

## Green Cart Pilot

There is much to be learned through the experiences of other cities as well as from Saskatoon's own subscription Green Cart Program. Even if City Council chose to implement an organics pilot in Saskatoon, additional research, analysis and review of program options would be required before embarking on a city-wide organics program.

The following are some of the benefits of a pilot:

- Build confidence in a business plan, program options, and feasibility
- Testing for operating assumptions such as route capacity (number of carts collected per truck per day) that differ considerably from a subscription program where carts are collected over a wide-area (instead of door-to-door)
- Testing attitudes and behaviours: the subscription program selects for residents that are willing to pay for a program, meaning that they are likely more motivated than those that have it forced up on them. A pilot would be designed to test a wide variety of demographics.
- Testing different cart options and technologies, as presented in Attachment 4, there are numerous options for collection; a pilot would help identify how the community responds to these options
- A pilot, or phased approach, could help build support for the program as it would allow time for residents to get used to the idea if coupled with a communications program

Other considerations associated with a pilot include:

- A pilot is time consuming and could delay the implementation of a city-wide program. Although, given existing or planned private facilities in the region, a pilot program could likely be implemented while planning and construction for a city-wide program is ongoing (expected to take at least 3 years).
- Pilots are expensive, and best practise is to not charge fees for these services. A 2-year Curbside Green Cart pilot for food and yard waste would cost between \$1-\$2 million depending on the number of neighbourhoods (between 2 and 4) and the level of service (weekly year round, or weekly in summer and biweekly in winter).
- Funding opportunities may be available, for instance Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) offers funding of up to \$350,000 (matching funds) for pilot projects that improve waste diversion through the Green Municipal Fund.