

Disposal Bans and Mandatory Recycling

There are two types of disposal bans that have been successfully used by other municipalities to prevent identified material from ending up in the landfill – landfill disposal bans and prohibitive (city-wide) bans. Disposal bans are defined as a range of measures to prevent or restrict the disposal of waste to landfills. A prohibitive ban aims to restrict material from entering the community to begin with.

Disposal bans are often implemented at the provincial or regional level. Bans implemented at the municipal level are challenging to enforce as there is a high potential for the material to be taken to other regional landfills not under the direct control of the City.

At its November 30, 2015 meeting, City Council resolved “That a phased landfill ban for paper and cardboard begin in 2016 as outlined in the report of the General Manager, Corporate Performance Department dated November 9, 2015.” In that report, Administration outlined that the first phase of the ban would be based on mandatory source separation of recyclable materials for the ICI sector. This would involve a bylaw that requires all businesses to store recyclable materials separately from garbage (source separation) and ensure the collected materials are taken to a recycling facility either through a private recycling contract or to City-run depots like Recovery Park.

Stakeholder engagement and education was planned to be a large component of designing and implementing this program. There are currently 10,800 licensed businesses in Saskatoon. Of these, 6,276 are commercial/ industrial businesses and 4,524 are home based businesses.

The engagement and education program was delayed to allow for the study of the ICI sector as a component of the broader Waste Diversion Plan. As Administration developed the program components to be presented during engagement, it also became clear that additional resources would be required.

Program components for phase 1 (mandatory recycling) could be implemented through a range of options. Prior to engagement, further investigation is required to better understand the implications of each option or initiative:

- **Source Separation:** Requirement for recyclables to be stored on site and allow businesses to identify recycling options (including recycling depots or contracting a recycling service)
- **Private recycling contract requirement:** The City could require annual documentation from businesses confirming that recycling collection services are in place.

- Recycling collection opt-in: The City could investigate opportunities to fit the collection of recyclables from business into the parameters of the existing residential recycling programs.

The program will also include a number of direct and supportive/complementary options under the categories of education and enforcement.

Education and outreach

- Waste diversion assistance: Technical and information assistance to companies that may not have the technical knowledge or capacity to investigate diversion opportunities.
- Working group on waste diversion: An ICI working group with members of the ICI community that provide focussed discussions around common issues and challenges related to waste diversion in this sector.

Enforcement

- Disposal surcharges at the landfill: The Waste Bylaw currently allows for the collection of surcharges on loads containing more than 10% recyclable materials. Without the new scale at Recovery Park where load inspections can be accommodated, enforcement is very difficult. Additionally, the risk that haulers may haul loads to other landfills that do not surcharge must be considered.
- Site inspections: Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs) visit businesses to ensure appropriate source separation of recyclable materials is in place.
- Document audits: Confirmation of recycling hauler contracts through annual reporting by businesses.

Resource Needs

In order to develop and implement an ICI program as described above additional staff and funding is required including 0.5 of an Environmental Coordinator for program development and implementation; an additional EPO; and approximately \$25,000 for education and engagement. The total funds required are \$150,000 which can be made available from the Waste Minimization Reserve.