



## **Minutes**

### **Green Committee**

May 25, 2022

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEI8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Members Present	Councillor Pridham, Vice-Chair Lynette Geddes Katherine Moffat Fred Stam John Stevens
Member Absent	David Vermeire, Chair
Staff Present	Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works Dave Blake, Environmental Services Manager Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Councillor Pridham called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

#### **2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None declared.

#### **3. AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-01**

**Moved By** Lynette Geddes

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the May 25, 2022 Green Committee Agenda be accepted as presented.

**Carried**

**4. DELEGATIONS**

None.

**5. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-02**

**Moved By** John Stevens

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** the March 30, 2022 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

**Carried**

**6. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - STATUS UPDATE**

Morgan Dykstra spoke to the strategic priorities and responded to questions from the Committee.

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-03**

**Moved By** Lynette Geddes

**Seconded By** Katherine Moffat

**THAT** the May Green Committee Strategic Priorities Table be received for information.

**Carried**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 PW 33-2022 Community Feedback on Curbside Collection**

Dave Blake spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

Fred Stam inquired if the response rate of 124 is representative of the Town's population.

Dave Blake responded that the topic of the survey is determines the response rate, the response was good for the type of survey conducted, and noted the representation is questionable for accurate decision-making.

Lynette Geddes asked if the survey responses match actual use of available curbside programs.

Dave Blake responded that responses and results align with comments regularly received by staff, and observed usage trends.

Lynette Geddes noted that the Town has reduced the yard waste collection schedule and asked whether those reductions should be further considered.

Dave Blake responded that there is a trend towards decreasing volumes associated with the yard waste collection program, however, the program is seasonally and weather dependent.

Katherine Moffat asked the rationale for asking what people want to pay for the service, it appears there is an appetite for the service, but it has been negated by including costs.

Dave Blake responded that waste management program is user fee funded, to add a cost heavy diversion program will ultimately impact the revenue and trigger cost increases for program delivery.

Fern Pridham noted that 29% of respondents don't want any fees, and 37% of respondents selected \$0-30 as an appropriate fee, that is a significant number that don't want any cost or minimal costs for the delivery of an organics collection program.

Katherine Moffat commented that the question could have been structured differently.

The Committee made the following resolution:

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-04**

**Moved By** Fred Stam

**Seconded By** Lynette Geddes

**THAT** report PW 33-2022, Community Feedback on Organics Collection be received for information.

**Carried**

## 7.2 PW 39-2022 Organics Collection Consideration

Dave Blake spoke to the report and responded to questions from the Committee.

Lynette Geddes commented that the survey included a question surrounding whether the residents would want an opt-in organics program or a town-wide program and asked if the cost ranges included in report reflect those programs.

Dave Blake commented that Option 3 includes processing fees, and that is applied to a range of materials that may be accepted, the materials that are accepted will influence the cost of processing which is why there is a range, there is a base collection stream and then additional processing fees based on material type.

Lynette Geddes sought confirmation that the costs are based on a town-wide program rather than an opt-in program.

Dave Blake confirmed that Options 2 and Options 3 consider a town-wide program, town-wide programs offer efficiencies with respect to collection and processing.

Fred Stam noted that producer pay is consumer pay and sought clarification of the Town's definition of organic, and whether the Town has reviewed other municipal organics programs.

Dave explained that the report uses the term organics loosely, and the Town has only reviewed received organics proposals and has not yet investigated other municipal organics collection programs.

Fred Stam sought additional detail regarding the types of proposals that have been received by the Town.

Dave Blake commented that the Town has had conversations with recycling collection service providers but also product suppliers that were looking to gauge interest in the community for their specific methods for organics

Jed Kelly added that it can be difficult to complete an adequate comparison due to factors such as population size, geographic location, and volume of materials.

Dave Blake acknowledged that the area is unique due to the geographic area, and access to processing facilities, number of properties, number of residents and anticipated volumes.

Katherine Moffat inquired how a green bin program will align with the draft Climate Change Action Plan, since the organics in the landfill produce

greenhouse gases, and the transportation of organics will also produce greenhouse gases and asked how those two factors will be weighed.

Jed Kelly responded that the Town is continuing to draft a Climate Change Action Plan, and noted that this type of consideration is important, the Town needs to develop business case tools to evaluate project impact.

Fred Stam commented that he'd rather make a recommendation to proceed with Option 1, rather than defer any action for several years.

There was consensus among the Committee that the Town needs to better promote the Town's offering of green cone digester program and create informational tools for residents regarding how they can process organic materials at home.

Dave Blake commented that the Town currently has 25 to 30 green cone digesters that are sold at cost for \$150.00.

Katherine Moffat agreed that there should be more promotion of the green cone digester program while the Town works on a longer-term plan.

Lynette Geddes commented that the City of London was selling digesters for \$20 to encourage usage and asked if the Town would subsidize green cone digesters on a trial basis.

Councillor Pridham asked what a digester does and whether it eliminates the release of methane gas.

Dave Blake responded a digester similar to a backyard composter, the difference being a digester can process additional materials.

Lynette Geddes added that compost material can be reused, whereas the digester product is absorbed by the ground.

Councillor Pridham commented that this type of information should be shared with the public, and that the advantage is that less organics will be brought to the landfill, therefore saving landfill space.

Jed Kelly commented that staff should consider how much tonnage a digester program could divert from the landfill, and that a follow up report should be presented to the Committee.

The Committee was of the consensus that more information regarding a digester cone program should be brought forward for their consideration.

There was consensus among the Committee that the Town needs to better promote the Town's offering of green cone digester program and create informational tools for residents regarding how they can process organic materials at home.

The Committee made the following resolution:

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-05**

**Moved By** John Stevens

**Seconded By** Lynette Geddes

**THAT** report PW 39-2022, Organics Collection Consideration be received for information.

**Carried**

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Members of the Committee attended a site visit at the St. Marys Cement Plant the week before.

## **9. UPCOMING MEETINGS**

June 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Resolution: GC-2022-04-06**

**Moved By** John Stevens

**Seconded By** Fred Stam

**THAT** this meeting of the Green Committee adjourn at 6:20 p.m.

**Carried**

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David Vermeire, Chair

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Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary