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The Regional Municipality of Durham Information Report

From: Commissioner of Works
Report: #2021-INFO-62
Date: June 11, 2021

Subject:

Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021-2040 Consultation Update

Recommendation:

Receive for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the development to the Regional Municipality of Durham's (Region) Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021–2040 and the 2021 Consultation Plan.

2. Background

2.1 The development of a new Long-Term Waste Management Plan commenced in early 2020 with consultation undertaken with the following groups:

- a. Regional staff from various departments;
- b. Local area municipality staff;
- c. Regional advisory groups; and
- d. The public via online survey, virtual open house, and a live virtual Town Hall meeting.

2.2 These consultations were intended to be held in person but shifted to online consultation due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

- 2.3 2020 consultation focused on the guiding principles for the Waste Plan development, the draft vision, and objectives.
- 2.4 The Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021–2040 is an important strategic planning document for the Region as it will help to inform future waste management initiatives as well as future operating and capital budgets.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 Report #2019-COW-3 titled “Solid Waste Management Servicing and Financing Study” directed staff to begin developing an updated Long-term Waste Management Plan 2021–2040.
- 3.2 Report #2020-COW-3 titled “Solid Waste Management 2020 Strategic Issues and Financial Forecast” expanded on the previously outlined vision for the new Waste Plan to enhance the Region’s reduce, reuse, recycle principles and incorporate a foundation for the Waste Plan to utilize waste as a resource.
- 3.3 Report #2020-INFO-26 titled “Long-term Waste Management Plan 2021-2040 Development Schedule” provided an update on the timelines and key tasks for developing the Long-term Waste Management Plan and the shift to online consultation for 2020.
- 3.4 Report #2021-WR-1 titled “Long-term Waste Management Plan 2020 Consultation, Vision and Objectives” provided Regional Council with a summary of consultation completed on the draft vision and objectives and recommended revised guiding principles, a vision statement and five objectives for the Waste Plan. Rethink was incorporated into the guiding principles and part of objective one to build an understanding about the connection between consumer choices and waste management programs and services.

4. Long-term Waste Management Plan 2021-2040 Draft Targets and Actions Consultation

- 4.1 Following Regional Council approval of the guiding principles, vision and objectives for the Waste Plan, a draft Waste Plan including targets and actions was prepared in winter and early spring of 2021.
- 4.2 An online survey regarding possible changes to waste management practices was launched on April 19, 2021 to provide early public input for the draft targets and actions. Survey details are provided below.

- 4.3 Further consultation on the Waste Plan draft targets and actions commenced in May 2021 with an online meeting attended by staff representatives from local area municipalities and several regional departments.
- 4.4 Consultation with Regional Advisory Committees is currently underway. Committees included are the Energy-from-Waste - Waste Management Advisory Committee, the Durham Environmental Advisory Committee, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Durham Region Roundtable on Climate Change.
- 4.5 Additional consultation with the public will commence in fall 2021 and will include a virtual open house with a resident online survey and a virtual town hall to allow for live responses to resident questions. This consultation is anticipated to be completed in mid to late October 2021.
- 4.6 The draft Waste Plan, including the draft targets and actions, will be revised to reflect input received from all consultation after which a proposed final Waste Plan and the first Five-Year Action Plan will be presented to Council for endorsement in late 2021 or early 2022. A summary of consultation activities will be included in the final draft of the Waste Plan.
- 4.7 Following Regional Council endorsement of the new Long-Term Waste Management Plan 2021–2040, staff will focus on promoting the new Waste Plan and beginning implementation of the Five-Year Action Plan in 2022.

5. Spring 2021 Consultation Survey Results

- 5.1 A survey was posted online for resident response between April 19 and May 19, 2021. The survey was promoted on the Region's Waste App, as a banner on the Waste Management webpages and across Metroland media online newspapers. The survey questions were designed to solicit resident opinions on several actions being considered for the draft Waste Plan. Over 2,500 residents participated in the survey.
- 5.2 The survey received participation from residents from every local municipality on questions regarding their preferred source of waste management information, interest in backyard composting, which topics they would like additional information, waste diversion efforts and potential changes to Waste Management Facility (WMF) hours.
- 5.3 Approximately 80 per cent of survey respondents indicated that they obtain information on waste management programs from the Region's Waste App.

