

Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 Report

On January 29, 2001, the City of Toronto created the Waste Diversion Task Force 2010. The Task Force, which is co-chaired by Mayor Mel Lastman and Councillor Betty Disero, was asked to consult with the people of Toronto and come up with a comprehensive waste diversion plan by June 2001. Specifically, it was asked to design a made-in-Toronto solution for meeting the following targets:

- 30 percent diversion of household waste by 2003;
- 60 percent by 2006; and,
- 100 percent by 2010.

The Task Force's report is presented in two volumes. Volume I offers a strategy for meeting the targets and moving Toronto beyond the landfilling of garbage. It outlines 47 steps that the City and people of Toronto can take to ensure our great urban area is a leader in North America. Volume II is made up of the key background documents that helped the Task Force shape its recommendations. To reduce the amount of paper going into this report, we have produced only a small number that include Volume II. If your copy does not include Volume II, you can find it on the City's Web site at: www.city.toronto.on.ca.

The Task Force's report will be presented to the City's Works Committee on June 21, and will be considered by City Council at its next meeting, June 26-28, 2001.

"We need a plan which everyone can buy into so that by 2010 all our waste will be recycled, reused or composted. Task Force 2010 must find a made-in-Toronto solution that demonstrates leadership in waste diversion strategies and new solutions for the 21st century that move beyond the landfilling of garbage."

— Mayor Mel Lastman

"There will be some tough choices for Toronto to make, but at the end of the day, we must become a leader in North America by dealing with this challenge head on."

— Councillor Betty Disero

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Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 Report

Introduction and Summary

This report offers a strategic plan for the staged reduction of Toronto household garbage going to landfill.

It's a visionary plan — a great city needs to dream great dreams. It's an ambitious plan — a great city must have a big reach. And it's a practical plan — affordable, realistic and doable.

Most of all it's a necessary plan. We simply can't afford to keep burying so many precious resources in landfills. Garbage is a terrible thing to waste. As one Toronto resident told Task Force 2010, "compost has more practical value than gold." The reality is that by 2010, every bit of "waste" that Toronto households produce could be recycled, reused or composted.

Besides, the option of dumping our garbage into landfill is no longer a practical option. That window of opportunity has opened and closed.

For more than 15 years, the City and the Province pursued the possibility of creating new landfills. But the closing at the end of 2002 of the city-owned site at Keele Valley ends our option of burying garbage at \$12 a tonne. There is nowhere else in Ontario that is willing and able to dispose of, at an affordable cost, the 907,000 tonnes of garbage that Toronto householders create in a year. And the cost of burying it will soon jump from \$12 a tonne at Keele Valley to \$52 a tonne in Michigan.

The proposals in this report offer a new direction: going beyond landfill to a future where we recycle, reuse or compost our unwanted resources. It's not only about doing the right thing for the environment but also doing the wise thing for our wallets.

The pages that follow, outline a strategy for meeting specific targets for diverting into productive use the 73 percent of household waste that now goes to landfill:

- 30 percent diversion by 2003 (Phase I);
- 60 percent by 2006 (Phase II); and,
- 100 percent by 2010 (Phase III).

We are offering the City an ambitious new approach to collecting and processing Toronto's unwanted resources. It will be a massive undertaking — completely re-engineering the existing collection, transfer and processing system for single family homes. It will be a 21st century approach built around leading edge programs, technologies and outreach campaigns.

Our massive effort will produce massive results — 555,700 tonnes diverted a year by 2006 — a much better plan than landfilling in Michigan, and at a comparable price.

Yet, it will be a simple and convenient approach, easy to understand and easy to participate in. Just one modern collection truck will go down a resident's street on the same day each week; one week it will pick up organics from a hard, animal-proof container placed at the curb, as well as dry recyclables that are put curbside; the next week it will collect organics again, along with residual resources (anything that can't be re-cycled or composted). People won't even need to separately sort Blue and Grey Boxes. In the new system, all dry recyclables can be mixed together.

The City will issue a waste diversion report card each year showing how well we are doing in meeting or surpassing our targets. We intend to practice what we preach and be accountable for what we practice.

This is the system that Torontonians have told us they want: a made-in-Toronto strategy for made-in-Toronto garbage. A strategy developed with the people of Toronto and for the people of Toronto. A product of 16 public meetings, 1,116 telephone interviews, seven focus groups, and stakeholder discussions with industry representatives, Toronto Youth Cabinet and members of environmental groups. Indeed, the voice of the public echoes loudly throughout this report and is spotlighted in sections called "Voice of the people".

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We wish to offer our profound thanks to all of those, especially our own City staff, whose thoughtfulness, hard work and expertise helped shape our insights and recommendations.

Some of the Task Force's recommendations involve expanding and improving existing programs — collecting overflow recyclable dry material placed in plastic bags, curbside collection of scrap metal, consideration of a new leaf and yard waste composting site, and reducing bag limits. Others would introduce new programs.

Our big opportunity clearly lies in collecting organics and composting them into a high-quality product that will nourish our lawns, parks, fields and forests. These resources — all perishable kitchen leftovers and low-grade paper waste — account for 41 percent of what we send to landfill. We can seize this opportunity by giving households the tools they need to expand their separation of garbage from the current two streams — dry recyclables (Blue and Grey Boxes) and garbage — to three streams, adding a new stream for organic materials.

We propose that City staff bring forward in September an implementation plan for the third stream. We should be able to begin phasing in the plan for 170,000 single family residences in 2002, and have it fully operational by the end of 2005.

With all of these efforts, we should easily reach the 30 percent target by 2003. But to meet the 60 percent target by 2006, we will also have to invest in new and emerging technologies. We must consider adopting some of the new technologies that the private sector has to offer, such as contracting Enwave/Toronto Hydro to set up an energy facility, and partnering with other GTA regions to explore new and emerging technologies.

Changing habits is important. But so is changing minds. We have to encourage the people of Toronto to see leftover household material not as "waste" but as a valuable resource that can be used again and again. Indeed, we shouldn't even be talking about "municipal solid waste (MSW)"

but rather "municipal solid resources (MSR)." Public information and education must be a large part of our effort.

If the City is to succeed in reaching its targets, we must have careful and determined implementation of our policy decisions. We propose creating a Resource Diversion Implementation Working Group as a sub-committee of the Works Committee. The Group will: work with City staff on implementing decisions made by Council; continue to build support with community groups; and, deal with follow up on the implementation of diversion solutions in apartments and condominiums.

The implementation Committee will also be able to focus more attention on a specific strategy for Phase III. This report focuses mainly on meeting out targets for the first two phases. It is based on what we now know and what we now have the capacity to do. But we are in the midst of a time of unprecedented explosions of knowledge and technology. In the years to come we must continue drawing on our experience and our capacity to innovate, and shape a more detailed strategy for 2010.

We believe that Torontonians are ready for the changes that we propose. Our existing programs have been enormously successful. And people have told us time and again that they're eager to move on to the next step. In fact, we found a lot of anger over the way our society produces and discards items in a manner that is totally unsustainable.

We start from a strong base. As North America's fifth-largest city, Toronto's current residential diversion rate of 27 percent is both impressive and progressive. But we know by looking at what some other jurisdictions have done — especially some European cities — that we can do much more.

It's time to act. But Toronto City Council can't act alone. Success can only come through a new partnership between the City and the people who live here. The City's job is to create the tools that will enable diversion to happen. The people's job is to take the tools and run with them. We also

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need new partnerships with City unions, with the provincial government and with the private

sector. Everyone has to be part of the solution.

Together, we can get the job done.

Mayor Mel Lastman
Co-Chair
Waste Diversion Task Force 2010

Councillor Betty Disero
Co-Chair
Waste Diversion Task Force 2010

June 2001
Toronto

Voice of the people...

