

Waste Management Roadmap Discussion Boards What We Heard Report

DATE: June 24 and 25, 2020



Strathcona County has embarked on a project to develop a 2021-2031 Waste Management Roadmap. The overall intent of the project is to develop a way forward for how we manage waste in the County for the next ten years.

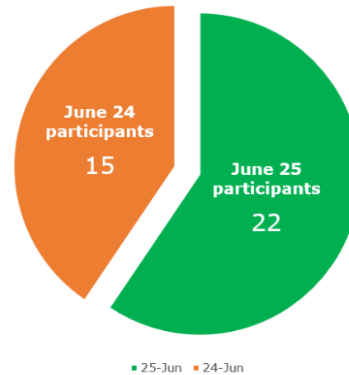
Engagement / Discussion Board Results

Discussion Board Participants

The County hosted two online discussion board forums:

- June 24, 6 – 8 pm; with 15 participants
- June 25, 11 am to 1 pm; with 22 participants

Participants were able to directly discuss waste management with the County’s subject matter experts.



Main Themes

- 1) **More creative education** is required to inform stakeholders about the advantages of waste management and what good waste management practises are,
- 2) The **commercial/business sector needs to take a more active role** in good waste management practises, and
- 3) Some form of **incentive or disincentive programs** should be introduced to motivate all County audiences to improve waste management behaviour.

Themes from the discussions were determined based on a third-party analysis of participant inputs.

Questions and Themes

Participants were prompted for discussion with three questions. The themes from the three discussions were captured through a third-party analysis and are presented below.

Question #1

After looking at the images below, do you think we all need to do better with waste management? Why or why not?



Themes

1. **On doing a better job:** Participants shared that they believe that residents can do a better job, with sorting especially. They believe that residents can do better with ensuring recycling is sorted appropriately and that all organic waste goes into green bins or is composted.
2. **On setting targets:** The general sentiment was that if waste management and/or landfill diversion targets are set, they need to be reasonable and strived for gradually.
3. **On education:** The majority of participants shared that education on waste management needs to be enhanced with creative ways being used to a) inform residents on the advantages of good waste management and b) how to manage waste well. The education comments were mainly associated with recycling and organics.
4. **On pay-as-you-throw:** Participants were generally in favour of a pay-as-you-throw system to help improve waste management behaviour. Most participants in this discussion shared various factors to be considered before implementing a system.

Question #2



Looking at what is needed to send less waste to the landfill, how should we focus our efforts? Why?

- Reduce (produce less waste)
- Reuse (reuse more items rather than throw away)
- Recycling (sort more into the blue bag)
- Composting (sort more into the green cart)
- Other

Themes

1. **Participants choosing all:** A handful of participants stated that we should focus on all choices.
2. **Reduce:** Several participants encouraged the County to do more to collectively influence producers and manufacturers of non-recyclable products (e.g., single-use plastics) to bring less of these products into the marketplace.
3. **Reuse:** A handful of participants shared that the Hodge Podge Lodge (reuse shack at Broadview EnviroService Station), and other places that circulate reuse items, need to be accessed more by residents.
4. **Recycle:** A minority of participants suggested that a better job can be done by residents with recycling efforts. More recycling convenience at the curb was also a topic.
5. **Compost:** A majority of participants commented on how composting and disposing appropriately of organics can be improved by residents.
6. **On education:** A number of discussion points arose with most education comments associated with recycling and organics. The majority of participants shared that education on waste management needs to be enhanced with creative ways being used to a) inform residents on the advantages of good waste management and b) how to manage waste well.
7. **On pay-as-you-throw:** Participants were generally in favour of a pay-as-you-throw system to help improve waste management behaviour. Most participants in this discussion shared various factors to be considered before implementing a system.

Question #3



After watching the [*video](#) and viewing the image, what are your thoughts on everyone's role in the future of waste management in the County?

(*Click on the video link above to watch a video on *Managing Waste Together.*)

Themes

1. **All sectors:** Several participants made comments that waste management is "everyone's role" in the County and that all sectors need to contribute to waste diversion.
2. **Commercial/business sector:** Most participants in the discussion made comments targeting the commercial/business sector as the primary sector that should improve waste management and landfill diversion practises.
 - a. **Incentives, fines, and regulation:** Many of the participants commented that they believe either incentives or disincentives for the commercial/business sector are required to motivate the sector to improve waste management practises. A small majority of participants indicated that incentives or reward-type programs should be considered before disincentives, fines, or regulations.
 - b. **Organics:** Several participants further focussed in on restaurants and grocery stores, stating they should be taking more steps to better manage organic waste and divert more organic waste from landfills.

What's Next?

Input received through the waste management survey, discussion boards, and online focus groups will form the foundation of a final report, scheduled for Council presentation in early 2021.



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