

MEMORANDUM

TO: Food Waste Grinder Sub-Committee

FROM: Erin Mahoney, Commissioner of Environmental Services

DATE: February 13, 2014

RE: **Food Waste Grinder Prohibition Resolution**

This memo summarizes the outcomes of additional stakeholder consultation and provides a draft resolution for your consideration regarding food waste grinder usage in York Region.

Regional staff conducted stakeholder consultation meetings with manufacturers of food waste grinders on November 4, 2013, December 18, 2013 and January 20, 2014. The purpose of these meetings was to develop and review principles to aid in finding a resolution on the proposed prohibition of food waste grinders in York Region. York Region staff and representatives from the food waste grinder industry participated fully in the workshops and were successful in constructive dialogue resulting in the development of a draft resolution included in this memo.

Technical analysis has shown that measurable impacts to the Duffin Creek Water Pollution Control Plant may be experienced with increased use of food waste grinders, including reducing the servicing capacity of the plant. The current use rate of food waste grinders in the Region is approximately 3 per cent and Region staff confirmed that food waste grinder impacts requiring plant capital expansion would not be experienced until use rates approach 15 per cent. Based on this technical analysis and a better understanding of industry sales data which was shared at the January stakeholder meeting, Regional staff have agreed to continue to monitor sales data and sewer use parameters to evaluate impacts associated with the use of food waste grinders across the Region over time. Key industry stakeholders have committed to review actual and forecasted sales data with Region staff on an annual basis.

Region staff circulated the proposed resolutions to local municipal staff and food waste grinder industry stakeholders for their review and comment. Preliminary feedback from local municipal staff is supportive of the proposed resolution, emphasizing commitment to the Green Bin Program and three-stream waste management in multi-residential dwellings. Staff will provide a summary of local municipal feedback at the Sub-Committee on February 13, 2014.

Industry stakeholders have also been consulted on the proposed resolution and are supportive of the proposed direction.

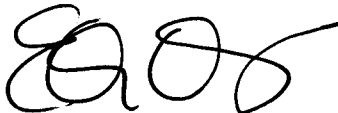
The proposed food waste grinder resolution for your approval follows:

- *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 per cent, and capital plant expansion may not be required until use rate approaches 15 per cent. 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 SMART Living Integrated Waste Management Master Plan.*

This proposed resolution does not prevent York Region from exploring options for managing impacts from food waste grinders in multi-residential settings where three-stream collection cannot be achieved. This includes options for cost recovery through agreements or rate increases.

If the Food Waste Grinder Sub-Committee accepts the intent of the recommendations above, a final resolution could be brought forward to Committee of the Whole on March 20, 2014 per Food Waste Grinder Sub-Committee direction. If the resolution is adopted, the Sewer Use Bylaw No. 2011-56 will be amended to repeal Part 17 which is currently not in effect.

For questions or additional information, please contact Laura McDowell, 905-830-4444 Ext. 75077.



Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Environmental Services