"People's spirits need to be awakened; their awareness must be developed. They need to see and understand the connection between their actions re: waste reduction and the health of the planet. 3R's messages must be ever-present... They have to penetrate consciousness and spark the human heart and soul!"



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Background

In the Fall of 2000, Toronto City Council was engaged in a difficult and contentious debate over where and how to dispose of the City's garbage. While the end result was a signed contract for disposal at a landfill in Michigan, this was not intended to be a long-term solution. The cost is expensive, the availability is uncertain and the process is wasteful. We all realize that Toronto must drastically reduce — and ultimately eliminate — the amount of garbage it produces. And we must deal with these problems within our own borders.

During his re-election campaign, Mayor Mel Lastman promised to create a Waste Diversion Task Force 2010, with a mandate to tap into public opinion and provide a game plan for the City to reach diversion objectives of 30 percent by 2003 (Phase I), 60 percent by 2006 (Phase II) and 80 percent by 2009 (Phase III). City Council approved these objectives with the added goal of 100 percent diversion by 2010. Council raised the bar because it recognized that by 2010 we will have the technology and could have the partnerships to recycle, reuse or compost everything our society produces. We are under no illusion that this will be an easy target to reach. But the reality is a responsible society should aim for nothing less.

The Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 was created on January 29, 2001 (*see Appendix A*) with all members of City Council appointed as members. Councillor Betty Disero, as Chair of City Council's Works Committee, joined Mayor Mel Lastman as Co-Chair and became the functional lead for the public meetings. Before formulating its recommendations, Task Force 2010 conducted an extensive outreach program to give everyone a chance to have their say and bring their ideas forward. This included:

- seven focus groups held in late November 2000;
- 1,126 telephone interviews conducted in January 2001;

- 16 public meetings held across Toronto over February, March and April 2001; and,
- stakeholder meetings with industry representatives and members of environmental non-governmental organizations and Youth Advisory Committee.

(See Appendix B for a summary of the recommendations and concerns received at the Task Force's public meetings, followed in Appendix L by summaries of each meeting).

The Public is Ready



The City and the Waste Diversion Organization contracted Northstar Research Partners to do focus groups and polling aimed at measuring public attitudes*. Some findings include:

- 81 percent of respondents now participate in Blue Box recycling.
- More than half of Toronto residents put a maximum effort into household recycling.
- 39 percent of Torontonians feels that their household could play a much greater role in reducing their amount of garbage.

**See Appendix C for detailed focus group and polling results.*

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The message from the public to the Task Force was twofold. First, people strongly want to do more to reduce the amount of garbage they produce. And secondly, they want the City to give them the tools to make waste reduction a reality. They say that the tools and programs must have the following four characteristics:

- **Simplicity:** Children and adults must be able to understand the programs and carry them out time after time.
- **Convenience:** Programs have to make it easy for busy people to carry out their wish to be more environmentally-friendly.
- **Affordability:** Costs have to reflect community concerns about tax increases.
- **Accountability:** People want feedback on how their efforts are contributing to reaching the resource diversion targets, particularly on how diverted material is being used/recycled.

Voice of the people...

"This is not the responsibility to be shrugged aside or left for another day, year or decade, the time to act is now."

"...people would do these things as long as it is made easy for them. When they set up the (current) recycling system, everyone got a Blue Box and that made life very easy... Just as long as we have a system that makes life easy to recycle, then it will work."

The Task Force also made site visits to a number of solid resource management facilities to get a first-hand look at what they have to offer:

- American REF-FUEL, Niagara Falls, New York.
- Canada Composting Inc., Newmarket.
- WASTEKO, Toronto.
- Mega City Recycling Inc., Toronto.
- Dufferin Material Recovery Facility, Toronto.
- Primenergy, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

- City of Guelph Wet-Dry Recycling Centre.

We'd like to thank the facility managers at each of these sites for their co-operation and helpful assistance. (See Appendix D for a list of services offered at each site).

The following pages present the Task Force's analysis and recommendations. We believe they will make Toronto a leader in North America in diverting household leftovers away from landfill and back into productive use. They will allow us to better preserve and protect our valuable and limited natural resources. And they will help set us on a path toward a more sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come.

The Facts Speak for Themselves...

An overview of Toronto's garbage situation in the year 2000*:

- Amount of residential waste generated per year: 907,000 tonnes
- Amount of recycled material: 247,000 tonnes
- Amount generated per household: 1 tonne
- Cost per household: \$90 per year**
- Percentage going to landfill: 73 percent
- Percentage diverted through reduction, reuse, recycling and composting: 27 percent

**These figures have been updated from the ones released at the Task Force launch in the document "Taking Care of Our Own Waste" (See Appendix E)*

*** Does not include debt charges and corporate administrative services, which would bring the total to \$121 per household in 2001.*

The Toronto Challenge Part I: Bringing in New Programs and Technologies

We are proposing that the City introduce a number of key new programs and technologies. Our discussion of each initiative is divided into four parts:

- what we were told about the initiative in our consultations;
- what this City is doing that is related;
- what the Task Force recommends; and,
- how many resources will be diverted by implementing the recommendations.

A. Source Separated Organics

An organics program would revolutionize the way the public and government deal with garbage in major cities. Organics are materials such as food scraps and low-grade paper resources. Source separation would involve residents placing these materials into a separate container from their dry recyclables (Blue and Grey Box) and remaining refuse.

Organics would be put at curbside for pickup like the other two "streams".

The material would then be converted at an anaerobic facility into high-quality compost, which could be used for farmlands or parklands. Because this would be an anaerobic process, the City would not require new aerobic facilities.

Community Discussion

Just as the public was on the brink of readiness for the Blue Box program when it was launched, we are on the brink with organics. We believe that there is enough public acceptance to start a program. The processing of organics, once fully

implemented, will be equivalent in cost to sending it to Michigan for landfill, although there will be an initial up-front cost for public education and container supply, as well as collection costs. The business case for source separating organics is presented on page 24 of this report.

Voice of the people...

"We must stop thinking of this material as garbage... recycled and compostable material should be seen as a resource."

What Toronto is Doing

- The City has conducted three pilot projects involving the separate curbside collection of food residuals. The pilots helped us learn about the levels of participation and recovery rates that could be expected.

The Task Force is convinced that creating a program of source separation of organics would be a huge step forward in meeting our diversion targets.



Other Canadian jurisdictions have had great success with such programs (See Appendix G). While Toronto faces the challenges of a multi-language population and a high percentage of residents in high-rises, these challenges

are not insurmountable. But they can only be addressed if there is an ongoing education program. If the outreach stops, the level of participation will drop.

The Task Force endorses City Council's decision to create a resources diversion fund into which all savings and new money will flow. Moving to a 10-hour 4-day workweek for resource collection — an important step in the introduction of this program — will produce significant and necessary savings. We will also

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look to the Waste Diversion Organization to make a substantial contribution.

At our public meetings, several residents proposed the use of garborators for organic kitchen residuals, which would mean that for those who have them, there would be no need for backyard composting or source separated organics. The Task Force does not support this proposal. Organics that go through a garborator will have to be treated at our sewage plants, reducing the plants' ability to treat existing sewage. In July 2000, the City adopted a by-law (No. 457-2000, Sewage and Land Drainage) that makes it illegal for industrial and commercial sectors to use garborators, and does not allow householders to use them unless the effluent is ground to a specified size range and goes into a sanitary sewer system.

