Present:

Councillor Maria Pearson
Councillor Chad Collins
Councillor Lloyd Ferguson
Beth Goodger, Director, Waste Management Division
Pat Parker, Manager of Solid Waste Planning, Waste Management Division
Blair Smith, Manager of Waste Collection, Waste Management Division
Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Ruta Morkunas, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Robert Wagner, Parks Coordinator, Operations and Maintenance
Peter Hutton, Waste Reduction Task Force

Regrets:

Councillor Russ Powers

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.  (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson)  CARRIED

2. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting from October 15, 2008

The minutes were adopted as presented.  (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson)  CARRIED

3. Transfer Station and Disposal Review

No further updates at this time as quorum was lost at the November 3rd Public Works Committee meeting. Transfer Station and Disposal Operation Request for Proposals C11-40-08 Selection of Successful Proponents (PW08123/FCS08101) - (City Wide) will be discussed in camera at the Public Works Committee meeting on November 17. The City Solicitor will provide legal advice.

4. Leaf and Yard Waste (L&YW) Program

Green Cart and Leaf and Yard Waste Program Changes (PW08126) - (City Wide) was considered at the November 3rd Public Works Committee meeting. A presentation and discussion took place concerning the impacts of L&YW on the Green Cart Program including processing at the Central Composting Facility (CCF), operational concerns for collection, the possible cancellation of the processing contract with Simcoe County, the collection of grass clippings, and the handling of large amounts of woody materials. Currently, residents are permitted to top up their Green Cart and set out two (2) additional containers or bundles of L&YW with their Green Cart.

There are operational issues both with collection and processing. Concerning collection, grass is heavy and gets stuck in the Green Cart, leading to difficulty emptying the Green Cart and can result in cart breakage. Grass clippings also produce high amounts of ammonia which stresses the CCF bio-filter.

Woody material from L&YW does not break down efficiently and about 72% of processed material must be reprocessed. This situation causes excessive use of the heavy equipment used to move the material within the facility which shortens its lifespan leading to more frequent replacement. A “fine grinder” which
grinds material into very small pieces as well as a “return conveyor” that automatically returns the ‘overs’ to the beginning of the process could be installed to improve efficiencies and reduce heavy equipment costs while maintaining the current level of service.

There is no L&YW in the organic material received from Halton Region and Simcoe County.

Councillor Collins asked why this situation was not recognized after so many years of piloting the Green Cart program before it was rolled out City wide. Beth Goodger replied that in 2006 when the Green Cart program was launched, residents were allowed to set out one (1) additional container of L&YW with the container. Resident feedback demanded more L&YW collection and Council directed the Waste Management division to increase the amount of bags it would accept with the Green Cart to two (2). The impact of the extra bag was not known at the time. During the pilot phase, in the Ancaster demonstration area (for example) there was no demand for more L&YW collection.

Four (4) options were discussed as alternatives to the Status Quo. Two (2) of the options would enable the continuation of the acceptance of L&YW collection with the Green Cart Program by either eliminating grass clippings or reducing the quantity by promoting grasscycling. Both options involve capital improvements to the CCF to enable more efficient processing of LYW. Both options would permit the continuation of the contract with Simcoe County and also allow the CCF to continue processing the excessive volumes of Leaf and Yard Waste by reducing the 72% reprocessing. Many communities such as Ottawa, Halton and Toronto do not accept grass clippings. Promoting grasscycling would have the least impact on residents.

Councillor Pearson requested a chronology of the L&YW program detailing when it was implemented, how many containers were accepted, what types of containers were accepted, etc.

Councillor Pearson asked if bags of L&YW could be separated out at the CCF. Craig Murdoch explained that the health and safety of workers could not be guaranteed and would be too dangerous to do this because the tipping floor is very active with heavy machinery.

It was moved that the information be received and that staff report back to the next appropriate Public Works Committee meeting. (Moved by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Ferguson) CARRIED

5. **Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Collection**

This information report was referred back from Council. A primary concern of staff is to determine satisfactory recycling containers that are acceptable within the collection service provider contract and the ergonomic study.

Councillor Collins explained that he has done some investigating and would like to discuss the larger container for collection directly with Waste Management staff. A meeting will be arranged with the Councillor and the matter will be deferred to a future Steering Committee meeting.

6. **Milton Motion on Deposit Return to Reduce Litter**

The Milton motion which was referred by Council to the SWMMP Steering Committee for comment to the Public Works Committee on September 10th, 2008 was read aloud. Councillor Ferguson inquired as to the amount of revenue that aluminium generates for the City and expressed concern over losing this revenue. Blair Smith explained that although aluminium does generate a good price ($1,618.00 Cdn/metric tonne in October) Old Corrugated Cardboard (OCC) is the biggest revenue generator for the City because of the quantity collected and processed.

