

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF OTTAWA CARLETON
 MUNICIPALITÉ RÉGIONALE D'OTTAWA CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

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DATE	21 January 1999
TO/DEST.	Co-ordinator Planning and Environment Committee
FROM/EXP.	Environment and Transportation Commissioner
SUBJECT/OBJET	CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

INTRODUCTION

At the Planning and Environment Committee meeting of 12 May 1998, Councillor Legendre put forward the following motion, P & E Motion No. 2(98):

“That staff consult with area municipalities concerning making the issuance of permits conditional on certificates indicating appropriate disposal and recycling.”

BACKGROUND

Further to Councillor Legendre’s inquiry, staff has examined the permit process and met with local municipalities to discuss mechanisms to mandate recycling and appropriate waste disposal.

DISCUSSION

Currently, the local municipalities are responsible for enforcement of the *Building Code Act* which regulates how municipalities are to issue construction and demolition (C&D) permits. The Act currently does not allow local municipalities to require particular disposal and recycling as a condition of a permit. Further, the Region’s Legal Department has reviewed the applicable legislation to determine whether the Region has authority to direct C&D contractors, or to impose conditions on other approvals that they may require, regarding their use of waste disposal facilities. It was determined that the Region does not have such authority.

Enforcement of the Province of Ontario's 3Rs Regulation is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). This Regulation is the only avenue that requires specific recycling options for large (2,000m² or greater) C&D projects. Companies must prepare waste audits and reduction work plans, and implement recycling for designated wastes such as wood, concrete, steel and drywall, where markets exist.

In addition to this Regulation, the MOE periodically monitors the illegal transportation of wastes from Ontario into Quebec. In June 1998, the MOE charged four companies under the *Environmental Protection Act* for violating conditions of their operating permits. Three of the companies have trial dates set in early 1999, and one pleaded guilty and was fined \$18,000.

On 27 October 1998, Regional staff held a forum to discuss the management of C&D waste through the C&D permit process. All municipalities and the MOE were invited, and representatives from Cumberland, Gloucester, Goulbourn, Kanata, Ottawa and the MOE attended. The forum consensus was that the C&D industry requires education and information to effect any change in waste management practices. A number of ideas were discussed that would accomplish this goal.

For instance, C&D permit applicants could be requested to provide general information on how waste will be handled. This information could be compiled electronically using software through the Municipal Applications Partnership (MAP), and used to supply educational material to promote appropriate recycling and disposal practices. Currently, staff are examining the required resources and logistics to utilize this system. As well, the Region was encouraged to directly follow up with the building industry, developers and demolition companies on appropriate recycling and disposal practices.

In keeping with this direct approach, in the fall of 1998, staff prepared a brochure entitled, "Renovation, Construction & Demolition, Waste Options". The brochure was forwarded to all local municipalities for distribution to all homeowners and contractors who request a construction or demolition permit application.

CONCLUSION

The *Building Code Act* and other Acts do not provide the Region or local municipalities with authority to impose waste management recycling and disposal conditions on C&D projects. Regional staff, however, will continue to work with local municipalities and the MOE to determine avenues to promote and educate the C&D industry on waste diversion and proper disposal.

Approved by
M. J. E. Sheflin, P.Eng.

JRH/mm