Task Force Recommendations:

1. **That City staff design and structure a schedule for weekly organics collection and bi-weekly recycling and residuals collection, with a four-year phase-in beginning Spring 2002.**
2. **That City staff design and structure a source separated organics education and communication program beginning in Fall 2001, and consider including the following activities:**
 - a) **public meetings across the City, hosted by ward Councillors, to promote participation; meetings will mainly take place as the implementation date for each ward approaches;**
 - b) **Diversity Advocate role to assist in promotion to ethno-racial communities;**
 - c) **participation of local Residents' Associations; and,**
 - d) **engagement of Waste Watchers.**

3. **That the City engage the marketplace to provide the required treatment capacity in 2002 to manage the City's source separated organics prior to the commissioning of the City's new Dufferin Transfer Station anaerobic digestion facility (now under construction).**
4. **That, beginning immediately, the Dufferin Transfer Station be expanded in phases through the addition of modular components, at a capital cost of \$25 million or less (depending on the volume of organics collected) to process residential source separated organics. The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services is requested to undertake the required engineering design and report back to Council in Fall 2001.**
5. **That the City terminate its consideration of proposed aerobic composting facilities other than for yard residuals.**
6. **That the \$2.4 million put aside by Council this year for additional trucks be used to offset some of the costs of the necessary trucks for this program.**
7. **That funding for the required kitchen residuals collection containers be attained through a benefiting assessment.**
8. **That the Waste Diversion Organization be requested to actively consider the introduction of a supporting financial program for municipal-based collection, processing, and marketing of source separated organics.**
9. **That City staff report back in Fall 2001 on a source separated system for multi-residential buildings to begin in 2003.**

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Diversions Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations will increase diversion by the following amounts:

By 2003 — 30,000 tonnes per year

By 2006 — 70,000 tonnes to 100,000 tonnes per year

B. Take It Back Program

Community Discussion

There was a great deal of discussion in our public meetings about packaging and producer responsibility. Many people drew our attention to the creation of a “Take It Back Program” by the private sector in the Ottawa-Carleton Region. Under this voluntary program, residents can drop off certain types of household hazardous resources, such as leftover paint or used oil and needles, at hardware stores, gas stations, pharmacies, etc., rather than dispose of the material. The cost of collecting and disposing/recycling is borne by the retailer, except for latex paint, which the City collects from retailers and redistributes through a paint exchange program. Residents find out about participating retailers through a Directory of Take it Back Products, which is distributed free of charge by the *Ottawa Citizen*.



Voice of the people...

“Manufacturers and stores must take back packaging or unused products if consumers bring them back.”

“Let's promote and celebrate companies who are figuring out a way to make use of our recyclables, thereby helping us 'close the loop'.”

What Toronto is Doing

- A household hazardous waste (“HHW”) reuse program has been implemented. Reusable items received through our HHW program, such as paints, stains, car care products, solvents, aerosols, cleaners and propane tanks, are separated at the depots and placed in a location where residents can take materials they can use. Toronto also funded the production of a re-use directory, published by the Toronto Environmental Alliance.

At the request of the Works Committee, City staff looked into the possibility of creating a

Take it Back Program in Toronto (see Appendix H). They estimate it would cost the City about \$750,000

including, staffing costs and advertising. They also discussed the issue with Environmental Non-Government Organizations, who suggest that they could start a program for less. (see Appendix I)

The Task Force believes that setting up a Toronto Take It Back Program would be extremely beneficial.

Task Force Recommendations:

10. That a sub-committee of the Works Committee be established to look at the creation of a “Take It Back Program”.
11. That the sub-committee’s mandate be to establish a “Take It Back” program similar to the system in Ottawa.

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12. That the sub-committee be chaired by a member of the Works Committee.
13. That the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) and Target Zero be invited to participate.
14. That \$20,000 be put aside from the 2001 funding available for diversion programs, to help with administration of the sub-committee.
15. That the sub-committee be requested to report back by the Fall of 2001 for commencement in January 2002.

Diversion Improvement

Successful implementation of these recommendations will increase diversion by the following amounts:

By 2003 — 200 tonnes per year

By 2006 — 300 tonnes per year

While the amount of tonnage to be saved through this program would not be large, the environmental impact of no longer having needles strewn on beaches or oil poured down drains would be significant. Household Hazardous Waste is both difficult and expensive to process.

C. New and Emerging Technologies

With all of the efforts that the City and its residents will be making over the next few years, we believe that we can easily reach the 30 percent target by 2003. But the 60 percent target by 2006 will be more difficult without new capital and operating expenditures.

Community Discussion

We invited many representatives of the private sector to let us know how they could play a bigger role in helping the City meet its resource diversion targets. On April 12, 2001 at a City-hosted open house (see Appendix J), representatives of 34 companies made presentations illustrating their wide variety of technologies.

What Toronto is Doing

- Discussions are taking place at the staff level with other GTA jurisdictions to explore opportunities for joint field-testing programs for New and Emerging Technologies.
- Toronto is building a facility at its Dufferin Transfer Station that will manage organics using anaerobic digestion technology. This technology manages organics in a closed vessel without the presence of oxygen, which results in the production of bio-gas as a by-product. The bio-gas can be used as the fuel source for a boiler, which in turn produces steam that can be used to power a generator.

We believe that there are three parallel processes that the City should follow:

- Enwave/Toronto Hydro should be asked to consider the use of other energy technologies. This would both increase our diversion from landfill and address growing energy and heating/cooling requirements in the downtown core. Funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has already been secured for research into the application of anaerobic digestion technology as an energy source.
 - The GTA Works Committee Chairs and others have expressed an interest in jointly researching new and emerging technologies. This is the third component of Toronto's Solid Waste Resource Management ("TIRM") Process. Councillor Balkissoon is interested in pursuing a facility at the Scarborough Transfer Station, as it is in Ward 41, Scarborough-Rouge River.
 - We should actively pursue the sale of dry goods to the private sector, particularly the emerging plastics management industry.

We believe that the Works Committee should focus on these three processes, and a report should be put on the Works Agenda twice a year, even if it is to report no new happenings. To avoid leaving things until the last minute, we must have actual approvals by January 2004 to

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begin building any facility. This would provide at least 24 months lead-time to assist in reaching our goal of 60 percent diversion by 2006.

Task Force Recommendations:

16. That City staff report to the Works Committee in Fall 2001 on a lease of land, possibly on the Gulf Oil site or another site on the Port Lands, to Enwave/Toronto Hydro for a potential energy facility.
17. Staff be directed to enter into partnership with other GTA regions for the purpose of exploring new and emerging technologies. Councillor Balkissoon should be the lead for Council on this initiative.

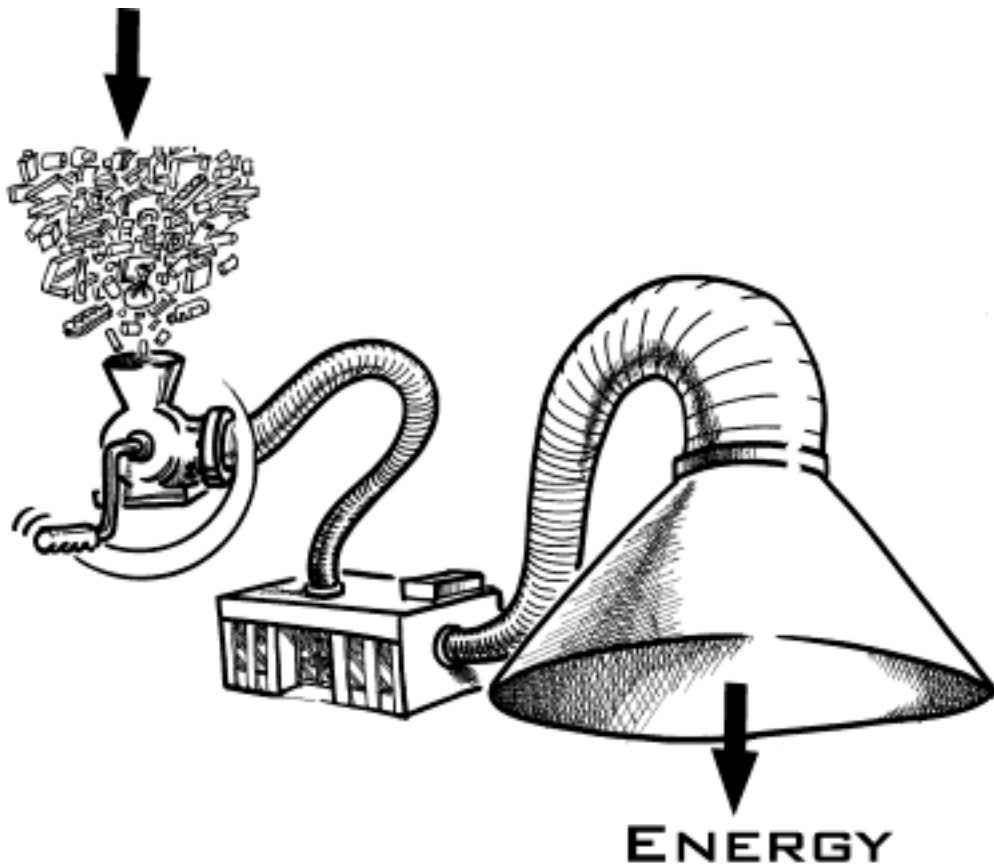
18. That staff be requested to come forward to the Works Committee twice a year with a report on the status of each of the three processes identified or any other diversion solutions.

