

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Public Works Committee: May 13, 2019

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR N. NANN.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR J.P. DANKO.....

Moving Hamilton Towards a Zero Plastic Waste Plan (City Wide)

WHEREAS, pollution from plastics are a growing and direct threat to ecosystems, food chains and human health;

WHEREAS, the City of Hamilton’s ability to accept specific plastics and other recyclables was significantly impacted by global markets, forcing formerly recyclable items like black plastics and polystyrene foam into landfill and the environment;

WHEREAS, in 2018, Hamilton only diverted 34% of all waste from landfill;

WHEREAS, many single-use plastics, such as straws, utensils and stir sticks were never recyclable in Hamilton’s program;

WHEREAS, municipalities can play a significant leadership role in addressing the tremendous damage done by plastic pollution by exploring new and alternative approaches to support institutional, organizational, corporate and business excellence in achieving zero plastic waste in landfills and the environment;

WHEREAS, Vancouver, Victoria, Halifax and Montreal have successfully introduced or approved measures to reduce and/or eliminate polystyrene foam and/r single-use plastics going into landfill and the environment, and both Edmonton and Toronto are reviewing what other municipalities are doing to reduce single-use plastics and how to best curb their use; and,

WHEREAS, the Province of Ontario is weighing options for regulations that would lead to full producer responsibility of single-use plastics as part of a broader strategy to send less waste to landfills;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That staff report back to the Public Works Committee with information on the feasibility of the City of Hamilton creating a Zero Plastic Waste Plan that includes:

- (a) Quantify single-use plastics, polystyrene foam and other products that never were or are no longer accepted by our municipal recycling program and identify items that have readily available re-useable or compostable alternatives;

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- (b) Investigate options for the City of Hamilton to develop a strategy to enable businesses, City facilities and City permitted events to move towards zero plastic waste when alternatives are available;
- (c) Review regulatory options for the City of Hamilton to limit or eliminate the acceptance of polystyrene foam and single-use plastics to City landfills, including public education, consultation with business, supplementation of provincial regulations and other methods of increasing landfill diversion rates; and,
- (d) Report back with any costs or savings that may be incurred or realized by implementing a City-led Zero Plastic Waste plan.