Council Direction:

On December 3, 2007, the Public Works Committee dealt with report PW07155 concerning “Waste Reduction Task Force Motions Regarding Plastic Bag Reduction and Containers Recycling in Parks”. With regard to a review of options for reducing plastic bag use, the Public Works Committee directed staff to “report back to the Public Works Committee with respect to their current 2008-2009 Work Plan prior to initiating a comprehensive study”.

Background:

Report PW07155 was prepared to address a motion of the Waste Reduction Task Force requesting the City to review and report on the feasibility of banning plastic bags that have the greatest impact on landfill and reducing the availability of such bags.

In addition the Public Works Committee directed staff “to consult with the Chamber of Commerce, the business community and the provincial and federal governments to encourage the need for national and provincial policies that will assist and facilitate the reduction of plastic bag use.”

The purpose of this report is to report on the Waste Management Division Work Plan for 2008-09 as requested by the Public Works Committee.

Information:

The Waste Management Division has a Multi-Year Work Plan for 2007 to 2020 that is included in this report as Appendix A. The Work Plan focus is on major waste management program activities and those that relate to the implementation of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan (SWMMP).
The key activities of the Work Plan for 2008-09 will be:

- the full implementation of the multi-residential diversion program including the delivery of the Green Cart program
- the review of the Transfer Station and Disposal operations in preparation for the end of contracts at the end of 2009
- installation of the container line at the Materials Recycling Facility
- implementation plans for the one (1) container limit on garbage
- the initiation of the new recycling contract in March 2008
- update of the Solid Waste Management By-law
- projects (Ivor Wynne Stadium, Hamilton City Centre Waste Diversion, Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, Options for Minimizing Plastic Bags)

A number of regular activities are not included on the Work Plan however they are integral to the operation of the division. These include:

- day to day collection activities
- operation of the Waste Management Facilities (Glanbrook Landfill, three (3) Transfer Stations/Community Recycling Centres, Central Composting Facility and Materials Recycling Facility)
- preparation of agendas, minutes and presentation materials for committee meetings (SWMMP Steering Committee, Waste Reduction Task Force, Glanbrook Landfill Co-ordinating Committee)
- annual waste audits and customer service surveys
- health and safety and other staff meetings
- annual report
- Waste Diversion Ontario and Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiatives data calls
- scheduled remediation of closed landfills
- festivals, events, presentations
- responding to statutory and regulatory applications (Environmental Assessment reforms, Certificates of Approval) and development applications
- participating in provincial waste management activities through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), and waste industry activities through organizations such as the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (AMRC) and the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA)

The review of options to reduce plastic bags is part of the 2008-09 Work Plan for the Waste Management Division. Staff time of approximately four (4) weeks, over a period of several months, has been allocated in the Work Plan to this project. In conjunction with the review of options staff will also follow-up on the direction to consult with the Chamber of Commerce, business community and provincial and federal governments to promote the need for national and provincial policies to reduce the use of plastic bags. Staff will also contact waste industry associations and other municipalities to obtain information on other programs for plastic bag reduction.
Research and reporting on the reduction of plastic bag use is the type of project in the Work Plan that is required to generate about 10% waste diversion. This is the amount of diversion that is still expected to be required after full implementation of the waste diversion options approved by Council in November 2007 to reach the goal of 65% diversion. If this project was not undertaken, other diversion opportunities would be pursued around the remaining 10% diversion.

Staff will be completing the review of options to reduce plastic bags in 2008 and reporting back to the Public Works Committee in January 2009.

_______________________
Scott Stewart
General Manager
Public Works
# Multi-Year Work Plan

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<td><strong>Original Target Date for 63% diversion</strong></td>
<td><strong>SWMMP Review</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goal to reach 85% diversion</strong></td>
<td><strong>Container Limit Review &amp; PATT - Plan for council approval by April 2008 and implementation 2008-2009 - Complete Nov</strong></td>
<td><strong>Curbside Collection - Changes (April 2008) - Recycling collection - Education on Curb Container limits begins - By-law enforcement</strong></td>
<td><strong>Container Limit in Effect</strong></td>
<td><strong>Collection System Planning for changes in April 2013 - Recycling, organics, garbage, bulk, L&amp;YW, mulch, 205/20 service providers</strong></td>
<td><strong>Black Processing Contract - Expires 2014</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Appendix A:</strong> Report PW07155a</td>
<td><strong>Hazardous Waste Services Tender for Jan 2009</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Contract for Transfer Stations, Landfill and L&amp;YW Composting Site - WMDO Contract Expires Dec 2010</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reconciliation #18 - Completion of recycling in parks - Green Procurement Policy</strong></td>
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