Diversion Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations should increase diversion by the following amounts:

By 2003 — 0 tonnes

By 2006 — 170,000 to 220,000 tonnes per year



The Toronto Challenge Part II: Doing What We Do Better

We are proposing that the City make a number of improvements in existing programs.

D. Blue and Grey Boxes

Community Discussion

People are happy with the current Blue and Grey Box programs, including collection. The only complaint is that when their boxes are full, they have nowhere to store the recyclables. This means residents often throw valuable recyclables into the garbage and they end up in landfill. They would prefer to be able to put their overflow recyclables in a bag that will be picked up along with the Blue and Grey Boxes.

To learn more about bag-based recycling programs, Padulo Integrated Inc. was contracted to conduct research into the “best practices” used by other North American cities to create awareness, support and participation in programs. The research (*Appendix K*) could form the basis of a communications strategy.

Voice of the people...

“Recycling and composting are not frills to be cut, but an investment in our future.”

What Toronto is Doing

- We have added milk and juice cartons, drink boxes, empty paint cans and empty aerosol cans to the Blue Box. This will increase our diversion by about 800 tonnes per year.
- We have brought in mandatory recycling for apartments and single-family homes as part of a new harmonized solid resources management by-law. This will increase our diversion by about 5,000 tonnes per year.
- We have increased education for apartment dwellers, including hiring students to visit

apartments to encourage recycling, and producing a Superintendent’s Handbook on Recycling. This will increase our diversion by about 3,000 tonnes per year.

We have considered the option of increasing Blue and Grey Box collection to once a week, but believe that the extra \$2.7 million per year it would cost would produce better results if spent in other ways.

Task Force Recommendations:

19. **That City staff design and structure a bag program to supplement the existing Blue and Grey Box programs, including a potential partnership with the private sector, and report to Council in Fall 2001.**

Diversion Increase

The additional steps Toronto is taking to expand the Blue Box program and improve recycling in apartments, and the introduction of a supplemental bag program, will increase diversion by the following amounts:

- By 2003 — 9,000 tonnes per year
- By 2006 — 10,000 tonnes per year

E. The Depot Program

Community Discussion

Many people had great ideas about how to reuse various articles in positive ways. The only cost-comparable way of dealing with dry goods would be to pull them out and sell them or give them away.

Voice of the people...

“Why doesn’t the City collect scrap metal, contract with a dealer and sell it?”

“Lifestyle changes will be necessary to change from the automatic “trash it” attitude to conscious recognition of what we are using and that it continues to exist after we do not want it any more.”

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What Toronto is Doing

- Five recycling depots have been set up at several of the City's resource management facilities. Materials accepted include tires, drywall, corrugated cardboard, office paper, scrap metal, glass, plastic containers, newspapers and other household papers, used computers, polystyrene and leaf and yard residuals.



Polystyrene is transferred from a depot.

- We also collect polystyrene at two depots (Ingram & Bermondsey Transfer Stations) and at Environment Days. We send three loads per year of this material for recycling to the Canadian Polystyrene Recycling Association, which gives us \$110 a load to cover our transportation costs. The association only takes one load a month from Ontario municipalities for recycling. Unfortunately, the market for polystyrene is very limited and the payloads are very light (less than a tonne per load).

Task Force Recommendations:

- 20. That City staff design and structure two city-wide garage sales or giveaways at the Exhibition or Downsview sites, whereby all residents of the City of Toronto would be invited to participate.**
- 21. That City staff design and structure a Mayor's proclamation for two "Amnesty Days" per year that would encourage residents to put their unwanted goods by the curb where they could be picked up by others.**
- 22. That City staff design and structure a cost-neutral curbside collection method for scrap metal.**
- 23. That City staff review the possibility of an increase of styrofoam recycling and the possibility of adding it to the Blue Box.**
- 24. That City staff review the potential installation of woodbins at transfer stations to allow for the public to deposit used wood.**
- 25. That City staff be instructed to establish a list of items that can be collected at each transfer station depot.**
- 26. That City Staff report back on the above listed items in Fall 2001.**

Diversion Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations will increase diversion by the following amounts:

- By 2003 — 1,000 tonnes per year
- By 2006 — 3,000 tonnes per year

F. Home & Garden Composting

Community Discussion

People either love or hate backyard composting. Generally speaking, avid gardeners have the most positive attitude towards composting at home, which reflects their lifestyle and desire to enrich their gardens.

Many participants at our public meetings recommended that the City continue to support and subsidize the backyard composting program since it allows residents to manage their own kitchen residuals on-site and significantly reduce the waste they place at the curbside. The City now subsidizes the price to homeowners, with the composter costing the homeowner \$15.

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Voice of the people...

“Organic matters (wet garbage) should be composted.”

What Toronto Is Doing

- Over 170,000 backyard and multi-bin composters have been distributed to residents in the City of Toronto since 1989. Today, they account for 17,000 tonnes of waste reduction from landfill annually. This is a big contribution and an excellent example of Toronto residents’ commitment to reducing waste. About 7,200 backyard composters were bought in 2000.
- Truckload sales of backyard composters (that take place at shopping malls) have ended because the City stopped subsidizing the cost, and promotion and management were relatively expensive. These costs of \$10 per unit were in addition to the \$15 subsidy. But residents can still buy backyard composters at City Environment Days and from the City’s transfer stations at the subsidized rate of \$15 per unit.

Task Force Recommendations:

27. That the City re-start truckload sales for backyard composters, even without the \$10.00 subsidy.
28. That City staff report in September on:
 - a) A phone campaign by volunteer Waste Watchers to contact everyone who has a backyard composter and offer tips, as well as asking about their interest in vermi-composting (composting with worms).
 - b) Putting a compost display at Nathan Phillips Square to manage organic kitchen residuals generated at City Hall’s Café on the Square.
 - c) Putting one compost display in each Ward or community garden.

- d) Any other possible opportunities identified in the community meetings, as contained in Appendix L.

Diversion Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations will increase diversion by the following amounts:

- By 2003 — 500 tonnes per year
- By 2006 — 2,000 tonnes per year

G. Leaf and Yard Residuals

Community Discussion

Most people are happy that leaf and yard residuals are collected separately from garbage. They enjoy getting compost at Environment Days, but don’t like the bits of plastic they find in it. They’re also concerned about the plastic bags at our Avondale Composting Facility (located near the Keele Valley Landfill Site) which are blown about by the wind and litter the site. The use of kraft bags and rigid open-top containers will help resolve that problem.



