



Environment and Climate Protection Committee

Minutes 20

Monday, 26 March 2018

9:30 a.m.

Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue W.

- Notes:**
1. *Please note that the Minutes are to be considered DRAFT until confirmed by Committee.*
 2. *Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation approved by Committee.*
 3. *Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on 11 April 2018 in Environment and Climate Protection Committee Report 19A.*

Present: Chair: Councillor D. Chernushenko
Vice Chair: Councillor R. Chiarelli
Councillors: R. Brockington, J. Cloutier, J. Leiper,
C. McKenney, J. Mitic, M. Qaqish, M. Taylor

Absent: Councillor S. Moffatt (as advised)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes 19, of the Environment and Climate Protection Committee meeting of Tuesday, 20 February 2018, were confirmed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Response to Inquiries

- EC 01-18 - The Market for Recyclables
- OCC 02-18 - Removal of Waste Receptacles

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LONG RANGE PLANNING

1. COMMUNITY ENERGY INNOVATION FUND

ACS2018-PIE-EDP-0011

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

That Environment and Climate Protection Committee recommend Council approve the Community Energy Innovation Fund's Terms of Reference attached as Document 1.

The Committee heard from Mr. Stu Campana*, Program Lead, Carbon 613 (Ottawa EnviroCentre), who spoke to a brief PowerPoint slide presentation to highlight the program's goals of measuring, managing and reducing its members' carbon footprints. A copy of this presentation* is held on file with the City Clerk.

The report recommendation was then put before the Committee and was 'CARRIED' as presented.

*[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk.]*

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

2. **CLEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER FUND –
TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN APPROVED PROJECTS**

ACS2018-PIE-IS-0005

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Environment and Climate Protection Committee and Council:

1. **Receive the Clean Water and Wastewater Fund program update as provided in this report;**
2. **Approve the capital authority adjustments provided in this report; and**
3. **Delegate the authority to the City Treasurer to approve transfers between projects in excess of established delegated authority and that such delegation does not extend to additions or deletions to the list of projects previously approved by Council.**

CARRIED

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SOLID WASTE SERVICES

3. **SOURCE SEPARATED ORGANICS PROGRAM UPDATE**

ACS2018-PWE-GEN-0003

CITY WIDE

Note: Council was asked to waive the Rules of Procedure to consider this item at its meeting of Wednesday, 28 March 2018 in Environment and Climate Protection Committee Report 19.

REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Environment and Climate Protection Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Receive the information with respect to the options for the Green Bin program and the current contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd, as described in the report and listed in Document 2, and the confidential companion memorandum from the City Clerk and Solicitor, issued separately as Document 4 and not to be reported out, as it relates to litigation and is covered by solicitor-client privilege;**
- 2. Approve the terms and conditions of a revised contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd, as described in this report and in Document 1, and including the expansion of the Green Bin program to include plastic bags and dog waste, effective mid-2019, subject to the facility upgrades being complete and provincial regulatory approvals being in place;**
- 3. Delegate the authority to the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, in consultation with the City Clerk and Solicitor, to negotiate, finalize and execute an amended contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd., in accordance with this report and including any amendments by Council;**
- 4. Delegate the authority to the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, in consultation with the City Clerk and Solicitor, to amend the Solid Waste By-law and any other City of Ottawa by-laws and policies necessary to give effect to the amended contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd.;**
- 5. Approve the Implementation Plan for the expanded Green Bin program as described in this report, including a review of the Odour Mitigation Plan, the public information and education plan and the pilot project for green bins in dog parks, and direct staff to provide**

**the Environment and Climate Protection Committee with an update
on the Implementation Plan by Q1 2019.**

At the outset, Chair Chernushenko recounted the City's relationship with organic waste treatment company Orgaworld Canada, currently in the process of renegotiating its contract with the City of Ottawa. He then outlined the meeting format for this agenda item, following which, he introduced the Motion below:

MOTION N^o ECPC 20/1

Introduced by Councillor D. Chernushenko:

WHEREAS compostable plastic products and packaging are a relatively new and emerging waste stream in Canada, and plastic packaging, in particular, has traditionally been part of the Blue Box program in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the Province in their Proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework, these new types of products and packaging, especially in relation to food waste, are creating both challenges and opportunities for waste reduction and resource recovery; and

WHEREAS there is broad recognition that more work needs to be done by producers, waste processors, and governments to better integrate these materials into Ontario's circular economy as they become more common; and

WHEREAS the Province has also indicated that producer responsibility should be taken into account with regards to the waste reduction and resource recovery of compostable plastic products and packaging that producers sell in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, although the expanded Green Bin Program will, if approved, accept compostable plastic bags, the City of Ottawa is not currently in a position to accept compostable plastic products or packaging in Green Bins due to the untested impacts in Orgaworld's aerobic process and the increased risk of introducing contamination for the new waste stream (noting that biodegradable, degradable and compostable do not process

the same way, though consumers may see them as interchangeable), including cost implications of doing so; and

