

November General Meeting

Turner Fenton SS, 6 to 8 PM

Tuesday, November 24, 2009

Meeting Minutes:



In Attendance:

Aisha Stewart - Fletcher's Meadow SS
Amri Swaminathan - St. Marguerite D'Youville
Darius Chia - Glenforest Secondary School
Deyana Sameh - York University
Fatin Chowdhury - glenforest SS
Ghazal Sameh - Westview Centennial S.S
Karyn Hogan – Region of Peel
Kristina Cumming - St. Marguerite D'Youville
Mursal Sameh - Westview Centennial S.S
Nicole deSoysa - St. Marguerite D'Youville
Rachel Hardy - St. Marguerite D'Youville
Rohit Mehta - UTM
Simone Hacikyan - St. Francis Xavier

Far North Expedition with Courtney Clayton (cclayton@tcet.com)

- Theme is global climate change
- Fly from Toronto to Winnipeg, then train ride north to Churchill (polar bear capital)
- Stay at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre
- Last group saw belugas and 23 polar bears
- Met aboriginal community members
- Met researchers in the field
- Prerequisite is gr. 10 academic science. **Earn an IDC 4U credit**
- Trip lasts 2 weeks
- Costs \$3,625 is all-inclusive (it is expensive to travel up north)
- **Deadline to apply:** May 7

Region of Peel Recycling with Karyn Hogan (Karyn.Hogan@peelregion.ca)

- All schools get recycling bins for classrooms, larger ones and soon a dumpster-type bin
- All schools get a recycling guide to be posted up as reference
- Recyclables should preferably be rinsed and emptied
- YES → **Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is recyclable**
- Recyclables are sorted at the facility → equipment and manual sorting
- Magnets sort metals
- Fine paper is sorted from newsprint, etc.
- Bottles with liquid inside will weigh more, and be improperly sorted as glass or something else. Same thing goes for any residue on recyclables. → **Take off the caps! They are garbage.**
- Recycling symbol on plastics is not the true symbol; it refers to the type or resin used to make the plastic (Society of Plastics Industry symbol). This resin can vary from day to day at the manufacturer, so recycling these PET or PETE plastics is not always possible.

- **In other words, just because there's a recycling symbol on plastic doesn't mean we can recycle it in the Region of Peel**
- YES → Shampoo/lotion bottles, empty aerosol cans (must be EMPTY)
- NO → Plastic takeout containers, cookie packaging (any of it), Tim Horton's cups and lids, or Tupperware
- Metal hangers are not recyclable in blue bins, but are recyclable when taken to community recycling centres
- Shredded paper is not recyclable (although it is compostable)
- About 50% of waste that gets mistakenly sent to the recycling facility is incinerated, the rest is sent to a landfill
- PLA is polylactic acid and is a "compostable" plastic. → Unacceptable in the green bin program because anyone sorting through it could not tell if it was plastic contamination or PLA. PLA also does not break down like all other compostables do, it takes much longer.
- NO → Aluminum foil is not recyclable as it gets burned up in the recycling process
- NO → Single plastic bags as they blow around and mix with other materials. Instead, put all plastic bags in 1 tied up bag, then its recyclable
- NO → Blister packaging like gum packaging as the materials cannot be separated
- NO → Hard plastics commonly wrapping electronics like USBS, Pudding/yogurt cups, and Ziploc bags are not recyclable as the plastic used to create these products is different from the type preferred by the Region of Peel
- NO → Granola bar wrappers, chip bags, candy wrappers are not recyclable as they are made of multiple materials which cannot be separated
- YES → Glossy magazines and flyers are recyclable and compostable when these flyers or newspapers are used to wrap organics (food waste)
- If there is too much contamination in the recycling, the plant will not get fair market price for it or bales from them will no longer be accepted.
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs or Ink cartridges are not recyclable in blue bins, but are recyclable when taken to community recycling centres
- Full Extended Producer Responsibility is coming soon
 - Means that Waste materials can be sent back to the manufacturer/producer, which is responsible for recycling their product.
- Do NOT have your own battery recycling program at school, this can be very dangerous!
 - Catholic Board had agreed to do a battery recycling pilot with the Region of Peel
 - This includes, St. Martin, John Cabot and Edmund Campion, all the rest are elementary schools
- There are plans to extend the compostable Green Bin program to multi-residential units (including apartments) and schools