Another issue we have to resolve is that Avondale is scheduled to close its gates to new material at the end of 2002. A new replacement site to compost leaf and yard residuals through outdoor windrowing (large scale composting by machines) is needed. A strategy to replace Avondale should be included in the implementation planning for this report.

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Voice of the people...

“Designate an area in all parks for leaf and garden waste drop-off, shred them and let material compost for community use.”

What Toronto is Doing

- This summer we are actively encouraging residents to leave cut grass on their lawns rather than bag the clippings and set it out as garbage. Grass clippings decompose quickly and add moisture and fertilizer back into the soil. The process is known as “grasscycling”. By keeping grass clippings on the lawn, we keep them out of landfill.
- To encourage grasscycling, the City does not collect grass clippings either as garbage or yard residuals. The ban took effect April 1, 2001. The City also banned the collection of leaf and yard residuals in plastic bags effective April 1, 2001 due to the impact on the quality of the final compost. Kraft paper bags and rigid open-top containers (e.g. bushel baskets) must now be used.



Task Force Recommendations:

- 29. That the City keep its policy of requiring the use of rigid open-top containers or kraft bags for leaf and yard residuals.**

Diversion Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations and keeping the grasscycling program will increase diversion by the following amounts:

By 2003 — 15,000 tonnes per year (5,000 tonnes linked to use of kraft bags, and an additional 10,000 tonnes linked to the ban on collection of grass clippings).

By 2006 — 15,000 tonnes of continued diversion

H. Bag Limits

Community Discussion

There was some disagreement in our public discussions as to whether bag limits are useful or even needed. There was a consensus that if there is to be a bag limit, people should be given recycling alternatives, including additional management options for their organic residuals, before restrictive bag limits are introduced. This could take the form of a source separated organics program (“SSO”), where residents can place their organics at the curbside for collection and processing at a composting plant.

Voice of the people...

“I feel that the limit of six bags has been set much too high... there should be a considerably lower week limit.”

What Toronto is Doing

- The City’s new residential solid resources by-law places a limit of six on garbage items (containers, bags or bulky items) that a household can put out for collection each week.

City staff feel very strongly that bag limits are important to promote and encourage diversion. The average household now places 2.3 bags per week at curbside.

Task Force Recommendations:

- 30. That bag limits for residual garbage be lowered to five bags every two weeks in 2002 and four bags every two weeks in 2003.**

Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 Report

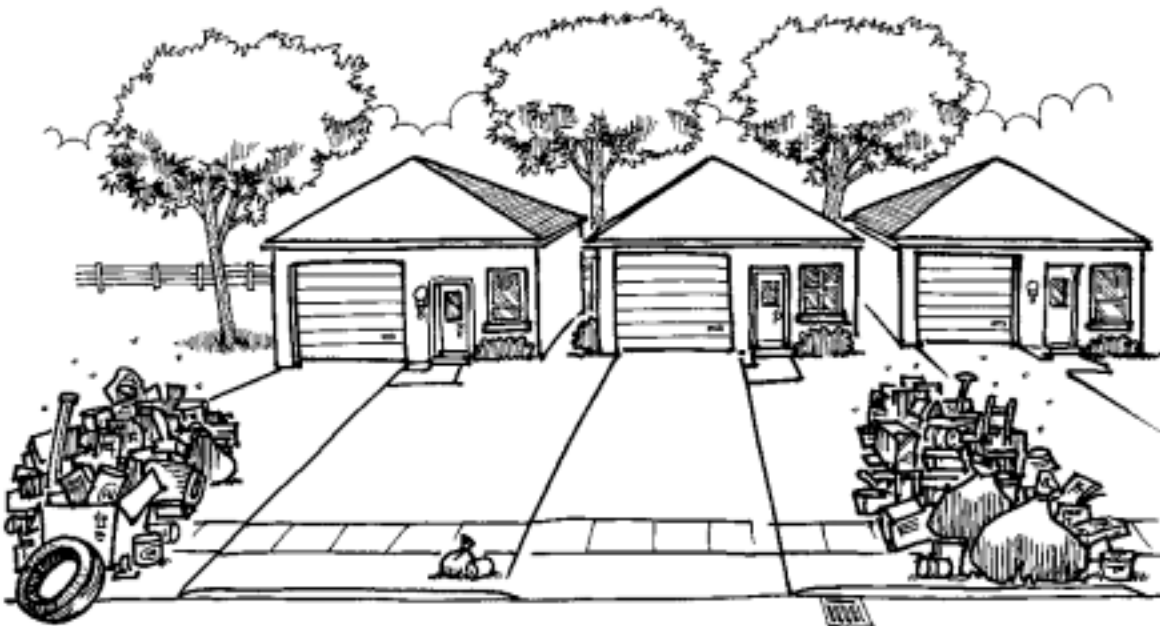
31. The issue of bag limits be reviewed by the Works Committee in January 2003 to see if there should be further reductions.

Diversion Increase

Successful implementation of these recommendations will increase diversion by the following amounts:

By 2003 — 5,000 tonnes per year at a four-bag limit

By 2006 — 10,000 tonnes per year at a three-bag limit



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A Spring Day in 2006

It's a beautiful spring day in 2006. Mae-Lin goes into the kitchen for an orange and peels it. After finishing her snack she takes the leftover skin out to the backyard composter. Looking around the garden, she can't help but admire how much fuller and richer it looks since she started doing her own composting.

Back in the house, she hears her partner coming down the stairs. "How are your allergies this morning, Nate?" she calls out.

"Terrible," he replies. "I've been sneezing all morning, must have filled up a whole basket full of kleenex."

"Well, don't forget to empty your basket into the plastic organics container in the kitchen," Mae-Lin says. "Just pile it in with our leftover bones and skin from last night's fish. The pickup truck should be by any minute."

"Wow, is it organics pickup day already?" Nate asks. "I thought they came for it last week." "Every week, dear," Mae-Lin reminds him. "Every week."

"Well at least I won't have to feel guilty about personally taking up all that landfill space," Nate says. "It's good to know that our organics will go to that new anaerobic facility and be turned into clean compost. I'm sure the trees in the park will appreciate it."

Nate picks up the small organics container sitting almost unnoticed in the kitchen and takes it out to the front porch. He slides it into the larger hard plastic container, closes the animal-proof lid and carries it to the curb. He returns for the containers holding the recyclables.



Seeing neighbours Tim and Suneel carrying out a big bag of empty bottles and cans, Nate shouts out, "Boy, that must have been some party you had last night." Suneel answers back "Actually it was. Good thing the City also picks up our recyclables in a bag — our boxes have been full since the weekend."

A few minutes later, one of the modern two-compartment resource trucks pulls up at the curb. The workers empty the recyclables into one of the compartments, and then empty the organics container into the other.

"I kind of like this new system, now we just have one truck that comes down our street the same day each week and it picks up everything at the same time," Suneel says.

"Yeah, and fewer trucks means less pollution and fewer trips to drop off the garbage at the other end — that has to mean lower costs and savings on our taxes," Tim adds.

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Nate goes back into the house and says, "So what are we going to do to keep the kids occupied after school?" Mae-Lin answers back, "Lindsay and Leigh are going to work on cleaning out the garage. They want to see what we have to put out at our curb next week for the city-wide give-away day.

"You mean you're making them work?"

"Making them? They practically begged me. They've been learning in school about reusing and recycling unwanted articles, and now that they know we can just put them at the curb and someone who wants them can pick them up, well, they're just dying to get in on the act."

Maybe we can give away those two old chairs that we've been holding on to for the garage sale we never seem to have," Nate says. "If someone has the time to give them a couple of good coats of paint, they've still got a lot of years left in them. Same goes for that old bookcase."

