



**Waste Diversion Task Force 2010  
East York Civic Centre  
March 28  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

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**Meeting Notes**

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**Participants:**

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| Charles Daffern  | Maureen Lindsay |
| Christian Cadora | H. Sutherland   |
| T. Bellefontaine | Gail Birnie     |
| Mike Treuman     | Frank Andre     |
| Don Simpson      | D.L. McCallum   |
| Tom Smarda       | Marcia Morrison |
| Bob Nesbitt      | Yvette Navioz   |
| W.E. Brown       | Martha Kavanagh |
| K. thomas        |                 |

About 30 members of the public attended.

**Councillors:**

Councillor Betty Disero  
Councillor Sandra Bussin  
Franz Hartman, Executive Assistant to Councillor Jack Layton

**Staff:**

Lawson Oates, Manager Solid Waste  
Christine Iamonaco, note taker  
Louis Portelli, Public Consultation Officer

Councillor Sandra Bussin welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor Betty Disero as the Chair of Taskforce 2010, and Lawson Oates as City staff working on the waste issue. Councillor Disero said that the Taskforce was looking for the public's ideas on how reduce waste. The Taskforce wants to find out what the public is prepared to do to reduce waste. There are new diversion targets to be achieved by 2010. Lawson Oates will present the facts and the timetable for waste reduction implementation strategy. The City is on its way to 100 per cent diversion. The Mayor set up the Taskforce.

Councillor Disero informed the public that the results of previous Taskforce meetings have been good. They have received quality advice. And today, the Works Committee received a report on public attitudes towards waste diversion and the public's willingness to divert waste. She invited the public to give their comments.

Councillor Bussin said that by mid May there will be an opening ceremony for the pelletizer at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant. This is part of the program to end incineration of biosolids in the East End of Toronto and move to biosolids beneficial use. There have been some challenges with the program and luckily the City did not have to increase the amount of sewage going to incineration. Some sewage is going to Michigan landfill along with the waste. She informed the public that “we” will draw upon the community to review options for managing the other 50 per cent of the biosolids. We don’t want to be burning more product.

Lawson Oates introduced the presentation he was about to make. Through an informal survey of the public it was learned that most people found out about the meeting through ads in the community newspaper, and others through flyers. A few people had received councillor’s newsletters, received an email and some found out about the event through word of mouth.

Councillor Disero explained that the cost of disposing of waste is about \$12:00 per tonne at Keele Valley and \$55.00 per tonne when it goes to the landfill in Michigan. This is a big increase in cost per household. There is another significant increase in costs per household, if they don’t want to source separate their waste. If the City separates the waste costs go up dramatically. Therefore the more we recycling and waste reduction activities we can do as a community, the lower more costs of managing waste come down.

| <b>Presentation Questions</b>   |   |
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| Does one tonne of waste per household include sewage?   | No it does not include sewage, just the garbage. And it is just less than one tonne per household.  |
| What about the leaf and yard waste that is collected?   | We now use kraft (paper) bags for leaf and yard waste. Plastic was difficult to get out of the compost. People can also use garbage cans, with no bags. Just put the yard waste, but not grass clippings, right into the can, and leave the lid off for collection. |
| Can we put newspapers in plastic bags.  | Yes, that is OK, because we can dump the newspaper out of the bag.  |
| Should we take the caps off of bottles?   | Yes, we prefer that you take the caps off of the bottles.   |
| Can we recycle milk cartons with the spouts?  | Yes if the spout is made out of #1 or #2 plastic, the entire container can be recycled.   |
| What about the cost of the blue box?  | It costs 30 million per year for the blue box. It is almost at a breakeven point because of the money that comes in from the sale of the blue box materials. Currently it is funded through a mix of revenue and the tax base.                                      |
| What about blue box contamination?<br>Tell us what we can do to make it better and we will do it.                     | Ten to fifteen per cent of the blue/grey box is contamination.<br>Additional materials will be helpful, grass cycling, use back-yard composters, and kraft bags for yard waste.   |
| I think we could recycle more things if we had one week for cans, one for glass, one for plastic, one for paper, etc. | People find recycling a little confusing already, we don’t want to make it more confusing. We want to keep it simple. That will get us better participation.  |

