



March 15, 2013

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

Attention: Dennis Kelly, Regional Clerk

Re: By-law 2011-56 – Regional Sewer Use Bylaw

In 2009, City of Markham Waterworks Department staff, were consulted as part of the process to update the Regional Sewer Use Bylaw which protects both local and regional infrastructure.

Markham's Sewer Use By-Law 436-86 currently prohibits the disposal of any garbage, whether shredded or not, into the sanitary sewer system. At the local level, the use of food waste grinders may 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, generation of gas and odour as a result of organic decomposition, and reduction of local collection capacity.

In addition, the prohibition of food waste grinders aligns with local diversion programs to manage food waste including the Green Bin and backyard composting programs.

Markham staff strongly support the continued ban on food waste grinders in ICI (Industrial, Commercial and Institutional) facilities and single family residential properties. Markham's Bylaw already includes and will continue to have provisions for prohibiting the installation and replacement of food waste grinders.

Markham staff do support the Region's proposed food waste grinder policy as it relates to multi-residential properties in York Region.

Once the new Regional Sewer Use Bylaw has been approved by Regional Council, Markham will review the Regional By-law as part of the process to update Markham's sewer use bylaw in 2013.

Sincerely,
Peter Loukes, P.Eng
Director, Environmental Services
City of Markham

Copy to: Brenda J. Librecz, Commissioner, Community & Fire Services, City of Markham
Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion & Protection, Environmental Services, York Region
Michele Samuels, Manager, Regulatory Compliance and Policy, Environmental Services, York Region