

REPORT NO. 111
of the
WINDSOR ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
of its meeting held June 24, 2021 via Zoom video conference

Members Present: Councillor Chris Holt, Chair
Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Deputy Mayor Gord Queen, Town of Kingsville
Keri Banar
Derek Coronado
Rosanna Demarco
Michael Schneider
Richard St. Denis
Radwan Tamr

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by M. Schneider, seconded by Councillor McKenzie,
WHEREAS plastic pollution is recognized by the Government of Canada, as well as governments and scientists around the world, as damaging to the environment; and

WHEREAS Canada lacks a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the growing problem of plastic pollution; and

WHEREAS global annual production of plastic products is expected to double in the next decade, to 800 million tonnes in 2030; and

WHEREAS some 40 per cent of plastic production generates “single-use” items that are used once and thrown away, which runs counter to the principles of a circular economy; and

WHEREAS the majority of plastics produced are not currently suitable for reuse or recycling and some 8,000 tonnes of Canadian plastic waste end up in landfills, incinerators or the natural environment every day; and

WHEREAS municipalities are in the position of managing the end of life of products that are not adequately managed by the producers that put them on the market; and

WHEREAS investing in the circular economy creates jobs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Windsor:

1. Endorse the integrated management plan for plastics proposed by the federal government, which includes:

- a. Adding plastic manufactured items as a toxic substance to Schedule 1 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)*
 - b. Banning six single-use items: checkout bags, stir sticks, six-pack rings, cutlery, certain takeout containers and straws
 - c. Establishing a minimum requirement for recycled plastic content in new plastic products.
2. Ask the federal government to implement this important management plan as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than the end of the year.
 3. Urge the federal government to establish a registry that publicly reports on:
 - a. Descriptions of the plastic manufactured items put on the market each year in Canada
 - b. A list of chemicals found in each product
 - c. The amount of plastic that enters the waste stream in Canada each year, broken down by how and where the waste is processed (e.g. landfill, incineration/waste-to-energy, recycling, domestic vs. export)
 4. Further urge the government to establish a framework for the adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility regulation across the country to ensure producers are responsible for the full lifecycle of the products they put on the market in Canada;
 5. Further urge the federal government to set a national recycling target for plastic products;
 6. Further urge the federal government to work with municipalities to explore, with a view to investing in, reuse systems to replace single-use plastic products; and,
 7. That the County of Essex **BE REQUESTED** to consider adopting the resolution as outlined above.
Carried.

CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

Name	Address	E-mail
WECEC Committee and County representatives		on-file