

Type of Decision									
Meeting Date	Friday, April 20, 2012				Report Date	Thursday, April 12, 2012			
Decision Required	X	Yes		No	Priority	X	High		Low
Direction	x	Information Only			Type of Meeting	X	Open		Closed
REPORT TITLE									
Composter Rebate Program Reports #20/04/12/1104									

Subject: Formalization of agreed incentive for increased diversion.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council pass the following resolution authorizing a rebate program for the purchase of composters as an incentive to increase diversion.

WHEREAS the goal of Council through the Waste Management By-Law adopted in December of 2011 is to reduce waste being landfilled and to encourage waste being diverted from landfill;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the United Townships of Head, Clara & Maria does hereby authorize staff to implement a rebate program whereby residents who purchase commercial composters or the materials to build a composter will receive a refund of 75% of the cost of their materials up to a limit of _____ after providing receipts to staff.

AND FURTHER THAT an overall limit of \$_____ be set. Once this limit has been reached, this program will end.

Background/Executive Summary: As part of the discussion which occurred in September of 2011 concerning the Waste Management by-law and encouraging diversion, Council considered rebating the costs of composters "up to 75%". Staff were to bring a resolution back to Council to formalize this decision and to set an upper limit.

Compostable materials account for a large percentage of the material left in garbage once the "normal" recyclables have been diverted. This refund was seen as an incentive to encourage increased diversion.

Discussion/Considerations:

- A large number of residents already participate in composting.
- A large number of residents may not wish to participate due to the fear of unwanted pests/bears.
- Council could hold a workshop to explain the process of composting to avoid unwanted visitors.
- A newsletter could be produced using information from verifiable sources explaining how to compost effectively.
- Permanent residents only? How do we ensure that the composters are not taken "home"?

Financial Considerations/Budget Impact: Based on the 2011 census the number of private dwellings with usual residents is 103. Assuming that 10% of the population already has a composter there would then be 93 private dwellings without whose occupants may take advantage of this program.

There are funds in the surplus realized for 2011 which could be dedicated to this program. Once a certain limit has been reached, the program will end – a first come first served program. Of course the benefits will be realized only if participants make use of the composters in years to come. There is no way of controlling or estimating that. Public Education reminding people to compost would help – notices in the newsletters, signage at the disposal sites.

Estimated participation and rates:

% participation rate	Number of households	Total Cost at Limit of \$50	Total Cost at Limit of \$75
10%	9	\$450	\$675
20%	19	\$950	\$1,425
30%	28	\$1,400	\$2,100
40%	37	\$1,850	\$2,775
50%	47	\$2,350	\$3,525
60%	56	\$2,800	\$4,200

Policy Impact: Creates new policy.

Others Consulted/Resources/References: Council discussion at its September 2011 meeting.

Approved and Recommended by the Clerk	
Melinda Reith, Municipal Clerk	<i>Melinda Reith</i>