City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, December 14th, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 110

Present: Rena Marie Cornelius  David Hart Dyke  Dorienne Cushman
       Mary Lou Dickson  Michael Caruso  Brooke Ryan
       Peter Hutton  Joanne Bortolotto  Ron Joice
       Angela Pastorius  Laurie Nielsen

Regrets: Joel Begin  Dana Woods  Linda Hughes

Also Present: Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
              Anne Winning, Supervisor Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
              Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
              Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning (arrived late)
              Jim McKay, Jacques Whitford Limited
              Carl Van Rooyen, Public
              Donna Robinson, Public
              John Hawker, Public
              Keith Black, Public

1. **Approval of the Minutes from November 16th, 2005**

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the November 16th, 2005 meeting.

The minutes were approved
(Moved by Brooke Ryan, seconded by Dorienne Cushman)

2. **Administrative Items**

**New Member Recruitment**

Staff provided an update on the number of applications received to date. It was finalized that Dorienne Cushman, Laurie Nielsen, Linda Hughes and possibly Peter Hutton will be on the new member recruitment subcommittee.

A request was received for information on the terms of office of the Task Force members and on the current positions available during this election. Staff will follow-up.

3. **Communications Update**

Community Outreach staff provided an update on Waste Management programs, including the CRC’s, customer service response protocol, blue box program, scrap metals and bulk goods collection and recycling programs. In addition, the Task Force was updated on recent undertakings in the division including a waste composition study, a public opinion survey and the addition of polystyrene to the blue box program. Also, the Task Force was advised that there is no longer any delivery of blue boxes. Blue Boxes can be picked up at recreation centres and the Waste Management office. The recreation centres are generally open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The CCF will not accept diapers but the operators will continue to test them for future acceptability.

Construction waste will not be accepted at the CCF due to the high operating costs; however, C&D waste is not a big component of the waste stream.
In response to a question about the signs at the Mountain CRC, staff explained that the signage will be changed; however, a delay at the sign makers for the City has caused a delay in the new signs being installed.

A member informed the Task Force that plastic leaf and yard waste bags were still being sold in some stores and requested that staff produce a sticker which states the City doesn't accept plastic bags for leaf and yard, to help to deter these being offered. Staff will follow up on this.

The multi-residential organics diversion strategy is currently being developed and audits of multi-residential dwellings are to be undertaken in 2006. Commencement of the program should begin in 2007.

In response to a question about mandatory participation in Green Cart and recycling programs, staff explained that recycling currently is mandatory and that participation in the green cart program is strongly encouraged through the use of bag limits.

Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal addressed the Task Force with an update on the construction and future operations of the Central Composting Facility.

Discussion took place regarding the processing capacity of the facility and the potential for the City to process other municipalities’ organics as an additional source of revenue at the CCF.

Discussion took place over the processing time and quality of the compost produced at the CCF as well as the availability of compost to residents.

Questions were raised about the company awarded the contract to build and operate the CCF, the number of staff to be employed at the facility and the how the revenue from the sale of compost will be distributed between the operator and the City of Hamilton. The Task Force was advised that the facility has been designed to process 60,000 tonnes of organic material per year with peaks up to 90,000 tonnes. In the first few years, capacity may be sold as an additional source of revenue at the CCF.

A discussion took place regarding the City’s progress towards 65% diversion by 2008. Staff provided information on the progress to date and the projected impact of planned future initiatives.

4. Standing Agenda Items
a) Sub-Committee Updates

Education Sub Committee
The Task Force received an update on the recent activities of the education sub-committee. They were informed of a project to increase residents’ awareness that Styrofoam can now be included in the blue box program.

Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee
The GLCC recently received a staff presentation on leachate collection and discussed the cost of the building being constructed on site.

A discussion took place on the possibility of solid waste being sent from Toronto to the Glanbrook landfill if the Canada-United States border is closed. Staff provided an overview on recent developments on this issue.

5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives
a) Green Cart Roll-out

Staff provided an update on the rollout of the Green Cart program in 2006. Comments were received about the cost of the green cart commercials and the humorous tone used in the campaign.

b) Waste Diversion Facilities Update
Staff provided an update on the MRF retrofit, which is to be completed in 2007. An updated fibre recycling line is to be installed.

