

Fees for Waste-Related Services – 2020/2021

Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to recommend fees for The City of Saskatoon's (City) waste-related services for 2020 and 2021. A summary of the recommendations are as follows:

1. That the Curbside Residential Recycling Program fees per household per month be set at \$7.38 in 2020, and \$7.47 in 2021.
2. That the Multi-Unit Residential Recycling Program fees per household per month be set at \$3.71 in 2020, and \$3.86 in 2021.
3. That the City Solicitor be instructed to amend Schedule "D" of Bylaw No. 8310, The Waste Bylaw, 2004, specifically to revise the residential recycling fees listed within this report.
4. That the City Solicitor be instructed to amend Schedule "E" of Bylaw No. 8310, The Waste Bylaw, 2004, specifically to remove polycoat, black plastic, and plastic #6 expanded polystyrene from the list of permitted recyclable material.

Issue

Approval is being sought for the above recommendations pertaining to 2020 and 2021.

Background

Single-family recycling collection utility fees, and multi-family recycling utility fees are due for assessment for 2020 and 2021.

Discussion/Analysis

This report proposes waste-related fees for both 2020 and 2021, to align with the corporate multi-year budget.

Curbside Residential Recycling Program Fees

The current recycling contract expires at the end of 2019, and a new contract is in development for 2020 and beyond. In addition to contract costs for collections and processing recyclables, curbside residential recycling program fees include City administrative, bylaw compliance, education and communications costs. To maintain the recommended recycling service levels, monthly utility charges are proposed at \$7.38 per household per month in 2020, and \$7.47 per household per month in 2021. Although changes in the global recycling market have resulted in increased recycling costs in programs across North America, a municipal scan shows that the proposed monthly charges are still on the lower range of similar recycling programs that are funded through a utility model. In addition, the list of acceptable materials for the 2020 program remains largely the same as in previous years except for black plastics and polycoat (i.e. beverage cups) as there is no longer a market for recycling these materials. Schedule "E" of Bylaw No. 8310, The Waste Bylaw, 2004, will require a revision to remove polycoat, black plastic, and plastic #6 expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam) from the list of permitted recyclable materials.

Multi-Unit Residential Recycling Program Fees

The City's contract with Cosmopolitan Industries Ltd. extends until the end of 2023. In addition to contract costs for collections and processing recyclables, multi-unit residential recycling program fees include City administrative, bylaw compliance, education and communications costs. Monthly utility charges for the multi-unit program are lower than the curbside program since a portion of Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) funding is allocated to offset the charges to multi-unit residents. The proposed monthly utility charges for the multi-unit residential recycling program are \$3.71 per household, per month in 2020, and \$3.86 per household per month in 2021.

Implications:

Curbside Residential Recycling Program Fees

Monthly utility fees cover the costs of the curbside residential recycling program. If the proposed utility rates are not approved, an alternate funding source would be required to fund the shortfall.

Multi-Unit Residential Recycling Program Fees

MMSW funds cover a portion of the costs of the multi-unit residential recycling program, and monthly utility fees cover the remaining portion. If the proposed utility rates are not approved, an alternate funding source would be required to fund the shortfall.