



**CITY OF KINGSTON**  
**INFORMATION REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT,  
 INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION POLICIES  
 COMMITTEE**

**Report No.: EITP-10-027**

**TO:** Chair – Environment, Infrastructure & Transportation Policies Committee  
**FROM:** Jim Keech, President & C.E.O., Utilities Kingston  
**RESOURCE STAFF:** John Giles, Manager, Solid Waste Department  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 2010-07-13  
**SUBJECT:** Update on the Source Separated Organics Program

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The City of Kingston implemented a Source Separated Organics (SSO) program in April 2009 to collect food waste, soiled paper products and some yard waste. It is known as the Green Bin program.

Participation studies are ongoing across the city, representing a wide cross-section of demographics and housing types. In the first full year of operation, 55% of households participated in the Green Bin program on an annual basis and up to 61% seasonally. Just over 4,100 tonnes of SSO were collected, about 2.5% higher than projected. Contamination is less than 1%.

Garbage collected during this period was down 2,150 tonnes from the previous year, more than a 10% decrease.

The combined tonnage of garbage and SSO collected during the first full year was about 1,950 tonnes more than the garbage only collection from the previous year. The additional material is from kitchen and yard waste which previously would have been disposed of in back-yard composters, and yard waste that would have been taken to the Lappan's Lane composting site.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is provided for information only.

**AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY PRESIDENT & CEO, UTILITIES KINGSTON _____ Jim Keech, President & C.E.O., Utilities Kingston
ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER _____ Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer

**CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:**

Cynthia Beach, <i>Sustainability &amp; Growth</i>	N/R
Terry Willing, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties &amp; Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, President and CEO, <i>Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

*(N/R indicates consultation not required)*

## **OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

### **Background:**

The City of Kingston implemented a Source Separated Organics (SSO) program in 2009 for food waste, soiled paper products and some yard waste. It is referred to as the Green Bin program. Beginning in March 2009, properties with six or fewer residential units received a green bin to place at the curb together with a kitchen container, two sample paper bags to show the type of commercial liner that is acceptable in the program, information on the program, a "Trim Your Waste" guide, and a fridge magnet. SSO collection began in April 2009 and has continued on a weekly basis.

### **Participation Study:**

The City monitors resident participation in the Green Bin program. Fifty homes in each of ten neighbourhoods across the city have been chosen to represent a wide cross-section of demographics and housing types. A two-week participation study is conducted once each quarter in each of the neighbourhoods. If a property places their green bin out at least once in the two week period, they are considered a participant. If no form of waste (garbage, recycling or organics) is placed out during the two week period, the property is excluded from the study.

City-wide participation in the Green Bin program stands at 55% of households placing out a green bin at least once every two weeks on an annual basis. There are seasonal variations to this percentage, as during the winter study period participation reached a low of 45%, while the spring study period reached a high of 61% participation. A major factor that can account for the seasonal variation is residents using the green bin during the spring period to dispose of excess yard waste, which is permissible in the program.

### **Source Separated Organics Tonnage:**

The projected SSO collection for the first full year of operations was estimated at 4,000 tonnes. Actual collection from April 2009 to March 2010 was just over 4,100 tonnes, or 2.5% more than projected. This represents over 18% of the combined garbage / SSO waste stream.

### **Garbage Tonnage:**

Garbage collected during this period was down 2,150 tonnes from the previous year, more than a 10% decrease.

### **Combined Tonnage:**

The combined tonnage of garbage and SSO collected during the first full year was about 1,950 tonnes more than the garbage only collection from the previous year. The additional material collected this year is from kitchen and yard waste which previously would have been disposed of in back-yard composters, and yard waste that would have been taken to the Lappan's Lane composting site.

### **Contamination of SSO:**

Our contractor, Norterra Organics, continues to report that contamination represents less than one percent of the incoming material. Residents are doing an excellent job in this regard.

### **Waste Diversion:**

In 2008 the Waste Diversion Ontario (WDO) datacall calculated that Kingstonians diverted 42% of residential waste from landfill. Preliminary numbers from WDO show that diversion will be 47% for 2009. This takes into account a partial year of SSO collection. While the diversion rate is moving in the right direction, the 2009 rate falls well short of the 65% diversion goal for 2012. The economic downturn in 2009 had a noticeable effect on waste quantities as reduced public consumption resulted in reduced waste and recyclables. However, the economic situation is improving and the promising first year SSO program results indicate further improvement to the diversion rate in 2010.

**EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:**

There are no existing Policies/By-laws concerning this subject, on record, to date.

**NOTICE PROVISIONS:**

There are no notice requirements for the purposes of this report.

**ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:** n/a

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

No financial implications are to be considered in this report.

**CONTACTS:** n/a

**OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:**

Anne Kloosterman, Solid Waste Department  
Derek Ochej, Solid Waste Department

**EXHIBITS ATTACHED:**

none