

From: yana p
To: Clerks Richmondhill
Sent: Tue 5/28/2019 8:30 AM
Subject: Support for Single Use Plastics Motion May 28

Good morning,

I am writing to support the single-use plastic motion that is being put forth by councillor David West. Additionally, I propose that the council also consider a shift in the current waste bins system and establish closed-bin recycling like in Toronto. These proposals are cost-effective, decrease free-roaming and overall general waste, and ensure we are reducing environmental impacts.

Globally, in 2016/2017 there was approximately 1.3 billion tonnes of waste generated. This number is projected to increase to 2.2 billion tonnes by 2025, and increase 70% from current levels by 2050. These numbers are a frightening reality and will cost Canada billions if waste is not managed efficiently. Additionally, roughly 90% of plastic ends up in lands fills or the environment rather than being recycled (this number varies by high-income and lower-income countries but it's fairly close).

The increasing waste issue will raise already high costs for waste management as waste continues to accumulate. Long-term, many of the costs aside from the waste management system will derive from environmental degradation and health issues associated with pollution. As plastic breaks down, it turns into microplastics which accumulate in the environment, and bioaccumulates up the food chain. The frightening factor in this scenario is that there is still little known about the extent to which plastics can break down.

I personally spend additional time conducting cleanups around the Oak Ridges area and it's absolutely astounding and disheartening how much trash there is in the environment. Countries, provinces, and municipalities must be leaders in mitigating this rising pollution and waste issue. Although not straight-forward, it is urgent that a single-use plastic ban be passed, and the waste system in Richmond Hill adopt closed-lid recycling bins to reduce fly-away trash immediately. In some areas of Europe, a reward system is also used in which consumers are given a discount on their groceries or other purchases when they bring their own reusable bags, straws, etc.

If interested, please see the 2017 report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) for a breakdown of associated rising costs:

<https://www.iisd.org/story/costs-of-pollution-in-canada/>

Here is an article discussing a study which found microplastics in the human gut:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/22/microplastics-found-in-human-stools-for-the-first-time-->

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