



**Waste Diversion Task Force 2010  
North Toronto Community Centre  
April 2, 2001  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Meeting Notes**

**Participants:**

Peg Trow	Gary Berssenbrugge
Minaz Asani-Kanji	Laura Simmons
Florence Watts	Kate Banette
Dave Paul	Jim Hartley
Karen Simpson	Eric Parker
Alex Fridrich	Mike Sutt
Maria Kelleher	Dick Watts
Wendy P.	Donna Paul
Rosalind Moore	Jean Blais Mathiew
Max Silverman	Ken Dee

**Councillors:**

Jane Pitfield

**Staff:**

Lawson Oates, SWM  
Louis Portelli, Public Consultation & Community Outreach  
Robert Davis, Public Consultation & Community Outreach

Opened by Jane Pitfield

She explained the history of Task Force 2010. "The ideas heard at the public meetings are far ahead of staff and council".

Council is touring facilities to find out what is possible.

Councillor Pitfield introduced Lawson Oates. Lawson made his presentation.

Participaant were invited to ask questions and provide comments. The following represents a summary of those questions and comments.

<b>Questions/Comments/Suggestions</b>	<b>Response</b>
a citizen asked to confirm the \$90 per household figure	Lawson confirmed that this is what it costs, but that it does not reflect the actual cost to the City because of the revenue gained from the private sector waste to Keele Valley Landfill.
Peggy Trow why we can't recycle plastic bags. Isn't there anything that we can do? If we can't recycle them we need to find another bag at the store.	JP -We need to work with manufactures and stores to reduce use.  LJO - We don't have the markets for these types of plastics. Food banks and libraries are welcome to receive the bags.
Those bags are recyclable- Turtle Island takes them and recycles them	JP- Maybe we need depots for these plastic bags. Maybe we should return the bags to the stores.

<p>Why aren't there paper bags available at the stores? We will have paper recycling plants - so why not?</p>	<p>Public answered - The bags get wet from vegetables and get soggy. LJO - We may require legislation to require paper bags. I know that some American grocery stores offer both paper and plastic.</p>
<p>I carry a little plastic bag when I buy something and use it rather than a new plastic bag. Using your own bags in normal practice in German</p>	
<p>Loblaws offers 3 cents off if you bring your own bags.</p>	
<p>Do the kraft bags for composting include recycled material?</p>	<p>LJO - Yes they include this - we need the bags to improve the quality of the compost so that more waste is diverted from landfill. JP - There are some of us on Works Committee are concerned about the use of plastic bags. However, for ease of use the kraft bags are not as good as plastic. We want people to also consider encouraging people to use open-topped containers. If we wait until January we may be able to have a organic waste pick-up. I would like people's comments about whether they like the bags.</p>
<p>Do people put leaves out in green plastic bags? Are open containers more difficult for workers?</p>	<p>We want to encourage people to avoid disposal. We don't think that the open top containers have an impact on workers.</p>
<p>Max Silverman - Why was the restaurant organics collection cancelled on the Danforth?</p>	<p>JP - Only 6 out of 80 were participating. It was not worth the effort and expense to continue this program. I would like a card in the window that states "All of our organic waste is being picked up?" LJO - Council is directing no pilots - and it is a matter of working with the restaurants and making the program better.</p>
<p>Max Silverman - In Metro Hall there is a worm composer. What about other buildings?</p>	<p>LJO - They are hoping to put one in at City Hall soon.</p>
<p>How do they deal with fruit flies from worm composters?</p>	<p>turn it or add saw dust</p>
<p>There is a huge interest by the public to do recycling programs. People are getting frustrated with a lack of plastic. What about margarine containers?</p>	<p>LJO - We only accept 1 and 2 type. We don't have markets for some of the plastics.</p>
<p>Why not organic bins in every household?</p>	<p>JP- Lawson will talk about Guelph wet-dry system. They have replaced their blue boxes with bags and seniors like it because it does not have to be brought in at the end of the day.  LJO - We need to manage our organics. We need to find a better way  LJO - Guelph has found that they need to get the true garbage out of the system to remove the contaminants.</p>

