

ENVIRONMENT

User pay trash plan not good for Markham: Landon

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STAFF WRITER

What's good for Georgina is not necessarily good for all of York Region. The chairman of York's waste management committee will not endorse the \$1-a-bag garbage collection program currently underway in Georgina. Landon is reacting to Georgina Mayor Rob Grossi's hopes to have the entire region adopt the user pay system, instead of the wet/dry plan being explored now.



GORD LANDON

User pay trash plan won't work in large municipalities

While Landon acknowledges Georgina is experiencing success with its tag a bag program, he's been traveling across the region trying to sell his wet/dry system, complete with a \$50-million composting and transfer facility.

Meanwhile, Grossi is visiting the municipalities asking his user pay system be adopted at the regional level. Grossi's user pay system has reduced trash by 57 per cent in Georgina, and has put his town on the map for successful waste reduction initiatives, he said.

"Georgina has done a great job," Landon admitted.

"But I don't think it would work (in larger municipalities.) Markham's waste reduction numbers are comparable to Georgina's (without the user pay system.) We did it through education. The people here just would not accept it (\$1-a-bag system)," Landon said.

York is under pressure to find a trash solution when Keele Valley Landfill site in Vaughan closes in three years.

Landon said York can't wait for Toronto politicians to decide how to deal with our trash because he's skeptical they will get a plan in place in time.

Keeping trash in Ontario is likely the best solution for York, Landon said because it helps the region to be responsible for its garbage problems and forces initiatives to improve the problem.

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