



Waste Diversion Task Force 2010
Wednesday April 18, 2001
ENVIRONMENTAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS MEETING
Members Lounge, City Hall
3:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Attendance:

Melanie Sherwood - Eneract
Lois Corbett - TEA
Laura Berman – Food Share
Karen Clark - CIELAP
Karen Buck – Citizens for a Save Environment
F. Chapel - Engo
Rod Muir
Rita Banach – North Toronto G.C. & The Green Group
Jed Goldberg – Earth Day Canada
Ayal Lesh – Earth Day Canada
Gord Perks - TEA
Katrina Miller - TEA

Councillors:

Councillor Betty Disero
Councillor Jack Layton
Frantz Hartman, Executive Assistant to Councillor Layton

Staff:

John Piper
Lawson Oates, Solid Waste Management
Katie Tulk, Solid Waste Management
Angelos Bacopolous, General Manager of Solid Waste Management
Nicole Dufort, Communications
Bob Davis, Public Consultation and Community Outreach
Nancy Martins, Public Consultation & Community Outreach
Mary Lovett, Public Consultation & Community Outreach
Margaret Chang – note-taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Davis opened this special meeting for Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations meeting and invited all to participate. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Betty Disero. Bob Davis confirmed that 15 public meetings with concerned citizens were held across the City since February 2001.

2. PURPOSE OF MEETING

Councillor Betty Disero reiterated that the Task Force 2010 duties' is to review possible future plans for waste reduction activities in Toronto by soliciting input from residents, industry and other organizations. Last fall, it was noted that the City of Toronto's waste

disposal program was not adequate and we have to move away from landfilling as it is not viable and should be a thing of the past. She reminded all of the last public meeting that will take place Thursday 19 April and a wrap-up meeting on April 21, 2001. She stressed her timeline: A May/June Report to Works Committee including deputations and a June/July Report to Council. She informed that John Piper would finish final documents for politicians and public to understand.

Councillor Betty Disero stressed that citizens at all the meetings said they are not playing a big role in waste management and they need to be stakeholders. She realized two things were very clear – 1) the citizens want to move away from landfills as they too consider it is not viable, and 2) they felt very frustrated about their role in waste disposal. The Task Force needs “facts on paper” on how to get 450,000 householders to separate their garbage. Half of the material can be diverted by sorting/recycling their garbage and for the rest we need solutions and resources to increase diversion. There are still questions. Should the householder sort his or her own garbage and recyclables? How should we handle apartment dwellers differently? - what works with one may not work with others. It was clear that the key solution is communication and education, and we must make it a strong point for everyone. We need strategies and techniques.

The Task Force already met with industry and there is a broad range of technology to be considered:

- Aerobic
- Anaerobic
- EFW
- Various containers and collection methods
- Composting collection

Councillor Betty Disero said she wants to find out what this group – ENGOs - is concerned about, and would like feedback on how the Task Force 2010 can achieve their three reduction targets of 30% in 2003, 60% in 2006 and 100% in 2010.

3. BACKGROUND PRESENTATION

Bob Davis asked if participants wanted to see Lawson Oates' presentation. It was agreed that it should be omitted, as handouts of the presentation were available.

4. PUBLIC ATTITUDE SURVEY

Nicole Dufort shared the results of the “Public Attitude Survey” regarding current garbage practices for residents and what kind of behavior they will be willing to adopt: a) Mixed Waste, b) Wet/Dry, c) Three-Stream. Her presentation included both quantitative and qualitative research. (See attached)

The group commented that the survey showed that the citizens are really interested in waste diversion. Councillor Disero agreed that public awareness is much more advanced than they had thought. Judging from surveys done, 68% said status quo is not good enough.

5. WHAT IS PUBLIC SAYING?

Nancy Martins' presentation on “what the public saying” is attached. Gord Perks asked for the word incineration to be omitted, as it is not relevant to diversion.

Lois Corbett wanted to know if there were any surprises from the public. Councillor Disero replied it was noted that the non-English speaking Canadians were all prepared to have a bag limits and user fees.

Common among meetings were:

- ◆ Many members of the public wanted us to visit Europe for state of the art technology.
- ◆ Education and communication is key to increase diversion
- ◆ Public wants simple and convenient system

6. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Bob Davis asked the participants how they would like to continue and that led to open discussions/suggestions/comments/questions as follows:

NEWS FLASH:

Lawson Oates said citizens were concerned that Council may have cancelled the 2001 Environment Day events, so he assured all that they were approved and going ahead for all 44 wards.

EXPECTATIONS:

Lois Corbett stressed that "the final report should frame the ethos of the people wanting higher diversion rates, because you have the ammunition for people to do this."

