

Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Plan 2022-2023 Implementation Actions

As outlined in the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan (the Plan) and the previous appendices, actions are planned for 2022 and 2023 for development, implementation, and operation. This appendix focuses on actions that have not been previously reported to City Council or where reporting is anticipated later in 2021.

From the Plan, 13 of the 19 in-progress and short-term actions have previous City Council reporting and direction on funding, can be completed through existing operational resources, or are proposed to be a component of another project.

Actions that have previous Council reporting and direction on funding are:

- Residential Curbside Organics;
- Requirements for businesses and organizations (ICI) to divert recyclables and organics; and
- Recovery Park.

Additional reporting on these projects will occur as projects and program development move through their specific milestones.

Actions that can be completed with existing funding between 2021 and 2023 are listed below. As some actions are completed, subsequent funding requests may be made through the 2024–2025 budgets, such as to implement actions from reviews.

- Recycling depots: immediate improvements;
- Provincial household hazardous waste regulation;
- Requirement for the storage and safe collection of waste at multi-unit buildings;
- Vertical landfill gas well installation;
- Compost depot program review;
- Recycling depot program review;
- Federal single-use plastic ban and performance standards for plastics; and
- Provincial stewardship program review.

There is one action that is proposed to be completed through the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) implementation. The action “waste reduction through procurement and specifications” will be addressed through the TBL and Sustainable Procurement business case planned for 2022–2023.

Waste Diversion Operating

Table: Waste Diversion Operating New Program 2022–2023 - Summary

Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan Actions (2021–2023) - Operating	Business Case Name	2022 Funding (\$)	2023 Funding (\$)
	Waste Diversion Program Sustainment	164,000	
Accessible curbside collections program	Accessible Curbside Collections Program: Operations	TBD	
TOTAL		164,000	

Waste Diversion Program Sustainment

Work Scope

Sustainment of the Plan requires dedicated resources to:

- Coordinate and complete annual monitoring and reporting¹;
- Oversee data and studies including biannual surveys and the next waste characterization study in 2024;
- Update the Plan for 2025;
- Develop partnerships with the community and other levels of government;
- Develop a 10-year capital and operating plan including business cases for multi-year budget submissions; and
- Prepare communications to increase awareness of the Plan and support broad implementation.

A dedicated resource would also have additional capacity to take on some of the project management for capital projects in the Plan.

The continuation of a dedicated \$10,000 for waste reduction and diversion in the Environmental Cash grant is included in this scope.

Budget

An operating request for \$164,000 is proposed for 2022. The request includes a Project Manager (Environmental), communications costs and \$10,000 to sustain the waste reduction and diversion component of the Environmental Cash Grant. No additional FTE is required since a position was approved in 2020. In 2020–2021 that position relied on capital funding.

¹ May also include MMSW material-user reporting.

Benefits and Risks

A dedicated resource for the Plan will ensure that it remains an active document and guides the City's work on waste reduction and diversion. The complete implementation of the Plan could achieve between 51–78% diversion in the next 10 years and place the City on track for achieving its Low Emissions Community Plan targets for the waste sector that are the equivalent of reducing or diverting 90% organics, 95% plastic and 90% paper from the landfill.

A dedicated resource funded through an operating budget will reduce the recurring capital requests. If unfunded, an additional administrative request will need to be applied to the capital requests outlined in this report. The activities in the scope above still need to occur. The approach of spreading this work across multiple capital projects will be less efficient and risk this work being “side of desk”.

The Environmental Cash Grant has had dedicated funds of \$10,000 for waste reduction and diversion since 2019. Since that time, the Environmental Cash Grant has funded 11 projects with waste reduction and diversion outcomes and have been awarded a total of \$46,800 of which \$30,000 was from the increased contribution. The total value of the community projects was approximately \$400,000.

Accessible Curbside Collections Program: Operations

Status

In February 2020, City Council initiated a project to identify alternatives to expand the accessible City-wide curbside (single-family household) solid waste collection service, report back on the feasibility of each, and recommend an alternative for implementation. Reporting is anticipated in Q2 2021. The planned report will include options with budget implications on relocating residential solid waste roll-out containers to, and from, the street or alley for residents with disabilities. The report will look at options for the curbside collections for garbage, recycling, and the pending curbside organics program.

Budget

The budget will depend on the approved program and balancing community need and available resources. A funding request for accessible collections will be brought forward during 2022–2023 budget deliberations to start as soon as 2021.

Waste Diversion Capital Program

The following section identifies actions listed in the Plan, the organization of the actions into business cases and as the anticipated 2022–2023 budget requests or approvals that will be required².

