
Waste Diversion Plan Update

Recommendation

That the report of the Acting General Manager, Utilities and Environment Department, dated January 7, 2019, be forwarded to the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for information.

Topic and Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the development of the Waste Diversion Plan and the initiatives that were outlined in the 2017 Waste Opportunities report.

Report Highlights

1. The City of Saskatoon (City) is making comprehensive changes to how waste is managed that will move the needle towards achieving 70% waste diversion by 2023.
2. Program development and community engagement is occurring in all waste generating sectors including: curbside residential; multi-unit residential; industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI); and self-haul (Recovery Park).
3. Progress on the Waste Diversion Plan will continue in 2019 by: establishing a zero waste vision for Saskatoon; researching waste reduction policies; expanding waste management indicators; standardizing waste management symbols and terminology; and developing a regular review and prioritization process.

Strategic Goal

The Corporate Performance Target of diverting 70% of waste from the landfill measures the City's success in Environmental Leadership. The work outlined in this report directly supports the Environmental Leadership goal in the City's Strategic Plan 2018-2021 that solid waste diversion is maximized and landfill operations management and financial sustainability is optimized. It directly addresses the Strategic Plan's action to a long-term funding and program strategy for solid waste management and waste diversion.

Background

City Council, at its meeting held on February 23, 2015, resolved:

“That the City of Saskatoon become a member of the National Zero Waste Council.”

City Council, at its meeting held on May 23, 2017, received the Waste Diversion Opportunities report outlining the steps in developing a Waste Diversion Plan, and resolved in part:

“That the report be received as information and forwarded to the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for information.”

Report

Saskatoon's Waste Diversion Plan (WDP) will clarify the City's waste management role as a policy maker, service provider and regulator by adding sector specific detail to waste diversion targets and examining how the City can move beyond diversion to programs and policies that reduce waste and promote a circular economy.

The WDP will also help align the strategic focus of related projects; including the Waste Management Master Plan, Multi-Unit Waste Diversion Strategy, ICI Waste Diversion Strategy, Recovery Park, Leading by Example, and existing education programs for recycling, composting and reuse.

The 2017 Waste Diversion Opportunities report by Dillon Consulting estimated city-wide waste composition and generation rates in order to outline initiatives for improved waste management and diversion. Based on the recommendations in the report, the Administration began research, planning, community engagement, and program development on a number of waste-related projects. Attachment 1, Waste Management Program Development 2017-2018, provides an update of the progress including:

- Engagement with multi-unit and curbside residents;
- Reports on multi-unit residential waste diversion, Recovery Park, landfill air space, and the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector waste diversion; and
- Approval of a curbside organics program.

In addition to the curbside program changes, recommendations for multi-unit, ICI and zero waste will be brought forward in 2019 with projected implementation into 2020 and 2021. Upcoming waste management initiatives are highlighted in Attachment 2, Waste Management Program Development 2019-2021.

To continue the development of the WDP, the Administration has identified five key objectives to be completed in 2019.

1. Establish the vision, strategic framework and objectives of a zero waste future for Saskatoon.

As a member of the National Zero Waste Council (NZWC), the City is collaborating with government, industry and community groups to support long-term waste prevention in Canada. Through this objective the City will begin to define its role and priorities for achieving zero waste.

2. Research and community engagement on waste reduction

Waste reduction research and community engagement will focus on three goals identified in the ICI Waste Diversion Strategy:

- i. Single use item reduction;
- ii. Reduce food waste and increase reclamation; and

- iii. The municipal role in enabling a circular economy.
3. Expand and clarify waste management Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

This will include developing waste diversion targets for each sector and reviewing indicators to ensure that waste diversion and waste reduction progress towards zero waste, and that greenhouse gas emission reductions are all being measured. As these KPI's are developed, data availability will also be assessed.
4. Standardize waste management symbols and terminology.

Building upon the City's existing education and outreach material, the Administration will research industry best practices and engage with residents and businesses to develop standardized waste management terminology to create a common language. The new standard will be used in all communications related to waste management and will be made available to institutions, businesses and civic partners.
5. Develop a process to continually review and update the plan based on research, public and corporate feedback and changes in the solid waste industry.

The WDP will include a review process to identify and prioritize new initiatives. By staying attentive to factors that impact waste management, such as industry best practices, technological changes, and the makeup of Saskatoon's waste, the Administration will be able to engage residents to understand their level of support of potential new initiatives and changes to existing programs. This information will be used to update the short term deliverables in the WDP.

Further details on the 2019 objectives are included in Attachment 3, Waste Diversion Plan – 2019 Objectives.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

A Waste Diversion engagement plan was developed in 2017 to support the development of the WDP. Since then, engagement has occurred by sector. Curbside and multi-unit residential engagement took place in 2018 and have been reported to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services. ICI engagement is being planned and will be reported in conjunction with a recommended program by the end of 2019. Additional engagement may occur by initiative and will be further informed by the biannual Waste Awareness and Behaviour Survey.

Communication Plan

Communication strategies were developed in 2017 to support community engagement related to the WDP. The goals of the strategies were to generate ownership, involve residents and get broad public support for the final decisions reached by Mayor and City Council. Communications initiatives have been coordinated with sector specific

engagement. A communications plan specific to the work outlined in this report will be developed in conjunction with the recommendation report planned for Q3 2019.

Financial Implications

Capital Project #2184 – Waste Characterization, contains sufficient funding for the 2019 Waste Characterization Study which is estimated at \$105,000, and bi-annual Waste Awareness and Behaviour Survey estimated at \$30,000. The 2019 Waste Characterization Study has additional support funding of \$60,000 from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund. This project requires no new resources. Staff resources are available to complete the scope of work within the time frame indicated in Attachment 3.

Environmental Implications

The WDP can move the City towards its goals of diverting 70% of waste from the Landfill by 2023. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions implications and other environmental protection measures will be estimated and reported on as the WDP is developed.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations. Any future implications will be brought forward to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services in future reports on the WDP or specific waste diversion or reduction initiatives.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

Recommendations resulting from the work outlined in this report will be provided to the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services in the third quarter of 2019, along with a plan for engagement and next steps.

Budget implications will be brought forward for the 2020/2021 Multi-Year Business Plan and Budget.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachments

1. Waste Management Program Development 2017-2018
2. Waste Management Program Development 2019-2021
3. Waste Diversion Plan – 2019 Objectives

Report Approval

Written by: Ben Brodie, Sustainability
Reviewed by: Amber Weckworth, Manager of Education & Environmental Performance
Jeanna South, A/Director of Sustainability

Waste Diversion Plan Update

Approved by: Dan Willems, A/Chief Strategy & Transformation Officer

Admin Report - Waste Diversion Plan Update.docx