

GREATER TORONTO APARTMENT ASSOCIATION
action UPDATE

Toronto Waste Levy Update

April 21, 2008

For Immediate Release

Toronto, Ontario -- The City of Toronto Multi-unit Waste Diversion Working Group met on April 16, 2008 to receive a staff update on the work in moving toward the new apartment waste levy that will come into force on July 1, 2008. Staff has now had the opportunity to perform waste audits at many buildings throughout the city and has been able to determine a number of things going on at those sites.

In the best interest of being fair given the levy is a considerable change, staff has developed a model that will *phase in* the impact of the levy starting July 1, 2008 to give buildings time to adjust to new waste diversion practices and to implement systems to assist in reducing the impact of the levy. At this time, the final numbers have not been determined but they will be less than the full levy for the duration of 2008. A new waste calculator will also be developed which will be forwarded out in due course so buildings can measure the impacts.

Staff advises that they have found some of the following things happening at buildings which may be contributing to a high volume of residual waste in bins.

- many buildings are still putting out partially filled bins for collection
- compactors are improperly tuned meaning that waste is not getting down to a 3-1 ratio
- bulky waste (furniture, mattresses, etc.) is still being put in the bins
- recyclables are still being put in compacted waste bins often on top (like cardboard, etc.)
- non-residential waste is put in the bins (illegal dumping in some cases)

It is essential that building staff monitor bins on a very regular basis and remove material that would contribute to billing through the waste levy. The City is planning a series of open houses in late May and June for property management personnel to help manage your waste stream better.

More information is at www.toronto.ca/garbage under the multi-unit residential icon.