

February 11, 2003

Works Committee approves membership of New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices Advisory Group

Works and Emergency Services — The City of Toronto Works Committee recently reviewed and approved the recommended list of experts, citizens and other voting and non-voting stakeholders for membership in the New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices Advisory Group. The Advisory Group will assist in guiding the review of new and emerging technologies, policies and practices to process and manage waste.

New and emerging technologies, policies and practices are required to manage the waste left over after recycling through programs such as the Blue Box, Green Bin and leaf and yard waste composting. By introducing new methods of treatment including physical, biological and thermal methods, waste can be reduced and energy created as part of the process. The Advisory Group will also be looking at innovative waste management policies and operational practices from communities around the world that have also set high waste diversion goals.

Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair of the City's Works Committee (Ward 38 Scarborough Centre), emphasized, "We are committed to achieving the Toronto Council directed waste diversion goals of 30 per cent by 2003, 60 per cent by 2006 and 100 per cent diversion from landfill by 2010. We expect to realize our 2003 target and are stepping up our waste diversion efforts with programs such as the Green Bin and Yellow Bag Programs; recycling programs in 100 per cent of multi-family buildings; banning grass clippings collection; and enforcing a mandatory recycling by-law. These programs will help take our diversion rate to about 43 per cent. To reach our 60 per cent and 100 per cent objectives we will need to introduce a mix of new and emerging technologies, policies and practices. We are looking to the newly formed Advisory Group to help us prepare the road map to take us to those next objectives."

The formation of the Advisory Group is a result of public input received at four public consultation events that occurred during 2002. Based on the input received, City staff developed objectives, composition and governance procedures. To ensure impartiality, each member must sign a 'financial conflict of interest declaration' to ensure that neither the individual, business or association may benefit financially from the Group's recommendations.

A key proposed governance principle is to conduct open meetings, whereby Advisory Group meetings would be open to the general public as observers. Two co-chairs will be selected, one from the expert component and the other from the citizen representatives. The Advisory Group will make recommendations and reports to the New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices Working Group (Councillors Balkissoon, Di Giorgio, Disero and Duguid) of Works Committee.

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The newly formed Advisory Group met for the first time on February 3, 2003 and the next scheduled meeting is February 12. Members of the public are welcome to attend as observers. For more information, call 416-338-2856.

Advisory Group members (see attached backgrounder for more detailed bios):

Experts:

Dr. Francis Chang, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Dr. Craig J. Simpson, Ph.D., P.Eng.
Dr. Philip H. Byer, Ph.D., P. Eng.
Glenda Gies

Citizens (all residents of Toronto):

Peter Beisswenger
Karen Buck
Carman Chisamore
Elaine LePage
Joy McIntosh
Lyle Scott, P.Eng.
Dr. Steven Zhang, Ph.D.

Voting Members:

Stakeholder Group

Business Improvement Areas/Board of Trade

Greater Toronto Apartment Association
Ontario Waste Management Association

Name:

Carol Buss, Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas
Brad Butt, Executive Director
Rob Cook, Executive Director

Non-voting:

City of Toronto Councillor Representatives

Councillor Betty Disero, Co-chair, Waste Diversion Task Force 2010
Councillor Bas Balkissoon, Works Committee member

Observers:

Ministry of the Environment

City of Toronto
(Solid Waste Management Services)
(Medical Officer of Health)

CUPE 416
Toronto District School Board

Name:

Adam Ciulini, Team Leader, Program Implementation, Waste Diversion Unit, Policy Branch
Geoff Rathbone, Director, Policy and Planning (or designate)
Mahesh Patel, Manager, Healthy Environments
David Hewitt, Chair, Solid Waste Unit
'Mieke Foster, Waste Management Specialist

More details about the new and emerging technologies process is available on the City's web site at: www.city.toronto.on.ca/wes/techservices/involved/swm/net/index.htm

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