

Appendix 7 - Addressing Concerns Related to Proposed Collection Options

During the stakeholder consultation and engagement process, concerns were expressed by residents and business owners through Facebook, public open houses/community events and communication by email, phone and web submission. Those concerns are summarized in Appendix 4. The following table provides potential responses for addressing those concerns and minimizing potential impacts of the proposed collection options.

| Resident Concern | Options for Addressing Concern |
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| Odours from diapers, feminine hygiene products, raw meat packaging increasing with every-other-week garbage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide option for residents to drop-off clear bags of diapers at landfill sites/drop-off depots at no charge. • Diapers, feminine hygiene products and raw meat packaging should be sealed tightly a plastic bag and placed in a container with a lid for storage in a cool, dry location. • Styrofoam meat trays can be washed and placed in the Blue Box for weekly collection. |
| Increased illegal dumping of garbage as a result of every-other-week garbage and/or clear garbage bags | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience in other municipalities has shown that property owners readily adapt to collection changes and if there is an increase in illegal dumping after the change in collection is implemented, it is temporary and short-lived. • By-law officers work to enforce ongoing issues with illegal dumping. |
| Privacy issues with the use of clear garbage bags for personal items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conceal private or sensitive materials, allow an opaque privacy bag (i.e. grocery bag) to be placed inside the clear garbage bags. • Confidential documents should be shredded and placed inside a clear plastic bag before being placed inside the Grey Box or Grey Cart. These materials can also be placed in the Green Bin. • Experience in Markham showed that allowing multiple opaque privacy bags at outset of clear bag program facilitated implementation and reduced privacy concerns. |

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| <p>Additional expense of having to purchase clear bags and/or privacy bags and potential issues with quality and availability of clear garbage bags</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear plastic and coloured plastic garbage bags are manufactured from the same type of plastic resin. The quality and strength of clear plastic bags is similar to that of opaque plastic bags. • Differences in price and quality may occur, based on individual bag size, closure type, packaging size or brand name. • Regional staff would communicate with local businesses to ensure that clear bags would be available for purchase at the same local retailers as traditional opaque bags. |
| <p>Storing additional garbage bags due to every-other-week garbage collection and/or clear garbage bags that are left behind due to unacceptable materials</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents and businesses can significantly reduce their garbage by fully utilizing the weekly, unlimited recycling and organics collection services provided by Niagara Region. • Once unacceptable materials are removed from clear garbage bags, the materials can be placed out on the next scheduled collection day or taken to a drop-off depot for a fee. |
| <p>Ability of collectors to monitor and enforce clear garbage bag contents</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collectors would evaluate whether a bag conforms to the Waste Management By-law regarding recyclables, organics and hazardous waste, based on what can be seen through the clear bag. • Collectors would not be opening bags or searching contents. Bags would be assessed visually during collection time to address clear instances of non-conformance, including situations where non-acceptable materials are visible or a clear garbage bag has not been used. • Regional staff will follow-up with the property owner regarding the proper set out of material for collection to avoid re-occurrence of uncollected garbage. |
| <p>Ability of residents to transport scrap metal and large appliances to drop-off depots.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents that do not have the ability to transport scrap metal and large appliances would have the option of contacting private scrap metal haulers for pick-up. |

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| <p>Increase in pests (i.e. rats, raccoons, squirrels, maggots) if garbage is collected every-other-week</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing food waste and food soiled-paper products in the Green Bin, which will continue to be collected weekly, will remove the most odorous part of the garbage stream, which can attract pests. • Residents can take simple steps to deter pests, such as rodents, from their Green Bins, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keeping the Green Bin container securely closed at all times ○ Setting out the Green Bin for collection every week, even if it is not full ○ Setting out the Green Bin by 7am on collection day, not the night before ○ Storing the Green Bin in a shaded, cool area ○ Lining the Green Bin with paper liner bags, sheets of newspaper or cereal boxes to absorb liquids |
| <p>Clear garbage bags adding unnecessary plastic waste to landfills</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For those residents already using garbage bags and/or grocery bags, clear bags would not increase the amount of plastic bags being sent to landfills. • Plastic opaque privacy bags would be optional. • Use of clear garbage bags would be expected to increase diversion rates, potentially offsetting any additional plastic introduced through use of clear garbage bags. |
| <p>Requests for Region to use carts, bigger containers and/or containers with lids</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Region has explored the option using carts for residential curbside collection. The results of that research indicate that the costs of that change would be prohibitive at this time. In addition, cart programs utilize single stream recycling collection, which have higher rates of contamination than the two stream recycling program that Niagara Region is currently using and would negatively affect revenue from the sale of recyclables. |