



## REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

### Costs and Issues Related to Excess Household Recycling – Information Report Request

<b>Date:</b>	November 2, 2009
<b>To:</b>	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
<b>From:</b>	City Council
<b>Wards:</b>	All

### City Council Decision

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City Council on October 26 and 27, 2009, referred Motion MM41.11 to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

### Recommendations

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Councillor Ootes, seconded by Councillor Stintz, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services to report back to the next meeting of City Council, on the costs that are incurred with picking up the excess bagged recycling.
2. City Council direct the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services to also include in the report the direct impact on the waste diversion program based on not picking up excess bagged recycling, which could ultimately end up in landfill.

### Summary

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The City of Toronto has implemented aggressive diversion programs to reduce waste from our landfills including the Green Bin, Blue Bins and user-pay Garbage bin program.

The success of these programs relies on the ability of the homeowner to effectively participate in the City's diversion efforts. If recycling, or any other program, was to become an inconvenience, there could be a risk of homeowners choosing not to participate but instead throw their excess recycling or compost into the garbage.

On some occasions, households may find that they have an excess amount of recycling. The easiest solution is to place the recycling in a clear or clear-blue plastic bag beside the recycling container to indicate to the Solid Waste driver that it is recycling. However, according to a recent interview in the Toronto Star, the Solid Waste Division has indicated that there is a rule that does not allow the flexibility of the driver to pick up any excess recycling for fear of achieving maximum efficiency.

There should not be a limit placed on the amount of recycling that a homeowner can dispose of at their curbside. There should be a convenient, simple and encouraging program that allows for excess recycling to homeowners when the need does occur.

(Submitted to City Council on October 26 and 27, 2009 as MM41.11)