

# Material Recovery Centre (Recovery Park) – Program Update and Changes to Fee Structure

## ISSUE

The Material Recovery Centre (MRC), previously known as Recovery Park, will be opening to the public on August 15, 2023. This report outlines required updates to Bylaw No. 9844, *The Waste Bylaw, 2022*, to reflect changes in materials and disposal rates for items that will be accepted at the MRC. The report also outlines the operating impacts for MRC that will be included for City Council's consideration during the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services recommend to City Council that the City Solicitor bring forward to City Council the necessary amendments to Bylaw No. 9844 amendments and rate structure changes, identified in this report.

## BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on March 7, 2022, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services received the "Recovery Park – Material Diversion Plan" information report. This report stated that Administration would provide a detailed list of materials to be diverted at Recovery Park along with the associated costs. The report also outlined potential operating impacts for the opening of Recovery Park, with further reporting planned upon completion of the operational plan. A request for proposals (RFP) for waste diversion vendors was published in October 2022, and the results of this proposal are summarized in this report.

At its February 22, 2023 Regular Business Meeting, City Council unanimously approved the [Additional Information in Elm Wood Disposal and Pilot Program Results](#) report. The report resolved in part that:

1. That elm wood drop-off be included in Recovery Park;
2. That further information on the level of service, costs, and fee options for elm wood be brought forward in a future report on Recovery Park;

At its meeting on March 7, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services received the "Recovery Park – Update Material Diversion Plan for 2023" information report. This report stated that Administration would proceed to finalize contracts with RFP vendors and stewardship programs and bring forward a subsequent report to address any changes to tipping fees, and bylaws that could result in costs to the resident(s). The report would also outline operating impacts of Recovery Park that may need to be addressed in the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

## **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

### Project Update

The name for the facility has been updated to Material Recovery Centre from Recovery Park. The change supports consistency in naming Civic facilities, reduces confusion regarding the type of facility, and follows best practice for similarly operated facilities across Canada.

Construction is nearing completion and the site will be open to the public on August 15, 2023, barring any unforeseen circumstances or delays.

In 2019, the MRC's waste diversion target was forecast at 4% to 12% when fully operational. The diversion rate is projected to be at 4.5% (3,500 tonnes) during its first full calendar year of operations in 2024. Work on recycling market development is ongoing to increase the materials that are accepted for diversion.

### Material Recovery Centre Operations

MRC introduces significant changes to how both customers move through the site and how waste materials are handled. To operate and maintain the facility, additional staff will be required. The non-scaled diversion area entrance requires two attendant kiosks to greet customers, inspect loads and provide guidance to the respective disposal area. As the non-scaled diversion area will not have an entrance fee and disposal fee for most items, clear guidance and enforcement will be required to reduce contamination. Electronics, household batteries, and tires will be the new programs at the non-scaled diversion area that will require additional staffing levels to accept, handle, store and prepare materials prior to shipment. Staffing requirements will be evaluated throughout the first full year of operation.

The new scaled garbage transfer and diversion area entrance has a scale house with two inbound lanes and two outbound lanes and a by-pass lane on each side, as compared to one inbound and outbound lane and a by-pass lane on each side at the existing facility. With the increased number of lanes, more customers can be accommodated simultaneously with additional scale staff to greet customers, inspect their loads, and provide guidance to the respective disposal areas. For materials on the scaled garbage transfer and diversion area, customers will still be required to pass over the scale. Concrete and brick will be a new addition to the diversion program and will be located at the scaled garbage transfer and diversion area for drop off.

### New Diversion for Opening Day

Administration is currently working with various stewardship and charity organizations to divert the additional materials listed below.

*Electronics* - Administration has been working with Recycle My Electronics, Electronics Products Recycling Association (EPRA) to establish a contract which is expected to be finalized by July 2023. This program will operate out of a shipping container within the household hazardous waste (HHW) Days footprint area, located at the Non-Scaled Diversion Area.

*Batteries* - Administration has been working with Call2Recycle to establish a contract and is expected to finalize this by July 2023. This program will operate out of a shipping container, similar to the electronics program at the HHW Days footprint area, located at the Non-Scaled Diversion Area.

*Tires* – An agreement with the Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan (TSS) is in development to divert tires, and Administration is currently working with the stewardship organization to finalize this agreement. Residents will be able to drop off this material at the Non-Scaled Diversion Area in a roll-off bin. TSS currently has a Return to Retailer program across the province that promotes residents to drop off rimless scrap tires that includes six participating retail locations in Saskatoon.

*Printed Paper and Packaging* – Residents will be able to drop off these materials at the Non-Scaled Diversion Area in the recycle roll off bins.

### Additional Diversion to be Added

*HHW and Paint Program* - Administration is preparing for a permanent HHW depot at MRC as early as 2024. HHW will remain event based in 2023.

*Textiles* – Administration will be releasing an RFP in Q4 of 2023, to gauge interest from vendors to divert textile materials. Upon award, residents will be able to drop off this material at the Non-Scaled Diversion Area.

*Mattress and Box Spring* - Administration is pursuing an Indigenous social enterprise recycler to establish a mattress recycling program contract. Administration is reviewing options to issue an RFP for service as soon as Q3 of 2023. Diverting mattresses and box springs is estimated to contribute 0.6% to diversion rates.

