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**City Council**

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**Notice of Motion**

MM42.2	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Require Recycling at Gas Stations and Service Stations - by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Jenkins**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Jenkins recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Solicitor, in consultation with Deputy City Manager, Richard Butts, to report to the February 2, 2010 meeting of the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on the feasibility of mandating the recycling of all waste products at all automobile/truck fuel and service stations in the City of Toronto and report on the ability of the City of Toronto to make recycling a condition of licence approval or renewal.

**Summary**

The City of Toronto has committed to the goal of diverting 70% of waste from landfill by 2010. The City's diversion rate refers to the amount of waste collected by the City that is prevented from going into landfill, compared to the amount that does. In 2008, the City's diversion rate was 44%; a total of 388,188 metric tonnes of residential waste was diverted from landfill during 2008 through such programs as the Blue Bin (formerly known as Blue Box Program), Green Bin, leaf/yardwaste and Christmas trees, backyard composting, Community Environment Days, household hazardous waste depots, grasscycling and large appliance/scrap metal pick-up.

In 2008, residents living in single family homes had a diversion rate of 59% and those living in multi-family buildings achieved a rate of 15%. The City's current diversion rate of 44% is a long way from the 2010 goal of 70% - it does not appear that the City will meet its target on time.

The City does not collect all the waste in Toronto. The City does not collect information on how much garbage is collected privately. The City does not know how much privately collected garbage is diverted from landfill, if any.

One small way to increase the City's diversion rate is to increase the number of participants within the City's diversion initiative, such as increasing the number of commercial establishments that recycle. The city's gas stations and auto service stations are not required to recycle. Why not require them to?

The City's gas stations and auto service stations create a large amount of waste, and most of it recyclable. The many plastic bottles from windshield wiper fluid, antifreeze, oil, water and pop, as well as plastic bags, paper and cans, all go into the garbage at the gas station. The bottles and bags are made from oil, just like the fuels and engine lubricants they once held; the bottles and bags are recyclable and can be accommodated by the City's recycling program, if the City were to collect these used, empty vessels.

Gas stations are municipally licensed; the City can require proper recycling as a condition of license approval or renewal.

Gas stations and the oil companies who own them are still very profitable, even in the midst of today's economic recession. Oil companies such as Petro-Canada, Suncor, Imperial Oil, and Shell are not holding tag days to raise funds – the price of fuel in Toronto is routinely more expensive than anywhere else in the province. It would not be unreasonable to require oil companies to recycle at their stations, especially considering their profit levels.

Now, City Council can start helping the gas stations and vehicle service stations to be good stewards of the Earth. The main items these stations sell originate in the Earth and so, we need to direct their energy to give back to the Earth by requiring them to recycle.

(Submitted to City Council on November 30 and December 1, 2009 as MM42.2)