

## Additional Background Information

### Curbside Organics Program History

Over recent years, various decisions have been made by City Council regarding the operation of the City's waste programs. Key decisions and resolutions related to the curbside organics program are summarized on the following table:

Table 4: Organics Program Resolution Summary

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
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.
August 2018	That any future organics RFP include options about provision of green bins, bin collection, summer pickup frequency, and material processing.
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.
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.
September 2020	Finalized organics processing contract with Green Prairie Environmental Ltd.
November 2023	Information report to EUCS on GPE's default and the City's short-term organics processing plan; and Requested that Administration report on appropriate set back distances from organics processing facilities; and The engagement plan for impacted stakeholders be included in the permanent planning decision report for organics processing.
November 2023	During budget deliberations, City Council directed that the East Compost Depot operation cease.
January 2024	City Council, at its Regular Business Meeting held on January 31, 2024, considered the above-noted matter, and resolved that the Administration be directed to include a City-owned Organics Processing Facility for submission to the Low Carbon Economy Challenge Fund.

### West Compost Depot History and Funding Structure

The City's West Compost Depot was established in 2006 and started as a drop off site for yard waste. In 2015, the West Compost Depot started processing organic waste into compost, as the McOrmond Drive depot location was closed due to the development of the Brighton neighbourhood. The West Depot Compost site is in the footprint of the Blairmore development plan, and it will need to be relocated as the new neighbourhood encroaches on the depot.

The West Compost Depot is well used by residents, commercial haulers, and City operations. Although the implementation of the curbside organics program has reduced the overall traffic to the site, there were nearly 24,000 visits to the site for material drop off in 2023. Additionally, nearly 8,200 customers used the "Dig-Your-Own" compost and mulch program. In the Spring 2023 Waste and Recycling Survey 19% of residents, with green carts, reported that they continue to use compost depots for yard waste. While 82% of respondents using the compost depots were "very or somewhat satisfied" in the overall quality of service received.

The following table summarizes the funding structure of the Depot.

Table 5: 2025 West Compost Depot Operating Budget Plan

<b>Operating Expense</b>	
West Compost Depot Operating Expense	<b>\$1,354,000</b>
<b>Funding Sources for West Compost Depot</b>	
Bulk Sales	\$70,000
Commercial Hauler Permits	\$26,000
Mill Rate Funding	\$151,000
MMSW Allocation	\$1,107,000
<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>\$1,354,000</b>

The West Compost Depot operations are contractor based, with limited City staffing or equipment involved. The West Compost Depot's operating budget is currently funded through a combination of Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) funding, user fees, and mill rate support. During the 2024/2025 budget deliberations in November 2023, City Council approved the 2025 budget plan for the West Compost Depot. Included in this plan is \$1,354,000 in expenses for contracted services, internal staff, and materials and supplies. Allocated MMSW funding covers \$1,107,000, and user fee revenues cover \$96,000, which results in required mill rate support of \$151,000. The planned allocation of MMSW provides funding for 82% of the program, which significantly reduces the program's mill rate reliance.

The Ministry of Environment has recently released the Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Regulations that will shift the entire cost of recycling paper and packaging products to producers. Although this change is positive for residents, it is also expected that the structure of MMSW funding may change due to the new regulation. The timing and details however are unknown at this point. Proposed changes to MMSW funding

will likely have an impact on the way that the West Compost Depot operation is funded in the future.

The East Compost Depot has been operated as a transfer site, where residents could drop off yard waste. Materials were received at the site and stored. Bulky wood materials were shredded once per year. All the materials were transported to the West Compost Depot for processing. In December 2023, City Council directed that the operations at the East Compost Depot cease.