### Environmental Protection through Proper Disposal

*Elm Wood Waste* – As previously reported, while including elm wood waste in the MRC has no direct waste diversion impact, it does provide significant environmental protection benefits by encouraging the proper disposal of elm wood waste. Improper storage or disposal of elm wood is one of the main methods that Dutch elm disease is spread. Elm disposal will be located in the Scaled Diversion Area and wayfinding signage will identify elm as a distinct material stream.

The entrance fee of \$15 and a regular tipping fee of \$105/tonne over 150kg will remain in place for elm wood while work continues through the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan. Barriers to proper elm wood disposal that will be addressed include cost, identification of elm wood, and ability to transport elm wood waste to the Material Recovery Centre (Recovery Park). New pilots will be expanded to run city-wide. Cost reductions for elm wood in the expanded pilots will be through alternatives to tipping fee changes, such as vouchers or rebates so that resident eligibility can be confirmed.

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### Material Acceptance Summary

*Table 1: Non-Scaled Diversion Area Material Type*

No.	Material Type	Program Type	Processor	Program Start Date
1	Electronics**	New	EPRA	August 15, 2023
2	Batteries**	New	Call2Recycle	August 15, 2023
3	HHW	New	TBD	Q2, 2024
4	Eco-Centre	Status Quo	SARRC	Ongoing
5	Metals	Status Quo	Hub City	Ongoing
6	Tires**	New	TSS	August 15, 2023
7	Clean Fill	Status Quo	Used Internally	Ongoing
8	Bikes	Status Quo	BCBC	Ongoing
9	Printed Paper and Packaging	Status Quo	Cosmo	Ongoing
10	Textiles	New	TBD	Q4, 2023
11	Mattress and Box Springs	New	TBD	Q1, 2024

\*\*Administration is currently working with stewardship contracts to finalize partnership agreements.

*Table 2: Scaled Garbage Transfer and Diversion Area*

No.	Material Type	Program Type	Processor	Program Start Date
1	Garbage	Status Quo	City	Ongoing
2	Concrete & Brick	New	Acadia Paving Ltd.	August 15, 2023
3	Elm Wood Waste	Status Quo	City	Ongoing

### Rate Structure Update

Administration is proposing changes to the current rate structure for materials that are accepted at the MRC; however, there are no changes to the rates or entrance fees to dispose of garbage. The intent of these changes is to incentivize increased diversion from the landfill while also ensuring cost recovery. The proposed rates are noted in Table 3 below.

*Table 3: Proposed changes to Tipping Fees*

Material	Current Cost	Proposed Cost	Change to Residents	Bylaw Changes
Concrete & Brick	\$105 per tonne plus \$15 entrance fee	\$50 per tonne; and no entrance fee	Reduction of \$55 per tonne and removal of entrance fee	Schedule F; Disposal Cost Change
Metals	\$105 per tonne plus \$15 entrance fee; plus \$20 per unit to remove refrigerants from required appliances	\$0 per tonne; no entrance fee; \$20 per unit to remove refrigerants from required appliances	No Charge to dispose material type; \$20 per unit to remove freon from required appliances	Schedule F; Disposal Cost Change

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Electronics**	\$105 per tonne plus \$15 entrance fee	\$0 per tonne; no entrance fee	No charge to dispose material type	Schedule F; Disposal Cost Change
Batteries**	\$105 per tonne plus \$15 entrance fee	\$0 per tonne; no entrance fee	No charge to dispose material type	Schedule F; Disposal Cost change
Tires**	Landfill Ban	\$0; restriction on number of tires disposed per customer; rims not accepted	Allowance to dispose material type at no charge	Schedule C; Lift Tire Ban

\*\*Administration is currently working with stewardship contracts to compile partnership documents.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

In 2023, costs for operating the MRC will be funded through existing capital funding, and therefore, there is no impact to the mill rate.

Starting in 2024, annual operating expenses are estimated at \$2M, which is offset by \$300,000 in revenues and \$480,000 in transfers from existing budgets. As a result of these transfers, the estimated total 2024 mill rate impact of the MRC is \$1.2M.

A phased approach is planned for filling positions as operations expand beyond opening day. All operating impacts, including new FTE's, will be included for City Council's consideration during the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations.

### OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Waste Bylaw No. 9844 requires updating to reflect proposed changes in Table 1.

### NEXT STEPS

A comprehensive communications strategy is being developed to provide education and awareness to all stakeholders including residents, Community Associations, contractors and small businesses, ENGO's (Environmental non-governmental organizations), etc. An internal civic communications campaign will also be developed.

Communication activities in preparation for the opening of the MRC may include website updates, a media release, social media and the development of educational materials. Facility signage and wayfinding will be put in place prior to opening. An opening ceremony in conjunction with the Provincial and Federal Government is being planned for Fall 2023.

Administration will continue to research and develop market opportunities to divert additional recyclable and reusable material to the Material Recovery Centre.

## **APPENDICES**

### **1. Material Recovery Centre – Site Map**

#### **Report Approval**

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