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# Memo

**To:** Virginia Swinson, City of Peterborough  
**From:** Laurie Westaway  
**Date:** January 9, 2014  
**Re:** Township Feedback on Mattress Recycling program at PCCWMF

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## **Background:**

After reviewing the WMC13-019 report presented at the November 18, 2013 Waste Management Committee meeting, staff was directed to send notification to those known to bring mattresses to the landfill. The notification was to provide an overview of the proposed new recycling program and the intention to introduce a mattress and box spring user charge at the PCCWMF.

Within the County there are 15 Township owned, staffed, and operated transfer/waste sites that provide waste management services to residents. By June 2014, 14 out of the 15 sites will be transferring waste to PCCWMF mostly in 40 yard roll-off bins and possibly containing mattresses. During a December meeting of Township Waste Management staff, the County provided an overview of the mattress pilot and proposed plan forward as outlined in WMC13-019.

The County sent a follow-up request for Townships to review the proposed program and provide feedback by January 6, 2014. Reminders were sent to all Townships mid-December and early January. Six of the eight Townships provided feedback.

## **Feedback:**

The following key points were raised by Townships regarding the proposed mattress and box spring recycling program:

1. Some Township Waste sites currently have limited space for additional diversion options and/or sites do not have Environmental Compliance

Approvals (ECA's) for separating mattresses. ECA challenges exist for Cavan-Monaghan, Trent Lakes, and Havelock-Belmont-Methuen.

2. A June 2014 "ban" of mattresses leaves Townships extremely short timelines to advise politicians, investigate options and potential costs, review operational impacts, implement ECA amendments, as well as adjust budgets, send notifications, and develop resident education systems.
3. Concern was raised regarding utilizing a single-source recycling facility. Townships wondered what would happen if recycling facility ceased, what would be the contingency plan and potential additional expenditures.
4. Questions were posed regarding disposal options for "non-recyclable" mattresses and the specifications of a "recyclable" mattress.
5. Selwyn Township had specific concerns regarding the potential increase in traffic at the Smith Landfill from non-Township residents trying to dispose of mattresses.
6. Several Townships pointed out that a ban would increase the chances of road-side mattress dumping which would increase clean-up costs to Townships (regardless of the mattress origin – City or County).
7. Townships would have to ban mattresses or raise existing tip fees at waste sites to cover additional costs associated with transportation and recycling of mattresses (most have \$10 per unit already in place). Some fees would have to increase by an additional \$10 to cover added storage, transportation, and recycling costs. Bans or increased tip fees would again discourage residents from properly managing their mattresses and thus ending up along the roads.
8. Otonabee South Monaghan will be ready to participate in the full program by June 2014. North Kawartha currently does not accept mattresses at transfer sites but offers residents special disposal for large items once a year.

### **Recommendations:**

Waste Management Committee is encouraged to extend mattress recycling implementation program for Townships to January 2015 in order to provide adequate time for the County to work with Townships so that they are able advise politicians, educate residents, adjust operations, and review financing.

Further, it was suggested that WMC write to the Ontario Minister of the Environment encouraging the implementation of a stewardship program for mattresses to decrease the cost burden of mattress recycling programs on municipalities, improve market for recycling product, and reduce waste from landfill.

Sincerely,

Laurie