

*New & Emerging Technologies, Policies & Practices Advisory Group
Resolutions/Decisions*

Wednesday September 29, 2004

The New and Emerging Technologies, Policies and Practices Advisory Group recommends that Toronto City Council adopt the following resolution and send it to the Ontario and Federal Ministers of the Environment:

“Whereas a significant quantity of packaging is being sent to landfills for disposal;

And whereas there is a significant amount of excess packaging;

And whereas the City of Toronto, along with many other municipalities, is facing significant pressure to reduce the quantity of waste requiring disposal;

And whereas the Governments of Ontario and Canada have a responsibility to encourage waste reduction;

And whereas “packaging” is understood here to include containers, wrapping, card and cushioning materials on consumer goods and food, during transport and sale;

And whereas “brand owners” are understood here to be companies or individuals that operate in the Ontario and/or Canadian marketplace, and are resident in Ontario and/or Canada, including those that are registered holders of, or licensees of, a trademark;

And whereas “first importers” are understood here to be companies or individuals that import packaged products into Ontario and/or Canada, and are resident in Ontario and/or Canada;

Therefore be it resolved that the City of Toronto requests the Governments of Ontario and Canada to take action, as appropriate within their respective jurisdictions, on the problem of excess packaging, and specifically requests that they:

- Require brand owners and first importers to significantly reduce the amount of packaging that they use, by setting limits restricting the size, volume and/or weight of packaging, relative to the size of the product being packaged;
- Require brand owners and first importers to use the highest possible content of recycled material, in any packaging that is produced and/or used;
- Require brand owners and first importers to use materials, in any packaging that is produced or used, that are recyclable through the majority of municipal recycling programs;
- Encourage brand owners and first importers to use reusable packaging where appropriate, and establish programs including suitable incentives, whereby such packaging can be returned by the consumer for reuse;

Thursday, October 7, 2004

- Establish, or require brand owners and first importers to establish, economic incentives to develop markets for materials not widely recyclable;
- Change the Waste Diversion Ontario levy structure by decreasing the levy for recyclable packaging and increasing the levy for non-recyclable packaging;
- Introduce and promote guidelines, and economic incentives and disincentives, that reflect which recyclable packaging materials, from a life cycle perspective, are the least resource intensive and the most environmentally preferred.
- Establish stewardship programs that require all brand owners and first importers to be responsible for their product packaging, and meet specified targets for reduction, reuse and recycling of their packaging by specified timelines.

Note: Definitions of “brand owners” and “first importers” are adapted from: Stewardship Ontario, 2004. *Guidebook 1*, page 3.

Wednesday August 25, 2004

1. The Advisory Group fully supports the view that the EA process for the management of Toronto’s residual solid waste must be based on broad public participation and believes that the Roundtable may have useful views on this. We believe that the Roundtable’s advice should be provided as soon as possible in order for the City to avoid significant delays in starting the environmental assessment. To assist the Roundtable, the Advisory Group is expressing its view that a new EA Advisory Group should be formed as soon as possible to assist in the development of the Terms of Reference for the EA.

2. In order to achieve the City’s ambitious goals for waste diversion, the Advisory Group believes that it is important that a Waste Diversion Working Group be in place and functioning as soon as possible and no later than January 1, 2005. At that time, the Advisory Group’s mandate ends and there will be a need for continued public input into the design and implementation of policies and practices for new diversion programs.

3. The Advisory Group requests that City staff transmit this document to the Mayor, the Chair of the Roundtable on the Environment, and the Chair and members of Works Committee.

Conclusion:

The Advisory Group therefore recommends to the Roundtable that it expeditiously support the formation of an EA Advisory Group and a Waste Diversion Working Group.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously.*

Wednesday June 16, 2004

THAT: the AG’s comments on the “Getting to 60% and Beyond” be submitted to staff.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously.*

THAT: Brian Howieson attend the morning segment of the June 21 Works Committee meeting.

There were no objections to this motion.

THAT: the AG supports the EA subgroup’s recommendation to dissolve the AG in December 2004 and form two new Advisory Groups. The first Advisory Group would provide advice on the EA and the other Advisory Group would provide advice on the implementation of the “60% and Beyond” report. The AG will not do any further work on the EA.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously.*

Wednesday May 12, 2004

THAT: Staff's responses have not satisfactorily addressed the AG concerns that were expressed in the April 7 motion.

