



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Waste Management Steering Committee**

From: **W.H. Jackson, Director of Utility Services**

Meeting Date: **May 9, 2016**

Subject: **Report WMC16-007
Establishing a Reuse Building at Peterborough County-City
Waste Management Facility**

Purpose

A report to propose the establishment of a Reuse Building at the Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility (PCCWMF), for the purpose of diverting good quality items from landfill.

Recommendations

That the Waste Management Committee endorse the recommendations as outlined in Report WMC16-007 dated May 9, 2016, of the Director of Utility Services as follows:

- a) That City staff request an amendment to the PCCWMF Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) to allow for the establishment of a Reuse Building at the public drop-off platform; and
- b) That upon receiving the necessary ECA amendment from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), staff proceed with the implementation of a Reuse Building as described in Report WMC16-007.

Budget and Financial Implications

The estimated cost to implement a Reuse building is \$30,000. Given the current County Waste Management project priorities, County staff is reluctant to fund this

endeavour. As such, the recommendation is that the City will pay the cost of this project with 2016 funds if they are available or will include the cost in the 2017 budget estimate.

Background

Waste Management Committee, at its September 8, 2014 meeting, asked staff to report back with a business case to justify the proposed expenditure of \$500,000 for a Reuse Centre at the PCCWMF, as outlined in Report WMC14-010. Since that time, staff has re-evaluated the specifications and location for such a building, resulting in a significantly lower cost estimate. Though not a “business case” in the conventional sense, staff submits that such a facility at the new cost estimates given below is appropriate and justifiable on a number of grounds:

- it would fulfill our corporate responsibility to support and encourage the second “R” in the 3R’s hierarchy, **Reuse**;
- it would result in less material going into the landfill;
- outside of the initial capital cost, there would be no additional operating cost or loss of revenues incurred;
- it would provide a benefit to City and County residents who could obtain free goods for their use.

All of these reasons make a strong case for establishing a reuse opportunity at the PCCWMF.

Preliminary discussions with the MOECC indicate that they would fully support the application for an ECA amendment.

Proposal Details

It is proposed that a 30’ x 15’ post-and-beam, steel-clad structure be erected in the north-east corner of the public drop-off platform. Sight lines for scalehouse staff would not be obscured, and there is existing electrical service at this location.



The building would have two overhead doors for easy access, and one man-door leading to a separate area for the secure storage of items such as small quantities of hazardous wastes that are found. The building would be wired with several outlets and suitable lighting. No heating would be required. As the asphalt platform is level, it is proposed that the structure could be built directly on the asphalt, eliminating the need for a poured floor. Such a building could be expected to last for 15 years.

People with items in good repair would be invited to place these items in the Reuse Building instead of the garbage bin. This would be completely voluntary, there would be no financial benefit offered. It would be posted that certain items are not acceptable, including mattresses, upholstered furnishings, and hazardous materials. Customers who see something they like in the building would be welcome to take it away at no charge. This would necessitate them first cashing out to pay for their waste, and then making a second trip through to collect their items. It is recommended that they be asked to sign a waiver, acknowledging that the City/County accepts no responsibility for the condition of the item, and it is at their own risk that they remove and use it. Materials removed from the facility would be weighed and tracked to show the tonnage of materials being diverted.

Platform staff would be required to regularly monitor the materials left at the building, place items on shelves where appropriate, keep the area neat and safe, and transfer anything that does not appear to be in good condition to the garbage bins. All items would be placed inside the building at the end of each day and the building locked.

Financials

The preliminary estimate to design and construct such a building is \$20,000. It is recommended that a budget of \$30,000 be established to cover other requirements and contingencies, including wiring, building permits, signage, and shelving. A tender would be distributed to select the final builder, once the necessary approvals are received.

Participation of the County

Through the County Waste Management By-Law, all Townships are required to promote local reuse activities, or offer reuse facilities at Transfer Stations. Several Townships are presently offering reuse opportunities at their transfer stations, including those in close proximity to the PCCWMF. Accordingly, County staff is reluctant to participate in the cost of constructing what might be considered a duplicate service at the PCCWMF, and would prefer to reserve those resources to assist and promote the efforts and activities of the Townships. Nevertheless, to continually work toward minimization of the material going to landfill and to ensure the City and County are seen to be practicing the basic 3Rs of waste reduction, it is felt that the provision of a reuse building at the landfill would be prudent.

In consideration of the above, it is proposed the City fund the implementation of the reuse building. If this is agreeable to the Waste Management Committee, the City will work toward implementing this project in 2016 if funds are available, or will include the cost in the 2017 budget estimate.

Summary

Many landfill sites have a Reuse area for customers to exchange items as part of their operations. It is a relatively simple, inexpensive, and effective means to further reduce the amount of material headed for landfill, while providing the public with an added service. At a cost of \$30,000 or less, it is proposed that a Reuse building be added to Peterborough's facility as soon as the necessary approvals are received to realize these benefits.

Submitted by,

W. H. Jackson, P. Eng.
Director Utility Services

Contact Name:
Virginia Swinson, B.Sc.
Phone 705-742-7777 ext 1725
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax 705-876-4621
E-mail address: vswinson@peterborough.ca