

October 17, 2008

Toronto 2009 Solid Waste and Water budgets illustrate progress

The 2009 proposed capital and operating budgets and rates for Solid Waste Management Services and Toronto Water, launched today at a special meeting of the Budget Committee, herald significant improvements and accomplishments by the two divisions and point to the progress made on long-term goals.

Solid Waste Management Services is rolling out a number of new initiatives over the next year that will bring the target of 70% diversion by 2010 substantially closer. Toronto Water is implementing an ambitious capital works program that will replace aging infrastructure and help prepare the city for the impacts of climate change.

"Toronto Water and Solid Waste Management provide innovative public services that help to improve our environment," said Mayor David Miller. "With these new investments, we're renewing our infrastructure and giving people the tools they need to reach our goal of 70 percent diversion and reduce water and energy consumption."

This budget introduction brings forward the Solid Waste Management budget for the first time as a rate-supported budget. The division is not proposing a rate increase for 2009 as it will have just implemented a new volume-based rate structure on November 1, 2008. Toronto Water is recommending a 9% rate increase for 2009 which aligns with the increases proposed by the program through 2014.

Solid Waste Management Services, in addition to introducing its new rate structure, is launching organics collection in apartments and condominiums that receive City collection and is also adding new materials to the Blue Bin recycling program. All of these new initiatives, and the infrastructure that will support them, are being made possible by the new Solid Waste structure.

Toronto Water's proposed rate increase, amounting to approximately \$47 more per year for an average residential household, will fund significant investments in basement flooding relief, reduced water and energy usage, aging infrastructure renewal, source water protection and water meter replacement.

Public hearings for the Solid Waste Management Services and Toronto Water capital and operating budgets and rates will take place on Thursday, October 23. Presentations to the Budget Committee can be arranged by calling 416-392-7337 or email buc@toronto.ca by October 22.

Toronto City Council will review and approve the final operating and capital budgets and rates on November 6, 2008.

For more information, visit the City website at www.toronto.ca/budget2009

Toronto is Canada's largest city and sixth largest government, and home to a diverse population of about 2.6 million people. It is the economic engine of Canada and one of the greenest and most creative cities in North America. In the past three years, Toronto has won numerous awards for quality, innovation and efficiency in delivering public services. Toronto's government is dedicated to prosperity, opportunity and liveability for all its residents.

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