"I love these twice a year give-away days," says Mae-Lin. "It teaches the kids good lessons about not wasting things — and we get our garage back again. I even like the City's slogan, 'Don't throw away your unwanted — give them a new home!'"

(one week later)

As Mae-Lin heads out the front door, she looks back at Nate and says, "I'm leaving a few minutes early today. I want to drop by the mall and take your used insulin needles back to the pharmacy and those old tires and used oil to the garage. Now that they're acting responsibly by taking back the stuff they produce, we better do our part and take them back."



"Aren't you forgetting something?" asks Nate.

"You mean your kiss?"

"Well actually, I meant the bag of residuals to put at the curb. Last week was organics and recyclables, so this week is organics and residuals — you know, the stuff we can't recycle, compost or give away, like the kitty litter and your old running shoes. Didn't you remember the residuals bag?"

"Actually, I didn't remember," admits Mae-Lin. "It's such a small bag nowadays, I forget all about it!"

Building Partnerships

The City and the people of Toronto will do everything we can to keep unwanted resources from ending up in landfill. But we can't act alone. In order to meet our ambitious diversion targets, we have to build as many partnerships as possible. Reaching our goals will take an all-out societal effort. The City especially needs to build stronger partnerships with:

- the provincial government;
- the federal government;
- the private sector;
- the community;
- City agencies, boards and commissions; and,
- school boards.

I. The Provincial Government

We need the Ontario government to make better and wiser use of its power to regulate the reduction of solid resources at their source. There is no reason for the Province of Ontario to lag behind other provinces in promoting and legislating increased diversion from landfill. Ontario should be a leader, not a laggard.



The Blue Box program, though extremely popular, is expensive. The Ontario government can regulate the private sector to contribute to its costs. A particularly

cumbersome component of the Blue Box is containers, both alcoholic and non-alcoholic. They are becoming more and more difficult to market, and municipalities have to subsidize them more heavily.

Throughout our Task Force public meetings, people complained about the amount of packaging on everyday household and consumer items. Packaging regulations are a Provincial responsibility. So too is the regulation of compost. Ontario municipalities are not on a level playing field with other Provinces as far as what is and what isn't an acceptable quality of compost from the processing of organics. The Province's guidelines lead to large quantities of compost — that would be perfectly acceptable in other Provinces — being sent to landfill or under-utilized as daily landfill cover.

Voice of the people...

"I would like to suggest that something be done to force companies to cut down on the excess packaging of their products, or even eliminate boxes altogether."

"Waste reduction begins with reduced production. I would like to see regulations enacted to compel the packaging industry to print on the retail packed product the total cost of packaging."

Task Force Recommendations:

32. **That the City encourage the provincial government to immediately establish a permanent Waste Diversion Organization to legislate on an urgent basis private sector financial contributions to fund the Blue Box program. Funding should be high enough to ensure the program can operate at no cost to the City.**
33. **Failing the establishment of the WDO, that the City encourage the Province to follow the principles of the first 2 R's – reduce and re-use – and mandate a deposit-return system for beverage containers; and that City Council reaffirm its position that this system include the immediate implementation of a deposit-return for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.**

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34. That the City call on the Province to review packaging regulations and guidelines. The goal of the review should be to reduce the amount of packaging that must be managed, and to bring in incentives for industry to make or use packaging that is readily recyclable and maximize recyclable content (such as PET and HDPE plastics), instead of products designed for disposal after one use.

35. That the City call on the Province to adopt the quality guidelines for compost set by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, and move to the Federal standard.

J. The Federal Government

The Federal government also has an important role to play in financially supporting the efforts of municipalities to increase their diversion rates and promote the reduction of greenhouse gas generated by keeping organics out of landfills.

Task Force Recommendations:

36. That City Council call on the Federal government to bring in an infrastructure program specifically designed to provide municipalities with funds to build recycling and composting plants.

K. The Private Sector

There is a great deal of interest in environmental programs, within the private sector. This includes finding opportunities to link corporate names to green programs. The City needs to capitalize on this interest.

We also need to recover the full cost of managing the private sector's solid resources. The City collects nearly 115,000 tonnes of garbage a year from about 18,650 businesses across Toronto. Most of them — about 15,000 — are in the former City of Toronto. By the time

the Keele Valley Landfill closes in 2003, the cost for this practice will be more than \$15 million.

Task Force Recommendations:

37. That the City actively pursue advertising revenues linked to Environment Days and corporate sponsorship of recycling programs.

38. That a full cost recovery program be instituted effective January 1, 2002 for the commercial sector solid resources collected by the City, with an incentive for recycling various materials.

L. The Community

Public education and awareness programs have to be the cornerstone on which our efforts to divert are built. To involve, we have to inform. To engage, we have to teach.

The City has to increase its communication and education efforts on the 3Rs — why they are important and how to carry them out. In this effort, we can make greater use of our volunteer Waste Watchers, who can help staff and Councillors with community meetings. We can set up displays at recreation centres.



Waste Watcher volunteers at 3Rs display.

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Voice of the people...

"More consciousness raising and education is necessary. Many people don't bother separating recyclables from garbage because they don't understand how important it is and why they should take the trouble."

"An extensive public education campaign is needed and it must start well in advance. Given the number of people in this city who speak little or no English, it will be essential to target the ethnic newspapers, TV and radio stations. English language TV and radio communication will also be necessary because approximately one-in-four adults are functionally illiterate. Schools could also be useful in raising kids' awareness of what is happening so that they take the message home to their families. "

Task Force Recommendations:

39. **That City staff report back in Fall 2001 on an educational/promotional campaign to encourage the widespread adoption of its diversion strategies.**
40. **That the City perform resource audits on litter collected, and pursue main offenders, particularly the fast-food industry, to provide support for a clean city, including the adoption of litter bins throughout the City.**



41. **That the City analyze resource disposal practices on a community-by-community basis to identify the best communities, and develop an education program with the local Councillor's help to encourage the remaining communities to improve their performance.**

M. Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments

If the City is going to ask the people of Toronto to make the new source separated organics program work, it has to lead by example.

In 2000, the City's various Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments (the "A, B, C & Ds") generated over 154,000 tonnes of solid resources, of which 60,000 tonnes was created by people living in public housing. While there are some excellent examples of innovative diversion activities, a great deal more can be done.

Task Force Recommendations:

42. **That every A, B, C & D submit to City Council by January 1, 2002, through the office of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, a plan to achieve, as a minimum, Council's diversion targets.**

More information about A, B, C & D's and associated recommendations are in a report from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services (*See Appendix M*). The Task Force endorses the recommendations from the Commissioner.

N. School Boards

Toronto is not required to manage recyclables and dispose of solid resources received from the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. But by continuing to include the School Boards in the

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City's solid resources management system, we can encourage students to recycle and compost. Participants in our public meetings strongly endorsed this approach.

The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services has submitted to the Task Force a series of recommendations linked to the continued provision of solid resource management services to the School Boards, including a full cost recovery program for disposal and no-charge recycling. (*See Appendix M*). The Task Force endorses the Commissioner's recommendations.

To reduce the cost of increased diversion in public schools, a number of initiatives have taken place to seek corporate sponsorship of collection containers and provide direct collection of fibre (paper and newsprint). The City will continue to work with the School Boards on these initiatives.



Teaching students about composting.

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How Do We Pay For This?

O. Business Case

We are proposing an ambitious new approach to collecting and processing Toronto's unwanted resources. It will be a massive undertaking — completely re-engineering the existing collection, transfer and processing system for single family homes. It will be a 21st century

approach built around leading edge programs, technologies and outreach campaigns.

We believe that a solid business case can be made for our new system. Our massive effort will pay massive dividends. Between now and 2006 we will more than double the amount of solid resources that we divert from landfill — from 247,000 tons in 2000 to 555,700 tonnes in 2006.

