

Bryant, Shellie

From: City Council
Sent: January 25, 2019 11:02 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Form submission from: Write a Letter to Council

Submitted on Friday, January 25, 2019 - 11:01
Submitted by anonymous user: 71.17.105.254
Submitted values are:

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019
To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council
First Name: Michelle
Last Name: Elliott
Email:
Address: ██████████ 5th Ave N
City: Saskatoon
Province: Saskatchewan
Postal Code: ██████████
██████████ or agency you are representing (if applicable):
Subject: City-wide Organics Program
Meeting (if known):
Comments:
Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the cancellation of the waste-utility program and the potential delay of the city-wide organics/compost plan. I realize these programs are expensive and difficult/complicated to implement, but it is essential that we make these moves immediately, or at least lay the ground work to make roll-out simpler in the coming years. We cannot delay much longer with the current state of our environment; we must prioritize taking steps now that consider the impact that a deteriorated global climate will have on the next generation. It may not seem like what our Municipal Government does will have that great of an effect, but I believe it creates great ripples, setting precedence for other cities of our size around Canada, and the world. It may not make a lot of fiscal sense, which is likely what many Councillors are focusing on right now... but we must lay the framework to make waste-reduction the norm.

I was really excited about the waste-utility model that was proposed... I know it would have made people think twice about purchasing products with excess packaging, and would begin to shift consumer habits which could help direct an overall change in the industry in Canada if not the world. It would make people "think before they throw" because the 'catch-all' garbage bin would not have as much space to 'catch all' depending on what the resident would be willing to pay for. While I did have my concerns about the increase it would likely cause in cases of illegal dumping, especially in Multi-Unit recycling bins, I think overall a significant and visible change in the way waste is collected would have been greatly beneficial in causing more Saskatoon residents to pay attention to the waste stream. I for one would be glad to pay less to use the smallest garbage receptacle.

Next up, organics. I've seen the most recent reports. We are sending far too much organic 'waste' to the landfill. And that is frankly a huge waste, as well as a detriment to both our Ozone and a risk factor for our ground water, as the methane and leachate are incredibly potent and toxic.

I've appreciated the subscription based Green Cart program (I use my parents' bin), but realize not everyone in the city is excited to have a green bin. I would argue that many do not realize the harm of throwing organics into their garbage bin, where it then is compressed in the landfill to breakdown in an anaerobic (air-starved) state, unable to properly decompose in order to produce nutrient rich compost. Instead, the outcome is methane (30 times more potent than CO₂) or leachate. Simply talk to one of the Compost Coaches here in Saskatoon to find out more (in fact, I was trained as one two years ago and it has really changed my view on our waste system!)

I know there has been a lot of push back about adding a mandatory new green bin to all single-unit dwellings. So, I would say if people can prove they already have a working compost setup, or some other way to deal with their organic waste, then they do not have to take the green bin.

I think those living in apartments, condos or townhouses without yard space for a compost to deal with their food scraps should have options for where to take their organics. Perhaps some community drop off spots?

More importantly than these residential programs, however, is the need for an ICI program. Businesses and institutions produce tonnes (literally) of waste, and they should be held responsible. Please create a mandatory recycling bylaw for businesses, and at the very least start with a cardboard ban in the landfill, as this causes a huge output of methane.

Thank you for reading, and I hope you will make a good decision regarding the organics program on Monday. The time to move forward is now.

Sincerely,

Michelle Elliott

Attachments:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:

<https://www.saskatoon.ca/node/398/submission/277518>