



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF PEEL

WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WMSAC - 1/2020

The Region of Peel Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee met on January 16, 2020 at 11:04 a.m., in the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA), Council Chamber, 2nd Floor, 9 Wellington St. East, Brampton, ON.

Members Present: G.S. Dhillon*; P. Fortini*; N. Iannicca; J. Kovac; M. Mahoney; M. Palleschi; I. Sinclair; R. Starr

Members Absent: A. Groves, due to a personal matter; J. Innis, due to a personal matter; K. Ras, due to a personal matter

Also Present: N. Polsinelli, Interim Chief Administrative Officer; S. Baird, Commissioner of Digital and Information Services; K. Lockyer, Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services; S. VanOfwegen, Commissioner of Finance and Chief Financial Officer; P. O'Connor, Regional Solicitor; A. Farr, Acting Commissioner of Public Works; J. Sheehy, Commissioner of Human Services; C. Granger, Acting Commissioner of Health Services; N. Lee, Director, Waste Management; A. Macintyre, Deputy Regional Clerk and Manager of Legislative Services; S. Jurrius, Committee Clerk; S. Herod, Legislative Assistant

Chaired by Councillor R. Starr.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-1-2020:

That the agenda for the January 16, 2020 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee meeting be approved.

* See text for arrivals

◆ See text for departures

4. DELEGATIONS

- 4.1. **Julio Barrera, Director, Business Development, Talize/Recycling Rewards,** Regarding the Region-wide Textile Collection Program

Received

Related to 4.2 and 5.1

Julio Barrera, Director, Business Development, Talize/Recycling Rewards, recognized the environmental benefits of the Textile Collection Program, notably the potential to divert textiles from landfill. Julio Barrera stated that Talize/Recycling Rewards was responsible for the collection of the textiles, communication to the public and advertising during the pilot program. He advised that Talize/Recycling Rewards is pleased with the collection rates provided by Peel staff. With the encouraging results from the Peel pilot program, Talize/Recycling Rewards did similar textile collections in the City of Timmins and City of Barrie which were both well-received. Julio Barrera stated that Talize/Recycling Rewards supports the Region-wide Textile Collection Program in Peel.

- 4.2. **Simon Langer, National Manager, Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada,** Regarding the Region-wide Textile Collection Program

Received

Related to 4.1 and 5.1

Simon Langer, National Manager, Government and Strategic Partnerships, Diabetes Canada, expressed their support for the implementation of the textile collection program in the Region of Peel. Diabetes Canada supplied and installed textile collection bins at the Region's administrative headquarters at 10 Peel Centre Drive and 7120 Hurontario Street; at no cost to the Region. Since 2018, the collection bins throughout the Region and at various multi-residential locations in the Region of Peel and the Greater Toronto Area have diverted over 377,735 pounds (or 166,084 kilograms) of textiles from landfill.

Simon Langer thanked Region of Peel staff for sharing data with York University and Diabetes Canada in support of their National Textile Diversion Research Study. The Study evaluates the social, environmental and economic impacts of textile waste in Canada. He highlighted that the environmental benefits of the pilot's textile diversion, calculated through the Life Cycle analysis, are the equivalent of 9,965 cars from the road; saving approximately 286,493 mature trees, 650 kilo-litres of water or 45,839 tonnes of abated carbon. Simon Langer noted that, through the Study, municipal branding helps build trust with the public so that they know the materials collected are being utilized in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. He stated that the Region of Peel, Diabetes Canada and its legitimate charitable and not-for-profit partners will all benefit in expanding the textile collection program.

Councillor Dhillon arrived at 11:21 a.m.

Councillor Fortini arrived at 11:23 a.m.

In response to questions of clarification from Councillor Starr, Simon Langer stated that used clothing collected by Diabetes Canada are recycled, reused and repurposed; sold through retail

outlets in Canada such as Value Village; sent to countries with importation zones designed to accept textile products; upcycled or downcycled to other textile products; or turned into new products. Approximately five percent are sent to landfill.

Councillor Palleschi requested that the chart from Diabetes Canada where clothing donations go be provided to the members of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee.

5. REPORTS

5.1. Region-wide Textile Collection Program

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-2-2020:

That staff implement a Region-wide textile collection program as outlined in the report of the Acting Commissioner of Public Works titled "Region-wide Textile Collection Program".

Related to 4.1 and 4.2

In response to questions of clarification from Councillor Palleschi, Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, stated that once implemented, Regional staff will be asking charitable and/or not-for-profit organizations to provide data where clothing donations go and how much will go to landfill. Regional staff will monitor the program and ensure service delivery expectations are met.

Councillor Palleschi expressed concern that the revenue or donations of other charitable institutions or thrift shops may decrease if additional textile collection bins are installed at multi-residential buildings in Peel. Norman Lee stated that the intent is not to hurt other charitable institutions but to help them. He stated that Regional staff would consider community feedback, allocation and participation when the Region-wide textile collection program is implemented.

In response to a question from Councillor Kovac, Norman Lee stated that the projected annual diversion of 210 tonnes of curbside collected textiles in the City of Mississauga was based on the participation rate during the pilot which were lower than the Town of Caledon and the City of Brampton. Norman Lee stated that staff anticipates the projected participation rate in Mississauga will be the same as Brampton and Caledon when the Region-wide textile program is implemented.