It was explained that there is political interest concerning packaging through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) exploring Extended Producer Responsibility. In October the Minister of the Environment issued the discussion paper “Toward a Zero Waste Future: Review of Ontario’s Waste Diversion Act, 2002”. Although it does not address the integration of waste management systems, it does discuss a number of issues such as full producer responsibility, focusing on waste reduction and reuse, improving waste diversion in the ICI (Industrial, Commercial and Institutional) sector, and clarifying roles and responsibilities. The Ministry of Environment is also considering changes to the Blue Box Program. Changes that may result from the WDA or Blue Box Program review may assist in addressing the resolution from the Town of Milton.
Based on the information provided, it was moved that:

(a) That the Town of Milton Resolution No. 333-08 requesting that the Ministry of the Environment be requested to consider a deposit/return system for aluminum cans and plastic beverage containers as a means of reducing litter, be received and no further action taken;

(b) That the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Town of Milton be advised accordingly; and

(c) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business List of the Public Works Committee.

(Moved by Councillor Ferguson, seconded by Councillor Collins). CARRIED

7. Diversion Options Implementation Update

Phase 2 (15 to 30 units) of the Multi-Residential Green Cart program roll-out should be completed in December. A number of commercial units with apartments above them have been identified, and are included in the database. Currently, 550 buildings have been completed: 56% of buildings completed representing 15% of total units completed. There have been some refusals to accept service and these buildings will be addressed before beginning Phase 3 of the roll-out. Revisions to the Solid Waste Management By-law will facilitate enforcement of the Green Cart Program as currently the Ministry of the Environment enforces Multi-Res recycling but not organics diversion.

Open House information sessions are being held for property managers and superintendents of Phase 3 buildings (above 30 units).

Councillor Collins asked what the current diversion rate was. It is 43% for residential, with an overall diversion rate between 39 and 40%.

A resolution has been found to the staffing issue discussed in the Multi-Residential Green Cart Program Implementation (PW08106) (City Wide) report. Night time litter collection will take place in the day time allowing the use of existing vehicles. Fuel savings have been incorporated. There will be no service level changes and no additional full time staff additions. This report was coming forward to the November 17th, 2008 Public Works Committee.

8. Waste Reduction Task Force Update

Peter Hutton reported that there was a lot of discussion around Information Report PW08112 - Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Materials as well as the upcoming collection pilot program. The following motions were put forward at the October 15th, 2008 meeting:

1. Whereas the Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) has reviewed and discussed Information Report PW08112 - Larger Blue Boxes for Curbside Recycling Materials,

   And whereas the Blue Boxes are distributed free of charge to residents to encourage recycling,

   And whereas there is no limit on the number of Blue Boxes that can be set out for collection,

   The WRTF is resolved that no changes be considered to the current Blue Box system at this time. The WRTF is also resolved that alternative Blue Box containers be considered in the next collection service system review.

2. Whereas the Waste Reduction Task Force (WRTF) has discussed the scope of the proposed 2009 Collection Pilot and related capital request,

   The WRTF is resolved that Council be requested to approve the capital requested to enable the completion of the 2009 Collection Pilot.

Other discussions centred on the new promotional campaign being developed that focuses on people promoting their own diversion stories, i.e., what they do to reduce their garbage and make diversion easier.

9. Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Update

Blair Smith advised that the new container processing line is working well. Commodity prices however are moving down due to the downturn in the economy. Collection staff is working to develop an acceptable
plan to store baled fibre material in the west side of the MRF until prices start to recover. Currently fibre is worth about $10.00 Cdn/tonne compared to $110.00 Cdn/tonne last year. The MRF bales about 25 tonnes of fibre for market per month. Lower commodity prices are not unique to Hamilton. It is predicted that markets will recover in the 3rd quarter of 2009.

Councillor Collins inquired about the annual capital budget for the MRF and if it is still required. Blair Smith explained that a good example is the MRF roof, which although is considered by the roofing consultant to be a high quality roof, that due to its size and type of construction, the City should expect to spend up to $40,000.00 per year on maintenance. Councillor Collins asked if it would make sense to put this in the annual Operating budget as opposed to Capital. Beth advised that this question would be better addressed by Finance.

10. Glanbrook Landfill Operations Update
Craig Murdoch announced that the landfill gas to energy generators are now hooked up to the hydro grid and expects that they will be operational and bringing in revenue by the end of November.

The Environmental Review Tribunal (ERT) has essentially resolved all outstanding issues regarding the revised Certificate of Approval for the Glanbrook Landfill. There is a hearing next week at which a City lawyer will be present to attend to formalities.

11. Recycling in Parks
Rob Wagner gave an update on recycling in parks and a report that will be coming forward to the Public Works Committee. It is proposed that the status quo concerning recycling barrels be maintained for 2009. Operations and Maintenance would like to propose an advertising campaign to promote taking home waste materials that are brought into the park. Park waste audit results from 2007 showed high contamination rates in both the garbage and recycling barrels. The estimated cost of the promotion campaign is $15,000.00.

12. Other Business
Councillors are invited to an informal get together one (1) hour prior to the next WRTF meeting on December 10th, which precedes a Council meeting. Peter Hutton mentioned that four (4) Task Force members (Mary Lou Dickson, Angela Pastorius, Betty Hay-Lambek and Dave Hart Dyke) will not be returning to the Task Force.

13. Next Meeting: December 16th, 2008 in Room 320A at the Hamilton City Centre