

City of St. Thomas Integrated Waste Management Master Plan Final Report Summary

Over the past year, the City of St. Thomas has consulted the public to prepare an Integrated Waste Management Master Plan that will guide how the City will manage its garbage, recycling and organics and other diversion programs over the next twenty years. The purpose of this project was to develop a plan that will align the City with Provincial waste management policy; provide a sustainable framework to manage the City's waste into the future; and recommend future waste management initiatives that will help to increase the amount of waste diverted from disposal.

The Integrated Waste Management Master Plan builds upon the City's commitment to promoting community and environmental sustainability. The primary goals of the Integrated Waste Management Master Plan are to:

- Guide how the City will manage its garbage, recycling, organics and other diversion programs over the next twenty years;
- Maximize the amount of waste diverted from disposal, while meeting and exceeding the Provincial residential waste diversion target of 60%;
- Incorporate the WDO blue box program best practices into its standard operating procedures; and
- Implement approaches to waste management that are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

The Plan outlines a number of future waste management initiatives based on best management practices recommended by the Province (WDO, Stewardship Ontario). Below are the key items that can be implemented to allow the City to meet the Provincial target of 60% diversion. It is suggested that the recommendations be implemented in stages to minimize the budgetary impact. The plan provides a timeline for implementation and review and update of the plan as well as contingencies should targets not be met.

Recommended Short Term Diversion Options:

Implementation of the recommended short term initiatives (2012-2014) will increase the City's operating cost overall by an estimated \$60,000 with capital investments of approximately \$180-330,000 and will increase the overall diversion rate an estimated 12%

Recommended Short Term Options		Cost
Enforcement of Section 9(size requirements for waste) of by-law 94-10 "Waste Diversion and Curbside Collection"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strictly enforce the 2 bag limit and the maximum size restrictions. 	\$0 – enforceable at the curb by the collector
Public space recycling program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an recycling as an option in publicly accessible City owned facilities(ex. Parks, arenas and libraries, downtown) 	\$260,000 – cost can be offset by CIF, RED and GreenLane Trust Fund (approx. \$70,000)
Provide additional residential recycling capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide additional recycling boxes to every single family home • Make boxes available for sale or replacement on an ongoing basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$60,000 – completed in 2010 cost shared by BFI & CIF • \$7,000/year – cost recoverable
Multi-residential diversion programs for blue box and organic waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide recycling carts and in unit containers to all multi-residential properties(carts, bags and P&E purchased in 2010) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$40,000 – completed in 2010 cost shared by City and CIF

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to make inroads with the multi-residential property owners to provide diversion program(estimated completion December 2011) 	
Optimize volume of Organics Collected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide kitchen catchers to all newly constructed homes Make kitchen catchers available on an ongoing basis Assess feasibility to provide a new container to all homeowners Provide an additional spring leaf & yard waste collection or drop off depot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$5,000/year – Operational \$100,000 Capital \$40,000/year
Enhance promotion and education efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a detailed communications budget Prepare a communications strategy, including identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals and objectives; Target audience; Target message; and Mechanisms for delivering message Develop communications material Implement strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$30,000 – develop strategy and upgrade website \$8,000/annually to produce and distribute materials

Recommended Long Term Diversion Options:

Implementation of the recommended Long term initiatives (2015- 2020) will require a significant capital investment upwards of \$800,000. It is difficult to estimate the impact on the operating budget until the submissions from the Collection services Request for Proposal are evaluated. It is estimated the overall diversion rate could increase another 10% by implementing the below initiatives.

Recommended Long Term Options		
New Waste collection/processing/disposal contracts: Extended Collection Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop protocol and define parameters required for new standard levels of service Seek prices to increase frequency of organic collection Provide a leaf and yard waste collection program in the spring & fall Large article collection Maintain current standard of service to the downtown collection area of once/week(note: the current BFI agreement is for once/week collection but for some time the DDB area has been receiving twice/week collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$80,000 for consultant/legal assistance to develop a new contract (\$20,000 funded by CIF) Cost unknown, RFP will seek pricing on a number differing levels of service and programs.
New Recycling processing Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand blue and grey box program to allow increased list of materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revenue share based contract would see money returned to the City. <p>Note: revenue share carries risk to the City should the recycling market downturn.</p>

Reduce garbage limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce garbage bag limit or collection frequency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The City would realize a decrease in annual landfill tipping fees \$5,000 to communicate the change
Bag Tag system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a limited number of tags to all residents to use at their discretion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$65,000 (cost to produce, distribute and administer the program)
Enforcement of Section 10.8 of the “Waste Diversion and Curbside Collection” By-Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce all aspects of the mandatory recycling bylaw 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$40,000
Municipally owned transfer station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate a transfer station on a cost recovery basis that would provide a centrally located depot for the disposal of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous Waste Waste electronics Construction and demolition material Regular household waste Leaf and yard waste Tires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$50,000 to assess feasibility and EA study \$50,000 for Design and Certificate of Approval application \$800,000 to build Would operate on a cost recovery basis

Waste Disposal Strategy Options:

The City has secure landfill capacity until 2024 and possibly until 2036 at the City of Toronto owned Greenlane landfill. The plan evaluated several options for the disposal of the City’s residual waste that included the development of a City –owned landfill site, an energy from waste facility and private/public sector landfills.

It is recommended that the City continue to work with the City of Toronto regarding disposal of garbage at the Green Lane Landfill and in particular assess on an annual basis remaining capacity at this landfill and the possibility of them initiating a full EA study to assess feasibility of creating additional landfill space beyond 2024.