Table 1

| Projected Diversion (2000-2006) | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| | 2000 | | 2003 | | 2006 | |
| | Tonnes Diverted | % Diverted | Tonnes Diverted | % Diverted | Tonnes Diverted | % Diverted |
| Recycling | 132,300 | 14.6% | 146,100 | 16.1% | 152,300 | 16.7% |
| Organics | 84,400 | 9.3% | 129,900 | 14.3% | 191,400 | 21.2% |
| Other Initiatives | 30,300 | 3.3 % | 31,500 | 3.4% | 33,600 | 3.7% |
| New and Emerging Technologies | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% | 177,000 | 19.6% |
| Total Tonnes | 247,000 | | 307,200 | | 555,700 | |
| % Diversion | 27.2% | | 33.8% | | 61.2% | |

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Our key assumptions about what it will take to make this plan achievable are:

- organics will be collected each week;
- anaerobic digestion will be the main treatment method for organic materials;
- recyclables will be collected every two weeks;
- residual resources will be collected every two weeks;
- costs are based on a four-day 10-hour workweek using existing staff;
- costs are incremental to existing budgets;
- incremental program operational are funded by the Resource Diversion Reserve; and,
- Council approves the new system, including the required budget approvals, by September 2001.

We are proposing transformational change, but the net result will be a simple and convenient system that will be easy for the resident to understand and take part in:

- Just one collection truck will go down the resident's street on the same day each week; it will be a modern truck with two compartments.

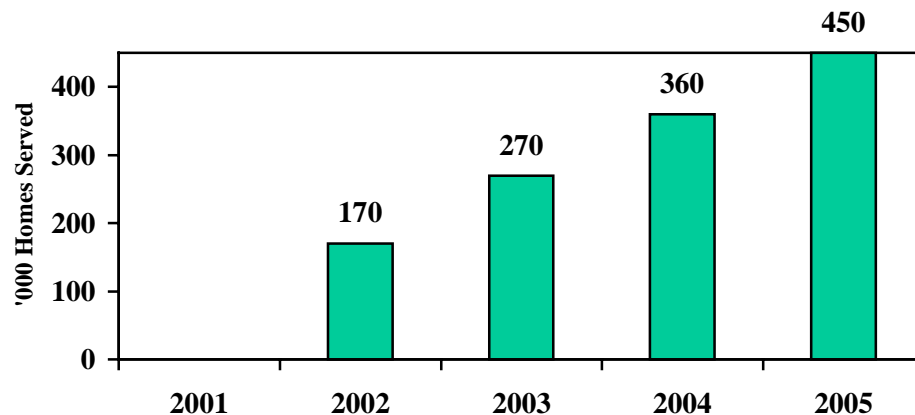
- On one week the truck will collect organics from a hard, animal-proof container placed at the curb, and also pick up recyclables which will be put curbside in one or more containers or bags; all dry recyclables can be "co-mingled" — no need anymore to have a separate Grey Box for papers and Blue Box for bottles and cans.
- On the second week the organics will be picked up again, this time along with the residuals (anything that can't be recycled or composted).
- Leaf and yard residuals will continue to be collected the same way they are today.

We will begin the four-year implementation of the new program in 2002, starting with 170,000 single residences — equal to the number of households that are participating in a similar program in the entire City of Halifax. We will expand the number aggressively in the ensuing years.

Single Family Source Separated Organics (SSO)

Table 2

Implementation Schedule



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When fully implemented, the net operating costs of the new system will be about \$157 million per year (2006) or \$160 per household per year. We asked ourselves how this would compare with other, more modest approaches to resource diversion. We were delighted to discover that it compares almost equally to keeping the status quo (\$155 million or \$158 per household in 2006) or just adding weekly recycling to the

status quo (\$158 million or \$161 per household). The costs per household are the base costs and do not include debt service and indirect corporate charges. Meanwhile the big payoff is in a program that is simpler to understand, easier to participate in, and much better for the environment that we live in.

Table 3

RECOMMENDED PLAN

| Year | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | Total |
|--|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Net Operating Cost (\$000) | 87,246 | 95,706 | 142,000 | 148,250 | 150,500 | 157,259 | 780,961 |
| Cost per hh year | \$91 | \$99 | \$147 | \$152 | \$154 | \$160 | \$133.8 (Ave.) |
| Gross Cost per hh incl. Debt charges & corporate support svcs. | \$121 | T.B.D. | T.B.D. | T.B.D. | T.B.D. | T.B.D. | T.B.D. |
| Total Capital (\$000) | 25,557 | 81,976 | 55,982 | 54,932 | 46,752 | 6,641 | 271,840 |
| % Diversion | 27 | 29 | 34 | 38 | 52 | 61 | - |

Benefits

- high quality/ lower risk compost
- same day service/reduce pass-bys
- opportunity to reduce dry residue disposal costs

Risks

- system wide change of collection
- system and MRF processing
- citizen participation in program

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P. Separate Bill

In our public discussions, many said that to fully appreciate the City's challenge, they have to understand how quickly our resource management costs are going up.

Most people say that they are ready to pay more for recycling programs that divert from landfill. But they want to know that the money is strictly going for resource diversion costs and not into the "black hole" of taxes.

Provincial legislation does not give us the collection power to issue a separate resource bill. So, while we could bill separately, we could not guarantee collection, as we can with water.

There is no question that even if we do nothing, the costs of dealing with garbage will go up, and not just the \$12 per tonne to \$52 per tonne hike for burying in landfill. There is also the increase in the cost of looking after city-owned landfills that we have not used for years.

Task Force Recommendations:

- 43. That the City explore a number of options for billing residents for resource management, such as: creating an "environmental control bill" or "green bill" jointly with Toronto Hydro and Toronto Water; sending out in the same envelope as the property tax bill a separate tax bill dealing with garbage only; asking the Province to allow Council to make note of the garbage portion of the tax bill; or, continuing to make notes on the tax bill envelopes.**

Q. User Fee

Some people in our discussions suggested a system whereby people would buy special tags to use on each bag of garbage they put out. This would have to be done in addition to some sort of flat rate fee, since the City would still need some fixed revenue to pay for recycling and other unavoidable costs.

But we believe that bringing in a tag system right now would be too complicated and possibly undermine our whole effort to divert. We need to finalize the issue of bag limits before considering tag fees. It might be that Council feels even with bag limits tags are too risky. The only other option would be then for residents to take excess garbage to the transfer station.

Task Force Recommendations:

- 44. That City Council not implement a user fee, at this time.**
- 45. That City staff report in January, 2003 on a user fee, in conjunction with the bag limits report.**

R. Benefiting Assessment

In discussions with the City of Halifax, we were told that a benefiting assessment (a one-time bill separate from the property tax) was used to pay for both the indoor and outdoor SSO containers.

The importance of adequate containers for wet resource collection cannot be stressed enough. However, knowing the City's financial situation, the containers could be carried over a 10-year period through benefiting assessment.



Task Force Recommendations:

- 46. City staff report to Council in Fall 2001 on an appropriate container for an organics collection system for single family homes and a means of funding the containers, in addition to the benefiting assessment as proposed in recommendation #7.**

Implementing Our Strategy

We believe that we have developed an ambitious, far-reaching strategy for managing and processing Toronto's solid resources. We now have to make sure that what the City gains by having leading-edge policies, it maintains and strengthens through solid implementation. We cannot allow the quality of our future to slip between the cracks of policy development and policy implementation.

We can see the way. We must summon the will. We have to be as determined to achieve our target of 100 percent diversion by 2010 as we are to reach our mileposts of 30 percent by 2003 and 60 percent by 2006.

