



NEWS RELEASE

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Waste Watch Ottawa Releases a Waste Management Action Plan for the New Ottawa Council

How to Improve Ottawa's Under-Performing Recycling and Green Bin Programs, and Preserve Landfill Space for a Further Generation

Ottawa, August 29, 2018

Ottawa's recycling and green bin program performance is lagging significantly behind that of all other large municipalities in Ontario. Waste Watch Ottawa (WWO) documented this poor performance in a September 2017 report ([Waste Watch Ottawa](#)) and detailed a number of proven program and operational changes which could bring Ottawa up to the performance of leading municipalities.

"The current civic election creates an opportunity for some fresh thinking to reset the waste management and recycling agenda," says Duncan Bury of Waste Watch Ottawa. WWO has prepared a six point platform for action by the new Council, which it is circulating to all mayoral and ward candidates and urging them to adopt:

- Set a target to divert 65% of waste to recycling and composting by the end of the Council term in October 2022;
- Rescind the previous Council's decision to allow non-compostable plastic bags in the green bin;
- Triple spending on promotion and education for the recycling and green bin programs to a level commensurate with that of other large Ontario municipalities;
- In multi-residential buildings, require green bin composting and make a concerted effort to improve recycling program performance;
- Plan to implement a partial or full user pay system for garbage, to require clear garbage bags and to reduce the number of bags/bins of garbage that can be set out bi-weekly for collection; and
- Act now to engage citizens in constructive consultations and action.

WWO is asking all municipal candidates to endorse this agenda and for the new Council to identify waste management as one of the priorities for action in the 2019 – 2022 term of Council.

“The steps to improve performance are not difficult or particularly expensive, and have proven themselves elsewhere,” said Bury. “They require that councillors recognize the importance of keeping waste out of landfill, address the challenges and show some leadership, and for the City to dedicate more effort to divert waste from disposal in landfill than has been shown in the past.”

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