

Additional Information for Curbside Residential Recycling for 2020 and Beyond

ISSUE

The current curbside recycling contract expires December 31, 2019, and a new agreement has been executed for 2020 and beyond. City Council has requested updated information on the 2020 Curbside Recycling Program, including:

- Structure of the program and rationale for any changes;
- An overview of the Education and Communications Plan; and
- Measures of success.

BACKGROUND

City Council at its meeting held on February 11, 2019, considered a report outlining the procurement process and terms of reference for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the curbside residential recycling contract and resolved:

“That the report Curbside Residential Recycling Services for 2020 and Beyond [CK. 7830-5] of the A/General Manager, Utilities and Environment Department, dated February 11, 2019, be forwarded to City Council for information.”

City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on September 9, 2019, considered the following item and resolved as noted.

- “1. That Option 1: Core Acceptable Materials be approved for the curbside residential recycling program; and
2. That the continuation of the Glass Recycling Partnership with SARCAN Recycle be approved; and
3. That the Administration report back to the appropriate Committee with information on the structure of the new program, rationale of any changes to the program, communications plan, and a summary of how the program’s success will be measured.”

CURRENT STATUS

The City of Saskatoon (City) and Loraas Recycle (Loraas) are in the last year of a seven-year curbside recycling agreement. The contract expires on December 31, 2019, and a new contract is required to be in place prior to January 1, 2020, to ensure there is no gap in curbside recycling services. A public RFP was issued earlier in 2019, and the City has successfully completed negotiations with the top ranked proponent. A new service agreement for curbside recycling collections, processing, and marketing has been awarded to Loraas for 2020 and beyond.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Structure of the New Program and Rationale for Changes

The City and Loraas have signed an eight-year agreement for Curbside Recycling Services for 2020 through 2027, with the option to extend for two additional one-year periods. The program will continue to have bi-weekly collection year-round and have the same collection routes and days in 2020. The cart used for the program will remain blue and be the 365L (96 gallon) size. There are currently just over 70,000 carts that are in service and they will remain assigned to the same address to ensure no gaps in collection service.

Customer Service

Customer service for the program will largely remain the same. Loraas will continue to be the primary contact for customer service calls regarding missed collection, missing or damaged carts, and general questions about the program. The City will continue to address new service requests and all billing inquiries.

Acceptable Material

In response to changing recycling markets, the City will be removing black plastic and polycoat (i.e. beverage cups) from the list of acceptable items for all residential recycling programs in 2020 (including the Multi-Unit Residential Recycling program and the Recycling Depots). Black plastic has always been a lower value material and is difficult to recycle because of its pigment. With higher quality standards for cardboard and mixed paper, polycoat is frequently being viewed as a contaminant in bails of material. Both of these previously acceptable items are being removed to help mitigate the risk of not being able to market the remaining recyclable materials. All polycoat deposit beverage containers will continue to be accepted in the program, as this material can be recycled through SARCAN who works in contract with the Government of Saskatchewan to recycle deposit beverage containers.

Glass will continue to be an acceptable item in the program, although residents also have the option to take household glass to SARCAN to ensure it does not break during collection and processing. The updated list of acceptable materials is below:

- Aluminum and tin cans, aluminum foil and pie plates;
- Corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, newspaper, fine paper and magazines, boxboard;
- Plastic containers #1 through #7 excluding (i) black plastic and (ii) Plastic #6 (Expanded Polystyrene) that have contained non-hazardous products; and
- All provincial legislated beverage containers, milk cartons, aseptic containers and jugs and glass food and beverage containers.

Monthly Utility Charge

The proposed monthly utility charge for the curbside recycling program that was presented in the 2020/2021 Preliminary Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget in November 2019 was \$7.38 per household per month for 2020, and \$7.47 per household per month in 2021. In addition to contract costs for collections and processing

recyclables, curbside residential recycling program fees include City administrative, bylaw compliance, and education and communications costs.

The variable processing cost for the curbside program will be impacted by the contamination rate in the program. A contamination rate adjustment is included in the new agreement and will mean that if the contamination rate increases or decreases over the current contamination rate, the variable processing costs will be adjusted up or down respectively. Changes in the contamination rate may have an impact on the proposed utility fees for 2022 and beyond. Public education efforts will endeavour to communicate to residents how they can participate in the program and do their part to help keep costs lower for everyone.

Education and Communications Plan

Changes to the 2020 program, including acceptable materials and new utility rates will be communicated to residents starting in late 2019. Additional information on the education and communications plan is included in Appendix 1.

Measuring Success

Program success can be measured in various ways, including tonnage, capture rate, contamination rate, participation rate, material knowledge, and resident satisfaction. Additional information on measuring success is included in Appendix 2.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The Curbside Recycling program is funded through a utility rate structure. Financial impacts to the program are reflected in the annual utility rate for the program.

Environmental

In 2018, approximately 8,500 tonnes of recyclable material were diverted from the landfill through the curbside recycling program. This contributed 6.9% toward the City's waste diversion rate of 22.8%.

NEXT STEPS

Updates on the Curbside Recycling Program will be included in the Integrated Waste Management Annual report in 2020.

APPENDICES

1. Communications Plan
2. Measuring Success

REPORT APPROVAL

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