



Council Memorandum

Date: May 7th, 2019

To: Council

From: Councillor Seymour- Fagan

Re: Styrofoam Ban in Kawartha Lakes

Recommendation

That the May 7th, 2019 memorandum from Councillor Seymour-Fagan regarding a **Styrofoam Ban** be received;

That staff review the feasibility of banning Styrofoam from the City of Kawartha Lakes, in consultation with the Waste Management Advisory Committee; and

That staff provide a report to Council by the end of Q4 2019 with a summary of the feasibility review for banning the use of Styrofoam and/or the effective management of Styrofoam as a waste product.

Rationale

According to the French Ministry of Ecology, more than 14 million tonnes of polystyrene are produced annually world wide. Despite on going efforts in Canada, there are not reliable, consistent or cost effective processes in place to deal with recycling Styrofoam. As a result, the majority of Styrofoam ends up in landfills and waterways.

The cost for managing Styrofoam in other Ontario municipalities is approximately \$1000/tonne, based on information provided by the Continuous Improvement Fund, a provincially funded recycling organization. The City of Kawartha Lakes currently accepts Styrofoam in the recycling stream that is sent to the contracted Northumberland Material Recycling Facility (MRF). Due to the current cost of recycling, Styrofoam sent to our contracted MRF is not being recycled. Instead, it is landfilled in Northumberland.



In 2018, our contracted MRF in Northumberland processed 10 tonnes of Styrofoam from the City of Kawartha Lakes, this cost the municipality approximately \$10,000 for transporting, sorting and landfilling. With limited landfill space and the inability to effectively recycle this material, the municipality should reconsider its continued usage.