An additional business case, Sustainable Food Pilots, has been added to continue work that has been initiated on food waste reclamation and a school organics pilot, to begin a food waste reduction campaign available through the National Zero Waste Council, and to implement some of the food-related actions from the Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Table: Waste Diversion Capital Program 2022-2023 - Summary

Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan Short-Term Actions (2021–2023)	Business Case Name	2022 Funding (\$)	2023 Funding (\$)
Business and organization waste diversion regulation compliance	Green Teams and Leading by Example City of Saskatoon Waste Diversion	205,000	174,000
Emergency waste management and recycling strategy	Emergency Waste Management and Recycling Strategy	82,000	
Construction and demolition waste diversion: City of Saskatoon options Recycling market development for Recovery Park is a Disposal ban at Saskatoon Landfill	Feasibility Studies to Increase Diversion by 3.5–7%	174,000	564,000
Mandatory Multi-Unit Organics	Multi-Unit Organics Pilot and Program Design	500,000	379,000
	Sustainable Food Pilots	304,000	354,000
TOTAL		1,265,000	1,471,000

Actions relating to waste reduction through procurement and specifications will be detailed in a future Triple Bottom Line report.

² This capital program does not include the waste reduction initiatives that are already underway, including Residential Curbside Organics, Recovery Park, ICI Bylaw and Vertical Landfill Gas Well implementation.

Green Teams and Leading by Example City of Saskatoon Waste Diversion

Background

The Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) recycling and organics regulation that will begin phase-in during 2023, will require the City to have recycling diversion in place at all of its facilities and organics diversion in place at all facilities that generate food or yard waste. If the City does not have this in place, there is a risk of not being in compliance with our own bylaw. The Waste Reduction Initiatives, capital project #1964 has \$20,000 available to develop the program. Additional funding is required for implementation.

Scope

The project addresses the development of a corporate sustainability program that will begin with civic waste reduction and diversion to align with the in-progress ICI recycling and organics diversion regulations. The goal of the program will be to foster a culture of sustainability in which organizational members hold shared assumptions and beliefs about what sustainability means for their organization, where the organization stands today in relation to that understanding, and what they are doing to bridge the gap. The longer-term goal of the program will be to expand to other environmental sustainability sectors in subsequent phases.

Budget

A capital request of \$205,000 for 2022 and \$174,000 in 2023 are planned. That budget would provide staff to oversee the program's development, communication, and the capital costs of recycling and organics containers.

Benefits & Risks

There is significant risk to the ICI recycling and organics diversion regulation if the City is seen as not complying with its own bylaw. This project will ensure that compliance is coordinated, and all City facilities are moving towards consistent containers and signage which has been demonstrated to increase diversion in other jurisdictions.

By having recycling and organics in place at civic facilities, corporate diversion is expected to increase. The Green Teams program will result in other environmental benefits as it expands to other sectors.

Emergency Waste Management and Recycling Strategy

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and the Corporate Climate Adaptation Strategy have revealed the need to be prepared for significant disruptions to waste service or the need to provide waste services as part of an emergency response.

Scope

The deliverable will be a strategy on how the City's waste diversion and disposal services can respond to emergencies. Development of the strategy will include best practices research, cross-departmental engagement and planning, and the development of an administrative strategy that is coordinated with the City's broader emergency planning and climate adaptation activities.

Budget

A capital budget request of \$82,000 is planned for 2022. This budget would provide staff to complete the strategy and engagement that may be required.

Benefits & Risks

The Emergency Waste Management and Recycling Strategy will position the City's waste disposal and diversion services to continue during an emergency and be prepared to handle waste that may result from an emergency event. If this strategy is not completed, there is a greater risk of interruptions to services or that there are delays in handling large or specific types of waste that may result from an emergency event.

Feasibility Studies to Increase Diversion by 3.5–7%

Background

The Plan outlined three actions for the short-term that are unfunded and require program development. Because of the similar nature of this work for these actions and the close work with the Landfill and Recovery Park, the business cases were combined. The three actions are:

1. Construction and demolition program (City options)
2. Recycling market development for Recovery Park
3. Landfill ban

Scope

There are three subprojects in this project scope:

- Construction and Demolition Waste (City options) is a project that will ensure that the City is prepared to divert construction and demolition materials from our own project and operations in alignment with Recovery Park. It will identify policies, procedure, and specifications to utilize Recovery Park or the recycling contracts.
- Recycling Market development for Recovery Park is a project that will assess the gaps in recycling services available in Saskatoon with the vision for Recovery Park to identify new recycling market development opportunities. Opportunities to address the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #92: Ensure Aboriginal peoples have access to jobs, training and education opportunities; and they benefit from economic development through partnerships and social enterprise development.
- Disposal Ban at Saskatoon Landfill is a project that will develop options and a recommendation on a landfill ban program. It would update the plan originally outlined in 2015 reporting through updated best practices research and public engagement.

Budget

A capital request of \$174,000 is planned for 2022, which is primarily for staff and engagement. In 2023, additional funds will be required and a request for \$564,000 is estimated, which will include additional staff resources, engagement, and grant matching funds. This request will be refined during work completed in 2022 and possibly adjusted for the 2023 budget.

