

Waste Diversion Task Force 2010 – Youth Advisory Committee

“Future Directions” Report

June, 2001



Members

Mike Foderick (Co-Chair)

Max Silverman (Co-Chair)

Chalo Barrueta

Matt Harper

Valeria Spezzano

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Our Recommendations...

Waste Diversion in Our Communities:

1. Community mulching facilities should be established in local parks and parkettes This would help to decentralize the management of yard waste. The created mulch – derived from grass clippings to Christmas trees and everything in between – could be made available free, or with a small handling charge, to members of the community.
2. A citywide poster competition should be run for the best 5 posters made to encourage recycling, composting and waste diversion among young people, with the winners' entries being placed on OMG media bins.
3. The T.T.C. should include a recycling system in their buses, streetcars and subways.

Waste Diversion in Our Schools:

1. Efforts should be made to more closely incorporate recycling into the high school and middle school curriculum. The City should sponsor better advertising for volunteer programs available for students, to complete the 40 hours of community service mandatory to obtain an Ontario Secondary School Diploma. Waste diversion outlets for this mandatory service time should be created and promoted.
2. Mandatory composting in schools, with bins provided, as well as in-school incentives to encourage students to run these facilities. These incentives could include a credit for running the program, or even the opportunity to miss classes to work on such a program.
3. Corporate sponsored facilities in schools, such as OMG Media, should be expanded, making recycling the only option.
4. The “Cool-Schools” program should be expanded to include scholarships.
5. Efforts should be made to reverse policies which discourage laptop computers, and handing in assignments via an electronic format, to reduce wasted paper. The school boards should do more to encourage assignments being handed in by e-mail or other paperless formats.

6. Non-recyclable containers should not be sold in school cafeterias. Students should be encouraged to move toward the "wasteless lunch."

Waste Diversion in Our Homes:

1. Enforce the use of clear plastic bags/containers. A popular method of stemming garbage creation, people are embarrassed by their garbage and therefore are careful to create less of it.
2. The City could make biodegradable garbage bags the only acceptable kind. Although not all garbage will disintegrate, at least the bags can be made to.
3. The City should explore establishing a diaper-recycling program.
4. The City should explore establishing a bottle-return system.
5. The City should consider providing free composters and composting information to all City residents.

Waste Diversion in the Private Sector:

1. In the basement of Metro Hall there is a large vermiculture (worm) composting facility. Significant incentives should be offered to private enterprise to have these facilities, and to keep them properly maintained.

Waste Diversion in Our Municipal Government:

1. Moving City staff and facilities toward a "paperless office" format for conducting business, to increase productivity, reduce all forms of waste, and set an example for the private and commercial sectors.
2. The implementation of a "Waste Audit" in all municipal buildings, to determine precisely the type of waste, concentrations and origins.
3. The City should encourage the creation of community based vermiculture (worm) composting facilities, like that found in Metro Hall. The compost left over can be given to the community to use in their gardens.