

REPORT 3
26 JUNE 2019

EXTRACT OF DRAFT STANDING
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION,
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
MINUTES 3
18 JUNE 2019

EXTRAIT DE L'ÉBAUCHE DU
PROCÈS-VERBAL 3 DU COMITÉ
PERMANENT DE LA PROTECTION
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT, DE L'EAU
ET DE LA GESTION DES DÉCHETS
LE 18 JUIN 2019

SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BOTTLES AT CITY FACILITIES

ACS2019-CCS-ENV-0007

CITY WIDE

REPORT RECOMMENDATION:

That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management receive this report for information.

At the 19 February 2019 meeting of the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management (SCEPWWM), Councillor Catherine McKenney submitted Inquiry N^o EPWWM 02-19 (Single-Use Plastic Bottles at City Facilities). A response was provided by the General Manager, Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services (RCFS), to all Members of Council on Friday, 5 April 2019, which was listed under “Communications” on the SCEPWWM agenda of Tuesday, 16 April 2019.

Although the Councillor had expressed an interest in lifting the Response to Inquiry onto the agenda for discussion, in the interest of expediency, she instead opted to have it return for discussion to the SCEPWWM meeting of Tuesday, 21 May 2019. As that meeting was cancelled, the report was considered at the SCEPWWM meeting of Tuesday, 18 June 2019.

At the request of Chair Moffatt, Mr. Dan Chénier, General Manager, RCFS, provided contextual background on the original Response to Inquiry. Ms Marilyn Journeaux, Director, Solid Waste Services, Public Works and Environmental Services (PWES) Department, was also present to respond to questions.

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Councillor Catherine McKenney then introduced the following Motion:

MOTION N^o EPWWM 01/03

Moved by Councillor C. McKenney:

WHEREAS on April 24, 2019, Ottawa City Council voted to declare a Climate Emergency in order to deepen our commitment to protecting our economy, our ecosystems, and our community; and

WHEREAS City staff, Members of Council and the community are about to develop a new Solid Waste Master Plan for the City of Ottawa to guide waste diversion and waste reduction measures for decades to come; and

WHEREAS the City should lead by example in all waste diversion and reduction measures and, where possible, ensure that it follows circular economy and green procurement practices in all its services and programs; and

WHEREAS, although it is recognized that some single-use plastics are necessary in City programs and services (for accessibility, emergency and medical purposes and where there is no practical alternative), also the City runs programs and services using single use and foamed plastics for which there is an environmentally responsible alternative; and

WHEREAS recycling levels of plastic bottles in Ontario are as low as 14%, meaning the majority of plastics are sent to landfill or pollute our waterways; and

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WHEREAS the use of bottled water over tap water results in higher carbon emissions due to the resources used for bottling and transportation; and

WHEREAS the municipal water supply is tested more frequently and to a higher standard than bottled water, resulting in safer and healthier water; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has an outstanding balance of 29,563 cases, equivalent to 709,512 bottles, to meet the minimum sales volume commitment in the contract with Coca-Cola Canada, as of December 2018;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council direct staff to include a plan for City facilities and programs within the Solid Waste Master Plan that will incorporate the elimination of single use and foamed plastics in City programs and services where there is an environmentally responsible alternative, a review of all policies, programs and practices with respect to using green materials, green procurement and circular economy principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to examine the feasibility to incorporate the elimination of discretionary single use and foamed plastics in all of its contracted services, with specific options related to finding alternatives to the current contract with Coca-Cola when the minimum sales volume commitment is fulfilled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City refresh its public education program on the quality and accessibility of municipal water, to dispel the misconception that bottled water is of a higher quality than municipal water.

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The Committee then heard from the following public delegations, all in support of Councillor McKenney's Motion, and speaking to the need to reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles and/or single-use plastics, and waste, in general:

- Mr. Eric Schiller*, Ottawa Water Study Action Group (OWSAG)
[also provided two petitions, one with ~2,000+ signatures, another with ~12,000+ signatures, both speaking to reducing plastic waste]
- Ms Maryanne MacDonald*
- Mr. Adam Guzman-Poole
- Ms Mailyne Briggs*

*[* Individuals / groups marked with an asterisk above either provided comments in writing or by e-mail; all submissions are held on file with the City Clerk.]*

Committee discussions, and questions to the delegations and to staff included, but were not necessarily limited to the speakers' presentations requesting the elimination of single-use plastic waste; the feasibility of staff being able to fulfill the directions outlined in the Councillor's Motion; excessive plastic packaging and an upcoming Provincial initiative regarding producer-responsibility for recyclable packaging, engaging with partners (i.e., hotel industry and festival organizers) to reduce plastic waste and to promote City water, and; promoting Ottawa's tap water, consistently rated as the best in North America, as a cheaper, more convenient, and better-quality source of drinking water overall.

Discussions having concluded, Motion EPWWM 03/01 was put before the Committee and was "CARRIED" as presented (amending the original recommendation to "RECEIVE" the report for information).

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That the Standing Committee on Environmental Protection, Water and Waste Management recommend Council:

- 1. Direct staff to include a plan for City facilities and programs within the Solid Waste Master Plan that will incorporate the elimination of single use and foamed plastics in City programs and services where there is an environmentally responsible alternative, a review of all policies, programs and practices with respect to using green materials, green procurement and circular economy principles;**
- 2. Direct staff to examine the feasibility to incorporate the elimination of discretionary single use and foamed plastics in all of its contracted services, with specific options related to finding alternatives to the current contract with Coca-Cola when the minimum sales volume commitment is fulfilled; and**
- 3. Approve that the City refresh its public education program on the quality and accessibility of municipal water, to dispel the misconception that bottled water is of a higher quality than municipal water.**

CARRIED, as amended