

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council receive the findings of the public school food scraps pilot project for information.
2. THAT Council authorize staff to work with the Burnaby School District to implement a full scale school food scraps collection program, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2013 February 12, received and adopted the *attached* report seeking Council approval to proceed with a full-scale public school food scraps collection program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor A. Kang
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Acting Director Engineering
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 2013 February 05

FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 36600 05

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee and Council with the findings of the public school food scraps pilot project and seek Council's approval to proceed with a full-scale public school food scraps collection program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to:
 - (a) receive the findings of the public school food scraps pilot project.
 - (b) authorize staff to work with the Burnaby School District to implement a full scale public school food scraps collection program as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Following the successful roll-out of food scraps program for multi-family residences in late 2010, Council authorized staff to work with the Burnaby School District officials and undertake public school food scraps pilot project for a period of one year beginning fall of 2011.

The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee and Council on the findings of the pilot project and seek Council's approval to proceed with the full-scale public school food scraps collection program based on the successful outcome of the pilot project.

2.0 PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

Waste composition studies show that compostable organics make up 34% of waste disposed by the institutional sector. Diverting more of these organics through a public school program will bring the City one step closer to achieving the regional goal of 70% waste diversion by 2015.

2.1 Background

In 2011, the City, in partnership with Burnaby School District (BSD) initiated a public school food scraps pilot project to investigate the feasibility of a future full-scale public school food scraps collection program. The pilot project included nine schools (six elementary and three secondary). The City provided toters, weekly collection services, education and communication resources and staff support for BSD partners. Under the pilot project, participating schools added food scraps and food-soiled paper to designated green bins located within the school. BSD staff coordinated distribution of educational materials to school administrators, coordinated student outreach, monitored the use of the toters for contamination and placed the toters out for collection.

2.2 Waste Data

Data collection from the pilot project is summarised in Table 1 below. A visual audit was also conducted bi-weekly prior to collection to evaluate the composition of the food waste collected and to identify contamination issues, if present.

Table 1 – Results from Public School Food Scraps Pilot Project

School Name	Total weeks	Operational weeks	Average weekly weight (kg/wk)	Estimated total weight (kg)	Total students
Byrne Creek Secondary	24	23	73.10	1,681.21	1,265
Burnaby Mountain Secondary	24	23	71.79	1,651.08	1,294
Burnaby South Secondary	24	23	22.74	523.09	1,725
Marlborough Elementary	16	15	50.36	755.38	1,067
Second Street Community	19	18	100.48	1,808.60	364
Clinton Elementary	24	23	40.60	933.77	369
Stride Avenue Community	24	23	110.96	2,551.97	310
Brentwood Park Elementary	24	23	51.78	1,190.94	450
Chaffey Burke Elementary	24	23	61.26	1,409.04	564
Total				12,505.07	

2.3 Key Findings

Key findings of the pilot project are included below:

- the rate of participation and volume of food scraps from schools increased over time;
- the visual audits showed that composition of the food scraps varied between elementary schools, and between elementary and secondary schools. Contamination was found in food scraps toters for both elementary and secondary schools, with higher level of contamination in the secondary schools;

- secondary schools where a culinary program is in place generated significantly higher volumes of food scraps and food-soiled paper requiring additional containers;
- separate containers for internal collection of food scraps needed to be utilized with material needing to be transferred daily into centralized totes for weekly collection;
- collection of food scraps needed to be undertaken near the end of the week as opposed to the beginning of the week to prevent food scraps from sitting in collection containers over the weekend;
- joint participation of student Green Teams, school administration, teachers and custodians was key to a successful public school food scraps program.



Figure 1 –Food scraps pilot project participants from Second Street Elementary School.

3.0 PROPOSED FULL-SCALE PUBLIC SCHOOL FOOD SCRAPS PROGRAM

The City has received a letter from the BSD dated 2013 January 31 indicating their desire to move forward with implementing a full-scale food scraps collection program at all schools in the District, the Schou Education Centre and the Board Office. The BSD is prepared to work with the City to begin a phased implementation of the program beginning Spring Break 2013 until the roll-out is complete.

Subject to Council approval of implementing a full scale public school food scraps collection program, City staff, in partnership with staff at the BSD, will develop an implementation plan that will include the following components:


- 1) Identification of the schools to be included in the phased roll-out;
- 2) Locations for storage and curbside placement of the green bins at school sites;
- 3) Toter pick up times and frequencies from various schools; and
- 4) Education and monitoring of the program.

The City has a sufficient inventory of green bins required for the program. Sufficient funds are available in the 2013 operating budget to support this initiative.

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4.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the positive outcome of the pilot project, staff recommend partnering with BSD on the implementation of a full scale public school food scraps program. Sufficient funds are available in the 2013 operating budget to support this initiative. Diverting food waste collection in public schools will move the City towards meeting the regional goal of 70% diversion by 2015 and strengthen diversion programs for the institutional sector.


for B. C. Davis, P. Eng
ACTING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

DD:br

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