

Report for Solid Waste Advisory Panel



Agenda Item # 1

Meeting Date	March 29, 2016				
Report Title	Overview: 2015-2020 Solid Waste Strategy				
Type of Report	Information Only	X	Request for Comments	Request for Support	

Report Authored By	Division Review
<p>Chantal Mathieu Director of Environmental Services</p>	<p>Chantal Mathieu Director of Environmental Services</p>

Report

The 2015-2020 Solid Waste Strategy was developed following input and guidance from the previous Solid Waste Advisory Panel.



Staff will provide an overview of the document.

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Agenda Item # 2

Meeting Date	March 29, 2016					
Report Title	Door to Door 3R Educational Campaign					
Type of Report	Information Only		Request for Comments	X	Request for Support	X

Report Authored By	Division Review
 Renée Brownlee Manager of Solid Waste & Administrative Services	 Chantal Mathieu Director of Environmental Services

Report

Conducting a pilot Door to Door 3R Educational Campaign is listed as an action item under Strategy One of the 2015-2020 Solid Waste Strategy.

Before commencing the campaign, staff established baseline data by conducting a waste audit in the Fall of 2014. This waste audit identified two key areas that required improvement (Green Cart participation and the proper disposal of household batteries).

With the baseline data established, two staff were sent to the same audited households to speak directly to the residents. The campaign was conducted over a two week period from August 10th to August 21st, 2015. Staff attempted to communicate with residents during both daytime and evening hours.

The main focus of the campaign was to encourage residents to try using the Green Cart and to educate them on proper disposal of batteries. Staff attempted to breakdown the perceived barriers that were preventing residents from using the Green Cart by providing them with solutions and information.

If the resident did not have a Green Cart, the usual request procedure was by-passed and staff made arrangements to ensure that everyone who had requested a Green Cart had access to one. A total of six (6) new Green Carts were issued.

The Household Hazardous Waste Depot and Toxic Taxi programs were promoted as was the ability to conveniently bring used batteries to any of the Greater Sudbury public libraries. Residents were given a battery storage box to store their batteries until they were able to go to the depot, call the Toxic Taxi or visit a library to dispose of them properly.

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The secondary focus was to provide information that would assist residents to maximize their waste diversion efforts and to recycle better by keeping contaminants out of the Blue Box. Staff also gave residents the opportunity to ask any waste related questions and provided them with answers on the spot.

If the resident was not home during any of the attempted visits, a reusable bag containing a hard copy information package, digital information on a USB stick and a battery box was left at the door. Residents who were home also received this package.

Staff spoke to 57 of the 100 households visited. Twenty seven households (or 47%) claimed to be using their Green Cart while the other thirty households (or 53%) indicated that they were not using their Green Cart. Of the thirty households, staff was able to obtain a verbal commitment from 21 households to try using their Green Cart.

To determine if the door to door campaign had a successful impact on the actions of residents, another waste audit was conducted over a four week period from September 16th to October 9th, 2015. This audit data was compared with the data from the door to door campaign and the results were as follows:

- Only 17 of the 27 households who said they were already participating in the Green Cart program were found to actually be participating. The established best practice definition of participation is defined as having the Green Cart at the curb at least once in a four week period.
- Only 2 of the 21 households who made a verbal commitment to try using the Green Cart actually did so.
- Of the 9 households who said that they did not use the Green Cart and refused to try it, 2 households began participating in the Green Cart program.
- The overall Green Cart participation rate for all 100 households audited in 2015 is 35%.
- There were 17 households with batteries in their garbage. Door to door campaign staff had specifically educated 9 of these households on proper disposal of batteries and the services available for proper disposal. Batteries are not necessarily produced by each household every week making it difficult to measure the impact of the education. However the audit revealed that in spite of directly receiving proper disposal information both verbally and via information flyer as well as receiving a battery storage box, residents persisted to throw the batteries in the garbage.

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In conclusion, the door to door education campaign did not yield a significant participation increase in Green Cart participation or in proper battery disposal.

Staff recommends that random door to door campaigns be replaced with home visits requested directly by residents.

Home visits combined with increased policies that induce waste diversion (i.e. lower garbage bag limits, etc.) would provide residents with the hand on tools required to increase waste diversion and recycling efforts.



Staff will also review and report back on possible collection opportunities for household batteries.

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Agenda Item # 3

Meeting Date	March 29, 2016				
Report Title	Demonstration – Waste Wizard				
Type of Report	Information Only	X	Request for Comments	Request for Support	

Report Authored By	Division Review
 Renée Brownlee Manager of Solid Waste & Administrative Services	 Chantal Mathieu Director of Environmental Services

Report

The Waste Wizard is an online waste sorting tool that provides information on how to properly handle and dispose of waste items. This web-based program will be imbedded within the Division’s website section. The program will allow employees and residents to determine how to dispose or recycle various waste items. The user simply has to type in the waste material and hit the search button. The tool will also be used by 3-1-1 operators responding to call ins from the general public.

Staff will demonstrate how to use the tool at the meeting.