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## **Boxes get green light**

### **City adds food waste to recycling plan**

By **DEREK PUDDICOMBE, CITY HALL BUREAU**

Green is now a go when it comes to recycling in Ottawa.

City council voted yesterday to move ahead with a program that will allow residents to recycle their kitchen waste by the fall of 2008.

Kanata South Coun. Peggy Feltmate said it's time Ottawa joined other large Canadian cities in adopting a green box program.

"Dumps are not the way to go any longer," she said.

"We have a garbage crisis in the west end of our city and we have a Carp mountain that stinks."

Feltmate said having the Carp Rd. dump located across from the city's entertainment focal point, Scotiabank Place, doesn't make an attractive gateway to the nation's capital.

The program will expand on the city's Compost Plus program, a pilot project that has operated on a voluntary basis in nine communities -- 5,300 households -- since 2004, diverting 2,000 tonnes of trash from landfills each year.

City staff don't yet know the entire cost of the new program, but have set aside \$36 million to run it.

One of council's biggest proponents for a more environmentally conscious city said Ottawa hasn't been aggressive enough in promoting recycling.

"We should have passed this two years ago," said Capital Coun. Clive Doucet. "This is a mark of failure."

#### **\$8M LOAN**

To help with the program's start-up costs, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has agreed to loan the city \$8 million. However, Ottawa has to have the money spent by the fall of 2008.

Spending that money shouldn't take long.

The 240,000, 120-litre green bins the city requires will cost about \$10 million. The total cost of the program won't be known until later this fall after the city reviews the tenders.

Alta Vista Coun. Peter Hume, who is chairman of the city's planning and environment

committee, said the new recycling program is a long time coming, but it will mean less trash going to the dump.

"This is not only good for the taxpayers, but it's also good for the environment," he said.

Hume wants the city to take recycling a step further and look at adding metals and plastic lawn furniture to the program. He also wants Ottawa to start pushing to take plastic bags out of the waste stream.