	JP - We need to find a way to make recycling easy to use and mandatory. We've talked about bag limits. Right now it's six and I want it to be 4. The average per household is 2.3 (SFD 4.2).
User pay for everyone. Nova Scotia does it that way. User pay for everyone. Nova Scotia does it that way. Don't you get a fine if you don't comply in Halifax.	LJO - In Halifax they would buy tags.
- I am in business and know what is happening around the world. It will take Toronto 7 years to do what Halifax did over night. They did it by making it mandatory	JP - How did they do it so quickly?
Toronto's problem is unique because of the work force and the size of the population.	
we need to not use Halifax as a comparison - outside of Canada. In the Rhine valley there are all sorts of things happening including cities the same size as Toronto.	JP -the Works Committee saw state of the art incinerators in Niagara - maybe if we had a choice of burying or incinerating I would choose burning because it would generate electricity and the ash can be used to pave roads. The Adams Mine debate has raised the profile of waste management in the city. We are attempting to go in another direction as a result of that.
Aren't there dioxins in the air?	JP- I did not see anything at a previous visit.
They are doing waste management in SF with the large apartment programs. There are many other examples throughout the world that show that Toronto is behind. The issue of the Toronto being unique - there are examples all around the world. There are problems around the world - we have options where other cities don't. Hong Kong and Tokyo put garbage out in clear garbage bags.	LJO - Halifax does not handle waste from apartments when 50 % of households in Toronto are apartments.
all businesses should have food, paper and other waste recycling in each office. Target zero waste for all businesses. Source separation is the answer.	we continue to work with industry - it is a Provincial mandate on what needs to be separated - we work with the downtown businesses.
Richard Brow Our building at 550 Richmond Street West has 95% diversion. Everything goes to composting and recycling (effort and relearning) In Italy and Germany they use polylactate bags that are durable, fully compostable - this is a perfect opportunity for the City to do. This whole process is about vision and imagining the future - I have three ideas 1) 7th generation - dedication to 7th generation not yet born - Hodi Shimoni do this in their council they think about the future 2) bring industry to the table in a serious way - industry must own up to their responsibility - the days of industry not taking responsibility while the City takes responsibility is kidding ourselves that we can handle it. Each industry has the	

<p>responsibility to do this. All of this stuff is valuable - e.g. the aluminum industry - it is up to industry to figure out the problem. We just need to ask, celebrate and reward them - this will save money and jobs - reducing waste saves money. Council should pass a by-law forcing things to be dealt with at point of purchase. This will release creativity 3) Challenge our colleges and universities to create some solutions to our problems - students are tomorrow's leaders. The city could hold design competitions. The students would love to participate in these programs. 4) help create a new profession called surface mining - new department of nutrient recovery - to recover and sort and send back to industry. 5) 250 neighbourhood composting facilities - good earth facilities. Small aerobic digesters are tiny and well designed - they will provide fuel for greenhouses - they would provide examples of our connection to earth - instead of huge diesel trucks, small flat bed trailers.</p>	
<p>Shawn - Extended Producer Responsibility exists across Canada except in Ontario. Did you go to Newmarket? (tomorrow - answer) On community-based issue - in Montreal they have large "bell" depots for recycling materials. I don't know what the efficiency of this, but perhaps this is one option. In Portugal they have recessed bells for recycling. In Kensington Market would like to start on their own - but could use City support. TEA came by with some measures of what could happen right away - contact TEA to get this information to council.</p>	<p>JP - We have all of TEA's submissions and refer to them.</p>
<p>Use students to help come up with design alternatives for waste management</p>	
<p>What is the City doing about apartment buildings and multi-cultural? work with the superintendents to help them with the issue.</p>	<p>LJO - We are proposing a by-law that would make recycling mandatory. We have information in other languages. We are looking at NYC for a super's manual.</p>
<p>rewards for businesses - what is the city proposing? We have buy in to meet the zero waste goal at work. Can there be some sort of rewards such as rebates in hydro or energy- anything?</p>	<p>LJO - City does not have responsibility for private sector waste. They are working toward reducing their waste - including producer responsibility. JP - This is a good idea. We need to look at this more closely - there has to be a return or rebate - a) it is compulsory and b) there are benefits for you.</p>