

Sewer Use By-law 21-036 Enforcement Tool Implementation

Planning and Works Committee Meeting
August 15, 2023



Region of Waterloo Sewer Use By-law 21-036

- This By-law governs and regulates the discharge of water and wastewater into the sewer system within the Region of Waterloo.
 - It protects sewers from blockages, corrosive chemicals and damage to pipes.
 - It protects workers and the public from offensive sewer odours.
 - It protects the Region's wastewater treatment plants from upset/non-compliance.
 - It protects the Region's drinking water supply.
 - It protects the natural environment.

Sewer Use By-law 21-036 Background

- Extensive consultation with Area Municipalities, local industry, Economic Development and the public on draft By-law between 2019-2021.
- New By-law approved by Regional Council on June 30, 2021.
- The By-law includes enforcement tools available to Environmental Officers for infractions/non compliance.
- February 22, 2023 the Attorney General approved the Region's short form ticket wording for thirty five separate By-law offences.
- On May 19, 2023 the Ontario Court of Justice established (approved) the set fines for each offence outlined in the By-law.

Use of By-law Enforcement Tools

- Starting September 1, 2023.
- When voluntary approach has been exhausted or severity of the offence is serious enough to warrant (example- a spill that results in a fish kill).
 - ✓ **Order** – an Order to cease a contravening By-law activity.
 - ✓ **Tickets (Part I Offence Notice)** – fines range from \$150 to \$500 per infraction.
 - ✓ **Summons to Appear in court (Part III)** – if convicted, a minimum fine of \$500 and a maximum fine of \$10,000 per day, if that offence continues to occur.
 - ✓ **Recovery of Costs-** if a responsible party fails to take action, and the Region needs to do work, the cost of that work can be recouped via court action or property taxes.

One Offence - Spills to the Sanitary Sewer

- Despite previous sector-specific outreach and education, the Region continues to respond to calls involving purposeful dumping of harmful substances into the Region's storm and sanitary sewers.

Top 5: Restaurants, Paint/drywall contractors, Concrete/ready-mix contractors, Aggregate driveway companies and pool companies.



Planned Outreach Activities

- Information Report to Committee of the Whole on August 15, 2023.
- Notify companies within the Region who have been issued a Surcharge or Compliance permit under Sewer Use By-law in 2023.
- Targeted mailer for businesses in the five key sectors mentioned previously.
- Notify the Cities and Townships.
- A rolling banner on the Region's website with a link to the By-law, as well as general info and contact information for questions.