City of Hamilton

MINUTES: Waste Reduction Task Force
Wednesday, November 16th, 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
Linda Hughes  Laurie Nielsen  Joel Begin
Joanne Bortolotto  Ron Joice  Angela Pastorius

Regrets: Dana Woods  Peter Hutton

Also Present: Craig Murdoch, Manager of Waste Disposal, Waste Management Division
Anne Winning, Supervisor Policy and Planning, Waste Management Division
Colleen Brakewell, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Adam Watson, Policy Analyst, Waste Management Division
Vegan, Public
Donna Robinson, Public
John Hawker, Public

1. Approval of the Minutes from October 19th, 2005

The Task Force received a copy of the minutes from the October 19th, 2005 meeting.

The minutes were approved
(Moved by Mike Caruso, seconded by Laurie Nielsen)

2. Administrative Items

Issue of Task Force elections was raised and inquiry into the selection of sub-committee to review applications. The question of when the subcommittee would perform its duties was also asked. Task Force members were informed that the subcommittee would meet in December and January. Linda Hughes and Laurie Nielsen volunteered to join the subcommittee.

Staff informed Task Force members that the applications would be posted on the Waste Management website on December 2nd and that paper copies of the applications will be available at the end of the Task Force meeting. The elections will be advertised on December 2nd and 9th and that the closing date for applications will be December 19th, 2005.

3. CCF Update

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 and 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

The Task Force received an update on the recent activities of the education sub-committee including the potential to work with the Hamilton Spectator and having a banner strung across Main St. with a waste message. In addition, updates were received about future plans for the Jackson Square window display and the process for the Task Force to provide input on media materials. An inquiry was made on how much more recyclables have been taken in since the commencement of the recent blue box advertising campaign. Staff responded they would look into it and report back on the matter.

b) Glanbrook Landfill Coordinating Committee

A discussion took place on the potential for landfill gas at the landfill being collected and used as an energy source. Staff responded that due to the closure of SWARU in December 2002, the landfill is just now beginning to produce methane gas which could be utilized.

Staff informed Task Force members that there presently is an RFP from the provincial government for renewable energy sources, which includes landfill gas. It is the intention of the City to submit a proposal for energy from landfill gas. If the proposal is successful, the revenue generated will cover the capital costs of the project.

A question was raised about the potential for doing away with landfill gas. Staff responded that it is not possible to eliminate methane gas, but that it is possible to vent or gather the gas for flare or energy use. Concern was expressed about whether Glanbrook will have any flaring of gas at the landfill site. Staff responded that if any flaring occurs a proper system will be installed which likely will not be visible to residents. Additionally, it was pointed out that at no time in a flaring system are open flames visible.

Staff was also asked why the costs related to the building at the landfill were so high. Staff responded that the number provided was the budget available for the buildings, not the actual cost of building it. It was also noted that the building was planned with input from the GLCC, and that the City’s purchasing policies were followed. The successful contractor was the lowest bid of three received.

5. Solid Waste Management Master Plan Initiatives

a) Waste Diversion Facilities Update

Staff provided an update on the MRF. The tender for design of the renovations/retrofit has closed and is being assessed now. Upgrading of the old building is necessary and it is proposed to add a fibre processing line to process materials prior to shipping to Toronto. Part of the renovation plans involves supplying workers with heated modules instead of heating the entire building to cut down on energy/heating costs. It will also be required to change the sprinkler system to a “dry system” versus the current “wet system”.

A question was posed about the potential for heating the MRF by the excess heat generated at the CCF. Staff responded that they had looked into this but determined it was not feasible due to the cost of a heat exchange system and the amount of heat actually generated.

Staff updated the taskforce about the potential to change to a single stream recycling system but that the 2-stream system is working fine and there are no perceived time savings to going single stream.
b) Community Recycling Centres (CRC’s)

Staff provided an update on the CRC’s and the progress made towards their completion. A member inquired into when diversion levels will be available at the Mountain CRC. Staff indicated that tonnages are being tracked soon and will be counted towards the diversion rate.

A discussion took place on the acceptability of different wood products for recycling at the CRC and the possibility of encouraging contractors to drop-off their wood wastes to be recycled.

A discussion took place on the signage and advertising of the CRC’s. Staff informed members that Waste Management is currently reviewing on-site signage and has already started to process of increasing signage on main roads leading to the Mountain CRC.

A discussion took place about the possibility of parking trailers to allow charitable donations to be dropped off at the Dundas and Kenora CRC’s. Staff informed the Task Force that proximity of existing re-use centres near the Dundas and Kenora sites combined with the potential cost savings were the reasons to eliminate the re-use component at these sites.

c) Solid Waste Management By-law Enforcement Strategy

Staff provided an update on the by-law enforcement strategy. It was indicated that as of November 21, 2005 the number of fines will be reduced from 40 to 17 and included is a reward system.

A member asked if less fines means less rules related to waste and recycling. Staff responded that the reduction was just a harmonization of the fine system and that the same enforcement capacity will be maintained.

6. Staff Updates on Other Waste Issues

Staff updated the Task Force on the single family waste audit of 120 homes planned for December and indicated that the audit will follow Stewardship Ontario methodology.

A discussion took place about the appropriate precautions the City advises for placing your blue box at the curb during inclement weather.

An inquiry was made into progress in recycling at apartments and school boards. Staff indicated the recent addition of Councilor Pearson to the school board committee may help move this initiative ahead. It was also indicated that a multi-residential diversion strategy is currently being formulated.

A member inquired into the availability of polystyrene collection tonnages. It was indicated that those numbers are being compiled and will be made available shortly. It was indicated that polystyrene recovery will be measured by weight, not volume and that the initial assessment is that polystyrene is a popular blue box material so far.

An inquiry was made about the blue box reward program. Staff explained the nomination process for good blue box participants and indicated that a monthly draw is held for the reimbursement of the waste charge on the winners’ property tax bill.

7. Other Business

Nothing was discussed under other business.

8. Public Discussion

A member of the public made an inquiry into the lack of recycling services at some commercial facilities, such as malls. Staff explained that the City does not service many of these facilities and therefore does not have any authority to require recycling upon these properties.

Discussion took place over the existing state of multi-residential recycling in the City and what could be done to improve diversion at these properties.

A discussion took place over household hazardous waste and the issue of accessibility of proper disposal options for all residents.
A member of the public inquired about the lack of recycling at City festivals. Staff outlined the existing festival recycling program and explained that only festivals receiving City funding can be required to offer recycling.

A member of the public inquired about the need for public recycling bins and the presence of litter on City streets. Staff responded that litter is not a responsibility of the Waste Management Division, but they could be put in touch with the appropriate City staff by calling (905) 546-CITY.

A discussion took place about public outreach on recycling for schools.

A member inquired about the disposal of air conditioners at transfer stations. Staff responded that the City is currently expanding its CFC item drop-off at the CRC’s.

9. Adjournment

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

The next meeting is scheduled for December 14th, 2005 at 7 p.m. at the Hamilton City Hall Room 110.

Moved by Mary Lou Dickson and seconded by Laurie Nielsen 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