



**Waste Diversion Task Force 2010  
North York Civic Centre  
February 24, 2001  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

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**Meeting Notes**

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**Participants:**

M. Ruth Malcolm	Ralph Malcolm
C. Harrison	Angelo Babaris
Dorit de Demeter	Vibe de Demeter
Jim MacLachlan	Mieke Foster
Johannes Jensen	Cecilia Tam
Lionel Mernick	Mark Pocobelli
L. Sullivan	B. Aggarwal
H. Oswald	Donna Buck
Shan Dhingra	Ludmilla B.
Frank Condlin	Michelle Lo
Elaine LePage	Joe Vaessen
Claire Oswald	Bill Urquhart
M.A. Kabayama	Otto Lang
R. Maric	Helen Hansen
Nancy Main	E. Komac

Approximately 35 public/people attended the event.

**Councillors:**

Councillor Disero (Chair)  
Cindy Harrison Executive Assistant to Councillor Sutherland

**Staff:**

Lawson Oates, Toronto Works and Emergency Services  
Fred Hendriks, Toronto Works and Emergency Services  
Nancy Martins, Toronto Works and Emergency Services

Councillor Disero thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and asked citizens to comment on what they are prepared to do to increase diversion.

Lawson Oates made a presentation. Councillor Disero added that the City currently disposes of waste at the Keele Valley for \$12 per tonne and receives money from the private sector. As of January 1, 2003 all waste will go to Michigan at a cost of \$55 per tonne. It will cost the City between 12 million and 55 million per year because we will no longer make money of the private sector disposal fees. The cost of diversion per tonne is \$85 to \$135. Councillor Disero asked if

people wish to sort at source. Separating at source brings the price down. The City is not obliged to take commercial waste, but 900,000 tonnes will always be ours.

Participants were then invited to ask questions and provide comments. The following represents a summary of those questions/comments and responses:

<b>Questions/Comments</b>	<b>Response</b>
<b>Presentation Questions</b>	
Where does fast food waste go?	Most is managed by the private sector. Some of the organic rich material is used in anaerobic digestion plants. The City also receives some of the private sector waste.
Does this represent 100% of York and Durham Region's waste?	It includes almost all of their waste. They have similar diversion programs.
Will we be responsible for York and Durham's garbage after Keele Valley closes?	We are only responsible for York's waste until 2003.
This presentation is over our heads. It is for Metro Hall and is a waste of our time. We want to talk about what happens here.	
Are the percentages based on volume or weight?	Weight, tonnages.
Is there an account for material produced by future population growth?	Average one tonne per household per year. Has been accounted for.
How much mixed waste is Dufferin designed to process?	25,000 tonnes per year.
Is Dufferin a refurbished or a new plant?	At the Dufferin Transfer Station there is one refurbished blue box plant in operation and one mixed waste processing facility that is being built.
Will there be odour problems at the Dufferin facility?	We are confident that with new technologies, such as biofilters, we can manage the waste and odours
<b>Landfill</b>	
Robert Maric - Why are we going to close Keele Valley? It is one of the best landfills in North America. Shipping to Michigan is ridiculous. Hundreds of lakes are water tight we should fill these with waste.	The Province will not allow us to keep Keele Valley open.
<b>Incineration</b>	
Retired city employee- I worked at the incinerator for 20 years. More than half the people I worked with are dead. Now there are bigger fans and higher chimneys that blow out to a wider area. Also worked at Keele Valley and other landfills. Methane seeps up through the soil. Although it may be better today.	

<p>City needs to build recycling and composting plants. Also, should look into clean incinerators, the heat can be used to generate power.</p>	<p>Methane burning at the Keele Valley produces electricity that is sold to the grid. It burns very clean and does not produce carbon dioxide.</p>
<b>Education / Communication</b>	
<p>We should ask people to help advertise for us, on websites, mailing lists, e-mail lists. City TV is always looking for stories. Get community centres to reach out to their own groups. This is a multicultural city – consistently use the same colour or symbol for the various types of recycling. Soon everyone will know what it represents and recycling will be easy for all.</p> <p>Refuse to buy items that are not recyclable</p> <p>TTC should have recycling boxes. Now they are either full, or they do not exist</p>	
<p>Heather Rossgrove – The newsletters are great and I support education on environmental matters. A good way to get the message across is to have a “garbage hint of the month”. Place hints anywhere people have time to read, on TTC buses, transfers, grocery store check-outs.</p> <p>People are willing to volunteer their energy and knowledge. Have a help line where residents can call and get a volunteer to help them with waste related questions, deliver blue boxes or teach them how to separate material.</p>	
<b>Programs</b>	
<p>Michelle - I am proposing a program that involves household waste diversion visits. The focus would be on the 950,000 households and improving on the existing city infrastructure. City workers would visit each household and use a report card to rate how well the resident recycles and reduces waste. Also, they would teach residents how to improve and receive input from them.</p>	<p>Apartments are our key target.</p>

