

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
MEMORANDUM**

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: S. BRUNET, B.SC., MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS

**NOTED: J. THOMPSON, P. ENG., CMM IP III, PMP
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

**R. FORWARD, MBA, M.SC., P. ENG.
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: LEAF AND YARD WASTE PROGRAM UPDATE

DATE: APRIL 9, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update members of Council on Barrie's Leaf and Yard Waste Program.

The Leaf and Yard Waste Program is mandatory under the current diversion legislation and entails the acceptance of leaf and yard waste from a number of sources through residential curbside collection, residential and contractor drop-off and City of Barrie Roads and Parks drop-off at the Waste and Recycling Depot located at the Barrie Landfill.

Curbside collection of Leaf and Yard waste occurs in all months throughout the year except for February and March and drop-off is available year round. The amount of material requiring processing on the pad varies throughout the year with peaks occurring in spring and fall. Tonnages collected have averaged 7,300 tonnes annually over the past 4 years.

Collected leaf and yard waste undergoes an approximate 6 month processing and material breakdown period with the end result being compost. The quality of the compost must meet provincial guidelines to be approved for public use. In July of 2015, changes to these guidelines resulted in more stringent requirements. All material that has been accepted/received since June 2016 and processed through the Composting Facility has failed to meet the requirements acceptable for the sale of compost to the public. A total of approximately 8,000 tonnes of compost were either spread on areas of the landfill as approved through our ECA or disposed of in the active landfill cell. The impacts would include the lack of revenue generation opportunities as well as the unplanned use of landfill space.

Investigations have identified garbage within the leaf and yard waste that are contributing to the continued contamination. Specifically plastics such as pet toys, planter container trays; metal (specifically cutlery), garage door hinges, grass trimmers, and cans; and general household garbage.

In order to address this level of contamination, in 2018 staff will be piloting a number of initiatives including but not limited:

1. A public education campaign in an attempt to reduce the level of non-compostable materials being disposed of through the Leaf and Yard Waste Program; and
2. The continuation of the Tag and Leave Program in which bags containing unacceptable materials are tagged and left at the curb by our curbside collection contractor.

Should you require further information or clarity please contact Sandra Brunet, Manager of Environmental Operations at extension 6140.