WHEREAS the Province has identified the need to consider the end of life management and recovery of compostable plastic products and packaging in its draft Policy Statement for the proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework, but has yet to identify specific standards or practices to govern this new waste stream; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of clear Provincial direction to stakeholders and producers, and given the recognition of the longer-term need to make progress on this issue, municipalities like Toronto are developing proposed policies and criteria that they will use to consider accepting new materials into their waste diversion programs, including the processing technology for these waste streams;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff investigate the feasibility of expanding Ottawa's Green Bin Program to accept new items, for example compostable coffee pods and compostable cutlery, within the first two years of the expanded program, and that staff report back to Council on their findings as part of the broader waste diversion report coming to Council in 2019.

Mr. Kevin Wylie, General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services Department (PWESD), introduced Ms Marilyn Journeaux, Director, Solid Waste Services, PWESD, and Ms Isabelle Jasmin, Deputy City Treasurer, Financial Services, Corporate Services Department, who were present to respond to questions. Mr. Wylie then spoke to a PowerPoint slide presentation which served as an overview of the report. A copy of this presentation is held on file with the City Clerk.

Following Mr. Wylie's presentation, Mr. Ken Hughes, Auditor General, City of Ottawa, introduced Mr. Ed Miner, Deputy Auditor General. Messrs. Hughes and Miner both spoke to a brief PowerPoint slide presentation regarding the Auditor General's Office Review of the Source Separated Organics (SSO) Program Business Case. A copy of this presentation is also held on file with the City Clerk.

Councillors S. Qadri (Ward 6) and K. Egli (Ward 9) were also present to ask questions of staff. Ms Jocelyne Turner, Program Manager, Public Information, Service Innovation and Performance Department, and Mr. David White, Deputy

City Solicitor, Legal Services, City Clerk and Solicitor Department, were also present to respond to questions.

Following the presentations, the Committee heard from the following delegations, as noted:

- Mr. Dave Douglas, President, VisionQuest Environmental Strategies Corp., declined to speak, stating that his points would be covered by a subsequent speaker representing GLAD Canada;
- Mr. Christopher McKillop*, Vice-President, Communications and Government Relations, Bridgehead Coffee, spoke on the subjects of compostable coffee pods, sustainable packaging and the future of Ottawa's Green Bin Program, expressing concern with the report's language regarding compostable pods;
- Mr. John Pigott*, Chief Executive Officer, Morrison-Lamothe and Club Coffee, also asked that the City reconsider its refusal of biodegradable, compostable coffee pods, citing their development as a "Made in Ontario" success story;
- Mr. Guy Annable noted that the Green Bin Program was currently processing leaf and yard waste as 'organic waste' instead of compost, and he questioned why the City had not opted to start anew, instead of seeking to amend its current organic waste processing contract with Orgaworld;
- Ms Barbara Long*, Community Associations for Environmental Sustainability (CAFES), spoke to a brief presentation critical of quantitative issues related to the report, and of the City's recommendations to allow dog waste, and the use of plastic bags in its Green Bin Program as a backwards step;
- Mr. Isaul Lopez*, Sales and Business Development (Biopolymers), BASF Canada Inc., spoke to the use of certified, fully compostable bags in the Green Bin Program as a best practice for organics recycling, noting that residents were more likely to use a product made for an express purpose;
- Ms Laura Peden*, Brand Manager, GLAD Waste Diversion, Clorox Canada, spoke to highlight GLAD's interest in partnering with the City to help achieve higher organic waste diversion, its sponsorship of Ottawa's "Cleaning the Capital" program and the use of its products to help achieve these goals;
- Mr. Duncan Bury*, Waste Watch Ottawa, asked the Committee to refuse the recommendations regarding animal waste and the use of plastic bags in its organic waste program, in favour of *biodegradable* plastics, programs to educate and encourage greater diversion, and changing to a user-pay system;
- Mr. Jim Poushinsky*, Ottawa Citizens Against Pollution by Sewage (OCAPS), requested that the City cease the spreading of organic waste by-products on

- farmers' fields, as he believed these to contain pathogens and toxins which could be better disposed of through high-temperature gasification or pyrolysis, an added benefit of which could be the generation of biogases for energy;
- Mr. Daniel Martens*, V-P (North America) Novamont, speaking on behalf of the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI), a certification body that helps to identify compostable products with verifiable claims, suggested that certified bio-plastic compostable bags need to be recognized as a tool to be used to help achieve greater overall SSO and environmental goals;
 - Mr. John Edmond* suggested that the report proposal would cost more, would produce a degraded-quality compost material contaminated with plastic, and would not raise public levels of compliance as noted in the report;
 - Mr. Jason Garlough* pointed out that Ottawa was included in the top percentage of the world's income earners, most of whom could accommodate a small fee for using compostable plastic bags. He suggested leveraging funds from other levels of government and budgeting for education, and to provide compostable plastic bags to households with low income thresholds.