*The motion was **carried** (5 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention, 7 voting members absent)*

Wednesday April 7, 2004

i) THAT: The Co-chairs will act as spokespersons on behalf on the Advisory Group. Some questions will be delegated to the subcommittee chairs when necessary. The spokespersons will only represent views for which there is Advisory Group consensus. A media contact list will be kept.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

ii) THAT: In September, City Council instructed staff to proceed with an RFQL for establishing a research facility or facilities for new and emerging technologies for the diversion of solid wastes from landfilling. While the Advisory Group fully appreciates the value of research, as well as development and demonstration of new and emerging technologies, it recommended at that time that it was premature to make a decision about such facilities. After further consideration and working with staff on the development of the RFQL, the Advisory Group strongly recommends that the City Council delay the decision on issuing an RFP for such a research facility until the following are completed:

1. There has been a full evaluation of waste processing technologies and the implications for the need for research on any of these technologies for processing Toronto's solid residuals;
2. Alternative means of obtaining the needed research data have been fully considered - options such as testing representative feed samples at existing facilities located elsewhere could require much less time and cost;
3. The timeline for implementing a research facility and carrying out the research has been fully considered in relation to the timeline for the planned environmental assessment process; and
4. There has been a written legal opinion (with respect to Provincial statutes and City by-laws) on the building of such a research facility and what types of facilities might be allowed.

*The motion was **approved** (9 votes in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention)*

Wednesday March 10, 2004

There was a discussion of the motion on 100% diversion from landfill:

The NETPPAG recommends that City staff report the following to the April 28-9, 2004 Works Committee meeting: It is the view of the NETPPAG that the City's target for 100% diversion of household waste from landfill by 2010 should be regarded as a long term vision, as opposed to a specific target to be achieved by 2010. A review of available technologies, based on 50 submissions to the City's REOI, indicates that the diversion rate economically attainable by 2010 is expected to be lower than 100%. The shortfall will depend on the residual waste processing technology(ies) selected, and any additional diversion efforts that may result from continued consultative waste management planning with NETPPAG. Further reporting to the Works Committee should be made at appropriate times, such as the RFQL and RFP milestones to update the assessment of the shortfall.

In an informal vote, a majority of Advisory Group members voted to include this motion in the minutes and revisit it in the near future.

Wednesday February 11, 2004

- i) THAT: City staff, with the possible assistance of an outside consultant, provide its estimates of the effects of each of the Advisory Group's Policies and Practices recommendations on diversion targets, as part of its report to the April 28, 2004 Works Committee meeting.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- ii) THAT: Either or both of the Co-chairs of the Advisory Group and the Chair of the Policies and Practices Subcommittee present the group's recommendations for Policies and Practices to Works Committee at its April 28, 2004 meeting.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- iii) THAT: With the full and aggressive implementation of the policies and practices recommended by the Advisory Group on January 28, the City should achieve a total rate of diversion from landfilling of between 50 and 60%, and quite possibly higher, by 2010. Regardless of the exact level of diversion that will be achieved, which will only be known once new policies and practices are implemented, there will be a continuing need to process and/or dispose of a significant amount of remaining materials.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

Wednesday January 28, 2004

THAT: the attached recommendations for Policies & Practices be approved by Works Committee and City Council.

*The motion was **carried** (8 votes in favour, 1 against)*

Wednesday December 10, 2003

THAT: the Advisory Group recommends hiring a consultant to do further analysis of the Policies and Practices draft recommendations.

*The motion was **rejected** (2 votes in favour, 5 against)*

An *informal vote* established that the majority of the Advisory Group was in favor of providing further input into the research facility.

Wednesday November 26, 2003

THAT: the Advisory Group not discuss the RFQL further at this stage given its previous recommendation to not have an RFQL.

*The motion was **carried** (5 votes in favour, 4 against)*

Wednesday November 12, 2003

THAT: In September, City Council instructed staff to proceed with an RFQL for establishing a research facility or facilities for new and emerging technologies for the diversion of solid wastes from landfilling. While the Advisory Group fully appreciates the value of research, as well as development and demonstration of new and emerging technologies, it recommended at that time that it was premature to make a decision about such facilities. After further consideration and working with staff on the development of the RFQL, the Advisory Group strongly recommends that the new City Council not proceed with an RFQL or RFP for such a research facility at this time and that a decision on a research facility not be made until:

1. There has been a full evaluation of waste processing technologies and the implications for the need for research on any of these technologies for processing Toronto's solid residuals;
2. Alternative means of obtaining the needed research data have been fully considered - options such as testing representative feed samples at existing facilities located elsewhere could require much less time and cost;

Thursday, October 7, 2004

3. The timeline for implementing a research facility and carrying out the research has been fully considered in relation to the timeline for the planned environmental assessment process; and
4. There has been a written legal opinion (with respect to Provincial statutes and City by-laws) on the building of such a research facility and what types of facilities might be allowed.

