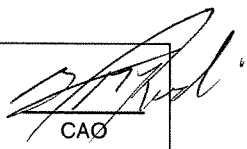


COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION

Closed  
 Reg. Council  
 Supplemental

Date: Sept 14, 09 Item # 10  
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DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER  
750 – 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET, WEST VANCOUVER, BC V7V 3T3

## COUNCIL REPORT

Date: September 3, 2009 File: 1776-03  
From: Raymond Fung, Director, Engineering & Transportation  
Subject: **Food Scraps Collection Demonstration Project**

### RECOMMENDED THAT:

1. The report dated September 3, 2009 from the Director, Engineering & Transportation entitled, "Food Scraps Collection Demonstration Project" be received for information.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Council on the District's involvement in Metro Vancouver's Food Scraps Collection Demonstration Project.

### 1.0 Background

Further to Council's support of Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge (ZWC), municipal staff provided the District's Finance Committee (comprising all members of Council) with an update of the Solid Waste Utility during their meeting of July 23, 2009. Staff committed to bringing a proposed work plan for 2010 and beyond to the Finance Committee prior to the establishment of solid waste utility fees for next year, an exercise planned to be completed this fall. Meanwhile, an immediate opportunity has arisen, which will allow the municipality to demonstrate leadership in waste diversion through participating in a demonstration project for residential, curb-side collection of food wastes for regional composting.

### 2.0 Analysis

#### 2.1 Discussion

Metro Vancouver's Food Scraps Collection Demonstration Project (Demonstration Project) seeks to investigate the financial, social and environmental implications of establishing a food waste collection program for single family homes. West Vancouver will participate in the study along with the Corporation of Delta, Township of Langley, and the City of Coquitlam.

The target materials are compostable organics that are disposed from single family homes, which include all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings.

Within the municipality, a Tuesday collection day route in the Caulfeild neighbourhood has been selected for participation in the Demonstration Project. Approximately 500 homes will have the opportunity to add food scraps and food-soiled paper to their yard trimming containers. Through ongoing observation, surveys and focus groups, several aspects of the Demonstration Project will be evaluated throughout the six month pilot from October, 2009 to March, 2010:

- Logistics associated with expanding an existing yard waste collection program to include food waste and soiled paper;
- Communication and education strategies using a Community Based Social Marketing approach for implementing a program;
- Residential perspective regarding concerns, questions, tendencies, and willingness to participate in an organics diversion program;
- System requirements and preferences for diverting organics, such as special containers;
- Changes in garbage and yard waste quantities for households, for collection vehicles and respective staffing requirements; and
- Issues and comments from residents, haulers, processing facility and municipal staff, such as odours, appeal factor, vectors/pests, and bear control.

## 2.2 Environmental Implications

The ZWC sets a target of 70% diversion from the waste stream through recycling, composting, and product stewardship programs, so as to minimize the remaining materials, which must be disposed in landfills or incinerated at Waste-to-Energy facilities. According to waste composition studies, compostable organic materials represent nearly 50% of curb-side collected garbage from single family homes. Therefore, organics collection is one strategy to meet the ZWC.

## 2.3 Social Implications

A number of jurisdictions in Canada and US have implemented food waste collection, however staff feel a need to demonstrate that this type of program can be successful locally before implementing District-wide, particularly with our manual collection system. The Demonstration Project includes educating residents about separating food and food-soiled papers. Further, to effect behavioural change, community-based social marketing techniques will be implemented and assessed.

## 2.4 Financial Implications

The District's responsibilities under the Demonstration Project includes: assisting with resident surveys and education, providing materials to encourage resident participation

(e.g., containers, brochures), and absorbing the incremental costs of collection, delivery and tipping fees for organics during the six month period. As the Demonstration Project involves only 500 homes, transportation of materials will not be as efficient as full-scale implementation. Thus, it is anticipated that co-mingled food scraps, food-soiled papers, and yard trimmings will have to be trucked directly to the regional composting facility in Richmond. The cost for participating in the Demonstration Project was not previously identified in this year's work plan. The impact to the 2009 Solid Waste Utility budget is estimated to be \$15,000 and can be accommodated in the capital budget as a special project.

## 2.5 Sustainability

The sustainability of establishing a food waste collection program for single family homes is being addressed through consideration of financial, social and environmental implications during the Demonstration Project.

## 2.6 Consultation

A letter from the Mayor will be sent out to provide background information to affected residents along the selected Caulfeild route. An Open House is planned for September 22, 2009 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm to be held at the Caulfeild Shopping Village parking area to provide residents with information about how to divert food wastes. A Media Release will also be prepared announcing the District's participation in the Demonstration Project, and the municipal website will link to Metro Vancouver's food recycling web page. Further Metro Vancouver is scheduling a Media Event at the Fraser Richmond Soil & Fibre Company's regional composting facility on October 5, 2009 in Richmond.

Author:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Fung', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

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