



To: Mayor Jackson, and Members of Council

April 14/2009

Re: CS1-2/09 Report Public comments (2 pages)

Fr: Barbara Frensch, Ward 4 Citizen + BurlingtonGreen member & representative for the ON. Zero Waste Coalition

“I strongly support a ban of the sale of bottled water at all City facilities and appreciate Councils position on this important health & environmental issue shown at the CCS committee meeting on April 1. Restricting the sale of bottled water shows sustainable leadership and a great step towards your Zero Waste goals. I have provided additional comments regarding other Zero Waste initiatives in the report for your future reference, but for tonight I will focus on 2 suggestions on bottled beverages.

1. I would like to ask you to please consider **adding flavoured water, so both flavoured & unflavoured bottled waters are included in the restriction.** As most of you probably know the City of Toronto banned the sale of bottled water in Dec. 2008, but Toronto’s ban was for unflavoured water only. I’d like to read a short section from a March 14/09 Toronto Star article by Vanessa Lu. “In one vending machine, Aquafina water has been replaced by Aquafina water Plus, a vitamin-enhanced flavoured water. That is acceptable because the city resolution only affects unflavoured water.”
2. In the future, please consider **phasing out vending machines when the contracts run out**, as the other beverages are unhealthy + all single-serve plastic bottles contain toxins, often end up as litter, are needlessly ‘landfilled’, etc. Eliminating the problem brings you closer to zero waste and promotes your goal of sustainability.
The 149 tonnes of recyclables sent to our landfill in 2007 is not sustainable.
I was wondering if the City pay for the power for the vending machines?
Our City could change people’s mindsets by encouraging the first of the 3 R’s, as one can easily **refill a reusable bottle with water, milk, juice or even unhealthy pop!**
Bringing our own bottles would become more common if vending machines disappeared.
Zero Waste is better than recyclable waste.
Thanks for your time and for listening.”

Additional comments re- **other steps towards Zero Waste in the CS1-2/09 report** for you to consider.

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The report reads “show leadership by ensuring operations and services are carried out in a sustainable manner.” I would like to recommend **employees who pick up litter collect the waste types separately**, like we do at home. The City could be a positive role model by sorting waste like residents do and support the Region’s plan to preserve our landfill.
The City should not be sending recyclables or GreenCart waste to our landfill.

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Recommended Direction – Bottled Water

Potential loss of revenue for City food & Festivals & Events– The City could further promote our Region’s excellent, safe tap water. As you know lucrative bottled water companies pay next to nothing to extract from our aquifers or municipal water sources and some companies make billions a year in pure profit at the expense of draining our aquifers. Two companies sell reprocessed tap water, so we are paying for it twice. One responsible & sustainable way is to bring in a water truck and offer free refills for people who bring their own bottle. (Let the public know ahead of time & accept donations.) Your fundraiser could be to have compostable paper cups available for people who don’t bring a bottle, so event organizers can instead make money from selling paper cups that would be composted. Better yet raise funds by renting reusable cups, but patrons must stay nearby & return the cups.

- **All City facilities could work towards having enough working water fountains** including parks. If there are enough drinking fountains installed at parks, then there is less of a need for water trucks at events. Because of the cost issue, this could be phased in.

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- **Green Procurement Policy** – please include buying 100% recycled paper content in toilet paper, paper towels, napkins & facial tissue. Ancient boreal forest trees should not be cut down for something we blow our noses with or flush down the toilet! Clear-cutting ruins the habitat for wildlife and Eco systems, lowers air quality, releases stored carbon, etc. Please buy 100% recycled tissues products instead.
3. **Centralized Waste – Removing most mixed waste” garbage “ cans** and always offering 3 choices side by side for the waste types will dramatically improve diversion rates and significantly lower contamination rates. Containers should be colour coded & signed for education. Garbage cans should be small to represent the % of that stream accurately.
(GreenCart c. 45%, Recyclables c. 40% and Garbage only c. 15%.)
- I would recommend a ban of PS#6 both types once they get used up. Green packaging is easily available and paper based ones are accepted into GreenCart.
 - **Recycling Streets, Parks and Facilities** – Presently it is patchwork. At Appleby Ice Centre there are some blue bins but many more “garbage” cans and only a few are beside garbage cans. The stand-alone “garbage” cans should be removed. Different waste type containers should be placed beside each other, so it is simply a flick of the wrist to put a recyclable in the blue one and garbage in the other one.

All sports groups who use City parks should be required to provide blue boxes &/or GreenCarts during practices/games until the City provides recycling/composting

opportunities for the public. The City could communicate this requirement when groups apply to use park space. The City could also **promote groups/clubs to ask their sports players to bring reusable containers for drinks & stacks to support the City's Zero Waste goals.** This would also **support the Regions waste diversion strategy & bring some consistency** since we sort our waste at home.