Proposed Changes to the Waste Diversion Act

Issue: The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators (AMRC) have prepared a discussion paper proposing changes to the Waste Diversion Act (WDA). We are looking for municipal input about what is being proposed.

Background: The WDA came into force in June of 2002, and a review of it is fast approaching. In preparation for the review, AMO and AMRC have prepared a discussion paper for municipal review and input.

The establishment of the Waste Diversion Act was an important step in acknowledging and defining the responsibilities of industry stewards who produce, import and market products within this jurisdiction. It also set the framework for the promotion, diversion and recycling of "designated wastes" and provided a financial cost-sharing partnership with industry funding organizations for wastes designated under the Act.

2007 marks the first opportunity to review the provisions and intent of the WDA. While many facets of the Act have served both industry and municipalities well in establishing and governing the cost management framework, AMO and AMRC regard this review as a timely opportunity to provide a needed impetus for policy and program leadership to be reflected within the WDA and the governance structure of Waste Diversion Ontario.

It is AMO and AMRC's position that the recommendations contained within this discussion paper continue to ensure fairness and transparency in the legislation as well as meet the needs of our members. AMO/AMRC municipal Waste Management Task Force representatives will be presenting this discussion paper to staff from WDO and Stewardship Ontario in May of 2007.

The discussion paper can be viewed on the AMO website.

Recommendations:
That municipalities provide AMO with observations and input on the proposed changes to the WDA by July 16, 2007.

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