- 5.4 Most residents responding to the survey make efforts to donate or sell items before disposing them as garbage and indicated that household hazardous waste is the material most frequently taken to WMF for disposal. Most respondents also indicated they were satisfied with the hours of operation of the WMFs.
- 5.5 Residents reported interest in learning how to repair bikes and small appliances or electronics. Interest in tips for better food storage to reduce spoilage was a common response to the food waste reduction question. Over 50 per cent of residents responding indicated they are not interested in backyard composting.
- 5.6 The survey questions are provided in Attachment #1.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Goal 1.2: Increase waste diversion and resource recovery. The Region will continue to invest in programs that divert waste from landfill, while increasing resource recovery from existing waste through innovative technologies and solutions.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 A draft Waste Plan has been developed that includes proposed targets that support Regional Council approved objectives of the Waste Plan. Recommended actions necessary to achieve the targets are also included in the first Five Year Action Plan.
- 7.2 Spring consultation was held with Regional staff and local area municipality representatives. Consultation with Regional Advisory Committees is currently underway. Public consultation is planned for fall 2021.
- 7.3 The draft Waste Plan, the recommended targets and actions and a record of consultation will be presented for Regional Council approval in late 2021 or early 2022.
- 7.4 For additional information, contact: Gioseph Anello. Director, Waste Management Services, at 905-668-7711, extension 3445.

8. Attachments

Attachment 1: Long-term Waste Management Plan Spring 2021 On-line Survey

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by:

Susan Siopis, P.Eng.
Commissioner of Works

Long-term Waste Management Plan Spring 2021 On-line Survey

1. Please indicate which local municipality you live in:
 - a. Ajax
 - b. Brock
 - c. Clarington
 - d. Oshawa
 - e. Pickering
 - f. Scugog
 - g. Uxbridge
 - h. Whitby

2. How do you currently access information about the Region's waste management programs including waste collection schedules?
 - a. Waste App
 - b. Website
 - c. Annual waste calendar received by mail
 - d. Other (please specify)

3. How do you dispose of items you no longer want or use before putting them at the curb or taking them to one of the Region's Waste Management Facilities (drop-off locations)? Select all that apply.
 - a. Selling items
 - b. Donating items
 - c. Return to retail (for electronics, expired medicine, etc.)
 - d. Pre-paid mail back retailer recycling programs (e.g. ink cartridges, coffee pods)
 - e. Other (please specify)

4. Which of the following items have you taken to the Regional Waste Management Facilities (drop-off locations) in the past year? Select all that apply.
 - a. Garbage
 - b. Household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, fertilizer, etc.)
 - c. Electronics (TVs, monitors, speakers etc.)
 - d. Used clothing or other fabric/textiles
 - e. Renovation material like lumber, drywall, flooring
 - f. Old appliances
 - g. Used tires
 - h. Leaf and yard waste
 - i. Soil/ rubble (e.g. bricks, concrete)
 - j. Other (please specify)

5. Similar to the program offered for paint exchange at the Oshawa Waste Management Facility, would you use a free program to pick up opened fertilizer dropped off by other residents at Region Waste Management Facilities?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure

6. Are you satisfied with the hours of the Region's Waste Management Facilities (drop-off locations)? Tuesday – Saturday 8 am – 4 pm with extended hours to 6 pm on Tuesdays in the summer.
 - a. Yes, I am satisfied with the current hours
 - b. No, I would like to see the Facilities open later in the evenings Tuesday - Thursday
 - c. No, I would like to see the Facilities Open on Sundays
 - d. Other (please specify)

7. What items would you like to get help learning how to fix or repair? Select all that apply.
- a. Bikes
 - b. Clothing
 - c. Small appliances
 - d. Toys
 - e. Small electronics
 - f. Jewelry
 - g. Not interested in fixing items myself
 - h. Other (please specify)
8. In what areas would you like tips on how to reduce your food waste? Select all that apply.
- a. Stocking Your Pantry
 - b. Think twice before throwing out leftovers
 - c. Using 'Ugly' fruits and vegetables
 - d. Food donation options
 - e. Less food waste with kids
 - f. How to make preserved foods
 - g. How to source local foods
 - h. Better storage so food doesn't spoil
 - i. I'm good – no tips needed
 - j. Other (please specify)
9. Do you currently use a backyard composter?
- a. Yes
 - b. No, I am not interested in backyard composting
 - c. No, I am interested in learning more about backyard composting
10. Would you participate in waste reduction challenges for prizes?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure