

## Integrated Waste Management Master Plan

The City of St Thomas has recently initiated an Integrated Waste Management Master Plan and this expected to be completed by November of this year. The City has retained the environmental consultant 2cg ([www.2cg.ca](http://www.2cg.ca)) , out of London, to assist with the development of the plan.

Currently the City has a comprehensive waste management program including the Province's first green bin waste program (1994) and a blue box program. However, a number of new waste management initiatives should be considered by the City of St. Thomas at this time to ensure a continued high level of waste diversion by the community and to achieve compliance with current or impending provincial legislation and consistency with best management practices adopted by other municipalities and service providers in Ontario while a waste management leader in the mid 1990s overall waste diversion has sagged to about 40% in recent years.

The intent of this project is to review current waste management and help develop a Plan for the next 20 years.

There are a number of questions that need to be addressed as part of Plan development including this key question:

1. Is it feasible and what would be required for the City to achieve a 60% waste diversion rate?

The answers to the following questions will help answer the key question.

2. Can existing programs be recalibrated and reinvigorated or are completely new programs required?
3. What types of new programs could be added to the current waste management system that could improve waste diversion; and
4. Should the current system of contracting out most waste management continue or is it prudent for the City to assume greater management?

As part of this Plan Environmental Services staff will be consulting with the residents to solicit ideas and input to the plan.

To start please feel free to share your thoughts with the project team (City Staff and Consultant) by emailing Michelle Shannon, Waste Management Coordinator at [mshannon@city.st-thomas.on.ca](mailto:mshannon@city.st-thomas.on.ca)