



March 8, 2013

The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1

Attention: Ms Laura McDowell, P. Eng., Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection

Re: Bylaw 2011-56 – Regional Sewer Use Bylaw

I am writing with respect to the upcoming Committee report on the above noted by-law.

In 2009, local municipal staff began working collaboratively with Regional staff as updates to the Regional Sewer Use Bylaw progressed. This new bylaw was enacted on November 17, 2011. As a result of these collaborative efforts, York Region and local municipalities are in a better position to standardize bylaw requirements and provide sewer use servicing in a more sustainable manner. The Region's new Sewer Use Bylaw helps ensure alignment of practices and protection of local and Regional infrastructure. As part of the by-law, there was a prohibition on food waste grinders. The implementation of the food waste grinder prohibition was deferred until further consideration by Environmental Services Committee in March 2013.

The City of Vaughan's Sewer Use By-law already bans food waste grinders. As such, staff do not support the broad use of food waste grinders directly discharging to local and Regional wastewater infrastructure. The wide-spread use of food waste grinders has the potential to adversely impact our local collection system with such issues as accumulation of fats, oil and grease, settling or blockages from an increase of suspended solids, and gases and odours as a result of decomposition. In addition, their use seems contrary to both Regional and local municipal water conservation initiatives.

Vaughan, together with York Region, has also developed a very successful Green Bin program to manage food waste. Our Green Bin organics program has very strong participation, resulting in the diversion of such food wastes from landfill. While we support the continued diversion of food waste through the Green Bin program and backyard composting, we recognize the Master Plan may identify future innovative applications for servicing existing multi-residential dwellings. It should be noted, that any consideration of food waste grinders should only occur where servicing of existing multi-residential buildings via a three stream system is not feasible, and, impacts on wastewater collection and treatment systems are mitigated. As the Master Plan process progresses, we will work with York Region in reviewing such innovative applications for such existing multi-residential dwellings.

It is for all of the above noted reasons, staff continue to support the Green Bin as the principal route for managing food waste, and support ban on food waste grinders as per the Regional Sewer Use By-law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Brian T. Anthony', is written over a blue horizontal line.

Brian T. Anthony
Director of Public Works

Copy to: Michele Samuels, Manager, Regulatory Compliance and Policy, Environmental Services, York Region