

MISSION GREEN

TARGET : 75% DIVERSION

- ❑ In 2005 Markham launched 'Mission Green' after a successful pilot involving 5,000 homes
- ❑ After careful consideration a decision was made in partnership with the Region to allow residents to use plastic bags, biodegradable bags or paper bags for SSO:
 - Recognition of influence of Toronto media
 - Yuck factor- diapers and pet waste
 - Significant health and safety concerns
 - Secure containment in collection vehicles
 - Processing technology exists to remove plastic
 - Biodegradable bags are expensive
 - Easy to understand program drives diversion

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- ▣ High acceptance of Green Bin result of:
 - Allow all types of bags
 - Allow diapers and pet waste
 - Overflow organics in large clear plastic bags
 - Organics collection can expanded to multi residential, special events; municipal offices; parks; public spaces

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- With the success of Markham's Mission Green program, all York municipalities introduced SSO and bi-weekly collection with high acceptance and participation
- York Region and partner municipalities now diversion leaders in Ontario

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- Going forward:
 - Collaboration between Region and Municipalities to manage and introduce all program changes
 - Assess all program changes based on overall system costs
 - Recognition of the economic climate: single taxpayer
 - Manage change based on increasing diversion and impact on new innovative programs such as clear bags and blue recycling bags
 - Recognize potential impact on collection contracts
 - Need to resolve processing issues