

Present:

Councillor Bose – Chair
B. Burnside
B. Campbell
M. Deo
C. Dragomir
M. Harcourt
G. Sahota
G. Sangha
A. Schulze
B. Stewart

Regrets:

K. Keshvani

Staff Present:

S. Godwin, Environmental Coordinator
R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

**Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative:**

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was Moved by C. Dragomir
Seconded by G. Sahota
That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting held on January 27, 2010, be adopted.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Rob Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager: Single-Stream Materials
Recycling Facility and Regional Waste Diversion Initiatives
File No. 5380-01**

Further to the 2010 Work Plan and the Committee's tour of Emterra's (IPI) Single-Stream Materials Recycling Facility in recent weeks, R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager, was in attendance to discuss plans relating to solid waste management from a regional and City perspective and provide an update on single stream recycling and address any questions and/or concerns the Committee may have. Comments were as follows:

- Single stream has officially been in effect for one year now. One of the requirements is that the facility was to be conducive to tours. The facility is not conducive for tours at present but can be arranged by private invitation.
- For the school kids, the City has hired a consultant to create a video of the facility operations which will be shown to the 71 schools that the City meets with annually for environmental education via its SWAP for % program. It would be easier to show a video, as it is considered too dangerous for children to tour the facility at this time.
- The video will also be placed on the City's website for the public to access.
- An attachment or link, on the City's web page, that could provide the video and associated information is the goal. The challenge is always pushing the

resident to the website and ensuring that the message is clear and understandable for the resident.

- A waste composition study, in terms of organics, was done last summer. It was determined that 67% of residential garbage is comprised of divertible organic waste. A further study is presently underway which reviews waste composition from all residential streams including garbage, recycling and yard waste. So far, an early review of a one-week sample reflects that recyclables residual is less than 5%. A better incitation will be determined once the entire study is complete.
- The study will look at residual levels in recyclables in the Panorama Ridge area, which will be compared to the rest of the city.
- As far as the type of residual that is being discovered in the recyclables, it contains products such as unacceptable plastic materials (bags, toys) however, more volatile contaminants such as food waste or motor oil do not appear to be a problem. A good example of this would be the packaging for flats of pop with a cardboard tray that is wrapped with plastic – the plastic should be removed and thrown away and the cardboard tray should be recycled. The processing facility in Surrey does not see markets for plastic items that are generally not associated with food containers or product packaging. For example, items such as plastic toys placed into the recycling bin cannot be processed as there are no viable markets at present that will accept disparate pieces of resin plastics.
- The compaction recycling trucks, with a capacity of 18 tons (max at 15 tons) do not return to the depot until the shift is finished. Previously, the trucks would have to go back and forth for three trips as they had compartments where one compartment would fill far quicker than the rest which required more trips. The compaction vehicles require less fuel as they do not have to travel back and forth to unload throughout the day. That goes to the bottom line with regard to the City's carbon footprint, which is taken in to account as part of the City's carbon inventory.
- Education of acceptable materials for recycling is a continuous process – the value of the materials depends on how well it is being managed by the participants.
- Our contamination is so low because of the education and experience gained with multi-stream before bringing on single-stream. The objective, as always, is a system of continuous improvement.
- With regard to food waste collection, one of the regional goals in the draft solid waste management plan is to increase waste diversion to 70% by the year 2015. Regionally, Surrey is currently sitting at 55% waste diversion; Organics diversion will help to achieve the 70% target.
- This spring, the City will be hosting a series of public information sessions where options for organics waste collection will be presented. The goal is to determine if any one option is preferred by the public. Following, the City will be implementing a pilot program to carry out to compost collection program.

Discussion ensued regarding carbon benefits (diesel, natural gas fuelled vehicles, liquid natural gas, etc.). It was noted that Canada is one of the lowest users of natural gas vehicles. The technology available is better efficiency for short duration trips like garbage collectors.

Conversation continued regarding future options for a weekly/bi-weekly system (i.e. weekly organics and garbage pick-up and bi-weekly pick-up recycling). Although 100% organics diversion won't be achieved initially, it will likely be similar to the start of the yard waste collection program where, as time progresses, participation rates increased substantially. By starting out weekly, residents will likely learn that they don't need their garbage collected weekly due to the high amount of organics that they are diverting from their garbage. Various options will be considered and piloted first. One option could be to have a split compaction truck - 2/3 of truck organic material, 1/3 garbage and all compacted.