Lois Corbett will be judging the taskforce on three things:

- i. Environmental criteria
- ii. Political option – "hot box in our garbage stream"
- iii. Hot Issues – apartment buildings, user fees, LCBO, restaurants

Also she thinks there should be a breakthrough report – we should be looking for best result and be very strategic in our recommendations with quick starts – sell complexity but make it convenient with a zero waste result by promoting the re-use ethic.

Gord Perks expects 4 pieces in final report:

- i. What are we going to do for single family dwelling – Do they need separate organic pick-up to produce top compost?
- ii. Will there be more flexibility in the material recovery facility, so we can get more diversion and less contamination from contents of blue and grey box?
- iii. We need to look at Europe's model, for they are purchasers of modern technology and we need to model our future plans to suit Toronto needs using their successes.
- iv. "Take back" - Get companies to buy back products they merchandise, e.g. Shoppers Drug Mart take back program or retail television company working with manufacturer to replace what is worn out.

PILOT PROJECTS:

The City has done twenty five pilots, but many feel they were not successful. These pilot projects should have been self-sustaining, were usually on for 6 weeks, then were stoped.

OTHER METHODS:

- Anaerobic can be used to generate electricity
- Blue box history/success- it had 5-10% participation initially and now it is much better

- Halifax working system, which is currently at 65% success with the 3 stream aerated bin (remembering that the people did not agree at the beginning, but once they started they participated)
- Guelph Wet/Dry System (with 80% to 90% success) - some like, some just dislike and others think it is a step backward.
- Other provinces established deposit return system with companies responsible.
- Jed Goldberg does not want a reinvention of the wheel but a steal. He has offered to update Councillor Disero on what is happening in New Zealand
- Ottawa "Take back" program – working well there
- California – They are well represented at public events and they added all programs together to get "good stuff."
- Many emphasized that we should look at experiences in the world, one size does not fit all, so look at all the surveys, and take from each and customize to meet Toronto's needs.

BUSINESS/COMPANY RESPONSIBILITY:

- Movie Sets - Hand out information for garbage disposal when people go for Permits
- New building construction – say they must have 3 stream disposal
- Building permit - attach a bond (financial assurance) so the companies dispose correctly (have booklet available)
- Jed Goldber talked about Resource Recovery Facilities and Habitat for Humanity.
- Develop a business plan and work with the Works Department on a citywide basis. Get manufacturers to buy into the City's plan. Print a catalogue and get others to distribute to cut City's costs. Get ownership and partnership commitment from others.
- Use of vacant buildings, which is opposite to landfilling for projects that will dismantle, restructure, purchase or discard of "solid waste"
- Rita Banach wanted to know "are homeowner were willing to pay user fees?" It was clarified that no scientific survey has been done for this question.
- How do we get rid of non-recyclable products that are sold at grocery store
- Rita Banach said Yonge Street Restaurant audits (with TAFF grant) were done by North Toronto Green Community, they found 80-90% was compostable/recyclable.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Have staff at events (runs and walk fundraisers) where there is massive participation and promote recycling and diversion from garbage

LCBO:

Need the Provincial Government to legislate deposit return. In absence of deposit system. Or, do a Mike Harris green bottle drive! Collect a million bottles and give it to the art community!

APARTMENT:

Councillor Diseros said that one of the biggest challenges/problems were high rise properties. There is only 9% recycling now. Do the apartment buildings have the capability and capacity for changes to waste disposal? Can the new changes, needing storage, be accommodated on each floor? Should there be incentives to those that recycle?

Katrina Miller mentioned that TEA has research apartment information from U.S.A. and reports show they have different models for different kinds of apartments. Yearly follow-ups and consultation are done to monitor and encourage apartment participation continuously.

Lois Corbett said there are a lot of commonalities but also there is diversification amount condos and apartment buildings. Again, she stressed that each apartment should have a different system to suit their needs. Use of rooftop garden, blue bag, recycle bins or others methods to meet the various needs.

Jack Layton said you could make City housing people the leaders, because 60,000 will soon be charged disposal fees.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS:

- Laura Berman said that the Parks Department has plans for community gardens in each ward, so why is the Works Department not giving away free three-bin composters to each of them. She illustrated with a story that churchgoers were taking their organic bags to other church members, that made the church rethink and now they have their own garden on site.
- Councillor Layton also shared his rooftop garden story because it not only gave them rich compost, gardens, but an opportunity to be social with their neighbors.
- People in the environmental community are annoyed that many programs have been cut e.g. master composting program
- There should be no charge for compost delivery.
- Encourage neighborhood to use three-bin composters.

SUGGESTIONS:

- "Mayor Mel Lastman to have the largest yard sale run by CUPE 416 union."
- Garbage hint of month on mall bulletin board
- Divert 20-25% waste stream with weekly or monthly pick-up or drop-off of carpets, furniture, lamps, metal chairs, electronics, etc. at Depots -convenient location e.g. Loblaws or vacant government buildings – restructure /dismantle /discard/purchase not dump at Transfer Station or have:
 - (Heavy) Metal Mondays
 - Textile Tuesdays
 - Wood Wednesday
 - Toxic Thursdays
 - Furniture Fridays

COMPOSTING:

- Promote back yard composting
- Approach issues instead of composting – use gardening theme
- Would people do more if they got a free composter?
- people should be composting and City should make backyard composter free for all . In the 1st year, it will be expensive, but next 5 years it will pay itself off. Good diversion potential

EDUCATION:

- Send positive message out. Communicate that we need to keep waste streams clean by setting parameters and insisting all do it. Source separation is best.

- Garbage should be called discarded resources and “ we are going to Marshall the discarded resources”.
- Provide people with techniques and resources, increase City staff because one cannot do what five did in the past.
- Co-educate by using other community people as messenger– we have to sell it to make it work. You must engage the community .
- have better communication plans.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Katrina Miller proposed more public outreach.
- We want to know what City Staff, TEA and Earthday has done. CIELAP wants to be included.
- Disliked the WDO and CSR programs
- Encourage environmental organization to help and partner with other established groups.
- Karen Buck said we need “A real Business plan” and do it on a 10 year spread – looking at cost of disposal, cost of running program, cost of composters and make a commitment to follow the plan.

COMMENTS:

- Give Mike Harris and Mel Lastman a chance to show this can work.
- Remember will be a challenge to bridge politician wants and engineering reality of what is needed and what is realistic based on our specific needs.
- Councillor Betty Disero said we have to factor in capital costs by getting enough new programs to make things self-sustaining. We have to look at the significant long-term costs, but once capital cost is spent, the operating cost is less. Recycling has market, but at this time the new facility is more costly than landfilling. Our calculations show that it is \$90 this year, but it will be up to \$180 in the future.
- We need to get other cities to make statement on waste diversion
- We want simple systems to manage and for the public to participate

7. WRAP-UP:

Act today for our children and the next 7 generations hence.

Bob Davis thanked all the participants for their input and closed meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Invitation**
- B. Agenda**



Betty Disero

Development, Councillor
Toronto City Hall, 2nd Floor, Suite 037
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: (416) 392-7011 Fax: (416) 392-0212 councillor
disero@city.toronto.on.ca

April 9, 2001

Dear ENGO Leader,

Re: Special ENGO Task Force 2010 Meeting

As you may be aware, the City of Toronto's **Waste Diversion Task Force 2010** is holding a series of public meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to review possible future plans for waste reduction activities and solicit input from residents.

A total of 16 of these meetings are being held throughout the City from February to April 2001. So far, we have heard from a broad variety of Toronto's citizens expressing a range of options and suggestions. Now, we would like to hear from the Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (ENGOS).

Discussions with the Toronto Environmental Alliance (TEA) led to this special event. TEA and the City both agree that an ENGO-only meeting should take place to allow a detailed discussion among those with a broad experience in the issue. You are invited to attend the following:

Date: Wednesday April 18, 2001

Time: 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (light dinner included)

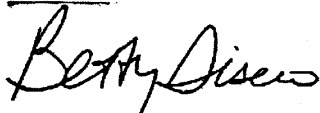
Location: Toronto City Hall (Queen and Bay) - Members Lounge

To register for the event, please call the City of Toronto 24-hour registration line at 416-392-9365 or by email to works_consultation@city.toronto.on.ca. We are asking that each organization send no more than three representatives. If you have any questions or comments about the meeting, please call Bob Davis, Supervisor - Public Consultation & Community Outreach at 416-392-2990 or by email to bdavis@city.toronto.on.ca. More information about Task Force 2010 is available on the City of Toronto web site at www.city.toronto.on.ca/taskforce2010.

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A draft agenda is enclosed for your review. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Betty Disero in black ink.

Councillor Betty Disero
Co-Chair - Task Force 2010
City of Toronto

Handwritten signature of Lois Corbett in black ink.

Lois Corbett
Executive Director
Toronto Environmental Alliance

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Agenda

Environmental Non-Government Organizations Meeting

Task Force 2010

Co- Sponsored by:

City of Toronto

Toronto Environmental Alliance

Wednesday April 18, 2001

3:00 to 7:00 p.m. (a light supper will be provided)

Toronto City Hall (Queen and Bay)

Members Lounge

1. Introductions
2. Purpose of Meeting - *Councillor Betty Disero*
3. Background Presentation - *Lawson Oates, Solid Waste Management Division*
4. Public Attitude Survey – *Nicole Dufort, WES Communications*
5. What is the public saying? – *Nancy Martins, WES Public Consultation & Community Outreach*
6. Round-Table Discussion
7. Wrap-up - *Lawson Oates and Councillor Betty Disero*