



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Public Meeting of the Planning and Works Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

6:00 p.m.

Regional Council Chamber

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, ON

Present were: Chair T. Galloway, S. Foxton, H. Jowett, K. Kiefer, G. Lorentz, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, S. Shantz, and W. Wettlaufer

Members absent: L. Armstrong, D. Craig, D. Jaworsky, J. Nowak, K. Redman, S. Strickland, and B. Vrbanovic

Open Remarks

Chair T. Galloway provided opening remarks regarding the purpose of the meeting and the advertisement history.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act

None declared.

Staff Presentation

Jon Arsenault, Director, Waste Management provided a presentation that provided background information, opportunity to divert more, Waste Management Master Plan Recommendation, Objectives of Public Engagement, Engagement Summary, Waste Collection – Current Services, Standardization/Best Practice, Curbside Collection Options, and Timelines to a New Contract. A copy of the [presentation](#) is appended to the original minutes.

Delegations

- i. Robert Stephens appeared before Committee and explained that he felt the survey was bias towards the two options. He stated that option 1 is the best way to go and felt we are being too generous with the bag limit and suggested we set a higher goal since most residents already achieve that goal. He suggested that the blue bin and green bin be picked up every two weeks to help diversion and save tax payers money and also implement the green bin program at apartment buildings. He also pointed out that the Provincial and Federal Governments need to regulate packaging on consumer goods.
- ii. Chuck Kruse appeared before Committee expressing his concern about the decisions past Council has made. He talked about the green bin program not working and asked why the green bin will get picked up every week and not your regular garbage. He suggested that bag tags are a revenue grab. He highlighted that the problem is with the miscalculation of green bin tonnage being sent to Guelph and suggested increasing the tipping fees at the landfill.
- iii. Dennis Watson appeared before Committee highlighting the services the Region provides stating garbage pick up is the one service everyone uses and now the Region wants to charge more for less service. He stated he pays enough in taxes for services he never uses. He noted he is against bi-weekly pick up because of smell and against bag tags. He talked about how research can be interpreted.
- iv. Carson O'Neill appeared before Committee highlighting his support for Option #1 to move to bi-weekly collection and encouraged Committee to move to a 3 bag limit. He provided a list of suggestions to help with the transition. A copy of the [presentation](#) is appended to the original minutes.
- v. Kate Daley appeared before Committee stating her support of bi-weekly garbage collection. She highlighted that she recently read a report of the Region of Waterloo Commission dated March 1979 that talked about the state of garbage collection before the creation of the Region, highlighting the problems listed then still exist. She said the Region has shown leadership with the blue bin but stated we are behind on bi-weekly garbage and suggested the Region look to other municipalities to learn from their experiences. She highlighted that this is better for budget, environment and long term planning.
- vi. Charlotte Prong appeared before Committee in support of Option #1 with a 3 bag limit. She stated residents need to be forced to reduce and reuse. She talked

about her experience moving and was surprised how much garbage was picked up and how little cost. She highlighted that she is part of the problem but wants to be part of the solution and pointed out this is about the planet and encouraged best practice.

Chair T. Galloway made a call for additional delegations.

- vii. Jeremy Schlueter appeared before Committee to voice his concern. He asked if he will receive a refund in the mail from his taxes since the level of service is changing. He suggested these changes discriminate against larger families and is a money grab. He explained that the need for people to recycle more and to change habits but that shouldn't come at his expense. He suggested that the garbage be burned for energy.

Committee members provided clarification on tax rates and larger family exemptions.

- viii. Joyce Palubiski appeared before Committee expressing her concern that the Region is going about it the wrong way, explaining the success of the blue box program. She stated the problem was the introduction of the green bin program and how people were exposed to it. She highlighted that residents need to be educated properly on the green bin program. She briefly talked about bag tags and the potential of them getting stolen.
- ix. Kim Dallimore appeared before Committee highlighting her family currently uses 3 blue bins and they don't produce a lot of garbage but wondered about the odd occasion when they may need more than the limit and wondered if there would be exceptions. She also raised concerns about the student housing and how that will be handled.

Chair T. Galloway explained that student housing is on their radar and are aware of the concerns.

- x. Tineke Vos appeared before Committee stating she lives in a townhouse complex and pointed out the low participation rate of green bin users. She raised concerns about businesses not recycling and asked how that would be handled.

J. Arsenault provided clarification on businesses recycling and garbage collection.

A Committee member highlighted that the five members from Landfill Liaison Committee would like to see weekly garbage pick up, one member would like to see bi-weekly pick-up and one member suggested shipping the garbage to Michigan.

