



Interoffice Memorandum

GEORGINA

The Clerks Division

To: Mayor and Council

Cc: Rachel Dillabough, Town Clerk
Mamata Baykar, Deputy Town Clerk

From: Aneeta Mohammed, Committee Services Coordinator

Date: September 22, 2021

Re: GAgAC Resolution No. GAgAC-2021-0032
Re. Plastic Wrap Disposal Letter for Endorsement

The attached letter was prepared on behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (GAgAC) for endorsement by the Environmental Advisory Committee (GEAC), the Waterways Advisory Committee (GWAC), and the Mayor and Council of the Town of Georgina. It has been updated with the changes specified in GWAC's resolution.

Please be advised that:

1. At its meeting of June 28, 2021, Environmental Advisory Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. GEAC-2021-0031

Moved by Neil Comer

Seconded by Lee Canavan

That GEAC endorse the letter regarding plastic wrap disposal, as presented by GAgAC.

Carried

2. At its meeting of July 20, 2021, the Waterways Advisory Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. GWAC-2021-0024

Moved by Ted Brown

Seconded by David Goldstein

That GWAC endorse the letter regarding plastic wrap disposal, as presented by GAgAC, with the addition of a note regarding similar issues in the marine industry related to the disposal of boat shrink wrap.

Carried

3. At its meeting of August 26, 2021, the Agricultural Advisory Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. GAgAC-2021-0032

Moved by Ross Wellman

Seconded by Brenda Rae

That the letter prepared by GAgAC regarding the disposal of plastic wrap be directed to Mayor and Council for its review and endorsement, with the addition of a note regarding how the lack of disposal options similarly impacts the marine industry

Please note that Resolution No. GAgAC-2021-0032 is taken from an un-adopted version of minutes.



September 22, 2021

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
College Park, 5th floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fontaine Building 12th floor
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H3

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 Stone Road West
Guelph, ON N1G 4Y2

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
1341 Baseline Road
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0C5

To Whom this May Concern:

Residents of the Town of Georgina are concerned about the lack of options for recycling boat shrink wrap and agricultural bale wrap and twine. We note that the [Inventory of recycling programs](#) in Canada, listed on the Government of Canada website specifies that the only location in Canada to recycle bale and silage wrap is in Manitoba as part of a pilot program by CleanFARMS. The Region of York has advised that there are additional pilot programs in Bruce County, Clinton, and Ottawa Valley however, none of these locations are accessible to the residents of Georgina, nor to many other rural communities in Ontario.

Every year, tons of plastic waste are burned on farms around Ontario and across Canada, and more is buried or dumped in municipal landfills. [CBC reports that a 2012 survey](#) found that only 17 percent of farmers send their plastic for recycling. Accordingly, 83 percent of farmers have been forced to adopt other means of disposal, largely, or entirely due to a lack of options for agricultural plastics within the province. CleanFARMS estimates that 400,000 tons of plastic waste are created on farms across Canada, of which, they collect only ten percent.

As you are aware, burning plastics releases potent environmental toxins into the air and buried plastics are not biodegradable. We were encouraged to learn that the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has [announced funding for five new projects](#) to improve plastic waste management and on-farm sustainability however, no funding was included for the immediate issue of the disposal of the large amounts of plastic waste on farms and in the marine industry.

We seek to work with you, however possible, and with neighboring municipalities, in order to promote the well-being of our environment and to make recycling programs more accessible to farmers and boaters across the country. We look forward to hearing from you regarding concrete steps that can be implemented between government, agricultural and marine groups, and municipalities for the furtherance of these causes.

Kind Regards,

FOR THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

Mayor and Council for the Town of Georgina (TBC)
Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee
Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee
Georgina Waterways Advisory Committee

Cc:

****Neighbouring municipalities****