

MEMORANDUM

WMPSC-C 22-2023

Subject: Councillor Information Request

Date: August 29, 2023

To: Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

From: Catherine Habermebl, Director, Waste Management Services

This memorandum is intended to provide Committee members with an update on the outstanding Councillor Requests from previous meetings.

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

Meeting Date: June 26, 2023

Minute Item #3.2: Councillor Rigby requested information regarding costs for a coffee pod recycling program or other options for coffee pod recycling at Niagara Regional Headquarters.

Follow-up Action: Nespresso is the only known free coffee capsule return program available, however they only accept their own brand of aluminum coffee pods for recycling in their program. Two other known programs are available, however at a cost. One through Keurig, which only accepts Keurig brand pods, and another one through Terracycle which accepts all brands of coffee pods, capsules, and discs.

Keen on Green, a multi-departmental staff-based committee, is currently promoting the Choose to Reuse campaign to increase awareness amongst Regional employees about the challenges of single use coffee cups and pods. This campaign encourages low waste coffee practices. It also includes the incentive to purchase coffee in the cafeteria at Regional HQ by offering a small discount when reusable mugs are used.

One proposed initiative, that is being considered, is a free drip coffee incentive program for staff with a reusable mug that can be combined with a ban on single use coffee machines at Regional HQ in Thorold. This could be piloted at the HQ building, and if successful, can be rolled out at all Regional Facilities with a large enough server or cafeteria. This would provide a noticeable impact on the garbage stream, minimizing single use cups, lids, creamer/milkette containers, and coffee pods/capsules of all kinds. Based on the results of the waste audit at Regional HQ, an annual total of 43,250 coffee

cups was estimated to be generated in the 2022 calendar year, under hybrid working conditions, which represents a weight of 872.00 kg/yr or 9.8% of the garbage stream.

Status: Complete

Public Works Committee

Meeting Date: July 11, 2023

Minute Item #5.4: Councillor Zalepa requested information regarding provincial changes to landfill sites, collected materials, timelines and the potential impacts be provided to Committee.

Follow-up Action:

Status: Staff will monitor impacts of O. Regulation 391/21 on Niagara Region's waste programs and disposal sites.

Status: Completed

Minute Item #5.2: Councillor Zalepa requested information regarding Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) and their Board of Directors.

Follow-up Action: Memorandum CWCD 2023-154 was distributed via the Council Weekly Correspondence Distribution, on Friday August 18, 2025.

Status: Completed

Meeting Date: April 4, 2023

Minute Item #3.1: Councillor Easton requested considering presentations to local area Councils

Follow-up Action: Staff are considering options to succinctly provide information to area Councils in a timely and efficient manner.

Status: In Progress

Meeting Date: December 13, 2021

Minute Item #5.2: Councillor Heit requested information respecting the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario Committee strategic plan regarding waste management information sharing between municipalities.

Follow-up Action: The Regional Public Works Commissioner of Ontario Committee strategic plan will be presented to Niagara Region's Public Works Committee once finalized.

Status: In Progress

Budget Review Committee of the Whole

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

Committee of the Whole

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

Council

No outstanding waste management related items at this time.

COMPLETED ITEMS

Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

Meeting Date: April 24, 2023

Minute Item #7.1: Councillor Foster requested information regarding an update on current landfill capacity, timelines, and the possible need for additional landfills.

Minute Item #7.2: Councillor Rigby requested information regarding whether staff considered utilizing energy from waste.

Meeting Date: February 27, 2023

Minute Item #4.2: Councillor Diodati requested information respecting the possibility of selling booklets of garbage tags.

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

Minute Item #3.1: Councillor Gibson requested information respecting the annual number of garbage tags purchased.

Minute Item #3.2: Councillor Edgar requested information respecting types of acceptable contaminants present in contaminated soil dumped at Region landfills

Public Works Committee

Meeting Date: March 07, 2023

Minute Item #7.1: Councillor Huson requested information respecting the number of multi-residential units in Niagara Region and the percentage that are currently collecting compost and recycling.

Meeting Date: August 09, 2022

Minute Item #6.1: Councillor Zalepa requested information respecting the percentage of recyclable plastics being recycled in Niagara Region.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Catherine Habermehl
Director, Waste Management Services