

Green Cart Decision-Making History

June 25, 2018	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.
October 22, 2018	City Council 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.
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.
May 6, 2019	At its meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services (EUCS) received additional information regarding the Curbside Organics Program including information on the possibility of reducing the collection frequency in the winter.
January 25, 2021	City Council received the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan at its regular business meeting, which projected that the Curbside Organics Program would result in an 8-12% improvement in the waste diversion rate.
May 17, 2021	At its meeting, the Governance and Priorities Committee provided the direction that “the Administration report back on options to include more items in the Green Cart Program, their associated benefits, and associated costs if any”.
June 21, 2021	At its meeting, the Governance and Priorities Committee received a decision report presenting three options for the collection of curbside organics. Administration was asked to provide further details on having a third party provide collections services (Option 2) to ensure the best overall organics collection is implemented.
August 30, 2021	City Council approved that the City in-source city-wide collection of organic waste as provided in Option 1 in the June report to Governance and Priorities Committee on this topic.
October 25, 2021	City Council approved a fixed monthly rate for the curbside organics utility with a January 2023 implementation, and a variable rate for black cart garbage utility with implementation in 2024.
January 10, 2022	At its meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on EUCS received the Curbside Organics Program Update report. The Administration recommended collecting the green cart in the same location as the existing curbside garbage and recycling (black and blue carts) as part of the initial launch. This will mean that all service addresses that currently have back-lane collections will continue to receive back-lane collections for the curbside organics program.

April 25, 2022	City Council received the Curbside Organics Program: Cart Size report and approved “That consideration be included in the report for Communications of the rollout of the Green Cart Program for the Council members to provide insights from their knowledge of their Wards to support an effective rollout of the program.
October 3, 2022	At its meeting, the Standing Policy Committee on EUCS received the Curbside Organics Program Update on Communications and Education Strategy. In the report, the Administration committed to provide a report in Q1 of 2023, on additional information regarding program cart roll-out, specific timelines for the program implementation, and an update on communications, including plans for delivering smaller carts to eligible townhouses.
March 7, 2023	At its meeting, Standing Policy Committee on EUCS received the Curbside Organics – Green Cart Program Update report which included the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific timelines on program implementation, roll-out and cart deployment; • plans for delivering 240-litre carts to eligible townhouses; • an update on the organics processing facility; • options to include more items in the green cart program, their associated benefits, and associated costs; and • an update on the implementation of the communications and education strategy
April 24, 2024	At its, meeting, City Council resolved that: “That the Administration pursue Option 3 – Build a City-owned Organics Processing Facility.

Saskatoon Talks Trash: Curbside” Engagement Key Findings

The Program was designed based on feedback received through the “Saskatoon Talks Trash: Curbside” engagement campaign that ran from February 12 - March 6, 2018. In that time, over 5,000 residents participated in a variety of engagement activities. Key findings include:

- Over 80% of participants expressed clear support for a City-Wide Organics Program.
- Those who were opposed to the program primarily disliked the additional cost and cart or were existing backyard composters who disliked the mandatory approach.
- Most participants preferred co-mingled (food and yard waste together) collection in a single green cart. This was primarily due to greater convenience and to have sufficient capacity for grass, leaves, branches, and garden waste.
- About half of residents engaged suggested an interest in weekly collection, depending on the cart capacity and the season. Many suggested a schedule of weekly collection from spring to fall and bi-weekly in the winter.
- The top five concerns about the Program were: cleanliness, convenience, program cost, finding space for a third cart, and fairness (for those with backyard composters, small yards, townhouses, or limited food waste).