Adjourn

Moved by K. Kiefer

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the meeting adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, T. Galloway

Committee Clerk, E. Flewwelling

Waste Management Curbside Collection Policy Considerations

May 6, 2015



Background

- The Region's residential waste diversion rate has plateaued at approximately 52%
- Approximately 15-20 years remaining landfill disposal capacity
- New WMMP study completed in fall of 2013 that established new direction for waste management



Region of Waterloo

Opportunity to Divert More

- Curbside audits show too many resources are still being wasted and buried in the landfill:



% expressed by weight



WMMP Recommendation

Diversification

- Consider curbside collection policy changes to increase diversion (e.g. bag limits, bi-weekly garbage collection, standardized Regional residential waste collection) and consider "user pay" options (e.g. bag tags)



Objectives of Public Engagement

- Inform residents of pending changes endorsed through WMMP (bag/container limits, bi-weekly collection, bag tags)
- Educate residents about possible curbside changes and what they mean
- Encourage public feedback on options endorsed through WMMP
- Use resident feedback to help develop curbside policy recommendations



Engagement Summary

- 2 bag/container weekly limit would serve majority of residents (86% based on curbside set out, 68% based on preference)
- 4 bag/container bi-weekly limit would serve majority of residents (86% based on current actions, 66% based on preference)
- Top 3 concerns with bi-weekly collection (smell, storage, animals) require education
- Residents overwhelmingly prefer curbside options for dealing with waste beyond bag limits



Waste Collection – Current Services

contract expires March 4, 2017

Region of Waterloo

150,000 homes/week (128,000 tri-cities, 22,000 townships)

	Blue Box Recycling	Green Bin	Garbage per property	Large Items	Yard Waste
Cambridge Kitchener Waterloo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • 10 bag limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April - November • Every second week
North Dumfries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • Every second week in rural areas 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • 6 bag limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every second week, April - November
Wellesley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • Every second week in rural areas 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • 3 bag limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every second week, April - November
Wilmot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • Every second week in rural areas 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • 4 bag limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every second week, April - November
Woolwich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • Every second week in rural areas 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collection • 3 bag limit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly 	If you receive weekly blue box collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every second week, April - November

Standardization/Best Practice

- Master plan approved recommendation
- Same limits and collection frequency for garbage, recycling, organics, bulky/appliances, and yard waste no matter where you live in the Region
- Streamlines education and awareness and reduces confusion about program requirements
- Weekly (2 bags/containers or less) or Bi-weekly garbage collection shown to drive increased diversion



Region of Waterloo

Curbside Collection Options

WASTE STREAM COLLECTED	OPTION 1 (Bi-Weekly)	OPTION 2 (Weekly)
Blue Box	Weekly – Unlimited	Weekly - Unlimited
Green Bin	Weekly - Unlimited	Weekly – Unlimited
Garbage	Bi-Weekly – 4 Bag/Container Limit (option to reduce further)	Weekly – 2 Bag/Container Limit (option to reduce to 1)
Yard Waste (Apr–Nov)	Bi-Weekly	Bi-Weekly
Bulky Item/Appliances	Bi-Weekly – 3 item limit	Bi-Weekly – 3 item limit



Region of Waterloo

Curbside Collection Options

COMPARITIVE ANALYSIS	OPTION 1 (Bi-Weekly)	OPTION 2 (Weekly)
Diversion Potential	Estimated 5% to 10% increase in residential diversion or approx. 15,000 tonnes/yr diverted from landfill. (equiv. 2 years landfill capacity)	Estimated 3% to 5% increase in residential diversion rate or approx. 8,000 tonnes/yr diverted from landfill. (equiv. 1 year landfill capacity)
Program Complexity	More complex scheduling and promotion/education required. Expect more phone calls and complaints; administrative oversight.	Weekly garbage collection practice well established and easy to understand/implement. Less P&E and administrative oversight
Anticipated Budget Implications	Net annual cost savings estimated at \$500,000 to \$1,500,000	Net annual cost savings estimated at \$250,000 to \$750,000



Curbside Collection Options

For either Option 1 or 2, would require:

- Flexibility to set out extra garbage (i.e. bag tag program)
- Consideration of special circumstances such as BIAs, student areas, medical exemptions, large families with young children, etc.
- Enhanced promo and education program and consideration of one-time provision of additional blue boxes/green bins



Curbside Collection Options

Also considered as part of WMMP:

- Single stream vs 2-stream recycling collection
- Automated cart collection

These practices are not recommended at this time as net costs would likely increase while no benefit to diversion expected.



Region of Waterloo

Timelines to a New Contract

ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES	WHEN
Report to P&W – preliminary new collection contract service level options for consideration	April 14, 2015
Special P&W session – public input/delegations	May 6, 2015
Final recommendation to P&W	May 26, 2015
Final approval by Council	June 3, 2015
Proposal preparation and issue	May - July 2015
Proposal – vendor submission timeline	August – October 2015
Vendor submissions review	November 2015
Council approval; award to successful bidder	December 2015
Successful bidder – capital investments, permits, hiring, etc.	December 2015 – February 2017
New contract begins	March 6, 2017



Region of Waterloo

The Goal!



Region of Waterloo
Curbside waste collection options
Public input meeting - May 6th, 2015

Agree with Option # 1 to move to Bi-Weekly Garbage Collection and encourage move to three (3) bag limit.

- Increases diversion from landfill by encouraging more use of green bin and blue bin programs therefore beneficial in the broader context of the Waste Management Master Plan
- Consistent with best practice in SSO markets
- Proven successful in increasing green bin participation in other Ontario municipalities (Ottawa a prime example)
- Economic benefits - green bin financials impacted not just by participation but tonnage (fixed contract to process)
- Environmental benefits - food waste directed to composting sites where soil is enriched versus landfill where the unnecessary presence of food waste serves to increase harmful emissions

Would suggest an educational program explaining changes to residents so they understand the fundamental reasons for the change and therefore less likely to see this as just a 'reduction in services'

Carson O'Neill