

**Township of Southgate
Administration Office**

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Staff Report PW2023-024

Title of Report: PW2023-024 MWA 2023 Spring Workshop and Recommendation

Department: Public Works

Branch: Waste Resources and Diversion Management

Council Date: June 7, 2023

Recommendation:

Whereas the Honourable Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Jeff Yurek issued policy direction letters on August 15, 2019, and as amended April 3, 2020, to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority requesting that CIF submit recommendations for a wind up plan and to end the CIF as soon as practical prior to December 31, 2025; and

Whereas RPRA approved the CIF Windup Plan on December 22, 2020, for CIF to wind up operations by December 31, 2023;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of the Corporation of Southgate request that CIF continue to assist, support and provide guidance to municipalities and First Nations communities with the Blue Box transition and non-eligible sources bridging ICI options for collections; and

That the Minister reconsider extension of the CIF services and agreements, beyond 2023; and

That this resolution be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Ontario Big City Mayors (OBCM), and all Ontario municipalities for support to pass similar resolutions and be forwarded to the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) Chief Executive Officer, Frank Denton, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Office of the Premier of Ontario, MP Alex Ruff, and MPP Rick Byers.

Background:

The Municipal Waste Association (MWA) 2023 Spring Workshop was attended by Public Works Manager (PWM) Jim Ellis and Public Works Administrative Assistant Lisa Wilson in Hunstville on May 17 & 18, 2023.

Staff Comments:

Some of the topics covered at the MWA Spring Workshop included:

- Dr. Daniel Hoornweg, Associate Professor at Ontario's Tech University presentation on "What a Waste – A Career in Trash" with Canada being one of the largest producers of landfill Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and discussion that globally we have not hit peak waste generation and the challenges to meet Zero Waste targets;

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Senior Advisor, Waste Diversion Dave Gordon on State of Waste in Ontario, spoke on more sustainable packaging

solutions. Another 1 million tonnes are needed to meet diversion targets from a different diversion program than Blue Box. By 2030 an additional 2.5 million tonnes and 2050 6.5 million tonnes will need to be diverted from landfill. Electronic waste was 50% less weight diverted in 2021 compared to 2013, due to smaller, lighter units with more disposal type products not being repaired.

What else can be done? Designate more items in Regulations, such as large appliances, power tools, anything with electrical cords as seen in other Canadian Provinces. More recycling efforts for Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) programs, Organics diversion, the government has not followed through with their targets and the collection of consumer fees for recycling programs with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), where is the money going and being used?

- MWA Annual General Meeting;
- City of Guelph – Phil Zigby on a Markets Update noted a massive spike of materials during COVID received, there are 15 new paper mills in the United States with greater capacity of recycling paper products. CRD waste is factored at 75% being landfilled in the United States.
- A panel discussion on the Circular Economy on the value of Repair, Reuse, then recycle. The biggest bang for the buck in diversion would be more recycling of Construction & Demolition waste as being the largest contributor to landfilling;
- MWA Promotion & Education (P&E) Awards were presented. The Township of Southgate won a 2023 Silver award in the Social Media & Online Strategy for our waste educational video produced by Co-op Student Mary Green, assisted by Terri Murphy and Lisa Wilson. Movie star Transfer Station Attendant Kathleen McRobbie was featured on a clip shown at the ceremony, Congratulations to all!!! (Attachment #1) The video clip is posted on the Township website. (Attachment #2)
- Perdico Energy presented on smaller processing units to eliminate landfill methane gas emissions and harnessing energy;
- “Making Fashion Circular” speaker Kelly Drennan, Founding Director of Fashion Takes Action, she showed a video clip of “Dead Whiteman’s Clothes” Guyana receives boat loads of donation clothing and employees 30,000 people working for sorting, with 70% of the clothing being Grade 3&4 which is dirty, torn/tattered not reusable. Canadian Tire partnered to recycle clothing into Type A felt manufactured into laundry hampers from recycled polyester;
- “Hot Button Issues” questions from the floor, Southgate PWM asked for interpretation of the requirement for Lower & Upper Tier being Producers for reporting paper product usage and registering with the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPPRA). Any Ontario business that has a revenue of \$2 million dollars or more must register, Southgate has to register with RPPRA and pay the required \$85.00. The supply threshold of paper products generated is 9,000 kilograms and the Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) has developed an online

Blue Box Producer Calculator for short term use. Southgate has been assisting CIF with the Calculator by determining paper generation rates that are supplied to Southgate householders. The information will help CIF further develop its Blue Box Producer Calculator.

- A presentation by IPL Regional Sales Manager Richard Palu on Planning a Collection Cart Rollout and residential Distribution demonstrated how carts are placed for order and delivery for new cart programs and key factors for a smooth implementation.
- An update from CIF on the action items for 2023 and Windup plan for December 2023.

The Continuous Improvement Fund (CIF) is a partnership between the [Association of Municipalities of Ontario](#) (AMO), the [City of Toronto](#), [Stewardship Ontario](#) (SO) and the [Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority](#) (formerly Waste Diversion Ontario – WDO). The CIF commenced operations on May 1, 2008 under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by the program partners, operating as a committee of WDO.

The CIF's mandate is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Ontario's municipal blue box Programs. This mandate is fulfilled through the provision of funding, technical support and training to aid municipalities and program stakeholders in the identification and development of best practices and technological and market-based solutions that lead to program improvements.

Southgate had the 2019 4-season audit project funded through the CIF program.

The Southgate PWM commented on the many facets of work CIF has done working on behalf of Ontario municipalities and the value they provide to us. As part of commenting on this issue, the writer suggested that municipal Councils should support a resolution to the Minister and stakeholders for the extension and continuance for the CIF services.

Staff recommends that Council consider adopting the recommendation in this report to advocate for a solution on this issue.

Financial Implications:

The MWA Workshop is included in the Operational Budget.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

Goal 5 - Upgrading our "Hard Services"

Action 5:

The residents and businesses of Southgate recognize our linear services - roads, bridges, water and sewer works, for example - to be a fundamental purpose of municipal government. This infrastructure needs to be serviceable and sustainable so that our businesses and communities can thrive and grow.

Concluding Comments:

Staff obtained valuable information and feedback at the recent conference and ask council to pass a motion to advocate for an extension on the Windup plan to end the CIF.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head: *Original Signed By*
Jim Ellis, Public Works Manager

CAO Approval: *Original Signed By*
Dina Lundy, CAO

Attachments:

Attachment # 1 - MWA P&E Award Township of Southgate 2023 Silver Award in the Social Media & Online Strategy category.

Attachment # 2 – Southgate WRDM Video Clip link <https://youtu.be/6K6QLn2ntHk>