City Council

Notice of Motion

MM51.34  ACTION
Moving Towards Recyclable Drinking Cups in Toronto - by Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

* Notice of this Motion has been given.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.

Recommendations
Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on a strategy and suitable pilot project for the reduction, reuse and recycling of hot drink cups.

Summary
It is estimated that 1 million hot drink cups are used in Toronto each day. Many of these cups could end up in landfill as they are currently not compatible with the City's multi-material recycling program due primarily to sorting and marketing challenges associated with the cups. Hot drink cups also contribute to litter on City streets. Some major hot drink chains encourage source reduction by providing customers with a price discount to use a refillable mug; however, others do not offer such an incentive.

More responsibility should be on the retailers and producers of hot drink cups to make their packaging compatible with municipal recycling programs and to offer financial incentives to customers to encourage reuse. Further study on this issue is needed.

(Submitted to City Council on May 6 and 7, 2014 as MM51.34)

Background Information (City Council)
Member Motion MM51.34