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| Can the City pressure industry to use recyclable materials?  | The City has taken some strong stances on deposit return. The City, because it is a big buyer could, can set standards. Right now the private sector recycles more than the City. The Taskforce will look at this at its wrap up session. But, I don't think we can force industry. We can keep sending messages.  |
| What about providing tax exceptions to those industries that participate?  | The Municipal Act prohibits tax exemptions being provided to industry  |
| Could you tax them extra if they did not participate?  | Yes we could do that.  |
| Can we have deposit return system for bottles and cans like all the other provinces?   | The City must do what the province says. CSR has a lot of public with the province and have convinced them that disposables are better than deposit containers. At the City we have even considered actions like stopping recycling to force the province to look at deposit return. The City tried to introduce return on wine bottles. The Province directed the City not to proceed with the plan or else they would take over the powers of City Council, if Council was found to be in violation of the Provincial Act that governs municipalities. |
| <b>Comments and suggestions</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recycling bins at the TTC</li> <li>• composting for apartment buildings</li> <li>• methane digesters</li> <li>• more education and advertising</li> <li>• deposit return</li> <li>• new technologies</li> <li>• cradle to grave responsibilities</li> <li>• because of long term costs to the environment, don't use disposable items, buy quality items</li> <li>• City should work with Board of Ed. , teaching about waste reduction and participate in recycling at the schools and at the Board offices</li> </ul> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Toronto is late in the waste reduction game</li> <li>• Toronto's recycling program is voluntary</li> <li>• Voluntary programs won't get us to the 2010 waste diversion target</li> <li>• I think 50 per cent of the people don't care</li> <li>• Part of the problem is today's busy lifestyle</li> <li>• Waste reduction program needs a Tsar (public figure)</li> </ul>   |  |
| We should have to recycle to get our garbage picked up!  |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who pays?</li> <li>• If you manufacture it, you should be responsible</li> <li>• Cradle to grave responsibility</li> <li>• Bring youth into this issue, bring them along</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Bussin noted that there are examples of cradle to grave responsibility for waste. Some places take back packaging.</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At the Yonge Sheppard Centre there are 1350 living units and no recycling what so ever</li> <li>• Public apartments should have to recycle</li> <li>• Keep instructions for composting and recycling simple</li> <li>• Promotes more recycling/reuse of clothes</li> <li>• What happens to steel items, there is unofficial recycling of steel from the curbside, make pick-up of items at curb legal</li> <li>• What can we do with little bits of metal?</li> <li>• (Lawson Oates responded that bits of metal could be taken to Bermendsy Transfer station and it was planned that in the future bits of metal would be collected at more of the transfer stations).</li> <li>• Would like to see full scale sorting of all waste, with large processing systems that would reduce waste and leave no residuals.</li> </ul> <p>Kudos on the ending of incineration at Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant</p> |  |
| <p>There should be mandatory recycling for apartments</p>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have lots of goods and some countries have nothing. We should be working to transfer usable goods to needy people in other places. A member of the public explained about how she collected goods, like pens, medical supplies and computers and arranged to have them shipped to other countries. Those interested in helping with this worthy endeavour were to contact Sandra Bussins' offices to be put in contact with that member of the public.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p>Composting should be mandatory.</p>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incineration works well in other places like Switzerland and we should consider it here. Incineration can operate right in the middle of communities and it produces heat.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Disero noted that several City Councillors were going to see the incinerator in Niagara Falls. She said there were challenges associated with incineration such as, where do you put the incinerator, and how many plants would be needed for the GTA, and the need for</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>program diversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Franz Hartman reminded everyone that the things that burn well in the incinerator are the things like recyclables, the very items that would be removed from the waste stream. Incineration is very expensive.</li> </ul>        |
| Emphasize reduction!   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make waste reduction fair, if a household only puts out a bag every three months for example, they should not pay the same as a household that produces more waste.</li> </ul>  | Lawson Oates said the new solid waste by-law allow up to six bags per household per week.   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is up to us to refuse to buy things that are over packaged. Council should have by-laws that restricts sale of things that are not in recyclable containers. Lets make people aware!</li> </ul>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry can make money on their goods, but it should not be done to all of our costs.</li> <li>• The dollar is 'god'. People are too busy to recycle.</li> </ul>   |   |
| We must educate children   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a by-law that allows scrappers to pick up metals.</li> </ul>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reusable building materials should go to reuse centre that supports habitat for humanity.</li> <li>• Construction permits should stipulate that contractors have to bring reusable stuff to the reuse centre.</li> <li>• Have bins on construction sites inspected before they go to the dump.</li> </ul> |   |
| Has City looked at pay per bag system?   | Yes. Cities where this method works, tend to be smaller communities. The 6-bag limit is a start. Get them engaged in blue and grey box recycling and make it mandatory. Eighty one per cent of single family homes sue recycling boxes. We need to reduce contamination and increase participation. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I would like to provide the City with this Citizen's Network on Waste Management flyer, it talks about bottle return. It states that a study has shown that every province is ahead of Ontario in terms of bottle return.</li> </ul>  |   |
| Can we recycle batteries, maybe though collection at schools and stuff?  | Some communities have "red box" pick up once or twice a year and the City is looking into this program.   |
| We are missing on implementation. We have  |   |

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| been taking about waste reduction for 20-years.  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A member of a non-profit housing corporation was interested in participating in the pilot for green box recycling.</li></ul> |  |

Councillor Sandra Bussin thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting adjourned.