In response to a question from Councillor Starr, Norman Lee stated that staff from the Region of Peel is working with staff at the local municipalities to coordinate and manage the textile collection program.

Councillor Starr stated that public education will be key to the success of the textile collection program.

5.2. Piloting Organic Waste Collection in the Public School System

Received

Councillor Mahoney stated that piloting organic waste collection in the public school system is a great initiative to help reach the diversion targets of the Region of Peel. He expressed concerns regarding the efficiency of collecting paper towels only. Councillor Mahoney suggested that public schools be encouraged to opt for full participation of organic waste collection.

In response to a question of clarification from Councillor Sinclair, Norman Lee stated that the province does not provide funding for this initiative. The Region is helping the school boards raise awareness on the importance of organic waste collection and sharing its expertise on waste management.

5.3. Update on the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-3-2020:

That the service delivery evaluation criteria as outlined in the report from the Acting Commissioner of Public Works, titled "Update on the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility", be endorsed.

Related to 6.1 to 6.3 inclusive

Norman Lee advised that Regional Council will be required to make key decisions with respect to: 1) the preferred year to transition the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility; and, 2) the types of services the Region may want to offer to producers. He advised that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario has requested a council resolution regarding the preferred transition year, listed as Item 6.1 on the January 16, 2020 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee agenda. The provincial government will consider the council resolution when it decides which municipalities transition in which year. Norman Lee pointed out that, while the provincial government will consider the municipality's resolution, there is no guarantee the municipality will transition in its preferred year. Regional staff will report back to the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee and Regional Council on the recommended year and implications of transitioning the Blue Box Program to full producer responsibility.

Regional staff is seeking endorsement from the Committee on the service delivery evaluation criteria: financial risk; control over operational decisions and customer service levels; and, system integration and other risks.

Norman Lee stated that early indications and experience in provinces suggest producers would likely prefer to use private contractors to deliver post-collection services, including the operations at the Region's Material Recovery Facility. Regional staff will evaluate the feasibility of selling or repurposing the Facility in accordance with the Procurement By-law and will report to a future meeting of Regional Council. Norman Lee noted that the evaluation is expected to include the issuance of a request for expressions of interest to gauge market interest.

In response to questions of clarification from Regional Chair Iannicca, Norman Lee stated that early indications and experience in other provinces suggest producers would likely want municipalities to oversee the collection and private contractors to run post-collection blue box services in Ontario. The two areas of concern are the financial impacts of the transition and the expectation to provide the same customer service levels that the public are accustomed to. He stated that it is a very complex matter and conversations with the province, municipalities, waste industry and producers continue. Regional staff will provide updates to the Committee and Regional Council as information becomes available.

Councillor Sinclair stated that the public has a reasonable expectation that municipalities have a responsibility to collect waste from the curbside and expressed concern that changes to the Blue Box Program may cause a lot of confusion to the public.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- 6.1. **Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Mayor, Parry Sound**, Email dated December 18, 2019, Regarding a Call for Action to Pass a Resolution about Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

- 6.2. **Jeff Arp, Supervisor, Corporate Correspondence Unit, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**, Letter dated December 17, 2019, Acknowledging Receipt of the Letter from the Regional Chair Regarding the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility

Received

Related to 5.3, 6.1 and 6.3

- 6.3. **Jeff Yurek, Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks**, Letter dated December 31, 2019, Responding to a Letter from Regional Chair Iannicca Regarding the Transition of the Blue Box Program to Full Producer Responsibility

Received

Related to 5.3, 6.1 and 6.2

- 6.1. **Jamie McGarvey, President, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Mayor, Parry Sound**, Email dated December 18, 2019, Regarding a Call for Action to Pass a Resolution about Transition of the Blue Box to Full Producer Responsibility

RECOMMENDATION WMSAC-4-2020:

That the communication from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario listed as Item 6.1 on the January 16, 2020 Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee agenda be referred to staff for a report back to Regional Council.

Related to 5.3, 6.2 and 6.3

In response to questions from Councillor Palleschi, Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, stated that AMO is requesting municipalities to pass a resolution outlining the municipality's preferred date to transition its Blue Box Program to the Full Producer Responsibility. Municipalities are given the opportunity to choose a date between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025. Norman Lee advised that Regional staff will report back to the Regional Council with recommendations on the preferred date for Peel.

7. IN CAMERA MATTERS – Nil

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Norman Lee, Director, Waste Management, informed the Committee that reusable food containers and wooden cutlery have been provided to members of the Committee to commemorate the Trash Talk: Local Action, Global Change Tour held at the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA).

Members of the Committee commended Regional staff for organizing the January 16, 2020 Committee meeting and the Trash Talk Tour held at PAMA.

Staff was requested to provide Committee members with key messages to promote Trash Talk Tour on social media.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Waste Management Strategic Advisory Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 5th floor, Regional Administrative Headquarters, 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A, Brampton, ON.

Please forward regrets to Stephanie Jurrius, Committee Clerk, (905) 791-7800, extension 4502 or at stephanie.jurrius@peelregion.ca.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.