

Curbside Organics Program Update

ISSUE

Administration continues to prepare for the launch of the *Curbside Organics Program* in 2023. The report provides information on:

- the cart size for the program;
- the collection location;
- the status of the processing facility;
- future options that Administration will consider in 2025; and
- program decisions that are still to come.

BACKGROUND

At its June 25, 2018 meeting, City Council approved the recommendation that an organics program be developed for year-round curbside residential organics collection, utilizing a green cart for co-mingled food and yard waste.

City Council, at its meeting held on October 22, 2018, approved a new waste management service level of bi-weekly year-round waste and organics collection for all curbside residential households. The report also included anticipated cart sizes and collection locations for the organics program.

On March 25, 2019, City Council approved that the new waste service level of bi-weekly collections for curbside organics and curbside waste, approved on October 22, 2018, would come into effect when the Curbside Organics Program is implemented in 2023.

On September 28, 2020, Council requested:

“that the Administration report back on facilities that the proponent operates as well as more specifics around where contaminated materials end up.”

CURRENT STATUS

Administration is preparing for the implementation of the Curbside Organics Program in the Spring of 2023. Given the amount of time required to develop the program and ensure all equipment and resources are in place, certain program design decisions are required to meet project timelines. It is estimated that cart procurement will take 45 weeks and deployment will take an additional 12 weeks.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Design of the New Program and Rationale

Cart Size

In 2018, the Administration proposed that a medium sized 240 L (65 gal) green cart be used for the Curbside Organics Program. Since that time, the Administration has completed further analysis on the existing subscription program and collected research and feedback from other municipalities. Based on these findings, the project team has determined that a 360 L (96 gal) cart more appropriate as the standard cart size for the Curbside Organics Program. This is the same size as the standard carts for garbage

and recycling, as well as the current subscription program. Several factors were considered when determining standard cart size for the program and further information on this analysis can be found in Appendix 1. Details on cart specifications can be found in Appendix 2.

Collection Location

In 2018, the Administration anticipated that green carts could continue to be collected in the same location as the current subscription program, which is on the front street regardless of where the other waste and recycling bins are collected. To help ensure a successful organics program launch and to promote participation in the organics program through consistency with other programs, the Administration is recommending that the organics cart be collected in the same location as the existing curbside waste and recycling as part of the initial launch. This will mean that all service addresses that currently have back lane collection will continue to receive back lane collection for the curbside organics. Following initial implementation of the organics program, the Administration will undertake a comprehensive review to address the issues with back lane collection for all waste programs, as the concerns are common for recycling, organics, and garbage collection services.

Update on Green Prairie Environmental Organic Processing Facility

The project team conducted an on-site tour of the Green Prairie Environmental (GPE) facility as part of the Curbside Organics Program development plan. The team sighted GPE's valid waste management facility operating permit issued by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment during the site tour and performed a drive-through of the landfill infrastructures. At the time, GPE had completed the access road construction to provide options for approximately one-kilometer-long vehicle queuing space before accessing the scale house and the landfill cells liner was under construction.

Contaminates are regarded as materials not included in the approved list of acceptable materials. As per the contract, GPE must screen these materials out of the beneficial end-use product and sort out the recyclable items for transfer to a licensed recycling facility. At the same time, the remaining items will be disposed of at the landfill in their facility.

As part of the Curbside Organics Program development strategy, six months before organic materials are being collected from residences and delivered for processing, GPE is required to develop and submit a contaminant material handling plan to the City for approval.

Future Planning

In 2025, following the implementation of the Curbside Organics Program and the variable waste utility, the Administration will report back to Council on program performance and opportunities for service enhancement. Other municipalities suggested that the best form of resident feedback is to survey residents following a year of having the service. The Administration can also analyze set-out rate and tonnage in the winter months to determine if there are program savings from adjusting collection frequency in the winter months.

Future Reporting for Curbside Organics

The Administration will report back with program updates on education, deployment, utility rate setting, GPE Processing Facility construction progress, further details on diapers and pet waste, and other relevant information on program rollout. The next update will be in Q2/Q3 of 2022, followed by another update in Q4 of 2022. In 2023, Administration intends to provide a pre-launch update and a post-launch update.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At its meeting in November 2019, City Council allocated \$10 million to the Curbside Organics Program to procure green carts and develop and implement the City-wide curbside organics collection program. Further details on cost implications for cart size can be found in Appendix 1. At this time, there are no additional financial implications associated with cart size and collection location.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

The curbside organics communication and education materials are planned to be developed in 2022. Public communication will occur in the months preceding the rollout of the organics program.

NEXT STEPS

Preparation for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for green cart procurement and deployment for the organics program collection is underway. The table below shows the timeline for the green cart procurement and deployment.

Task	Duration (Weeks)	Start Date	End Date
RFP final review	2	Jan - 2022	Jan - 2022
Tender Open and Close	4	Jan - 2022	Feb - 2022
Evaluation, Testing and Award	8	Feb - 2022	May - 2022
Carts Production	28	Jun - 2022	Dec - 2022
Carts Deployment	12	Feb - 2023	May - 2023
Total	54		

APPENDICES

1. Cart Size Analysis
2. Cart Specifications

Report Approval

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