

Food Waste Grinders

Stakeholder Engagement and Proposed Resolution

Food Waste Grinder Sub-Committee

February 13, 2014

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Environmental Promotion and Protection

Activities Completed To Date

Stakeholder Consultations



Research Review and Surveys



Expert Reports on Food Waste Grinder Impacts



Staff assessed information from a variety of expert sources

Stakeholders Consulted on the Proposed Prohibition of Food Waste Grinders



Local Municipalities and Other Regions
(2009 - Present)



Building Industry & Land Development
(Sep - Dec 2011)



Residents, ICIs & Retailers (Oct 2010 - 2012)



Manufacturers (Apr 2012 - Present)



Supplementary stakeholder consultation
(Nov 2012 & Jan 2013)

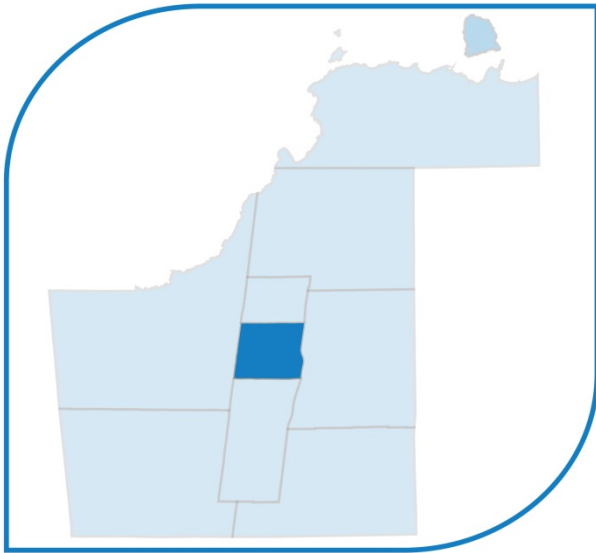


Focused Stakeholder Consultation
(Nov 2013, Dec 2013 and Jan 2014)

York Region engaged with stakeholders on impacts of prohibiting food waste grinders

Results of Survey and Sampling

Quantify Impacts



- Wastewater characterization concluded that higher-than-average food waste grinder use rates increase sewage strength
- Curbside audit concluded:
 - Green Bin material capture rates were higher for non-food waste grinder users
 - Green Bin remains the most successful tool for food waste management with high participation rate and tonnages captured

While technical work confirms original assumptions on impacts, consultation revealed significant concerns regarding impacts of prohibiting FWG in York Region

New Approach Needed to Move Forward

- ❑ Reached out to key stakeholders for agreement on a process that would identify preferred option that all could support
 - ❑ December 18, 2013 – identified high level principles, long list of options
 - ❑ January 20, 2014 – discussed options and agreed on hybrid option that all could support



Collaboration with the Industry was instrumental to moving forward

Principles Driving Agreement



- Reducing waste generation
- Maintaining consumer/resident choice
- Maximizing diversion
- Maintaining simplicity and convenience for consumers/residents
- Protecting the environment and public health
- Protecting public infrastructure and assets
- Maintaining fiscal responsibility to the taxpayer
- Maintaining consistent messaging
- Protecting brand integrity
- Seeking holistic solutions

Principles were developed and prioritized in collaboration with industry stakeholders

Draft Resolution Proposed from Region/Stakeholder Engagement

York Region will continue to promote the waste management hierarchy, which first and foremost promotes food waste reduction and green bin participation through three stream source separation. York Region will work with industry stakeholders to identify multi-residential demonstration project(s) featuring latest grinding technology to evaluate effectiveness of diverting food waste.

Technical analysis has shown that the current use rate of food waste grinders in the Region is approximately 3%, and capital plant expansion may not be required until use rate approaches 15%. As a result, the Sewer Use Bylaw will be amended to repeal Part 17 which contains the prohibition on food waste grinders and is currently not in effect. York Region will continue to monitor sewage characteristics against sewer use parameters and recommend rate increases as necessary to achieve full cost recovery for conveying and treating wastewater. These increases may be attributable to increases in Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, and other wastewater parameters from a variety of sources.

York Region will work with industry to explore industrial, commercial and institutional food waste diversion and energy production technology and systems that align with objectives of the Sewer Use Bylaw and the SM4RT Living Integrated Waste Management Master Plan.

A reasonable solution that both parties can work with

Local Municipal Staff Comments

In general, local municipal staff support the proposed resolution with the following comments:

- ❑ They continue to support the SM4RT Living Integrated Waste Management Master Plan initiatives and principles
 - ❑ Support organics diversion through source separated organics (SSO) collection as the primary option for food waste management for all types of development
- ❑ Food waste grinders should not be implemented as the primary method of waste management in any residential development
- ❑ Support the Regional Official Plan policy - three stream diversion
- ❑ York Region sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat additional organic loadings that may be attributed to increased food waste grinder use - this method of treatment is not supported
- ❑ Ongoing monitoring of food waste grinder market penetration and impact assessment are important to ensure long term protection of wastewater infrastructure and cost recovery

Local and Regional staff agree that SSO management outside of the wastewater stream is the preferred option and will continue to promote existing programs

Next Steps

If resolution is adopted by FWG Sub-Committee:

- ❑ Communicate to Committee of the Whole and Regional Council
 - ❑ Memo from Sub-Committee to Committee of the Whole, March 20, 2014 and Regional Council, March 27, 2014
- ❑ Repeal Part 17 of Sewer Use Bylaw No. 2011-56
- ❑ Communicate resolution to residents, local municipalities and other stakeholders
- ❑ Schedule meetings with industry stakeholders to identify pilot projects
- ❑ Monitor implementation

Staff will maintain alignment with strategic priorities while exploring opportunities for innovation

Questions?

