

York Region launches pilot project in King Township to recycle Styrofoam and plastic packaging

NEWMARKET – At a launch event in the Village of Schomberg today, the Regional Municipality of York and Township of King announced a pilot project to evaluate the benefits of collecting Styrofoam and other plastics packaging as part of a new weekly Blue Box collection.

The pilot will establish the feasibility of collecting Styrofoam and plastics packaging through the recycling stream, and whether a move to weekly pickup from bi-monthly will increase diversion from landfills. The pilot will run from November 9th to April 30th, 2006.

The idea for the recycling project emerged from the Township of King Summit held in June. The summit focused on six key areas of community development, including waste management initiatives.

“The King Summit provided an excellent opportunity to discuss new directions in municipal management, and I am glad to see such quick implementation in evaluating new waste management efforts,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “This pilot project will provide us with very valuable information that we can use to further enhance our recently expanded recyclables program.”

York Region announced a significant expansion of its Blue Box program in July with the opening of a new Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury. With the expansion, residents can now include different types of plastics, such as margarine tubs, household cleaning product containers and juice boxes, as well as aerosol cans, milk cartons and empty paint cans.

Due to its difficulty in processing, Styrofoam and some complex plastic packaging have not yet been recyclable in York Region. It is hoped that through the Schomberg pilot project, these materials may be successfully captured, processed and diverted from landfills.

“I am very pleased that Schomberg was selected for this recycling pilot project,” said King Township Mayor Margaret Black. “While our communities do not produce as much waste as some of our larger neighbours, it is very gratifying to know that we are on the forefront of landfill diversion in York Region.”

In addition to the Styrofoam and plastics recycling pilot, King Township is already undertaking a yard waste drop-off pilot project in co-operation with King’s Miller Side Road Landfill, and is also considering the establishment of a Community Environmental Centre to recycle useable unwanted goods.

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