



Agenda Green Committee

June 22, 2022

5:30 pm

Video Conference

Click the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzuUpFqxcEl8OG-dOYKteFQ>

Pages

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**
3. **AMENDMENTS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT June 22, 2022 Green Committee Agenda be accepted as presented.

4. **DELEGATIONS**
5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

3

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the May 25, 2022 Green Committee minutes be approved and signed by the Chair and Committee Secretary.

6. **STRATEGIC PRIORITIES - STATUS UPDATE**

9

RECOMMENDATION

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

7. **REPORTS**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report PW 44-2022, At Home Organics Diversion be received; and,

THAT the Green Committee recommends to Council:

THAT funds be allocated within the 2023 Council budget deliberations to subsidize at-home organics diversion initiatives as a means to reduce the amount of organic waste going to the landfill for disposal and encourage residents to manage organic material in an environmentally friendly and conscience way.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

9. UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. (Hybrid)

10. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this meeting of the Green Committee adjourn at p.m.



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

David Vermeire, Chair

Morgan Dykstra, Committee Secretary

Green Committee Strategic Priorities Status (May 2022)

Priority	Item	Status
Forestry Management	Revise tree species list	Complete
	Engagement and education opportunities	Complete
	Tree donation policy	Policy created and implemented.
	Seedlings transplant area	Complete
	Gypsy Moth Infestation	Information campaign completed.
	Forestry Management Plan Review	On November 8, 2021, Council directed the Green Committee to amend specific sections of the Forestry Management Plan. Intend to begin amendment process in 2022.
	Tree Subsidy Program	Tree Subsidy Program approved by Council at the December budget meeting. Program to be offered in September 2022 – UTRCA is on board to help implement the program.
Naturalization	Public Engagement re: naturalization	Need to review Sparling Bush Management Plan and determine if a secondary plan is required.
	Recommend areas for naturalization	
	Recommend policies to establish natural areas and how to maintain areas	
	Investigate the feasibility of creating a wildflower meadow	Pollinator Garden/Wildflower Meadow planted on June 4, 2021. Grant Funding report submitted to TD Friends of the Environment Foundation on January 14/2022.
		Council approved Green Committee request to expand pollinator garden. Pollinator Garden FEF Grant approved. Expansion planting took place June 6 th with the assistance of UTRCA and Little Falls Grade 5 classes. There is weed growth, working with UTRCA to develop a maintenance plan.
	Meadowridge Park Naturalization Project	Approximately 350 Trees planted on April 22, 2022. Final planting to take place in Fall 2022. Working with Public Works Operators and contracted services to install trail. Need to consider future tree planting areas.

Active Transportation Master Plan	Seek public feedback re: active transportation network	Public Survey	Complete
	Review existing active transportation network	Capital Item Budget for 2022 to hire a Consultant to draft an Active Transportation Master Plan.	Complete
	Recommend an Active Transportation Master Plan	Active Transportation Master Plan has been paused. Development Charges Study to be drafted to including funding mechanisms for active transportation.	Pause
Waste Reduction & Diversion (Following the Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment)	Review Solid Waste Management By-law		Complete
	Textile recycling program	Starting pilot program with Diabetes Canada for textile recycling at the St. Marys Landfill. Pilot program will be for approximately 6-months in duration likely officially starting in Mid-July.	Implementing
	Mattress and box spring diversion	Green Committee recommended (June 2019) Incorporated in Solid Waste Management By-law (Fall 2019) Develop policy and review other municipal programs. Might be a component of the Environmental Assessment Process once the Town has received approval for expansion.	Pause
	All other recommendations from WRDA	Awaiting approvals from the Ministry of Environment for the Town of St. Marys Landfill Site. Once approvals have been completed the review of existing program at the site can be reviewed.	Pause
	Green Initiative Awareness Program	Program promoted the week of April 18 th to celebrate Earth Day. Present fall program options to the Committee at the June meeting (deferred – staff have been responding to emergent infrastructure needs, capital projects and development applications))	Implementing
	Waste Reduction Week		Complete
	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program	Municipal Hazardous Waste Program has transitioned to depot event delivery model. When dates are available, they will be circulated to the public.	Complete
Green House Gas Reduction Plan	Implementation Plan and Recommended Projects	Corporate Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) presented to Committee on February 23, 2022. CCAP and Green Committee	Implementing

		<p>comments presented to the Strategic Priorities Committee (SPC) on March 15, 2022. Compiling SPC comments.</p> <p>CCAP presented to the Town's Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Currently compiling SPC and SLT comments, and doing a secondary review, anticipate being presented to the Green Committee at its June meeting (deferred – staff have been responding to emergent infrastructure needs, capital projects and development applications)</p>	
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FORMAL REPORT

To: Chair and Members of the Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Dave Blake, Environmental Services Manager

Date of Meeting: 22 June 2022

Subject: **PW 44-2022 At home Organics Diversion**

PURPOSE

This report is presented to the Green Committee to provide information related to at-home organics diversion initiatives and options for the community for consideration by the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT report PW 44-2022, At Home Organics Diversion be received; and,

THAT the Green Committee recommends to Council:

THAT funds be allocated within the 2023 Council budget deliberations to subsidize at-home organics diversion initiatives as a means to reduce the amount of organic waste going to the landfill for disposal and encourage residents to manage organic material in an environmentally friendly and conscience way.

BACKGROUND

At the May 25, 2022 Green Committee meeting, staff presented report “PW 39-2022, Organics Collection Consideration” for review and consideration by the committee.

During discussion, the Committee was of the opinion that the Town should consider small-scale organics processing options while also evaluating long-term options such as town-wide curbside collection programs.

This report has been developed to address the Committee’s outstanding questions comments regarding at-home initiatives.

