



## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

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**TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM: S. BRUNET, MANAGER OF ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS**

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

**D. FRIARY, ACTING GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT**

**M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AND DEPOT UPDATE**

**DATE: JUNE 11, 2018**

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The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide Members of Council of General Committee with updates regarding Barrie's Household Hazardous Waste Program (HHW) and Depot.

In 2017, the Environmental Operations Branch retained Dillon Consulting Ltd. to conduct a review of the current HHW Program including processes related to the collection and storage of hazardous waste at the Depot.

Based on a comprehensive review of current practices, a total of 24 "gaps" were identified and included recommended actions, timelines and planning for implementation, and cost estimates with a top priority focusing on Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) compliance and health and safety.

The various recommended actions will be implemented throughout and include:

- Ensuring compliance with the current ECA and health and safety requirements;
- Completion of upgrades to the HHW Depot;
- Promotion and education initiatives; and
- Process development including the establishment of KPI's.

Additionally, to date, two (2) new initiatives have been implemented to expand diversion targets, as well as to ensure a wider range of hazardous wastes are kept out of the landfill and the environment.

1. In May 2018, staff launched the "Orange Box" promotion and education initiative. Residents willing to fill out a short survey were given an Orange Box to collect, store and safely transport hazardous material from their homes to the Depot. The Orange Box comes with a newly developed acceptable materials sticker that indicates what items should be brought to the HHW Depot.

The intention of the survey was to gather data on whether residents felt the current HHW Program was convenient in terms of operating hours and to assess resident knowledge on acceptable hazardous waste material.

The results demonstrate that approximately 70% of respondents are in favour of adding additional operating days throughout the week at the depot and, except for a few particular items (e.g. Propane tanks), residents understood what items were consider hazardous waste.



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2. In May 2018, staff have also engaged with "Scout Environmental" for the implementation of their Mercury Roundup Program supported financially through the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This program involves an education and collection initiative to encourage residents to safely dispose of their mercury-containing products. As an initial promotion for the kick off of this program, residents bringing a mercury containing product to the HHW Depot will be given a free non-mercury containing thermometer. The City of Barrie has agreed to support this initiative through in-kind contributions including staff time, local event outreach, and advertising.

The success of the Mercury Roundup Program as well as the Orange Box initiative will be tracked quarterly through key performance indicators as well as continued public engagement.

Should members of General Committee have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Sandra Brunet, Manager of Environmental Operations at extension 6140.