

Curbside Organics Collection

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (City) needs to begin preparations to ensure collections for the city-wide curbside organics program are in place prior to the 2023 program start. The collections were an optional portion of the bids for the organics processing and the low bidder for processing the organics did not supply a collection proposal. Now, having the processing contract awarded and signed, next steps to determine the method for collections need to be taken.

BACKGROUND

Over recent years, various decisions have been made regarding the operation of the City's waste collection. The key decisions and resolutions are summarized on the following table.

Table 1: Decisions and Resolutions for the Curbside Organics Program

Meeting	Resolution
June 2018	That an organics program be developed for year-round curbside residential organics collection, utilizing a single green cart for co-mingled food and yard waste.
October 2018	That the Administration amend the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to reflect the City's intent to implement an organics policy/program for the multi-unit residential sector by 2020.
October 2018	That the Administration amend the draft RFP to reflect the City's intent to implement an organics bylaw for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector within the next 2-4 years.
October 2018	That Option 1: year-round, bi-weekly organics and waste collection be implemented as the new waste management service level for all curbside residential households.
October 2018	That the compost depots continue to operate with the existing level of service.
November 2018	That the curbside organics program be funded by property tax.
March 2019	Implementation of the curbside organics program would be in 2023.
March 2019	The new waste service level of bi-weekly collections for curbside organics and curbside waste, approved in October 2018, will come into effect after the curbside organics program is implemented in 2023.
March 2019	Property tax increases to fund organics programs are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-2022 - 1% increase in taxes per year, with no change to current waste services; and

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2023 - 0.93% increase in taxes. First year of curbside organics program and new waste service level for garbage (bi-weekly collection in summer).
November 2019	That \$10M from Federal Gas Tax Fund be used to purchase carts, reducing the property tax phase in to 0.87% in years 2020-2022 and 0.8% in 2023.
September 2020	Finalized organics processing contract with Green Prairie Environmental Ltd.

CURRENT STATUS

The existing subscription-based curbside organics program has seen significant increases in total customers, 9,700 in 2019 and over 11,000 in 2020. In 2020, favourable variances were noted as subscription revenues and allocated Multi-Material Stewardship funds were sufficient to cover program costs.

Garbage waste collections currently pick up waste on a weekly basis from May to September with existing equipment, and bi-weekly the remainder of the year. An additional 11 collections operators are used to support weekly garbage collection and bi-weekly subscription organics collection during the summer months. No additional supervisory staff are hired to manage the additional garbage and waste collections during summer.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Several options are currently being developed to support the collections of city-wide organics program including collections being performed in-house with city crews, collections performed by a third party, or a hybrid. With the shift to bi-weekly garbage collection year-round, the in-house city collections for curbside organics would utilize equipment already in service for weekly garbage collection and requires similar staffing levels to current summer operations. The third-party collections option would have curbside organics collection completed by a contractor. The hybrid model is a combination of both in-house city collections and a third-party contractor to perform curbside organics collection. There are benefits and disadvantages of each option that will be outlined in a further report.

IMPLICATIONS

In order to meet the April 2023 implementation timeline for the curbside organics program, direction from City Council is required prior to mid-2021, to prepare for the 2021-2022 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations. In addition to confirming the financial impacts of the chosen method of collections, a substantial amount of planning is required to prepare for the roll out of the curbside organics program including route planning, personnel recruitment training, bylaw development and procurement of carts.

The Office of the City Solicitor has prepared a separate response on this topic (see Appendix 1).

NEXT STEPS

The Administration will present options to Governance and Priorities Committee in June 2021. A further report will also seek direction related to location for organics pick ups, including front street, rear lane, or a combination thereof.

APPENDICES

1. Confidential Solicitor/Client Privilege

Report Approval

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