



Transportation and Works Department
Solid Waste Management Branch

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Councillor M. Ferri, Committee Chair and Members of the Solid Waste Management Committee

FROM: Mike Birett, Manager, Waste Diversion

DATE: February 13, 2007

RE: **Glass Market**

On Friday, February 9th, 2007, staff received notice from the Region's glass recycler, Strategic Materials (NexCycle Industries Ltd.) that as of February 28th, 2007 they would no longer accept York's glass for processing due to excessive shredded paper contamination.

Shredded paper has never been a part of the Region's blue box program. However, contamination resulting from recycling truck drivers picking up full bags of shredded paper, bagged recyclables and other large items to avoid complaints about missed pickups has become a serious problem. Regional and local municipal staff has discussed this issue in the past. More recently, City of Vaughan staff asked Regional staff to engage in joint activities to address the growing problem.

Concerns with York's glass quality were first identified late last year by NexCycle. Regional staff was, however, successful in negotiating continued service while alternatives were explored. Since that time, the quality of York's glass stream has degraded significantly due to shredded paper contamination (i.e., by as much as 30% since the outset of the program).

Regional staff has notified their local municipal counterparts of this issue and several of the local municipalities have already issued reminders to their collection contractors reiterating the need to ensure they are not collecting prohibited materials and, in particular, shredded paper curbside. Staff also intends to initiate a collaborative educational effort between the Region and local municipalities to inform residents of the restrictions.

Improved enforcement and education of curbside and Waste Management Centre contractors and residents, however, remains the only viable short term solution to avoid landfilling blue box glass collected from the local municipalities.

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Copy to: Bruce Macgregor, P.Eng., Commissioner of Transportation and Works
Andrew Campbell, P.Eng., Director of Solid Waste Management

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