Written correspondence was also received from Mr. Barry Wellar*.

[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk.]

Public comments in support of the report recommendations generally cautioned against the use of plastics or of allowing animal waste to enter the organic waste stream. Comments opposed to the recommendations also included the above caveats, and also touched upon the issues of excessive cost, underperformance, contamination from toxins and pathogens, inappropriate mixing of waste streams and suggestions that it would be better to start the process anew, rather than to renegotiate the existing contract.

Following a 30-minute recess, Committee's questions to staff and deliberations included matters related to the original contract with Orgaworld, the Auditor General's review of the processes involved, the points raised by the delegations, considerations of amending the recommendations to mandate the use of compostable plastics, and the formulation of a communications plan, which staff assured will return for the Committee's review and approval as part of the SSO Implementation Plan, to be considered by Committee and Council in Q4-2018 / Q1-2019.

In closing, the Chair noted that amending the contract to allow for the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags, while not ideal, could help raise public acceptance of the program and lead to an overall increase in organic waste diversion.

Having concluded deliberations, the Committee considered the following Motion:

MOTION N^o ECPC 20/1

Moved by Councillor D. Chernushenko:

WHEREAS compostable plastic products and packaging are a relatively new and emerging waste stream in Canada, and plastic packaging, in particular, has traditionally been part of the Blue Box program in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, as noted by the Province in their Proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework, these new types of products and packaging, especially in relation to food waste, are creating both challenges and opportunities for waste reduction and resource recovery; and

WHEREAS there is broad recognition that more work needs to be done by producers, waste processors, and governments to better integrate these materials into Ontario's circular economy as they become more common; and

WHEREAS the Province has also indicated that producer responsibility should be taken into account with regards to the waste reduction and resource recovery of compostable plastic products and packaging that producers sell in Ontario; and

WHEREAS, although the expanded Green Bin Program will, if approved, accept compostable plastic bags, the City of Ottawa is not currently in a position to accept compostable plastic products or packaging in Green Bins due to the untested impacts in Orgaworld's aerobic process and the increased risk of introducing contamination for the new waste stream (noting that biodegradable, degradable and compostable do not process the same way, though consumers may see them as interchangeable), including cost implications of doing so; and

WHEREAS the Province has identified the need to consider the end of life management and recovery of compostable plastic products and packaging

in its draft Policy Statement for the proposed Food and Organic Waste Framework, but has yet to identify specific standards or practices to govern this new waste stream; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of clear Provincial direction to stakeholders and producers, and given the recognition of the longer-term need to make progress on this issue, municipalities like Toronto are developing proposed policies and criteria that they will use to consider accepting new materials into their waste diversion programs, including the processing technology for these waste streams;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff investigate the feasibility of expanding Ottawa's Green Bin Program to accept new items, for example compostable coffee pods and compostable cutlery, within the first two years of the expanded program, and that staff report back to Council on their findings as part of the broader waste diversion report coming to Council in 2019.

CARRIED

The report recommendations were then put before Committee and were 'CARRIED', as amended by Motion N^o ECPC 20/01, on a division of seven 'Yeas' to two 'Nays', as outlined below:

That the Environment and Climate Protection Committee recommend that Council:

- 1. Receive the information with respect to the options for the Green Bin program and the current contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd, as described in the report and listed in Document 2, and the confidential companion memorandum from the City Clerk and Solicitor, issued separately as Document 4 and not to be reported out, as it relates to litigation and is covered by solicitor-client privilege;**
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subject to the facility upgrades being complete and provincial regulatory approvals being in place;

- 3. Delegate the authority to the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, in consultation with the City Clerk and Solicitor, to negotiate, finalize and execute an amended contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd., in accordance with this report and including any amendments by Council;**
- 4. Delegate the authority to the General Manager, Public Works and Environmental Services, in consultation with the City Clerk and Solicitor, to amend the Solid Waste By-law and any other City of Ottawa by-laws and policies necessary to give effect to the amended contract with Orgaworld Canada Ltd.;**
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- 6. Approve that staff investigate the feasibility of expanding Ottawa's Green Bin Program to accept new items, for example compostable coffee pods and compostable cutlery, within the first two years of the expanded program, and that staff report back to Council on their findings as part of the broader waste diversion report coming to Council in 2019.**

CARRIED as amended, on a division of 7 yeas and 2 nays, as follows:

YEAS (7): Councillors R. Brockington, J. Cloutier, J. Mitic, M. Qaqish, M. Taylor, R. Chiarelli and D. Chernushenko

NAYS (2): Councillors J. Leiper and C. McKenney

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

- A AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
MANAGEMENT PLAN – UPDATE ON STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

ACS2018-PIE-EDP-0012

CITY WIDE

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Committee Coordinator

Chair