

November 30, 2009

Toronto City Council Passes Solid Waste and Water budgets supporting long term waste diversion and infrastructure renewal programs

The 2010 capital and operating budgets and 10-year capital plan for Solid Waste Management Services and Toronto Water were passed today at Toronto City Council.

The budgets detail the City's plans for making the required investments in these two important programs. Each of the division's capital budgets plays a vital role in the ongoing roll-out of the City's 10-year, \$25.9 billion capital plan which invests in local infrastructure, the delivery of high-quality programs and services, and supports Toronto's long-term economic prospects, creating and maintaining 300,000 jobs.

"Today's Water and Solid Waste budgets are meeting the city's environmental goals, renewing city facilities, and creating jobs through our strong partnership with the federal government," said Mayor David Miller. "This is how cities can act to create jobs in a difficult economy, while protecting services we count on every day."

"We are improving our diversion rates and rebuilding our infrastructure in an affordable, sustainable way," said Councillor and Budget Chief Shelley Carroll. "Council's approved Water and Solid Waste budgets are fully-funded by the rates paid by users, reducing the burden on the property tax base."

"During the past several years, both Solid Waste Management Services and Toronto Water have made significant progress toward advancing critical waste diversion and infrastructure renewal goals," said City Manager Joe Pennachetti. "These two budgets demonstrate a commitment by the City to create sustainable service programs that are critical to our residents and businesses."

Solid Waste Management Services:

- 2010 Operating budget: \$320 million (gross)
- 2010 Capital budget: \$75 million
- 10-year Capital Plan: \$549 million

Solid Waste Management has an ambitious plan to divert 70 percent of waste from landfill. Program revenues pay for programs that support this goal, including recycling; organics processing; garbage collection; leaf and yard waste collection for composting; packaging reduction initiatives; Community Environment Days; operation of City-owned Green Lane landfill; Reuse Centres; collection of durable goods and electronics; promotion, public education and outreach; and enforcement of mandatory diversion bylaws.

The Solid Waste Management Services budget strikes a balance between fiscal constraint and a continued commitment to investing in Toronto's infrastructure and waste diversion initiatives. The program includes no increase in solid waste rates for 2010. Key elements are:

- Landfill infrastructure improvements in preparation for the end of disposal in Michigan in December 2010
- New Green Bin processing facility at the Disco Transfer Station
- Complete roll-out of in-suite recycle bins to all multi-residential units
- Request for Expressions of Interest for proposed mixed waste processing facility
- Complete roll-out of door-to-door curbside service for townhomes
- Roll-out of Blue Bin and Green Bin service to residents living above commercial properties
- Extend Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) (formerly called Household Hazardous Waste) depot operations to five days per week

- Replace and upgrade existing street litter/recycle bins
- Continue to introduce Green Bin Program to multi-residential buildings
- Continue to roll-out durable goods collection

Toronto Water

- Operating budget: \$384.5 million
- Capital budget: \$720.6 million (gross)
- 10-year Capital Plan: \$8.7 billion

Toronto Water's 2010 budget includes a 9% water rate increase; a 3% water rate increase for eligible industrial process use, part of a multi-year plan originally announced in 2006, to renew the city's aging infrastructure and ensure that the City can continue to provide quality drinking water and water treatment services.

Toronto Water has reduced its 2010 operating budget, ensuring that the entire rate increase goes to infrastructure programs in the capital budget. In 2010 the capital budget will be used to fund more 600 different projects.

The Toronto Water budget has a strong focus on addressing the city's aging infrastructure and includes:

- Coxwell Sanitary Trunk Sewer emergency repair
- Basement Flooding Relief
- Lead Service Replacement Program
- Lake Ontario and river water quality improvements
- Upgrading trunk water main infrastructure
- F. J. Horgan Water Treatment Plant expansion
- Wet Weather Flow Master Plan
- Energy reduction targets
- Automated Meter Reading program
- Water Efficiency Plan

The Infrastructure Stimulus funding of \$56.8 million for Toronto Water, announced in September of this year by the City of Toronto and Government of Canada, will be used to support many of the key programs in the 2010 budget. The City provides 2/3 of the funding for this program. To assist Toronto's industries are more competitive, the water rate increase for these users will be limited to one-third of the increase for general water consumers, or 3% for 2010. This policy is a continuation of the strategy adopted by Council in 2007 that has set a target for industrial water rate at a 30% reduction over the general water rate.

For the average Toronto household, the new rate equals a \$51 increase over 2009, with total costs for all water services averaging only \$1.69 per day.

Backgrounders, analyst notes and other materials are available at <http://www.toronto.ca/budget2010>

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. 2009 marks the 175th anniversary of Toronto's incorporation as a city. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

Media contacts:

For Solid Waste Management Services: Pat Barrett, Sr. Communications Coordinator, 416-392-4716, pbarrett@toronto.ca

For Toronto Water: Ellen Leesti, Sr. Communications Coordinator, 416-397-1403, eleesti@toronto.ca