

ATTACHMENT 2

Summary of Consultation and Engagement Activities Related to proposed Addition of New Materials to the City's Waste Diversion Programs Policy (Adapt Policy)

Summary

Solid Waste Management Services staff have developed a draft Addition of New Materials to the City's Waste Diversion Programs (Adapt Policy) to help guide decision making on whether to introduce new materials to existing City's Waste Diversion Programs.

The draft Adapt Policy also introduces a mechanism to provide for cost recovery to offset increased costs associated with any new materials accepted for processing at the City's processing facilities or contracted processing facilities. Outreach and engagement activities with stakeholders regarding the draft Adapt Policy began February 22, 2018 and included two in-person consultation events, an open comment period, and an online survey.

Feedback received indicated a substantial majority of respondents support the Adapt Policy. Respondents commented that they would like some additional information related to the policy and process related to: bans, enforcement, and incentives; promotion and education efforts; current programs; and accessibility.

Outreach and Engagement Activity #1

Coffee Pods Consultation Meeting: Stakeholder Attendees and Responses

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018

Location: BMO Conference and Education Centre, 60 Leonard Avenue, Toronto, ON

At the February 22, 2018 meeting, the City of Toronto presented an update on future testing of compostable coffee pods at City processing facilities. The Compost Council of Canada provided an update from the Certified Compostable Committee. Keurig Green Mountain and Nespresso presented on testing undertaken or programs in place for the recovery of recyclable single-serve coffee pods. Additionally, Solid Waste Management Services staff presented and facilitated table discussions with attendees regarding the draft Adapt Policy.

On April 11, 2018, Public Works and Infrastructure Committee adopted item PW28.9, "Review of Single-Serve Coffee Pods in the City of Toronto's Waste Diversion Programs." Attachment 3 to this Staff Report included a detailed summary of feedback received at this consultation meeting with responses from attendees on the draft Adapt policy during the facilitated roundtable discussions.

Following this consultation, written responses to the draft Adapt Policy were received from five organizations:

- Packaging Association of Canada (PAC)/PAC Next;

- Canadian Plastics Industry Association;
- Keurig Green Mountain Inc.;
- Biodegradable Products Institute; and,
- Mother Parkers.

Four of the five respondents were not supportive of the draft Adapt Policy and requested the policy be deferred until further information was available through additional public consultation. Concerns were expressed regarding consistency with Provincial and Federal regulation, fragmentation of existing municipal recycling programs, and need for clarity on how policy would be applied to existing material types. All responses acknowledged the needless proliferation of packaging material types and the increasing complexity of Blue Box recycling.

Outreach and Engagement Activity #2

The Future of Waste Management in Toronto: Open House and Consultation

Date: Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Location: Toronto City Hall, Council Chambers, 100 Queen St W, Toronto, ON

Public consultation on draft Adapt Policy was the focus of an open house and consultation held March 21, 2018. Written, telephone and email comments were received until April 16, 2018. Additionally, an online survey was available from April 4 to April 16, 2018. The event included an open house from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. followed by presentations, time for questions and answers. The event was filmed and broadcast live via YouTube, and an archive of the session remains available on the City's YouTube channel.

A total of 150 people signed in at the event. Fifteen (15) questions were responded to in-person during the session, and 80 written comments/questions were received in total at the event. After the event, City staff were available to speak with attendees directly. Attendees represented diverse interests, including property management, resident and tenant associations, waste processors and haulers, other municipalities, representatives of various industrial, commercial and institutional stakeholders, non-profit and community groups, and members of the general public.

The questions asked during the public event focussed on the following topics:

- Programs and Policy (i.e. Other City of Toronto Policies, interactions with Provincial, Federal, and other Municipal waste diversion policies).
- Bans and enforcement.
- Costs and Incentives (i.e. existing and expected program costs, incentives for increasing waste diversion).
- Promotion and Education (i.e. Clarity around existing Blue Bin recycling program rules and potential future roles and responsibilities under the Adapt Policy).

Of the 80 comments received during the public event, themes included:

- Suggestion that the Draft Adapt Policy be handled at the Provincial or Federal level.

- Concern that a circular economy cannot be achieved solely at the municipal level due to the global nature of waste and product movement.
- Request for more information on waste reduction and avoiding single use products.
- Concerns regarding lack of discussion regarding where Toronto waste goes, and proximity to Indigenous communities.
- Concern that Extended Producer Responsibility costs will be passed on to consumers.
- Suggestion to create mobile textile diversion truck, similar to toxic taxi.
- Suggestion to revert to separation of paper in recycling bin.
- Suggestion to build incinerator.

Telephone and Email Feedback – From March 21, 2018 to April 16, 2018

A total of three comments were received via telephone or email and expressed:

- Clarity required in terminology and explanations provided to the public.
- Suggestion that criteria should include impact to household sorting process.
- Suggestion to continue consultation with industry stakeholders in product packaging.
- Concern that the draft policy could send more waste to landfill.
- Concern regarding costs incurred by product stewards.
- Suggestion that policy should be implemented at Provincial level.

Online Survey from April 4, 2016 to April 16, 2018

The online survey asked the following questions, a total of 317 responses were received.

Question 1: Do you support the 4-step process (Adapt Policy) for Toronto to evaluate whether a new material should be accepted into City of Toronto's Waste Diversion Programs?

Answer 1: 85% of respondents expressed that they strongly support or support the Adapt Policy. Of those remaining 4% of respondents do not support or strongly do not support the process, 6% were neutral, and 5% were not sure.

Question 2: Do you have any feedback on the methods or steps included in the draft Adapt Policy?

Answer 2: Comments were received from more than half of respondents and focussed on the following areas:

- Process and methodology
- Extended Producer Responsibility
- Policy and government

- Current programs
- Promotion and Education
- Accessibility

Question 3: Respondents were asked to provide their perspective in responding to the survey.

Answer 3: The majority identified as a resident of the City of Toronto. Responses were also received from individuals representing a range of perspectives, including:

- Non-profit, charity, or community organizations
- Solid waste management or environmental Professionals
- Individuals who work but do not reside in Toronto
- Industry or manufacturer organizations
- Property Management or Superintendent
- Schools
- Businesses with and without City waste services
- Faith Groups
- Municipal Employees
- Academics
- Condo Associations
- Volunteers, including 3Rs Ambassadors