

Proposed Actions to Achieve 60% Residential Waste Diversion Other Organics Management – Home Composting

13. Reduce the cost of composters at the EnviroDepots and undertake additional sale events at select community locations

Summary of actions to undertake for one-year to determine the impact on waste diversion and resident participation:

- Reduce the cost of composters at the EnviroDepots from \$35.00 to \$20.00 per composter
- Sell at community locations and community events for \$10.00 per composter

Home Composting

Home (or “backyard”) composting has played an important role in waste reduction in London since the mid-1990s. Between 1995 and 1999 the city of London participated in a provincial grant program to provide subsidized home composters to residents. Through this program, the City sold approximately 53,000 subsidized composters. Since 2007 the City has sold composters at cost from the EnviroDepots. The units are sold for \$35 and approximately 400 to 800 units per year are sold. Home composting is promoted on the City’s website and through information flyers.

Two pilot projects were undertaken in 2013 to learn more about the potential to increase waste diversion by increasing home composting. The pilot projects tested strategies to increase the uptake of home composting units by residents. One pilot project in Northridge involved door-to-door sales of composters at a subsidized rate (\$10 per composter). The other pilot project in Old South included the pre-order and pick up at a local community school and a higher price for the composters (\$20 per composter).

It is estimated that home composting currently diverts between 5,000 and 6,000 tonnes of material annually and approximately 40% to 50% of households do some composting.



Initial estimates suggest that an additional 500 to 1,500 tonnes per year of food scraps could be diverted (up to 1% increase in overall diversion) with an aggressive home composting program modeled on the Northridge pilot project. It is estimated that it would take 3 years to canvass the City and cost approximately \$400,000 to \$500,000. Similarly, initial estimates suggest that less than 500 additional tonnes would be diverted (less than 0.5% increase in overall diversion) with a home composting program

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modeled on a local community pick up location. It is estimated this program would cost approximately \$40,000 to \$100,000.

It may be possible to increase home composting by reducing the cost of the home composter at the EnviroDepots to \$20, \$10 or free and doing additional promotion and outreach. Reducing the cost of composters to \$20 per unit would cost \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year. Reducing the cost of composters to \$10 would cost \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year. It is expected that reducing the cost of composters would result in less than 500 additional tonnes being diverted (less than 0.5% increase in overall diversion).

It is recommended that the City:

- reduce the cost of composters at the EnviroDepots from \$35 to \$20 per unit for one year to determine the impact on up-take of composters and estimated waste diversion; and,
- undertake additional sale events at \$10 per unit at several community locations (e.g., community centres) and community events (e.g., Home County Music and Art Festival) for one year to determine the impact on waste diversion.

A decision on whether or not to continue the programs would be made following the first year. For planning purposes it is assumed that the above measures will continue on, result in an annual diversion of 300 tonnes and cost \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year to operate.

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Consideration			Home Composting	
			Moderate Outreach Program, 50% Subsidy	Significant Outreach Program, 75% Subsidy
Environmental	Change in Diversion	Annual Tonnes Diverted	320 to 640	800 to 1,200
		Contribution to 60% Target	0.2% to 0.4%	0.5% to 0.7%
	GHG Benefits	Reduction per Tonne Diverted	0.8 tonnes	
		Annual Reduction (tonnes)	260 to 500 (65 to 125 cars removed from the road ^a)	640 to 960 (160 to 240 cars removed from the road ^a)
Social	Public Support		General support for some subsidy program	
	Resident Benefits/ Issues		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost for use by homeowner • Homeowner must purchase composter unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compost for use by homeowner • Homeowner must purchase composter unit
Financial	Cost ^b	Collection	\$0	\$0
		Processing	\$0	\$0
		Other	\$80,000 to \$170,000	\$220,000 to \$250,000
		Total	\$80,000 to \$170,000	\$220,000 to \$250,000
	Cost per Household		\$0.44 to \$0.94	\$1.2 to \$1.4
	Market/Revenue		No revenue	No revenue
Technical	Collection Issues		Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Processing Issues		Not Applicable	Not Applicable
	Other		Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<p>Notes</p> <p>(a) The diversion of these materials has avoided the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions equivalent to removing the identified number of vehicles per year.</p> <p>(b) Based on industry estimates, literature review and data from other municipalities.</p>				