

Report of the HCM Council Committee on Waste Diversion

The Committee created by Council to provide advice on the draft By-Law 2011-21 being a By-Law dealing with the collection, removal and disposal of solid waste met on October 18, 2011 from 19:00 hours until 20:00 hours at the municipal hall.

The Committee was chaired by Ed Aiston and composed of Debbi Grills, Bob Reid and Todd Dowser.

Following a brief round of introductory comments the Committee identified three key issues for further discussion. There were:

- ✓ the use of clear bags for garbage disposal
- ✓ the user pay principle, and
- ✓ recycling education

With respect to **clear bags**, the Committee noted the concern of campground owners over the separation of garbage from recyclables for transient campers. It was noted that in some campgrounds almost all recyclables from seasonal campers were already being captured. The Committee briefly explored the various means of quantifying the garbage of transient campers or passers-by so that it could be treated as a separate class for collection purposes but came to no conclusion.

The Committee also discussed the issues of identifying ownership of clear bags where the drop off points are for multiple residential or commercial users.

The discussion on the **user pay** approach focused on the ease of application and costs to the user of this approach. It was noted that the costs at one dollar (\$1.00) per bag were not inconsequential for commercial users and should provide an incentive to commercial users to recycle as much material as possible. It was also suggested that tipping fees be applied to all large loads delivered to the dump site including those containing a large component or composed entirely of bags of garbage. It was suggested that Council also consider the creation of an account for high volume users whereby incremental fees could be paid on a monthly or quarterly basis.

It was also noted however that the user pay principle as it had been set out in the current draft By-Law was unlikely to influence residential users who did not recycle currently to any significant extent. The Committee agreed it was desirable to increase residential recycling as much as possible. It was felt that the provision of two bags per household would undercut the economic incentive and that the number of bags per household should be set at one bag per week

with any additional tags to be sold at one dollar (\$1.00) per bag. One member of the Committee felt that the \$2.00 per bag fee set out in the draft By-Law for 2013 was exorbitant.

The Committee also discussed various approaches to improved **education** around the practice and benefits of recycling. The Committee discussed holding an educational session for residents and commercial users, the benefits of increased visibility for the recycling program through signage and the placement of recycling bins in high traffic areas and the distribution of a single issue information sheet on the practice and benefits of recycling in the municipality.

It was further suggested that Council publicize the practice and benefits of kitchen, lawn and garden composting.

A number of **miscellaneous** issues were also discussed including the need for early exploration of the possible expansion of the dump sites. It was also noted that Deep River had a dedicated site for the disposal of construction material and it was suggested that Council might explore the benefits of using part of one of the existing sites as a dedicated cell (or explore the acquisition of a new site dedicated to this purpose).

The Committee also discussed the possibility of providing an additional recycling drop off point in Deux Rivieres similar to that available at the Municipal Hall in Stonecliffe.

Committee Recommendations to Council

- 1. That Council adopts the user pay principle as its primary strategy for waste diversion.**
- 2. That the introduction of clear plastic bags be deferred at least one year until the impact of the user pay approach can be measured.**
- 3. Those households be limited to one bag of garbage for curbside pickup.**
- 4. That Council consider including garbage bags as part of large loads subject to tipping fees (as opposed to counting each bag and charging by the bag).**
- 5. That Council consider setting up special monthly or quarterly tipping fee accounts for high volume users.**
- 6. That Council consider the implementation of a bag tag system with a limit of one free tag per household per week.**

- 7. That Council vigorously pursue educational initiatives, including:**
 - a. Improved signage encouraging recycling**
 - b. The production of an information sheet (broadsheet) on the benefits and practice of recycling that would be distributed to each household and would be handed out by campground owners to their seasonal and transient campers**
 - c. The possible placement of recycling containers in high traffic, strategic public locations with an additional recycling drop off point in Deux Rivieres.**