

Our File/N/Réf. **31-16-94-0020-H**
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 03 June 1996

TO/DEST. Co-ordinator
 Planning and Environment Committee

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

SUBJECT/OBJET **WOOD WASTE DIFFERENTIAL FEE POLICY**

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

That the Planning and Environment Committee recommend Council approve the revocation of the wood waste differential fee policy.

BACKGROUND

In 1991, the RMOC conducted a Waste Composition Study which identified that about 24 percent of the waste stream consists of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. The C&D waste stream includes materials such as concrete, brick, drywall and wood. In an effort to divert some of this waste from the landfill, the Regional Council, at its meeting of 22 March 1995, approved the wood waste differential fee policy.

In the past, differential fees for items such as, corrugated cardboard, and tires, were put in place to encourage recycling where reasonable waste diversion options existed in the Region.

DISCUSSION

On 01 May 1995, the RMOC began to apply a differential fee, which is set at double the landfill's tipping fee at the Trail Road Landfill Site. The differential fee applies to all waste loads that contain in excess of 20 percent recyclable wood. Recyclable wood includes wood that is separated from other C&D wastes.

At that time, there were two local firms which received wood waste for processing and recycling these materials into products such as wood chips, fibreboard, construction lumber and fuel. These firms charged a tipping fee which was competitive with the RMOC's landfill tipping fee. The

differential fee supported local waste diversion initiatives and discouraged waste generators and haulers from disposing of wood waste at Trail Road. They could choose to dispose of it at another landfill site rather than separate it for recycling.

Currently, both recycling firms have closed due to the minimal receipt of recyclable materials. The majority of C&D waste continues to be disposed of in private landfill sites within the Region and in Quebec.

The differential fee structure continues to be in place at Trail Road. In an effort to divert the material on site, and provide customers with some option for relief from the differential fee, this material was originally deposited at the Leaf and Yard Waste Composting pad and processed for use. However, it was found to be too contaminated with non-organic materials to be composted.

CONSULTATION

No public consultation was undertaken at this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There will be no impact on tipping fee revenues resulting from the wood waste policy discontinuing.

CONCLUSION

The original report, which established the wood waste differential fee, indicated that the policy would be renewed annually to allow for review and adjustment as required. As currently there are no local active processors or viable alternative recycling markets for recyclable wood waste, it is recommended that the Planning and Environment Committee and Council approve the revocation of the wood waste differential fee policy.

The Solid Waste Division will pursue other options to reduce the amount of recyclable wood and other C&D waste being landfilled as part of its ongoing waste diversion mandate.

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

JRH/KHW