Staff provided an update on the progress on the construction of the CCF, including an update on merchant capacity and proposal for other municipalities that are interested in shipping SSO to the Hamilton facility.

Staff will look into the possibility of holding a future WRTF meeting at the CCF.

Staff provided an update on the recent activities of WastePlan and described the available methods for public consultation on the preferred disposal option. A discussion took place on the public health issues resulting from announcement of the preferred disposal option.

A member raised questions about the ash generated from waste incineration and its end use. Staff responded that currently this material is not used as a road material in Ontario.

c) Community Recycling Centres (CRC’s)

Staff provided an update, including photos, of the progress made at the Dundas Transfer Station and stated that construction was progressing on-time for 2006. Staff also stated that the procurement award is being implemented for the Kenora CRC.

d) Solid Waste Management By-law Enforcement Strategy

Staff provided an update on the by-law enforcement strategy.

e) Annual Report

Staff provided a copy of the 2004 Annual Report of the Waste Management Division to all attendees and outlined plans for the production of the 2005 Annual Report. A discussion took place on the design and cost of producing the Annual Report. Staff will provide figures on the production costs.

6. Staff Update on the Budget Process for 2006

Staff provided an update on the 2006 budget process and indicated that final budget approval will be given by the end of January. A member indicated that there is one day available for public comment on the budget. A discussion took place on what department the Waste Management budget process would fall under. A member made a request for information on possible changes which will impact the SWMMP stemming from the budget process. A discussion took place on the feasibility of providing this information due to the nature of the budget process. Staff indicated no recommendations have been put forth which affect the SWMMP, but some decisions may take place at Council level which may affect Waste Management and that this request for information has been noted.

7. Other Business

Year-End Wrap-Up

A discussion took place on the work of the Task Force in 2005 and thoughts on what the Task Force should focus on in 2006. Comments received were that the Task Force should refocus on the SWMMP and implementing the 19 recommendations, progress reports should be made on current campaigns and future media campaigns should focus on culture and literacy issues in order for waste management initiatives to reach the diverse population of the City.

A member raised a question on the effectiveness of the blue box campaign. Staff responded that the campaign was based on the results of the focus groups, public opinion surveys and waste composition studies. A member commented on the content of the blue box advertisements and inquired into the possibility of looking over the finalized ads. Staff indicated that they would direct this to the appropriate staff.

A question was raised on the new Battery Drop-Off program at City Hall. Staff indicated this program has just commenced and described how the program will take shape.
A member inquired into how the selection of bins took place at the CRC. Staff indicated that the contract for the bins is for 3 years, and bins can be added or removed from the program at anytime during this period.

8. Public Discussion

Comments were received about:

- budget delegation periods and the process for a public member making a submission to the delegation
- Task Force t-shirt design and printing
- new Waste Management website accessed through www.hamilton.ca and the work being undertaken by staff to improve the site

A statement regarding bulk call-in service on the materials handed out during the Communications Update. Staff provided an explanation of the statement:

- updates and information regarding the Waste Management division were requested to be distributed prior to the WRTF meetings so that a more informed discussion could take place at the meetings. Staff indicated they would attempt to do this when possible.

A question was raised about IC&I garbage handled by the City and an inquiry was made into recycling programs at these buildings. Staff explained the present recycling system and outlined future plans to change the system which will aim to improve diversion at these facilities.

- A member inquired into the plans for the sewage sludge incinerator currently being undertaken in Hamilton. Staff and other members provided updates on the development of the process. A member raised the issue of the difficulty of navigating through public comments on the environmental assessment results and recommended that staff ensure this is improved for the public consultation component of WastePlan.
- A member asked about the white goods disposal information provided in the Communications Update. Staff indicated that they will look into improving the accuracy of this based on what is currently being offered.
- A member commented on the need to address waste issues more uniformly and at a larger scale and to address resident behaviour issues in order to achieve public buy-in.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18th, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Dundas Town Hall.

Moved by Doriinne Cushman and seconded by Rena Marie Cornelius that the meeting be adjourned.

Copies to: All present
Regrets
SWMMP Waste Reduction Task Force Binder Distribution List
Scott Stewart, General Manager, Public Works Department
Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee c/o Craig Murdoch, Waste Management Division
City Clerks Division, c/o Ida Bedioui, Lisa Barroso