Comments continued:

- As the City is reviewing the possibility of utilizing natural gas waste collection truck(s), a staff visit to Seattle to see the waste management fleet there, which is entirely operated by natural gas, has been scheduled for February 11, 2010.
- It should be noted that there is a difference in using the term "organics". Kitchen organics are essentially kitchen/food waste, as opposed to organically grown, etc.
- It is important to be linguistically disciplined in the language used to inform the residents in order to avoid any confusion. The language has to be very simplified and easy to understand; how the information is presented can make all the difference in going forward.

Commercial waste volumes were discussed and it was noted that the regional tipping rate has increased, which has been planned to increase annually to \$130 per ton by 2014. Charts and photos noting total generated waste composition and composition of disposed waste by sector, were shown.

Further comments were noted as follows:

- Surrey is going to have its first "eco centre" that will emphasize more on waste diversion than garbage. There will be a component at that facility with a greater emphasis on the recyclables and reuse items. Items not presently captured at curbside, may be captured.
- Also looking at the possibility of having the opportunity to take in items that are reusable but don't want to go to the bother of selling. The potential for partnership (e.g. Salvation Army) is being looked at, however there are a number of things to consider first (liability for items such as items that may not work properly and inadvertently cause damage or personal harm).
- There will be no disposal charge for any materials that can be diverted.
- The eco centre is for residential waste stream, not commercial.
- There is presently a demand for options and these facilities can provide a "one-stop drop". A re-use store, fully staffed, will curb and hopefully alleviate the problem of illegal dumping.
- The intent is to ensure that, unlike the residential drop-off system, there is an outlet for everything. You don't have to drop off garbage and go somewhere else with other materials.
- Newton and South Surrey are the two key areas being considered to site the facility. Likely there will eventually be two facilities as Surrey's population growth warrants the need.

- It is expected that the foot print for the site will be 3-5 acres and will be established off an arterial road. A number of property options are being looked at, including properties under the hydro corridor, which would be ideal.
- The goal is to have the site up and running in 2011.

In closing, the Deputy Operations Manager briefly reviewed some of the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan goals and the strategies to achieving those goals and noted his availability for further update, discussions and/or presentations with the Committee at their convenience.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Pesticide Control By-law

Further to the Committee's frustration expressed at the January 27, 2010 meeting regarding the introduction of the Pesticide Control By-law, the Committee was advised that Council will hear a staff presentation in a "shirtsleeve session", scheduled for March 1, 2010, which will provide an opportunity for Council to address the conflicting resolutions that were made in this regard. A further update will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

An update from the recent AAC meeting was provided. Comments were as follows:

- The AAC received a presentation from the Engineering Department on the R-91 Transportation Plan, similar to that which was presented to the EAC in December 2009.
- A brief update on the proposed commercial composting facility in South Surrey was provided and it was noted that, despite the AAC's objections and contrary to staff recommendations, Council elected to forward the proposal to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) for their decision. The ALC must rule on it as it is not a recognized agricultural use of ALR land. There is at least

one environmental stewardship group concerned about the possible negative environmental consequences should the project proceed.

2. Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update

A brief update from the recent DAC meeting was provided. It was noted that the main focus of the meeting was the delegation presentation from the Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) where a number of opportunities to incorporate public art into the various projects was discussed.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Stewardship/Stakeholder Groups

The Committee was advised that there has been some concern expressed by a stewardship group regarding the lack of information that is shared to their group. Discussion regarding the perception of the Committee's role in addressing these types of concerns ensued. It was noted that the Committee is open to review issues, suggestions and concerns that the various stewardship and stakeholder groups may have, however the difficulty has been in getting that message out to the public. Caution was also raised with regard to the Committee being seen as a conduit to getting things done and, in turn, taking on the responsibility for the various issues and suggestions, which is a concern for the Committee regarding their capacity as an advisory committee.

It was requested that a listing of the community, stakeholder and stewardship groups be provided at the next meeting for review and further discussion.

2. Ecosystem Management Project

The Committee requested an update on the status of the Draft Ecosystem Management project and was advised that the mapping has been done, the report has been drafted and that it was being reviewed by senior staff to determine the best avenue to move it forward. A presentation will be provided to the Committee, following the scheduled presentation from Dr. Val Schaefer, at the Committee's meeting in March.

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on March 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chair

Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee