



March 19, 2013

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

Attention: Dennis Kelly, Regional Clerk

Re: Bylaw 2011-56 – Regional Sewer Use Bylaw

In 2009, local municipal staff began working collaboratively with Regional staff as updates to the Regional Sewer Use Bylaw progressed, with the bylaw being enacted on November 17, 2011. As a result of collaborative efforts on the Regional and local municipal sewer use programs and consultation on the Regional Bylaw, 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 new Regional Sewer Use Bylaw helps ensure alignment of practices and protection of local and Regional infrastructure and included a prohibition on food waste grinders. The implementation of the food waste grinder prohibition has been deferred until further consideration by Environmental Services Committee in March 2013.

The 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 gas and odour as a result of decomposition. Local municipal staff at Richmond Hill, together with York Region, have developed a successful Green Bin program to manage food waste. We have strong participation in source separation and diversion of food waste from landfill via the Green Bin program. It is for these reasons we continue to support the Green Bin as the principal route for food waste management.

We continue to work with York Region to explore options to support diversion programs in existing multi-residential dwellings through the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan. While we support the continued diversion of food waste through the Green Bin program and composting, we recognize the Master Plan may identify future innovative applications for servicing existing multi-residential dwellings. It should be recognized that any consideration of food waste grinders should only occur where servicing of multi-residential with three stream is not feasible and impacts wastewater collection and treatment systems are mitigated. As the Master Plan process progresses, we look forward to working with York Region in considering the suitability of applications in existing multi-residential dwellings identified by the Master Plan.





Subject to Council approval, Richmond Hill is currently reviewing our Sewer Use Bylaw 64-72 with the intent to reflect the Regional Bylaw, with respect to the prohibition of food waste grinders. A new draft should be in place during 2013.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Italo Brutto".

Italo Brutto, P. Eng.
Commissioner, Environment and Infrastructure Services
Town of Richmond Hill

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shane Baker".

Shane Baker
Commissioner, Community Services
Town of Richmond Hill

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