Engagement and Partnerships

The Recycling Market development for Recovery Park subproject has significant potential for community partnerships. The concept of this work has been discussed at a high level with the Saskatoon Tribal Council.

Funding

The Recycling Market development for Recovery Park and Disposal Ban at Saskatoon Landfill have been discussed with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities as projects that would be eligible for the Green Municipal Fund. Prior to making a funding application, matching funds of 50% of the project cost need to be available.

Benefits & Risks

The landfill ban is projected to increase the City's diversion rate by 3.5% to 7% once implemented. The work outlined in this scope is necessary to complete before implementation can occur. There is a risk that, if other regional landfills do not implement a similar ban, the City will lose corporate customers that could choose another location. However, the operators of both regional landfills are now contracted to provide diversion programs to the City's residents, which may help mitigate this risk.

The Construction and Demolition Waste (City options) and Recycling Market development for Recovery Park actions will contribute to improving the diversion rate realized by Recovery Park, which has been projected to be 4% to 13%. The work completed for the Construction and Demolition Waste (City options) will support successfully procuring recycling services if more materials are made available through the City's own construction and demolition waste generation. Recycling Market development for Recovery Park will help fill remaining gaps and has the potential of social benefits through TRC Action #92.

Multi-Unit Organics Pilot and Program Design

Background

This business case addresses the continued development of the Multi-Unit Organics program. Public engagement was held in 2018 for multi-unit organics, however the program was delayed due to prioritizing the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional recycling and organics regulation. Work is planned in 2021 to recommend a program approach.

Scope

This business case was developed assuming a pilot project approach is selected. If another program approach is selected, such as implementing a program without a pilot or regulating multi-unit organics division similar to the approach in the ICI sector, similar funding requirements are anticipated for 2022 and 2023.

The scope of the pilot project includes a 4-season pilot of a minimum of 20 properties to explore program design element options such as bin type and size, frequency of collections, storage of organics on-site, reducing contamination, education, bagging materials, in-unit kitchen catchers, and education. There will also be additional public engagement to finalize the options and recommendations for the program's implementation.

Budget

A capital budget request of \$500,000 is planned for 2022 and \$379,000 for 2023. The cost includes staff to oversee the pilot, communications, engagement, pilot materials including in-unit kitchen catchers, bins and/or carts, and collection/processing services.

Funding

This project would be eligible for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund, which could provide up to 50% of eligible costs (which now includes staff salaries).

Benefits & Risks

The multi-unit residential organics program is projected to increase the City's diversion rate between 0.5% and 1%. There is a risk that the program's development is further delayed that multi-unit residents will experience inequity in waste service levels that are provided to curbside residential residents only, but paid for by property taxes.

Sustainable Food Pilots

Background

Two food waste reduction and diversion projects have been initiated in 2020 and 2021 that require additional funding for implementation. The Research Junction funded "Promising Practices in Food Reclamation" research will be completed in the summer of 2021 and have recommendations for the City on how to proceed. A school organics diversion pilot has funding for program development in 2021 but does not have funding for implementation or expansion.

Scope

The waste-related pilots in this capital project include:

- A Food Waste Reclamation Pilot project, that informed by the results of the Research Junction funded research project. As well as support of the "Food Waste Reduction Challenge" application for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada funding.
- A school organics program pilot project, which will be developed in 2021 but will require additional funding and staff support to be implemented and expanded to meet demand.
- A residential food waste reduction pilot, which would enable Saskatoon to use the Love Food, Hate Waste campaign developed by the National Zero Waste Council.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy also has food-related actions, which have been combined into a single business case. The proposed Green Infrastructure pilots include a traditional food system pilot, a food forest pilot, and an edible foraging mapping pilot.

Budget

A capital request of \$304,000 for 2022 and \$354,000 for 2023 are planned. This would cover staffing, communications, engagement, materials for the pilot implementation, the Love Food, Hate Waste service fee, contracts with community partners to deliver programming, grants for gardens, and mapping/data management.

Funding

The project team that was funded through the Research Junction for the “Promising Practices in Food Reclamation” project have applied for the “Food Waste Reduction Challenge” through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada funding. The application focused on increasing capacity of food reclamation through the development of a social enterprise that would provide skills training and a living wage for low-income residents based at Station 20 West.

Benefits & Risks

This project will achieve Waste Reduction and Diversion as well as Green Infrastructure outcomes, while also building the City’s capacity in food-related work that will lead to the development of a food action plan (pending 2024–2025 funding approval). There are also significant triple bottom line benefits with this project, which in addition to the environmental benefits is creating social and economic programs for residents. These proposed pilots rely on partnerships for their success, which can create risk if potential partners do not have capacity to participate.