July 11, 2006

Resolution No. 2006-657

Mayors/Wardens/Chairs and Members of Council:

Subject: Request to the Provincial Minister of the Environment for the Establishment of Material-Specific Recovery Rates for Plastic Packaging and a Plastic Market Development Investment Fund

I am writing to advise that Regional Council approved the following recommendation at its meeting held on July 6, 2006:

Whereas the Region of Peel is responsible for the collection and processing of waste for over one million residents in the Region;

And whereas the Provincial recovery rate for consumer plastic packaging is currently only 18 per cent;

And whereas the Region of Peel is concerned with decisions made by manufacturers to use non-recoverable plastic packaging;

And whereas non-recoverable plastic packaging increases municipal collection, processing and disposal costs;

And whereas Stewardship Ontario has created a $2 million Glass Market Development Investment Fund to establish a value-added market for mixed broken glass from municipal recycling programs;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Ontario Minister of the Environment be requested to direct Stewardship Ontario, through Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO), to:

a) amend the Blue Box Program Plan to establish material-specific recovery targets of at least 60 per cent for all consumer packaging materials, including plastic packaging, with deadlines and action plans to be approved by the Minister;

b) create a Plastic Market Development Investment Fund of sufficient size to establish recycling processing capacity for Ontario municipalities for mixed (i.e. non-bottle) plastics packaging within two years; and

c) report back to the Minister with a plan to standardize plastic resins used for specific consumer packaging applications in order to facilitate recovery of these materials in the municipal recycling system, with deadlines and action plans to be approved by the Minister;

And further, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Ontario municipalities with Waste Management responsibilities for their consideration.
On behalf of Regional Council, I request that you give consideration to the above recommendation. I look forward to your early reply. Please quote the Region’s resolution number (2006-657) in your reply.

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