<p>Joe Vassin - City should send an engineer to Holland to learn about the technologies they use to manage waste created by 60 million people. Once per week pick-up is adequate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I don't get the newspaper because it damages the environment</li> <li>• I save leaves and grass clippings and the result is black soil</li> <li>• Don't use pesticides, I pull out dandelions</li> <li>• Personal effort and respect for the environment will benefit all</li> </ul>	
<p>Cecilia Kim – It is unfair to charge by bag because my garbage bag is very small. The city should learn from other countries how to manage waste. Restaurants should co-operate.</p>	
<p><b>Organics</b></p>	
<p>Make small waste digester on condo properties. Small digesters do exist. Educate grocery stores and factories on composting. Will compost site at Keele Valley close at the same time as the landfill?</p>	<p>The city is looking for composting options in the private and public sector.</p>
<p><b>Packaging</b></p>	
<p>We are starting at the wrong end. We should be legislating corporations to reduce packaging.</p>	
<p>Manufacturers should be more accountable and should contribute financial for the building of processing plants. People are adaptable. We have quickly learned that we must dial 416 to get out calls through. People will do it because they have to. The goal is to create heaven on earth.</p>	
<p><b>Recycling</b></p>	
<p>Need recycling containers at TTC stops. All the garbage cans at stops have been taken away and there is nowhere to place waste.</p>	
<p>Have more central locations where people can take materials that are not recyclable in the Blue Box program. Transfer Stations are difficult to get to. Make it easier for people to recycle</p>	

<b>Other Technologies</b>	
<p>Brad Aggrawale- Written material submitted to Councillor Disero.</p> <p>Technologies are available that can be implemented today. My solution would cost 150 million, with revenue of 160 million. All reusable material is removed and the rest is incinerated using non-polluting technologies. I have made a submission to City Council on this.</p>	<p>The first alternative for the City is to continue with the facilities we are building – Dufferin Mixed Waste Facility. There is a very vocal opposition to incineration but discussions on the matter will take place in June and July.</p>
<p>Carl Mitchell- I have a private business that carries and disposes/processes pet waste. We have contracts in Oshawa and Brooklin at a cost of \$86 per tonne.</p>	<p>Councillor Disero will call Carl.</p>
<p>Angelo Babaris- City should be caring for its' own garbage. Going with the Kirkland Lake option would probably destroy our recycling. We should build digesters even if it will initially cost us.</p>	
<b>Multi-Family Dwellings</b>	
<p>Condo and building owners need a recycling bylaw. Should have blue box on each floor and composters on the yard.</p>	
<p>Lots of immigrants live in apartments buildings, but they are not getting the message because advisements are being thrown out.</p>	
<p>Apartment owners have to participate and teach residents. Send inspectors to check up on recycling practices. Apartment and condo meetings should discuss garbage. I would volunteer to help with this.</p>	
<p>Can the city pass a by law for new apartment standards?</p> <p>Can profits from Keele Valley and recycling be used to subsidise recycling facilities for old buildings?</p>	<p>Yes, the city has done this.</p> <p>Money from waste reserve was used for welfare in the 90's.</p>
<b>General Comments</b>	
<p>Please confirm, it costs \$90 per year to dispose and recycle material from each household (from curb to resting place)?</p>	<p>yes</p>
<p>The solution to our garbage problem is not to send it to other municipalities. We must take responsibility. Speedy action required if landfill is closing.</p> <p>I went to supermarket managers and asked that they replace Styrofoam trays with something more recyclable. They advised that</p>	<p>There was one large add in the Toronto Star – very costly. It would also be very expensive to deliver a flyer to each household. Meetings were also advertised in community papers.</p>

<p>they would discuss this at their managers meeting.</p> <p>Need a communications campaign. The tiny notice in the Toronto Star about this meeting was not enough. The green newsletter should have been mailed out to all Toronto residents.</p> <p>We should refuse to order food that is not in recyclable container or packaging.</p>	
<p>Members of parliament and Harris have to be part of the solution and not the problem. We should write to Councillors and tell them we want a made in Toronto solution and no secret back room dealings – even if it costs us more.</p>	
<p>“Keys to success” is the most important page in the presentation – education. Material must be separated properly.</p>	
<p>Elle Sullivan Incinerate waste and use ash for roads, also electricity and heat can be produced.</p> <p>Notable difference in the cleanliness in Willowdale. More recycling boxes are needed on public property.</p> <p>I have educated my whole street on how to recycle. Most people don't know how to get blue boxes. We should be good neighbours and help each other. Neighbourhood watch on environmental issues.</p>	
<p>Why is there no deposit on pop cans and bottles? A 10- 25 cent charge would make a big difference.</p> <p>People should take their own bags to stores.</p> <p>More education for school children.</p> <p>Everyone should pay for recycling and disposal, churches should not be exempt.</p>	
<p>Many people would be happy to see a separate line of their taxes that shows the cost of recycling and waste disposal.</p>	