

## Request for Decision

### Expansion of the Green Cart Program

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Presented:	Monday, Apr 16, 2012
Report Date	Tuesday, Apr 03, 2012
Type:	Managers' Reports

#### Recommendation

That the Green Cart Organics Program be expanded as detailed in the General Manager of Growth & Development report dated April 3rd, 2012 and if approved by Council;

That the estimated \$40,000 cost be forwarded to the Finance & Administration Committee for consideration during the 2013 budget deliberations; and that

The expansion of the program be tentatively announced to schools in 2012 with a program launch in 2013 pending budget approval.

#### Finance Implications

If approved, an option will be forwarded to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration during the 2013 Operating Budget deliberations. The value of option is \$40,000, which includes a temporary employee working 3 days a week.

#### Signed By

**Report Prepared By**

Chantal Mathieu  
Director of Environmental Services  
*Digitally Signed Apr 3, 12*

**Division Review**

Chantal Mathieu  
Director of Environmental Services  
*Digitally Signed Apr 3, 12*

**Recommended by the Department**

Bill Lautenbach  
General Manager of Growth and  
Development  
*Digitally Signed Apr 3, 12*

**Recommended by the C.A.O.**

Doug Nadorozny  
Chief Administrative Officer  
*Digitally Signed Apr 3, 12*

## Background

In 2009, the City implemented a curbside residential green cart organic program for homes (6 residential dwellings or less) on a curbside collection system.

Commencing in 2010, the green cart organics program was expanded to homes (7 residential dwellings or more) on the City's curbside collection system.

During this time, staff have been conducting collection pilots at local schools, multi-unit residential buildings (on a centralized collection system), special events, a few commercial locations and a retirement complex.

#### Organic Collection Program for Schools

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, staff updated the Solid Waste Advisory Panel on the school's pilot program and the Panel is supporting and recommending that the Green Cart organics program be expanded to local

schools as per the details listed below.

### **Program Details:**

- Each school would apply for collection services. The application would detail school specifics and provide a designated school contact person (Champion).
- A staff representative would meet with the school champion to review program details and to determine equipment and collection needs. Staff would provide guidance on system set-up and explain various options.
- Once approval to proceed is received from the school, staff would order the required indoor equipment at the school's expense and advise the collection contractor to install the centralized collection equipment (collection charges to be billed directly to the school).
- Prior to commencing the program, staff would organize a presentation with the champion and his/her team (volunteers, Green Committee, janitorial staff, etc.). An educational package would be provided. Following implementation, each participating school would receive an annual presentation. Replacement or new champions must receive training. This is imperative in making the program work.

### **City Services and Responsibilities**

- take in applications
- set-up school programs on a first come first serve basis
- make presentations
- train champions and their support teams
- order equipment and invoice for fees
- co-ordinate initial collection services with designated contractor
- trouble shoot and/or investigate issues
- develop and update educational materials, provide access to on-line materials
- Waive processing fees for organic waste.

### **School Services and Responsibilities**

- Assign a champion and a support team.
- Pay the City for the necessary equipment and signage.
- Pay the designated contractor directly for collection services.
- Provide the necessary certified compostable bags.
  - Incorporate program requirements in school systems and ensure proper program participation with students, school staff, janitorial contracts etc.
  - Permit City staff to make annual presentations and to conduct on-site inspections for quality control.

Although divertible tonnes are anticipated to be low (approximately 555 tonnes per year), the most beneficial aspect to adding schools to the program is the benefit that the school children will naturally take the practice home. They will encourage their parents to divert the organic waste and they will guide the next generation toward environmental responsibility. Another important aspect is that schools have requested participation in the program to promote environmental practices.

## **Financial Impact**

There would be no impact to the overall collection costs. These costs would be the responsibility of the schools and the cost of the collection containers would be reimbursed to the City.

Processing of additional organic material is anticipated. However, the additional cost is expected to be low and the allocated budget should only be increased based on actual quantities processed.

An increase to staff resources would be required to meet the City's identified responsibilities. A part time position would be created and would be responsible to implement and maintain the program for an estimated 88 schools and 37,000 students. Over time, the position would expand educational services to cover all recyclable and divertible items and not just organic waste diversion. The estimated annual cost is \$40,000.

Educational material costs would be funded from existing educational accounts.

### **Organic Collection Program for Multi-unit Residential Buildings (centralized collection system)**

On February 21, 2012, staff updated the Solid Waste Advisory Panel on the multi-unit residential pilot program and the Panel is supporting and recommending that the Green Cart organics program expansion be delayed for this sector.

Diversion statistics from the pilots are very low and implementing a full program expansion would be very costly (over \$300,000). The Panel agreed to postpone recommending the expansion. It was agreed that the focus, for now, should be the expansion to schools. The Panel did agree that multi-unit residential property owners requesting participation in the program could do so on a cost recovery basis. To date, staff have received no requests for this service.

The Panel supported reviewing the matter in a few years.

### **Organic Collection Program for Special Events**

On February 21, 2012, staff updated the Solid Waste Advisory Panel on the special event pilot programs and the Panel deferred supporting expansion of the program until further details are provided by staff. The additional details requested will be reviewed at the next Solid Waste Advisory Panel meeting.

### **Organic Collection Program for the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (IC&I) Sector**

Municipal Facilities:

On February 21, 2012, staff updated the Solid Waste Advisory Panel on the expansion of the green cart organics program to municipal facilities. Staff anticipates that most municipal facilities will have an organics collection program within one year.

The Environmental Services Division at the Annex (200 Larch Street) and the Information Technology Section in the Tower (199 Larch Street) will be set-up with a centralized collection system that includes organic collection in April 2012.

Other IC&I Facilities:

Additional expansion programs within this sector will be presented to the Solid Waste Advisory Panel in September 2012.