



Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Review and Update of the City of Guelph Solid Waste Management Masterplan

Meeting Details

Date + Time: February 19 2020, 6:00-9:00PM

Location: Waste Resource Innovation Centre, Upper Board Room

Meeting Overview

The purpose of the second Public Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was to:

- Present updates on the Current State Report to set the context on where we are in the study and answer questions
- Present research on Single Use Plastics and discuss implications for Guelph
- Present the upcoming community engagement activities, and review the draft public survey
- Provide an update on Our Food Future

Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions
- Summary of PAC meeting #1
- Current State Report
- Single Use Plastics
- Plan for Upcoming Community Engagement
- Updates on Our Food Future
- Other Business
- Next Steps

Solid Waste Management Master Plan

Attendance

Members of the Public Advisory Committee were asked to introduce themselves, and state their expertise. The following members of the PAC were in attendance:

Name	Perspective/skill set
John Dennis	Guelph tool library + Repair Café, waste diversion community engagement
Karyn Hogan	Understanding of Solid Waste Management in Ontario, food waste reduction
Emily Duncan	Knowledge translation and mobilization
Greg Sayer	Law, engineering
Jennifer Packer	Greenhouse gas emissions
Das Soligo	Solid waste master planning, safety, rural perspective
Trevor Barton	Organics, compost, utilization, textiles
Brendan Raco	Benchmarking, planning, higher education sector, program implementation
Duncan McKenzie	Teaching

The following project team members were in attendance:

Solid Waste Management Master Plan

Name	Perspective/skill set
Morgan Boyco, Engagement Lead, Dillon Consulting	Engagement
Betsy Varghese, Project Manager, Dillon Consulting	Long term solid waste planning, community based social marketing, behavioural change
Geoff Love	Single use plastics
Phil Jensen, SWMMP Project Specialist, City of Guelph	Decades of experience in solid waste management planning
Cam Walsh, Divisional Manager, City of Guelph	Moving recommendations forward
Heather Connell, Manager, Business and Technical Services	Planning, compliance
Nicole Davidson, Waste Policy Analyst	Waste diversion, knowledge of other municipal programs
Anni Buelles, Project Coordination, Dillon Consulting	Engagement
Ashley Cooper, City of Guelph	Smart Cities

Meeting Summary

The following section provides a summary of the themes, discussions, questions and answers discussed at the PAC #2 Meeting.

Summary of PAC Meeting #1

A summary of PAC Meeting #1 was provided. Members agreed that the themes identified during first meeting are representative of what was discussed during the meeting. Please see the summary for more details on what was discussed at PAC Meeting #1.

Current State Report

The project team presented an overview of the Current State Report that will be published as part of the Solid Waste Management Master Plan update. The following questions were posed by the PAC members regarding the Current State Report.

Q. What is being diverted?

A. Overall diversion rate includes green cart, and hazardous waste – everything diverted from residential disposal.

Q. Is there any processing of grey cart materials? How do you figure out the contamination rate?

A. Yes, waste goes through transfer station where electronics will be pulled out. Contaminants are determined based on waste audits, which are completed at the curb seasonally (4 audits annually).

Q. How often is waste collected?

A. Green carts are collected weekly, blue and grey carts are collected-up bi-weekly.

Q. Is all waste at multi-residential buildings picked up by the City or through private sector?

A. 87% of multi-residential buildings are serviced by the City.

Q. What is the timeline for the Current State Report review?

A. The report is scheduled to be finalized in April 2020 once the 2019 data is received.

Q. Is it typical to have a mix of municipal and private collection for multi-residential?

A. Yes, it is typical to have a mix of municipal and private collection for multi-residential.

Single Use Plastics Report

A presentation on the draft Single Use Plastics (SUPs) Report was provided by Love Environment. The report examines municipal, provincial, federal, and international trends. The following questions were posed by the PAC members regarding the draft Single Use Plastics Report.

Q. Is federal government still on track to ban SUPs by 2021?

A. Yes, the federal government believes that the micro and macro environmental impacts of plastics a big concern. Health Canada is now involved in the issue.

Q. Where does the chemical recycling of plastics stand?

A. It is coming. Currently, dirty plastics (e.g., beach litter) is being turned into fuel. It will be five to 10 years when this process will become more commercialized.

Q. Has there been an analysis on how much it may cost businesses to switch over, for example from if plastic bags were banned?

A. Investments will be required to make the transition. There are some interesting programs in other cities, such as the Wise Box Program in Toronto.

Discussion topic: What can Guelph's role be?

Responses: Guelph is environmentally stewardship minded. Strategy must consider Guelph culture, for example current events like Hillside.

Discussion topic: What options should we be considering?

Responses:

- Banned approach – opportunity for education, treats all users equally
- Disincentive approach – more of a narrative, creates a divide between those who can afford a bag and those who can't

Upcoming Community Engagement

Stage 1 community engagement objectives include: Communicate and gather feedback on solid waste best practices; involve community in defining issues, uncover community values; and collaborate with key stakeholders. Stage 2 engagement objectives are to communicate solid waste management trends.

Discussion topic: Where should the City consider hosting pop-up information booths for community engagement?

Responses:

- Walmart, Stone Road Mall, stadium, university events (Collage Royal)
- Farmers market
- Guelph Public Library Branches
- Youth targeted events
- Community Centres
- Waterworks Open House in May

Discussion topic: What should we be considering as part of the online survey?

- Survey should take 5-8 minutes to complete
- Include a press release and communications by City to promote the survey
- Explore what is working well and what is not working well with current programs (behavioural questions)
- Explore how far people are willing to go on behavioural aspects associated with SUPs
- Be very transparent where audience is coming from

Update on Our Food Future

Ashlee Cooper from the Smart Cities office at the City of Guelph gave a brief presentation on Our Food Future project and how this project overlaps with the Solid Waste Management Master Plan. Her presentation provided details on the following:

- Components of the Our Food Future project will look at the broader characterization of how food waste flows in Guelph/Wellington County

- This includes avoidable (e.g., stale loaf of bread) vs. unavoidable (e.g., bones, olive pits) food waste
- The project will be completed in 2 stages and includes 3 components:
 - Access to nutritious food options –50% increase in access by 2025
 - Access to circular economic activity – 50 new circular economy businesses
 - Food waste reduction – 50% food waste reduction by 2025