curbside Organics Collection Study Update" for their information.

B. Background

In June of 2007 Town Staff prepared and submitted a funding application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), Green Municipal Fund (GMF). That application was accepted by the FCM selection committee and approved for the full amount of the grant request in the amount of \$253,500.00.

The application was in support of two main studies:

- An Integrated Community Sustainability and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Plan and;
- A Long Term Solid Waste Plan.

The long term solid waste plan identified opportunities to improve the Town's waste diversion through the introduction of a third stream collection of organic waste. Within the GMF application, funding was approved to initiate a curbside collection organics feasibility study.

Project Initiation

The Town has planned to initiate the study on May 25th, 2009 to run for nine months until January 25th, 2010. The study will include approximately 500 residential units, 75 commercial business units and two condominium developments. Two specific areas within the Town have been selected to be included in the study, one in Thornbury and the other in Craighleith. Please see the attached map for a detailed view of the selected sample areas.

The Town will be providing each participant with an organic waste kit that will include the following items:

- Roll-out green bin
- Kitchen catcher waste bin
- Town waste management brochure
- Paper-bag liners
- Green-bin start-up fact sheet/green gin sticker

The participating condominium developments, Heritage Corners (GCC#38) & Bayside Villa (GCC #11), will receive large totes for their common waste storage areas. Each resident

within the condominiums will receive a kitchen catcher waste bin. Town staff will deliver the organic waste kits one week prior to the commencement of the study.

The Town will provide collection services for the selected areas that correspond with regular garbage and recycling pick-up. Craigleith will be serviced on Monday and Thornbury on Thursdays. Specific collection times for the participating condominiums will be negotiated.

Organic waste will be processed at the Town's waste disposal site using the compost pad. Collected and delivered organic waste will be mixed with carbonaceous materials and composted using an open windrow technique. The windrow will be monitored daily to ensure the materials and composting properly.

The Town will be holding a public information centre in May for study participants and other interested citizens.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

The curbside organic waste collection study will assist with Strategic Goal #2 "Addressing the Town's municipal infrastructure needs" and more specifically, Strategic Action 2.5, to "Develop a waste management strategy to meet diversion targets and address landfill capacity".

D. Budget Impact

The Town has purchased 680 green bins and kitchen catchers, at a cost of \$17,192.95. Additionally, the Town has procured the services of a graphic design company, More Creative, to design and develop the waste management brochure and related items, at a cost of \$24,982.88.

Currently the Town is in the process of obtaining the services of a collection agent and renting or purchasing mixer equipment to facilitate the composting process. Additionally, the Town will be printing the brochure prior to the project commencement. Within the GMF agreement, \$50,000 was budgeted to initiate the field study and \$90,000 to conduct the field test operations. The Town is responsible for 50% of the cost associated with the project.

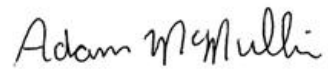
E. Environmental Impacts

Organic waste diversion and composting has a number of positive environmental impacts; reduces the quantities of waste land filled, reduces landfill leachate and methane production, recycles organic waste materials into a reusable soil amendment, etc.

F. Attached

1. Study Participate Maps.

Respectfully submitted,



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