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TO/DEST. The Chair and Members of Regional Council

FROM/EXP. Director, Solid Waste Division
Environment and Transportation Department

SUBJECT/OBJET **SOLID WASTE 3RS STRATEGIC PLANNING**

INTRODUCTION

Regional Council recently awarded a three-year Solid Waste Collection Contract, which will expire on May 31, 1999. The Solid Waste Division is now developing a strategy to prepare for the next Regional Solid Waste Collection Contract. The following plans are outlined in this memorandum:

1. The three-year planning process leading to the next Regional Solid Waste Collection Contract; and
2. The primary Waste Diversion Branch programs to be undertaken during that time.

BACKGROUND

In December of 1995, the Solid Waste Division released the first Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton (RMOC) Solid Waste Collection Contract tender, which was designed to be awarded on either a three-year or five-year basis. On February 28, 1996, Council approved the award of a three-year contract. Regional Council, at its meeting of July 12, 1995, approved a report on the Solid Waste 3Rs Strategic Plan Implementation. That report set out a diversion timetable for implementing waste reduction options identified in the Region's 3Rs Study.

The shorter contract period has an impact on the diversion timetable as set out in the 3Rs Implementation Report. The Solid Waste Division plans to expedite solid waste 3Rs planning in an effort to evaluate and, if preferred, have an integrated wet/dry three-stream collection system in place for the second generation of waste collection contracts (June 1999).

Information Previously Distributed

To be listed on Planning and Environment
Committee Agenda 28 May 96

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT

The new collection contract has allowed the RMOC to make advancements with some of the primary 3Rs options identified in the 3Rs Study, as detailed below.

Table 1
Effect of Collection Contract on 3Rs Primary Options

Primary 3Rs Option	Program Status
#19 - Expand Residential Dry Recycling Program	Blue Box program to be expanded in June to include mixed plastics, fibre and other containers
#23 - Expand Recycling Programs to Multi-Unit Residential Dwellings	Phased-in expansion to include buildings currently not recycling and new Blue Box materials, starting in June.
#46 - Expand Leaf and Yard Waste Collection Programs	Region-wide program starting in April.

3RS STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

In addition to the above diversion programs which are impacted by the collection contract, the Solid Waste 3Rs Strategic Plan Implementation Report set out other primary 3Rs options for implementation. These major programs are summarized below.

1. Wet/Dry Three Stream Pilot Project (option #37)

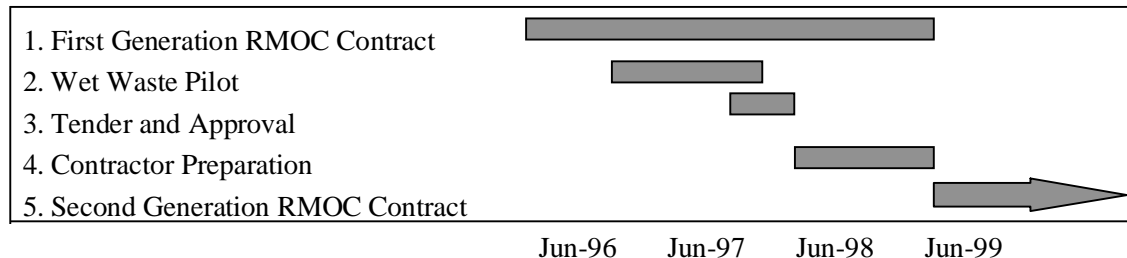
A wet/dry three-stream collection system has the potential to divert over 50 percent of residential solid waste from landfill, thereby conserving space and delaying the requirement for a new disposal facility. The system includes the separate collection of wet waste for composting, dry waste for recycling and reduced third stream of residual waste is sent to landfill. The wet waste stream consists of food waste (including meat and bones), soiled paper, leaf and yard waste and miscellaneous items such as kitty litter. The dry stream component consists of materials from the expanded Blue Box Program, with new items being added as end markets are identified.

The Waste Diversion Branch is in the process of designing a wet waste pilot to start in the fall of 1996 and operate for about one year. The purpose of the pilot project is to determine the diversion rate and other operational and financial considerations, including residents' concerns, of implementing a wet/dry collection program on a region-wide basis.

The pilot will test a co-collection vehicle for wet waste and residual waste, various collection frequencies and different storage and collection container types. The private sector will have an opportunity to compost the wet waste collected during the pilot. However, the Region's Trail Road composting facility is making the necessary preparations to compost the wet

waste in the event that a private facility is not operational in the fall. Figure 1 provides a general timetable for the pilot project.

Figure 1
Wet/Dry Three Stream Pilot Project Timelines



As noted in Figure 1, the Solid Waste Division will report to Council on the findings of the pilot project in the fall of 1997, at which point a decision will be made on whether to proceed with a three-stream collection tender. The contract preparation, tender and award period is tentatively scheduled from the fall of 1997 to the spring of 1998. The successful contractors will then have a period of about one year and three months to prepare for the new contract, including the potential requirement to establish adequate processing facilities.

2. Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Program (Option #5)

Construction and demolition waste makes up about 24 percent of the waste stream, however, there is very little diversion of this waste within the RMO as compared to other Regions. Some problems include inexpensive raw materials, lack of local processing facilities and markets and inexpensive disposal options. This program will promote a local construction and demolition waste diversion industry.

3. IC&I Waste Assessment Program (Option #25)

Although recycling of traditional materials is well established in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) sector, the RMO's Waste Composition Study identified large amounts of IC&I waste going to landfill. This program will use summer students as waste assessors to advise IC&I businesses on waste reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives.

4. Multi-Unit Apartment Building Recycling Enhancement Program

Recycling in multi-unit apartment buildings can present some operational challenges. Limitations include lack of storage space, poorly situated recycling depots, ongoing contamination of materials and cultural/language barriers. The pilot program to enhance recycling in multi-unit buildings will address those barriers. The program is scheduled to commence after the expanded recycling program is implemented (June 1996).

5. Waste Flow and Diversion Monitoring

The waste flow and diversion monitoring program is tracking the characterization of residential waste, including information on diversion, set out, recyclables in the waste stream and fullness of Blue Boxes. The first waste sort has started and a second waste sort will take place this summer. Comparison of the data will help in determining the impact of the new collection contract (Options #19, #23, #46) and also assist in ongoing program evaluation and development and further define program education and communication needs.

6. Maximize Backyard Composting and Grass Cycling (Option #47)

In March 1996 the Solid Waste Division sold over 7,600 compost units, bringing the total number of units distributed region-wide to about 95,000. The Home Composting Program will include ongoing sales of composting units, composting support for residents who have purchased a compost unit and a research component to determine the effectiveness and future role of home composting.

7. IC&I Food Waste Composting Demonstration Project (Option #51)

This pilot will be designed to compost food waste from restaurants, supermarkets, cafeterias and other IC&I sources. The pilot structure will likely result in a public/private joint venture. Council will be informed once the pilot project plan is further developed.

CONCLUSION

The decision to proceed with a three-year collection contract award has impacted the original 3Rs implementation schedule. The Solid Waste Branch has reviewed the 3Rs planning process and the waste diversion timetable has been adjusted accordingly.

During the new waste collection contract, the Solid Waste Division will pilot, design, test and evaluate an integrated wet/dry collection system. Other 3Rs primary option initiatives will continue during this time.

All programs and pilot projects related to primary 3Rs options will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis, and the Solid Waste Division will provide Councillors with updates as required.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at extension 2609 or J. Yelle-Weatherall, Director of Finance and Administration, at extension 2611.

*Approved by
P. McNally, P.Eng.*

KHW/