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SCHOOL BOARD RECYCLING

The Solid Waste Management Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The following deputations be received:**
 - (a) Paul Wills, District Manager, Keswick, Waste Services (CA) Inc. o/a LaRue's Waste & Recycling;**
 - (b) Bruce Lindsay, Chair, Newmarket Environmental Advisory Committee; and**
 - (c) Margaret Brevik, Manager of Energy and Environmental Services, The York Region District School Board, November 7, 2005.**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report, October 14, 2005, from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, be adopted:**

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Chair and Regional Clerk be authorized to sign the necessary Memorandum of Understanding with the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board (the Boards) for the delivery of recyclable materials to the Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury, subject to review by Legal Services.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide details of the Region's proposed partnership with the Boards to deliver recyclable materials to the Region's Waste Management Centre in East Gwillimbury.

3. BACKGROUND

Institutions such as school boards are obligated to establish and maintain recycling programs in accordance with Ontario Regulation 103/94 under the Environmental Protection Act. The Boards have established recycling programs through private contractors that are currently independent of the Region's blue box program. In an effort to increase waste diversion, the Boards have proposed an agreement with the Region to deliver its recyclable materials to the Region's Waste Management Centre in East

Gwillimbury. Under the Memorandum of Understanding, the Region would allow the Boards to drop off the material free of charge. In return, the Region would be granted access to advertise its recycling program within school newsletters and other school board publications subject to Board approval.

4. ANALYSIS AND OPTIONS

4.1 Current Recycling Programs - York Region District School Board

The current recycling program of the Board is different in nature from that of the Region's curbside blue box program. Whereas the Region has moved to a commingled recycling collection system, the Board currently has a two stream recycling program (i.e. paper fibre and containers). Each of the streams is separated and placed in bags which are then transferred to the same collection container. The collection contractors currently provide collection containers to the Board as well as large outdoor bins. Collection of recyclables has been on a bi-weekly basis in the public schools and weekly in the high schools.

The Board also has programs to recycle specialty items including hazardous waste, ink jet cartridges and old electronic equipment. Schools have done well in terms of separating recyclable materials, and many schools have adopted and are practicing sound waste reduction strategies. For example, in many classrooms, scrap paper boxes have been located to collect paper larger than a child's hand for reuse.

The Board's current recycling contracts with Capital Waste Systems and York Disposal expire on December 31, 2005. The Board has recently issued a new recycling collection tender, and it is the Board's intention to award its tender later this fall and have the successful vendor begin to ship recyclable materials to the Waste Management Centre early in 2006 pending Council approval of this agreement.

4.2 York Catholic District School Board

The Board's recycling program contains different elements from that of the Public Board. There is a mix of materials at different schools, such that some schools collect paper only. In other instances, the recycling contractor collects recyclable materials at the curbside from the schools in blue boxes. Ink jet cartridges, electronic equipment, cardboard, wood, steel and old furniture are also recycled at some schools.

Since its recycling program is different from that of the Public Board, it would require additional planning and budgeting in order to be implemented. The Board supports the concept of working with the Region and the Public Board to commence shipment of recyclable materials to the Waste Management Centre in 2006. The final decision to move forward is dependent upon obtaining both Regional Council and Board approval and the successful implementation of the program by the Public Board.

4.3 Benefits to School Boards

There are benefits that would result from a partnership between the Region and the Boards with respect to recycling. First, the recycling programs at home and at school have historically not been the same with different materials being collected. This difference makes it difficult to teach a consistent message on recycling to students within the Region. By making the Board and Regional recycling programs the same, students would see consistent promotional materials and services at school and at home.

It is anticipated that waste diversion at schools would increase substantially with the implementation of the new program. This would result from new materials being added, such as milk and juice cartons, which is consistent with the Regional blue box program. These materials are generated in large quantities at the schools. It is anticipated that the recycling of existing materials such as fine paper and pop cans would increase as well.

4.4 Benefits to York Region

The Region would benefit from its partnership with the Boards in a variety of ways. First, the program linkage with the Boards would increase the overall education and awareness of recycling among students by allowing them to recycle the same items at school that they recycle at home.

The Region would be able to increase its waste diversion rate from landfill through its program with the Boards by way of reporting the tonnage processed at the Waste Management Centre. This is particularly important in light of the Region's current practice of shipping waste to Michigan and the potential threat of closing the border to accepting the Region's waste.

The Region has also begun to work with the Boards to educate students on waste management. A closer relationship between the Region and the Boards would facilitate this effort. In 2006, the Region would also be working with the Boards to develop a new waste management curriculum for use by its schools.

4.5 Memorandum of Understanding

Pending Council approval, the Region would commence discussions with the Boards on the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding for review by Legal Services. The Memorandum would be finalized prior to the delivery of recyclable material to the Waste Management Centre.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

It is estimated that the Boards would generate approximately 150 tonnes of material annually, based on school waste audit data obtained from the City of Toronto. This

tonnage represents a very small percentage of the 56,000 tonnes of recyclables processed at Regional facilities in 2005.

Table 1 below summarizes the financial cost of receiving and processing this material at the Garfield Wright Waste Management Centre based on projected program operating costs in 2006. Currently the operating cost to process blue box recyclables is recovered by revenue from the sale of recyclables (which excludes the capital replacement cost of the Materials Recycling Facility). While recycling revenues are expected to decline over the next several years due to market conditions and commodity pricing, the impact of adding the recyclable materials is expected to be negligible due to the small tonnage anticipated, as long as the revenue from the sale of recovered material stays above \$75/tonne.

Table 1
Projected Costs of Processing Blue Box Materials
(Based on Proposed 2006 Budget Figures)

	Incremental Unit Cost (per tonne)	Projected Annual Cost
Processing Costs	\$78.60	\$11,790
Capital Replacement	\$9.60	\$1,440
Revenue - Material Sales	(\$90.00)	(\$13,500)
Net Cost	(\$1.80)	(\$270)

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

The Catholic School Board currently has schools in Markham and Richmond Hill serviced by the Town's blue box collection contractor, Miller Waste Systems. The Board is currently in discussions with the local municipalities and their private contractors as to potential implications on the provision of collection services by using the Region's Waste Management Centre.

7. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the Boards be permitted to drop off the material free of charge. The projected annual cost impact to the Region is expected to be (\$270). In return, the Region would be granted access to advertise its recycling program within school newsletters and other school board publications. This partnership would have numerous benefits for both the Region and the Boards including increased waste diversion from landfill through the addition of new materials to school recycling programs.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.