

September 9, 2008

## **New Toronto Utility Bill in the mail September 1, 2008**

### **What is changing and why?**

Property owners will now pay a fee based on how much garbage they generate. The new Solid Waste Management Fee will appear with water fees on a new, combined Toronto Water/Solid Waste Utility Bill. It will help to pay for existing solid waste programs and services, as well as new initiatives designed to enable the City to achieve its 70% diversion goal. There is no fee for recycling; residents that reduce garbage and increase recycling will therefore pay less.

### **How will the billing change?**

The new Toronto Utility Bill will replace the former water/sewer bill and will include the new fees for garbage (solid waste management services). Residents will receive one bill with both services listed.

- Residential property owners (i.e. homes with up to 8 dwellings or single family residential dwellings) will receive the new Utility Bill now, however the Solid Waste Management Fees will not be applied until November 2008. Only water/sewer charges will appear on the bill.
- Multi-residential building owners will receive the new Utility Bill in the fall of 2008, and it will include the new Solid Waste Management Fees reflecting service provided since July 1, 2008 when the fees became effective. The first bill will include Solid Waste Management Fees for July and August 2008.

The new Utility Bill will follow the same billing schedule as the former water bills.

### **Why a volume-based rate for solid waste services/programs?**

This comprehensive plan will divert an additional 250,000 tonnes of waste from landfill annually, extending the life of our landfill until 2034. The rate charged will vary according to the volume of garbage put out for collection. Linking costs to volume of garbage means residents that reduce garbage will pay less. The program will fund itself through fees.

## **How much money is needed to fund getting to 70% diversion?**

The City needs to cover off the existing cost of solid waste programs and services, which is approximately \$183.5 million a year, plus pay for the expansion of diversion initiatives, which is estimated to be an additional \$54 million annually. Of the \$54 million, \$30 million is to come from the residential sector (i.e. homes with up to eight dwelling units) and \$24 million is to come from multi-residential sector (i.e. buildings with more than eight dwelling units).

## **What will the money received from the new Solid Waste Management Fees pay for?**

There are a wide variety of expanded diversion initiatives proposed, many of which are interdependent and would need to be implemented simultaneously. Some examples of what the payments will eventually help fund include:

- Expanding the Green Bin Program to apartments and condominiums
- Establishing a series of Reuse Centres and curbside collection of durable goods
- Providing Blue Bins for recycling to increase capacity
- Adding new materials to the recycling program
- Providing door-to-door Green Bin and recycling collection to townhouses
- Making recycling more convenient in multi-unit buildings
- Education, outreach and enforcement of mandatory diversion by-laws

## **Will anyone be exempt from this plan?**

No, this plan applies to all multi-unit dwellings receiving City collection, as well as residents of single-family houses receiving City collection.

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