This report provides detailed recommendations for reaching the first two targets. It is based on what we now know and what we now have the capacity to do. But we are in the midst of a time of unprecedented explosions of knowledge and technology. Indeed, many of the technologies that will exist in the year 2010 haven't even been invented yet. In the years to come we must continue drawing on our experience and our capacity to innovate, and shape a more detailed strategy to meet our target for 2010.

Task Force Recommendations:

47. **That the City create a Resource Diversion Implementation Working Group, as a sub-committee of the Works Committee. The Working Group will be chaired by the Chair of the Works Committee and will be mandated to:**

a) **work with City staff on implementing resource diversion policies and recommendations adopted by Council;**

b) **continue to meet on an ongoing basis with the public, the environmental NGOs and other stakeholders— at least until 2004 — to build support and momentum;**



c) **follow up on the implementation of diversion solutions in apartments and condominiums; and,**

d) **shape a more detailed strategy for ensuring that Council's target of 100 percent diversion by 2010 is met.**

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Summary of Recommendations

A. Source Separated Organics

1. That City staff design and structure a schedule for weekly organics collection and bi-weekly recycling/residuals collection, with a four-year phase-in beginning Spring 2002.
2. That City staff design and structure a source separated organics management education and communication program beginning in Fall 2001, and consider the following activities:
 - a) public meetings across the City, hosted by ward Councillors, to promote participation; meetings will mainly take place as the implementation date for each ward approaches;
 - b) Diversity Advocate role to assist in promotion to ethno-racial communities;
 - c) participation of local Residents' Associations; and,
 - d) engagement of Waste Watchers.
3. That the City engage the marketplace to provide the required treatment capacity in 2002 to manage the City's source separated organics prior to the commissioning of the City's new Dufferin Transfer Station anaerobic digestion facility (now under construction).
4. That, beginning immediately, the Dufferin Transfer Station be expanded in phases through the addition of modular components, at a capital cost of \$25 million or less (depending on the volume of organics collected) to process residential source separated organics. The Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services is requested to undertake the required engineering design and report back to Council in Fall 2001.

5. That the City terminate its consideration of proposed aerobic composting facilities other than for yard residuals.

6. That the \$2.4 million put aside by Council this year for additional trucks be used to offset some of the costs of the necessary trucks for this program.

7. That funding for the required kitchen residuals collection containers be attained through a benefiting assessment.

8. That the Waste Diversion Organization be requested to actively consider the introduction of a supporting financial program for municipal-based collection, processing, and marketing of source separated organics.

9. That City Staff report back in Fall 2001 on a source separated system for multi-residential buildings to begin in 2003.

B. Take It Back Program

10. That a sub-committee of the Works Committee be established to look at the creation of a "Take It Back Program".

11. That the sub-committee's mandate be to establish a "Take It Back" program similar to the system in Ottawa.

12. That the sub-committee be chaired by a member of the Works Committee.

13. That the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) and Target Zero be invited to participate.

14. That \$20,000 be put aside from the 2001 funding available for diversion programs, to help with administration of the sub-committee.

15. That the sub-committee be requested to report back by the Fall of 2001 for commencement in January 2002.

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C. New and Emerging Technologies

16. That City staff report to the Works Committee in Fall 2001 on a lease of land, possibly on the Gulf Oil site or another site on the Port Lands, to Enwave/Toronto Hydro for a potential energy facility.

17. Staff be directed to enter into partnership with other GTA regions for the purpose of exploring new and emerging technologies. Councillor Balkissoon should be the lead for Council on this initiative.

18. That staff be requested to come forward to the Works Committee twice a year with a report on the status of each of the three processes identified or any other diversion solutions.

D. Blue and Grey Boxes

19. That City staff design and structure a bag program to supplement the existing Blue and Grey Box programs, including a potential partnership with the private sector, and report to Council in Fall 2001.

E. The Depot Program

20. That City staff design and structure two city-wide garage sales or giveaways at the Exhibition or Downsview sites, whereby all residents of the City of Toronto would be invited to participate.

21. That City staff design and structure a Mayor's proclamation for two "Amnesty Days" per year that would encourage residents to put their unwanted goods by the curb where they could be picked up by others.

22. That City staff and structure a cost-neutral curbside collection method for scrap metal.

23. That City staff review the possibility of an increase of styrofoam recycling and the possibility of adding it to the Blue Box.

24. That City staff review the potential installation of woodbins at transfer stations to allow for the public to deposit used wood.

25. That City staff be instructed to establish a list of items that can be collected at each transfer station depot.

26. That City Staff report back on the above listed items in Fall 2001.

F. Home & Garden Composting

27. That the City re-start truckload sales for backyard composters, even without the \$10.00 subsidy.

28. That City staff report in September on:

- a) A phone campaign by volunteer Waste Watchers to contact everyone who has a backyard composter and offer tips, as well as asking about their interest in vermi-composting (composting with worms).
- b) Putting a compost display at Nathan Phillips Square to manage organic kitchen residuals generated at City Hall's Café on the Square.
- c) Putting one compost display in each Ward or community garden.
- d) Any other possible opportunities identified in the community meetings, as contained in *Appendix L*.

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29. That the City keep its policy of requiring the use of rigid open-top containers or kraft bags for leaf and yard residuals.

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H. Bag Limits

30. That bag limits for residual garbage be lowered to five bags every two weeks in 2002 and four bags every two weeks in 2003.

31. The issue of bag limits be reviewed by the Works Committee in January 2003 to see if there should be further reductions.

I. The Provincial Government

32. That the City encourage the provincial government to immediately establish a permanent Waste Diversion Organization to legislate on an urgent basis private sector financial contributions to fund the Blue Box program. Financing should be high enough to ensure that the program can operate at no cost to the City.

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37. That the City actively pursue advertising revenues linked to Environment Days and corporate sponsorship of recycling programs.

38. That a full cost recovery program be instituted effective January 1, 2002 for the commercial sector solid resources collected by the City, with an incentive for recycling various materials.

L. The Community

39. That City staff report back in Fall 2001 on an educational/promotional campaign to encourage the widespread adoption of its diversion strategies.

40. That the City perform resource audits on litter collected, and pursue main offenders, particularly the fast-food industry, to provide support for a clean city, including the adoption of litter bins throughout the City.

41. That the City analyze resource disposal practices on a community-by-community basis to identify the best communities, and develop an education program with the local Councillor's help to encourage the remaining communities to improve their performance.

M. Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Departments

42. That every A, B, C & D submit to City Council by January 1, 2002, through the office of the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, a plan to achieve, as a minimum, Council's diversion targets.

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P. Separate Bill

43. That the City explore a number of options for billing residents for resource management, such as: creating an “environmental control bill” or “green bill” jointly with Toronto Hydro and Toronto Water; sending out in the same envelope as the property tax bill a separate tax bill dealing with garbage only; asking the Province to allow Council to make note of the garbage portion of the tax bill; or, continuing to make notes on the tax bill envelopes.

Q. User Fee

44. That City Council not implement a user fee, at this time.

45. That City staff report in January, 2003 on a user fee, in conjunction with the bag limits report.

R. Benefiting Assessment

46. City staff report to Council in Fall 2001 on an appropriate container for an organics collection system for single family homes and a

means of funding the containers, in addition to the benefiting assessment as proposed in recommendation #7.

47. That the City create a Resource Diversion Implementation Working Group as a sub-committee of the Works Committee. The Working Group, which will be chaired by the Chair of the Works Committee, will be mandated to:

- a) work with City staff on implementing resource diversion policies and recommendations that are adopted by Council;
- b) continue to meet on an ongoing basis with the public, the environmental NGO’s and other stakeholders — at least until 2004 — to build support and momentum;
- c) follow up on the implementation of diversion solutions in apartments and condominiums; and,
- d) shape a more detailed strategy for ensuring that Council's target of 100 percent diversion by 2010 is met.

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