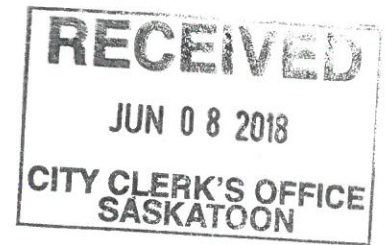


7830-1

From: City Council
Sent: Friday, June 08, 2018 12:13 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council



Submitted on Friday, June 8, 2018 - 12:13
Submitted by anonymous user: 69.11.47.85
Submitted values are:

Date: Friday, June 08, 2018
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Angie
Last Name: Bugg
Address: [REDACTED] Albert Ave
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Comments:

SEAC members Sara Harrison and I would like to speak at the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services meeting June 11. We will speak to item 7.25 Recommended Changes to Waste Management in Saskatoon.

SEAC's 2018 goals include supporting City Council as you work to meet the approved community-wide environmental targets, including

- 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and
- 70% waste diversion by 2023, which is only 5 years away

We have had ample discussion at SEAC meetings on ways to achieve these targets.

Only one Canadian city has a lower waste diversion rate than Saskatoon, and waste emits 6% of Saskatoon's GHG emissions. About half of Saskatoon's residential waste is organics. Organics are the main source of Greenhouse Gas emissions in a landfill. It happens to work out that for each tonne of organics we compost instead of landfilling, we prevent a tonne of GHG emissions. So the proposed organics program, which is expected to keep 26,000 Tonnes/year of organics out of our landfill, will also prevent 26,000 Tonnes/year of carbon dioxide equivalents.

A holistic waste diversion program, which includes comprehensive green cart program and a pay-as-you-throw waste utility are critical actions the city must take to achieving these targets.

At your last meeting, you received a report on the remaining air space in the landfill. That report also noted that when the time comes that we have to somehow find a space for a new landfill, it will be a much longer drive. That means more trucks and drivers, higher operating cost, and more GHG emissions to handle waste. Because the landfill will be out of town, weather can have more impact on the ability to get the garbage to the landfill, and there will be issues of how to handle self-haul loads. Although there are challenges associated with our current landfill, we are very privileged to have it so close to town.

When our current landfill closes, it remains an environmental liability. We need to keep monitoring it for at least 35 years. At the same time, we will have a new landfill somewhere, which will have its own environmental issues. The longer we can keep using the current landfill, the better, so let's fill it as slowly as we can.

When we give residents good options, like curbside recycling and composting, it is much easier for people to reduce what they put in their black bins. Recent City engagement on waste showed 60% support for Pay As You Throw, and 80% for an every household organics program.

Residents also need incentive and education to use the systems well. Pay As You Throw is one of those incentives. Numerous jurisdictions across North America successfully use some sort of waste as a utility system. SEAC has previously suggested that the City look for ways to incent people to reduce their use of plastic film. The City has been doing some education around proper use of recycling bins and household hazardous waste. In order to meet our 70% diversion target, much more, targeted education will be required.

In a separate letter to your committee, SEAC has voiced our support of the Second Chance Food project. We also challenge the City to lead the way as a corporation to set the example for residents, businesses, institutions, and non-profits on what is possible through establishing your own, visible programs for others to follow and for you to leverage as education. The waste free pancake breakfast is one example of this.

In conclusion, SEAC advises Council to accept the recommendation of a comprehensive green cart program and pay-as-you-throw waste utility, as a critical step in achieving 70% waste diversion, and contributing to 80% reduction in GHG

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/235414>