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RESPONSE TO GREENING VAUGHAN STRATEGY

The Solid Waste Management Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, August 16, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, subject to amending recommendation 2 by replacing the words “considered in the preparation of” with the words “included in the draft” so recommendation 2 now reads as follows:

- “2. The City of Vaughan’s request to provide financial and technical support to jointly develop Vaughan’s communication and participation plan associated with the City’s Greening Vaughan initiative to an upset limit of \$50,000 be included in the draft 2006 Solid Waste Management budget.”**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. Council support the City of Vaughan’s Greening Vaughan Initiative which will significantly increase waste diversion and move the Region closer to its target of 50% diversion from landfill.
2. The City of Vaughan’s request to provide financial and technical support to jointly develop Vaughan’s communication and participation plan associated with the City’s Greening Vaughan initiative to an upset limit of \$50,000 be considered in the preparation of the 2006 Solid Waste Management budget.

2. PURPOSE

This report provides a summary of the City of Vaughan’s waste management plan entitled “Greening Vaughan” and discusses the implications of the requests made therein of the Region.

3. BACKGROUND

On December 16, 2004, Regional Council recommended, in part, that “All local municipalities be advised to implement a source separated organic (SSO) collection program no later than June 1st, 2006 or on the renewal date of their respective collection contracts” (Clause 3 of Report No. 8 of the Solid Waste Management Committee, December 8th, 2004). On March 25th, 2004, (Clause 1 of Report No. 2 of the Commissioner of Transportation and Works) Regional Council approved a request by the Town of Markham for financial assistance to launch SSO diversion in a portion of the

Town. On March 21st, 2005, City of Vaughan Council approved a comprehensive waste management plan entitled “Greening Vaughan”. The proposed plan includes, amongst other things, provision of source separated organics collection across the City.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

In 2004, the Region’s diversion rate was approximately 24%. The City of Vaughan (the City), by comparison, had a diversion rate of 19%. Moreover, the City represents approximately 27% of the Region’s population and the success or failure of the City’s waste management effort has a significant impact on the Region’s diversion rate. Approval of the Greening Vaughan plan by City Council represents a major commitment to improve the City’s current diversion rate.

4.1 Greening Vaughan

The Greening Vaughan waste management plan consists of three separate phases:

- Phase 1 - starts September 13th, 2005
 - Change blue box collection frequency to weekly from every second week.
 - Reduce the garbage container limit to four containers per week from 10 with a provision of free tags for additional containers/bulky items.
- Phase 2 - scheduled for October 31, 2006
 - Reduce garbage container limit to three containers per week with provision of tags at a cost for set outs exceeding this limit.
 - Start weekly source separated organics (SSO) collection.
- Phase 3 – scheduled for September 11, 2007
 - Reduce garbage collection frequency to every other week with provision of tags at a cost for set outs exceeding the three container limit.

Extensive promotion and educational activities are planned as part of this initiative to ensure the public understands the need for the planned change. City Council has requested the Region to support this initiative including:

- Financial and technical support with the communication and participation plan.
- Development of a Community Environmental Centre (CEC) within the City to collect household hazardous waste and provide a waste exchange program.

The Greening Vaughan strategy is comprehensive and will result in increased waste diversion. Weekly collection of blue box will increase diversion in the City by at least 15%. Introduction of the source separated organics program will divert an additional 25% to 30%. Vaughan will clearly be a leader in the Region once the program is

implemented. It is proposed that Regional Council endorse Vaughan's Greening Strategy and help ensure its success.

4.2 Support of Green Vaughan Promotional Efforts

The City of Vaughan intends to launch their new waste management plan in the fall of 2005. Regional assistance with the development of associated promotion and educational materials has been requested. This request is consistent with the Town of Markham's request in 2004 when Regional Council approved a contribution of \$45,000 to fund the development of promotional materials associated with the launch of the Markham's SSO program. The premise of the funding was the information gleaned would benefit the other eight local municipalities with the launch of their respective SSO programs.

Regional staff recommends supporting the City's efforts with provision of both technical and financial assistance as it is believed that this initiative will contribute positively towards the Region's overall waste diversion efforts. A financial contribution of up to \$50,000 is proposed to jointly develop materials for usage by the other local municipalities.

4.3 Community Environmental Centre (CEC)

In November of 2004, Regional Council discussed key waste management issues facing the Region. Among the issues discussed was the need to develop a series of CECs across the Region. The centres would facilitate convenient drop-off of materials that can't effectively be collected curbside.

Staff from both the Region and City have been investigating sites for a CEC in Vaughan for the last year. Conceptual designs for a facility at the City's works yard at Highway 407 and Dufferin Street have been developed. This property is not large enough and the City is considering purchasing adjacent lands to accommodate the CEC.

Regional staff are preparing a separate report with recommendations on a CEC in Vaughan as well as in other municipalities in the Region, for consideration by the Solid Waste Management Committee.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision of funding to the City of Vaughan for the development of waste diversion promotional materials, with an upset limit of \$50,000, is proposed. There are sufficient funds in the draft Solid Waste Management Branch's operating budget for 2006. The increased costs for SSO processing from Vaughan starting in September 2006 has been included as a new initiative in the draft 2006 Solid Waste Management Operating budget.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The City of Vaughan is showing leadership with its Greening Strategy and will be a benchmark for waste reduction in York Region and the province. Vaughan's initiative will be of great value to the other local municipalities as they consider how to introduce their own source separated organics collection program.

7. CONCLUSION

Successful implementation of the City's "Greening Vaughan" plan will significantly contribute to the Region's diversion efforts and support is therefore warranted.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.