

Environment Days

(City Council on November 23, 24 and 25, 1999, amended this Clause by:

(1) deleting Recommendation No. (2) embodied in the report dated October 27, 1999, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

“(2) blue and grey boxes continue to be provided free of charge at Environment Days, with a limit of one of each per resident in both the large and small sizes;”; and

(2) adding thereto the following:

“It is further recommended that:

(a) additional boxes be made available to residents in those areas that have gone from once a week recycling waste collection to once every two weeks;

(b) at least two truck-loads of compost be provided for each Councillor’s Environment Day; and

(c) on Environment Days, the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to:

(i) erect a sign indicating the amount of compost that may be taken; and

(ii) ensure that the removal of such compost is conducted in a safe manner.”)

The Works Committee recommends the adoption of the report dated October 27, 1999, from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services.

The Works Committee reports, for the information of Council, having requested the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services to report back to the next meeting of the Committee, scheduled to be held on December 1, 1999, on:

(i) the implications of the announcement on November 3, 1999, by the Minister of the Environment with respect to the Waste Diversion Office (WDO); and

(ii) any potential industrial/municipal product stewardship partnership arrangements being considered for household hazardous waste, and how these may be dealt with by the WDO.

The Works Committee submits the following report (October 27, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services:

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results of the 1999 Environment Days and to recommend booking and blue/grey box distribution procedures for these events in the year 2000.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) the following booking procedures, which are similar to those adopted by Council for the 1999 Environment Days, be approved for the year 2000 Environment Days:
 - (a) the number of Environment Days to be held in 2000 be limited to 28, one per ward;
 - (b) the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be authorized to choose the date and location and host the Environment Days in any ward where the two Councillors cannot agree by March 1, 2000, to jointly host an event on an available date and at a suitable location; and
 - (c) no changes be made to dates and locations for the Environment Days after they have been publicized, unless deemed absolutely necessary by the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; and
- (2) blue and grey boxes continue to be provided free of charge at Environment Days with a limit of one per resident.

Background:

At its meeting of November 4, 1998, Council, by adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No. 10 of The Works and Utilities Committee, approved the following procedures for the 1999 Environment Days:

“It is recommended that:

- (1) the number of Environment Days to be held in 1999 be limited to 28; one per ward, in keeping with Council’s directive for 1998, and that no exceptions be made to this policy;
- (2) the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be authorized to choose the date and location and host the Environment Day in any ward where the two

Councillors cannot agree by March 12, 1999, to jointly host an event on an available date and at a suitable location; and

- (3) no changes be made to dates and locations for the Environment Days after they have been publicized, unless deemed absolutely necessary by the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services.”

On April 26, 1999, Council, by adoption of Clause No. 1 of Report No. 8 of The Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, approved the recommendation that blue and grey boxes be provided free of charge at Environment Days.

Comments:

Since the program's inception in 1991, 286 Environment Days have been hosted by Councillors and operated by this Department. Environment Days take place in public areas such as parks, shopping malls and schoolyards and allow residents to participate in a wide variety of 3Rs activities.

In 1999, the Environment Days were very successful with an estimated 18,000 residents attending the 27 events that were held between April 10 and October 2. The following summarizes the results of the 3Rs activities at the 1999 Environment Days:

- sale of 1613 home composters;
- collection of approximately 216 tonnes of household hazardous waste;
- distribution of 800 tonnes of leaf compost;
- distribution of 10,535 blue and grey boxes, of which 9,410 boxes were distributed for free and 1,125 boxes were sold (additional boxes above the one box per resident limit);
- sale of 188 water kits, 679 peak pails and 375 rain barrels;
- collection of 47 tonnes of tires and 5 tonnes of aluminum doors and windows for recycling;
- recovery of 20 tonnes of used clothing, small appliances and books, and 14 tonnes of computers for reuse and recycling;
- collection of 2 tonnes of non-perishable food items and medical equipment, and hundreds of pairs of eyeglasses, for redistribution; and
- collection of 1 tonne of polycoat cartons, juice boxes, polystyrene and Brita filters for recycling.

The booking procedures that were approved by Council were followed for the 1999 Environment Days and resulted in residents being informed of firm dates and locations for their upcoming

events. We recommend that similar booking procedures as those used in 1999 be approved for the year 2000 Environment Days.

A letter will be sent to all Councillors in December of this year, inviting them to book their Environment Day for 2000. This letter will outline booking procedures, suggest suitable sites and provide a date when the Department will start accepting requests from Councillors for a preferred date and location for their 2000 event. Dates will then be booked on a first come, first served basis.

Promotional guidelines for the year 2000 Environment Days will also be similar to 1999 including departmental promotional funding for the Councillors of up to \$1,000.00 per ward. A letter describing these promotional guidelines will be forwarded to all Councillors.

Blue and grey boxes were distributed free of charge (one box per resident) at Environment Days in 1999. A total of 9,410 blue and grey boxes were distributed for free at the 1999 Environment Days at a cost to the Department of \$40,840.00 (9,410 boxes at \$4.35 each). It is recommended that this policy continue.

Conclusions:

In 1999, over 18,000 residents attended the 27 Environment Days that were operated by this Department and hosted by Toronto Councillors. These events were very successful, and we are recommending the same booking and blue/grey box distribution procedures for the year 2000 as were used in 1999.

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