

Providing Recycling Collection for Small Businesses

Date:	June 11, 2007
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	Geoff Rathbone, Acting General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	p:/2007/swms/June/017PW.doc

SUMMARY

Businesses must be registered with the City yellow bag program to receive collection of waste organics and recyclables. Businesses participating in the City's Yellow Bag Program are required to purchase City issued yellow bags at a cost of \$3.10 each for their waste material and receive recyclables and organic collection for free.

SWMS is considering making changes to the current commercial Yellow Bag Program and will be reporting to this committee in the fall with a comprehensive plan that will include considerations for businesses that are small volume waste generators.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting on May 30, 2007, the committee referred the recommendation contained in the letter from Councillor Ootes, and requested "That the Deputy City Manager report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee at its June 27, 2007, meeting on the advisability of allowing small businesses to be eligible for no-charge recycling collection, even if they are not registered with the City's Yellow Bag garbage collection program". The following is a link to the motion (<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/pw/bgrd/backgroundfile-3869.pdf>).

ISSUE BACKGROUND

On March 7, 2002, Council approved a harmonized system for City collection of waste from commercial businesses. The new system, called the Yellow Bag Program, commenced September 3, 2002. It was designed to encourage Toronto's commercial customers to decrease garbage disposal and increase recycling and organics collection. Participants in the Yellow Bag Program must participate in all services - recycling, organics (if applicable) and garbage. If their garbage is collected by a private hauler they cannot receive City recycling and organics collection.

COMMENTS

Commercial customers registered with the City for the Yellow Bag Program must use special yellow bags for their garbage collection. The bags cost \$3.10 each and are available in pouches of 5 bags for a total cost of \$15.50 per pouch. This price covers the cost of collection and disposal of the waste. Recyclables and organics are collected for free. Business that generate small volumes of waste need only place their garbage material out when the yellow bags are full and the frequency of garbage set out does not need to be consistent with the frequency the recyclables or organics are set out for collection.

SWMS is considering making changes to the current commercial Yellow Bag Program and will be reporting to this committee in the fall, with a comprehensive plan that will include considerations for businesses that are small volume waste generators. In the meantime all businesses requiring recyclables and/organic collection by the City must participate in the Yellow Bag Program.

CONTACT

Kevin Vibert
Senior Analyst Waste Diversion
Solid Waste Management Services
City Hall, 25th floor, East Tower
Phone: (416) 397-0203
Fax: (416) 392-4754
E-mail: kvibert@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Geoff Rathbone
Acting General Manager
Solid Waste Management Services