

October, 2002

# Solid Waste Task Force Recommendations Summary



# BACKGROUND

The Solid Waste Task Force is a committee of Council that was established on February 20, 2001. The purpose of the Task Force is to recommend short-term improvements and to develop a long-term strategic direction for the City's solid waste management services that will benefit our residents in an environmentally sound and fiscally responsible manner.

Based on a thorough review of Solid Waste Services, the Task Force has drafted a series of recommendations that, subject to public consultation, will be finalized and forwarded in December 2002 to Kingston City Council for deliberation and approval.

This publication was created to provide a summary of the proposed recommendations, suggested implementation dates, and to explain the impact of each recommendation on the various users of these services. Additional information explaining the Task Force's process and research findings is detailed in a series of reports that can be viewed on the City's Web site or by calling City Hall reception at 546-4291.

**Public meetings are scheduled for October 16, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the Cataraqui Arena on Sunnyside Road, and October 17, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. at the Portsmouth Olympic Harbour on Yonge Street.**



## SUGGESTED READING

For additional information on the Task Force's deliberations and ongoing efforts to manage solid waste, we suggest reading the following documents, which can be found on the Task Force's Web pages (<http://www.city.kingston.on.ca/solidwaste>):

- “**Situation Analysis**” - Behind the Task Force recommendations (May 2002).
- “**Pay as you Throw**” - Implementation plan for a user-pay approach (Summer 2002).
- “**Garbage Tax Rebate**” - Program expanded to include former townships (June 2001).

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan. 1, 2003

That residential recycling for the whole City, including the downtown Business Improvement Area (BIA) be made available.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** Currently we do not collect residential recycling in the downtown core. This recommendation will help residents in this area to reduce what is currently put out as garbage, prepare for future bag reduction proposals and help divert waste from landfill.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** There will be no change in the service level to these tax classes. ICI property owners can continue to bring recyclable materials to the Kingston Area Recycling Centre (KARC) on Lappan's Lane.

Jan. 1, 2003

That funding of solid waste management services be through an assessment based/user pay approach in 2003 on the premise that services which contribute to waste diversion are funded by property taxation; and those that negatively affect diversion are funded through property taxation to support a standard level of service approved by Council, with service above the standard level funded by user-pay.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** Costs associated with waste diversion (recycling, composting, and hazardous waste) will be funded from the tax base. Until full user pay comes into effect, costs related to the collection and disposal of garbage will continue to be funded from both taxation and user fees. This will allow residents to control their costs based on their personal diversion habits.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** Same as residential.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan. 1, 2003

**That solid waste management services be harmonized throughout the whole City of Kingston so that residential, industrial and commercial properties have access to solid waste services at the level of service approved by Council.**

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** Harmonizing Solid Waste Services will result in harmonized tax rates. Rather than a flat rate that is calculated on a per household basis, Solid Waste charges for Kingston West residents will be entirely assessment based. In 2002, each residence in Kingston West paid a flat rate of \$147.00 plus a small assessment based charge of approximately \$20 on a property assessed at \$150,000. In 2003 solid waste taxes will be calculated by multiplying the property assessment value X the 2003 garbage tax rate. The tax rates will be uniform across the city.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** The City will begin providing garbage collection and disposal to these tax classes across the city. As a result, Kingston West ICI will begin paying for Solid Waste Services on their 2003 tax bill. Additionally, they will be able to participate in the Waste Collection and Disposal Tax Rebate Program provided they meet the program criteria. ICI property owners will not be subject to bag limits until May 1st, 2003. (See recommendation for 01 May 2003.) There will be no change for ICI property owners in the former City of Kingston East.

Jan. 1, 2003

**That a special tax rate for exempt properties be established for waste management system costs, in accordance with Section 208 of the Municipal Act, RSO 1990 as amended, and that any changes required by the New Municipal Act with respect to this matter be incorporated into the special rate calculation beginning in 2003.**

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** No impact.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** This recommendation deals with Institutional properties that are tax exempt. If approved, the Municipality will levy a special tax for Solid Waste Services against these properties.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan. 1, 2003

That solid waste services be accounted for as a separate Cost Centre with operating surpluses or deficits being determined annually and allocated to the following year's budget for the purposes of calculating revenue requirements.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** By capturing the costs separately we can use annual surpluses or deficits to determine solid waste fees for the following year.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** Same as residential.

Spring 2003

That a spring leaf and yard waste collection be reinstated subject to 2003 budget deliberations.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** This program was discontinued in 1999. Although it has limited impact on our ability to achieve a higher diversion rate, the recommendation is being considered to help residents manage their waste better and because a number of residents have stressed the importance of this service.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** Not applicable.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

May 1, 2003

That a one (1) bag limit for residential properties and a six (6) bag limit for industrial and commercial properties are established effective May 1, 2003, and any additional bags will require tags at \$2.50 each.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** The current policy limits residential properties to a 3 bag limit with additional bags requiring \$2.00 tags. Effective May 1, collection will be reduced to one free bag per week with additional bags requiring \$2.50 tags. Research indicates that limiting the number of bags that can be put out for free is one of the most effective ways to achieve a higher diversion rate.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** Currently, there is no limit to the number of bags collected from commercial properties in Kingston Central and East. Effective May 1, ICI property owners that use municipal collection will be restricted to 6 free bags per week, with additional bags requiring \$2.50 tags.

Jan. 1, 2004

That a full user pay system be implemented in 2004 on the premise that services which contribute to waste diversion are funded by property taxation and services that negatively affect diversion are funded by user pay.

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** Residents will have to purchase tags for every bag of garbage placed out for collection. Recycling, composting and hazardous waste would not be subject to user fees, but would be funded by property taxation.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** ICI Property owners will have to purchase tags for every bag of garbage placed out for municipal collection. Recycling, composting and hazardous waste will continue to be accepted at KARC at fees established by the current marketplace.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Jan. 1, 2004

**That the garbage rebate program be discontinued in 2004 provided the full user pay program is implemented.**

## Rationale & Impact

**Residential & Multi-Residential:** Multi-residential and condominium property owners would no longer be able to apply for the tax rebate. If a full user pay system is implemented, these residents will no longer be paying for garbage collection and disposal charges on their tax bill so the rebate system will not be required.

**Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI):** Currently, ICI property owners that do use municipal collection may apply for a tax rebate for a portion of their garbage taxes. If a full user pay system is implemented, ICI property owners will no longer be paying for garbage collection and disposal charges on their tax bill so the rebate system will not be required.

## Summary

The purpose of the above recommendations is to reduce waste going to landfill. We currently divert 38 per cent of our residential waste from landfill and our goal is to increase our diversion rate to 50 per cent or more. The City of Kingston is committed achieving this goal by helping residents and property owners to reduce, reuse, recycle and compost. We are exploring new programs and developing educational materials that will help you - help us achieve our waste diversion goals.

Throughout the consultation period we will identify frequently asked questions (FAQs) and will publish responses to address the most common concerns.