*The motion was **carried** (11 votes in favour, 0 against, one member absent)*

Wednesday September 10, 2003

THAT: the City should not hold a vendor forum at this time and should inform vendors who made REOI submissions about the current status of planning.

*The motion was **carried** (9 votes in favour, 1 abstention)*

Wednesday August 20, 2003

- i) THAT: The Advisory Group reiterates the importance of the City beginning immediately an individual EA for the management of Toronto's residual solid waste as adopted at the June 25, 2003 Advisory Group meeting.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

- ii) THAT: The Advisory Group recommends that the timing, scale and need for a demonstration, pilot or research facility be considered as part of the current City and Advisory Group EOI evaluation. The Advisory Group does not support proceeding with a RFQL for a pilot research or demonstration scale facility before the EOI evaluations are finalized.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

- iii) In light of City Council's recent vote not to support the "pay-as-you-throw" program, the Advisory Group shall assume that the City will not meet its 2006 diversion target of 60%. The Advisory Group requests that City Staff re-evaluate the projected diversion impact of all currently approved programs to more accurately project 2006 diversion rates. In the interim, based upon current recycling and composting programs, including the Green Bin program to process household organics, the Advisory Group shall assume that the 2006 diversion rate will be significantly below 60%."

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

Wednesday June 25, 2003

THAT:

Preamble

The City of Toronto (the "City") has established a goal of 100 percent diversion from landfill by the year 2010. Current recycling and composting programs, including the Green Bin program to process household organics and other Task Force 2010 initiatives, will increase the City's diversion rate from landfill to approximately 43% by 2005. As a means to achieve its diversion objectives of 60 percent diversion from landfill by 2006 and the 100 percent objective by 2010, the City is reviewing the potential adoption of new and emerging technologies, policies and practices.

1. There be an individual EA, as set out under the requirements of the Ontario EA Act, for the management of Toronto's residual solid waste.
2. The City be the proponent of the EA.
3. The EA should address all phases of planning and decision-making, including: (i) need; (ii) the choice of policies and practices and technology(ies) (i.e. "alternatives to"), and (iii) the siting of facilities (i.e. "alternative methods"). The City should begin the development of Terms of Reference for the EA as required by the EA Act as soon as possible.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

Wednesday June 11, 2003

Thursday, October 7, 2004

THAT: the Advisory Group approve of one or more meetings between City of Toronto staff and EA staff, for the purposes of ensuring that timing and the definition of the undertaking are acceptable. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the application of the EA Act and not to discuss an exemption. Staff should report back on the results of each meeting.

*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

Wednesday May 14, 2003

- i) THAT: the 50,000 minimum be removed although a preferred range may be stated and a minimum may be stated in the RFP.
*The motion was **carried** (9 votes in favour, 3 against)*
- ii) THAT: the City express its preference for a complete system while allowing REOI submissions for components of a partial system.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- iii) THAT: estimates in the waste quantities table (OH9) be qualified by the following two statements: (1) More than 60% diversion may be achieved, and (2) the estimated residual waste may be reduced.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- iv) THAT: the City clearly indicate its willingness to consider new and emerging technologies as well as existing and proven technologies (OH3).
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- v) THAT: waste quantities for the multi-family and single-family streams be presented separately.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- vi) THAT: the RFQ and RFP stages include screening and evaluation criteria concerning vendors' environmental performance and business practices.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- vii) THAT: proponents meet or exceed environmental guidelines consistent with the Stockholm Treaty and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (under Products and Emissions on OH28).
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*
- viii) THAT: the Working Group accept the REOI as presented in the May 14 document with the Advisory Group's recommended amendments.
*The motion was **carried** unanimously*

Wednesday April 16, 2003

THAT: any City Councillor be given the opportunity to speak for up to five minutes at any time during meetings. Councillors can make a request for an extension of speaking time subject to majority approval.

*The motion was **carried***

Wednesday April 2, 2003

THAT: The Advisory Group recommends that City staff not hold any discussions with the Ministry of the Environment concerning an exemption from the EA Act for a waste processing or disposal facility that may result from the work of the Group, until the Group has provided a recommendation on whether an exemption should be sought.

*The motion was **carried** (6 voted in favour, 3 voted against)*