REPORT

In 2018, the Town of St. Marys completed an internal review of waste management services with an outlook to the future and ways to expand upon already existing management and diversion initiatives. This resulted in the “**Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment, August 2018**” being drafted that not only looked at existing programs, but programs and diversion initiatives that could, or should be considered within the community. Within the Assessment, each program option was given near-term, mid-term and long-term initiatives that were to guide diversion initiatives within the community and to support and align with Provincial Goals and Strategies.

The Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment identified Backyard Composting Initiatives as a diversion program to be considered, and identified the following initiatives:

Initiatives	Initiatives	Initiatives
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(Near Term)	(Mid Term)	(Long Term)
Continue to publicize and encourage at home diversion via composting and digestion. Develop educational material to promote such programs.	Consideration should be given to developing a long term, sustainable incentive program for composters and/ or digesters. Seek assistance in funding for at home programs such as grants, sponsors and or donations.	Follow the “Strategy for a Waste Free Ontario” developed by the Province of Ontario as well as consideration to “Ontario’s Food and Organic Waste Framework”. Consideration should be given to a Food and Organics Collection program through municipal partnerships or as local third party facilities materialize.

On September 17, 2019, staff presented the Strategic Priorities Committee with report *PW 52-2019, Waste Management Services and Fees By-law review* and consideration. Recommended within this report was an annual budget inclusion of \$5,000.00 to fund and support an at home organics program that was supported by the mid-term initiative noted above. Through discussion of the Committee, the following resolution **(2019-09-17-05)** was carried:

“... THAT At Home Diversion Initiatives be supported by Council with inclusion of an annual budget allotment of \$5,000.00 to be sold to residents at cost...”.

As such, staff procured and obtained an inventory of Green Cone Digesters to support the Committee recommendation that have been and continue to be offered to the public at cost. The cost to bring in the units to the Town is \$135.00 + HST.

Through discussions from the May 25, 2022 Green Committee meeting, there remains many unknowns within the waste management industry at this time due to the ongoing transition of the Blue Box Program to a Producer Responsible Framework and its financial impacts to municipalities which leaves a funding unknown when it comes to new or expanded programs within the community. In an effort to “do something now”, the Committee sought additional information on back yard initiatives that could be considered. In support of this, Staff presents the following options for consideration:

Back Yard Composter:

Back yard composters are an at-home composting system that allows property owners to manage certain organic materials outside of the existing waste stream and relies on microbes to break down and “process” the material. This is achieved by controlling which material is placed in the composter and its size, how moist the material is and how much air is needed to produce the compost which can then be used as a soil additive around the property.

Green Cone Digester:

The Green Cone is an at-home composting system which offers an alternative means of disposing of organic kitchen waste to Anaerobic Digestion (AD) and In-Vessel Composting (IVC). The advantage to the Green Cone over traditional techniques is that it takes all types of food waste (meat, dairy, bones, vegetables and even animal feces). Essentially, it allows residents to take everything from the kitchen table and dump it directly in. Advantages to this system are that it does not need to be turned or emptied more than once every few years. In addition, as an enclosed system, it does not attract vermin or other animals.

Area Municipality Options and Costing:

As part of the review, staff also assessed whether surrounding communities offer similar programs. Currently, some local area municipalities subsidize back yard organics options to promote the activity

within their communities. Based on a preliminary review, the following table details costing for backyard options within the surrounding areas:

Municipality	Composter	Green Cone Digester
City of London	\$20.00	\$20.00
Oxford County	\$10.00	\$50.00
Essex Windsor	\$35.00	\$65.00

Historical Program Delivery:

In circa 2008, the Town, in association with Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA) distributed backyard digesters to residents. This partnership turned out to be largely successful, so much so that the original 100 digesters were sold out within 30 minutes. The Town funded 50% of the cost of the digester as part of this program.

Based on information within this report, at-home organics processing options are available and supported by the “Waste Reduction and Diversion Assessment – 2018” and a subsidy program to reduce the cost to residents who wish to opt into this initiative would likely improve program uptake and ultimately have a reducing effect on waste going to landfill. As such, Staff recommends that the Green Committee recommend to Council that consideration be given to funds be allocated within the 2023 Council budget deliberations to subsidize at-home organics diversion initiatives as a means to reduce the amount of organic waste going to the landfill for disposal and encourage residents to manage organic material in an environmentally friendly and conscience way.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications currently.

Should Council, as part of their 2023 budget deliberations support a subsidy for at home organics diversion initiatives within the community, those funds would have to be accounted for within future annual operations and maintenance budgets and funded and supported through the Waste Management Services financial system.

SUMMARY

Based on information detailed herein, it is staff’s recommendation that the committee recommend to Council that during 2023 budget deliberations, consideration be given to a subsidy program for at home organics diversion initiatives to support sustainable and environmentally friendly organics management at an individual property level within the community.

STRATEGIC PLAN

☒ This initiative is supported by the following priorities, outcomes, and tactics in the Plan.

- Pillar # 1 - Infrastructure:
 - Outcome: With anticipated proactive measures for growth (residential, commercial and industrial), there will be a need for active consideration of optimizing landfill services, but with a view to controlled costs and forward-thinking environmental initiatives.
 - Tactic(s): Decide on what approaches best meet long-term community ability to meet provincial standards. Build a program and identify a budget to accommodate.
 - Tactic(s): Implement renewed waste management approach on a phased-in basis.

OTHERS CONSULTED

Morgan Dykstra, Public Works and Planning Coordinator – Town of St. Marys

Jed Kelly, Director of Public Works – Town of St. Marys

ATTACHMENTS

Not Applicable

REVIEWED BY

Recommended by the Department

Dave Blake, C.E.T.
Environmental Services Manager

Jed Kelly
Director of Public Works