

## Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion New (or Expanded) Recycling Programs and Initiatives – Furniture

### 7. Furniture

#### Summary:

- Begin semi-annual collection of wooden furniture
- Provide a drop-off location at W12A EnviroDepot for wooden furniture
- Ban wooden furniture from curbside garbage collection

Furniture is generally comprised of wood, metal, plastic and/or upholstery. Metal furniture is banned from collection and can be recycled as scrap metal. Wood, plastic and upholstered furniture is collected from single family homes for disposal but not multi-residential buildings (with bulk bin garbage collection).

Wood and upholstered furniture in poor condition is placed at the curb for disposal. It is estimated that the City collects 300 to 500 tonnes of furniture annually from single family homes and about one third is wood furniture. Wood, plastic and upholstered furniture in good condition should be donated for reuse but some is placed at the curb for disposal.

There are no recycling options for upholstered furniture in poor condition. Plastic furniture would likely be part of the bulky plastics recycling program discussed early.

The only recycling option for wood furniture, at this time, is to use as wood chips for daily cover at the landfill. The minor metal and plastic components (e.g., handles, drawer sliders, etc.) coupled with the wood being painted or stained prevents the wood chips from being used as fuel or for landscaping purposes.

The province may develop a new provincial program for furniture under the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* in the future. It is recommended by 2020 the City:

- Wait to see if the Province develops a provincial program for upholstered furniture under the *Waste-Free Ontario Act* as there are no markets for recycling upholstered furniture in the province;
- Provide a drop-off location at W12A EnviroDepot for wood furniture in 2019;

#### Furniture Recycling

##### Metal

Several large Ontario municipalities offer a call-in service for the collection of large metal items for recycling including furniture.

##### Upholstered

There is no recycling of upholstered furniture by municipalities in Ontario.

##### Plastic Furniture

There is no recycling of plastic furniture by municipalities in Ontario.

##### Wood

There are no large Ontario municipalities that collect wood furniture for processing into wood chips. The Municipality of Thames Centre provides semi-annual collection of wood, including furniture and ships to Try Recycling for processing.

## **Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion New (or Expanded) Recycling Programs and Initiatives – Furniture**

- Begin semi-annual collection of wooden furniture in 2020; and,
- Ban wooden furniture from curbside garbage collection in 2021.

It is estimated the above measures will divert 100 to 150 tonnes of waste to be used as landfill cover and cost \$70,000 to \$80,000 annually. Having all the wooden furniture collected semi-annually, instead of a call-in service, will provide an opportunity for re-use of the furniture by residents who see furniture on the street they could use.

**Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion  
New (or Expanded) Recycling Programs and Initiatives – Furniture**

Consideration			Wooden Furniture	
			Collection at EnviroDepots	Curbside and EnviroDepot Collection
Environmental	Change in Diversion	Annual Tonnes Diverted	100 to 150	100 to 150
		Contribution to 60% Target	0.06% to 0.09%	0.06% to 0.09%
	GHG Benefits	Reduction per Tonne Diverted	3.8 tonnes	
		Annual Reduction (tonnes)	380 to 570 (95 to 145 cars removed from the road <sup>a</sup> )	380 to 570 (95 to 145 cars removed from the road <sup>a</sup> )
Social	Public Support		Moderate Support	Moderate Support
	Resident Benefits/ Issues		• Inconvenience of transporting to EnviroDepot	• Convenience of curbside pickup
Financial	Cost <sup>b</sup>	Collection	\$0	\$60,000 to \$70,000
		Processing	\$9,000 to \$12,000	\$10,000 to \$12,000
		Other	\$0	\$0
		Total	\$9,000 to \$12,000	\$70,000 to \$82,000
	Cost per Household		\$0.05 to \$0.07	\$0.40 to \$0.50
	Market/Revenue		No revenue	No revenue
Technical	Collection Issues		Not applicable	Incorporated with current pick-up schedule
	Processing Issues		Private processor	Private processor
	Other		Not applicable	Not applicable

**Notes**

- (a) The diversion of these materials has avoided the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to removing the identified number of vehicles per year.
- (b) Based on industry estimates, literature review and data from other municipalities.