

Additional Information on Landfill Costs and Diversion Impacts

Financial and Diversion Impacts of Delayed Curbside Organics Implementation

The current waste diversion rate is 22.8%. A citywide curbside organics program is anticipated to reduce the amount of organics going to landfill from the residential black carts by 15,000 tonnes (low estimate) to 22,000 tonnes (high estimate), thereby increasing the waste diversion rate to a value between 31% and 35%. If a citywide curbside organics program or any other waste diversion options are not implemented, the waste diversion rate is anticipated to remain at approximately 23%.

The earliest that a citywide program could be implemented is in the spring of 2021. For every year that a citywide curbside organics program is delayed, the following is a summary of expected implications.

- A loss of landfill airspace ranging from 15,000 to 22,000 tonnes per year. This is the equivalent of \$1.1 to \$1.6M per year based on the landfill airspace valuation.
- The current volume of organics in black carts represent greenhouse gas emissions of approximately 12,000 to 17,000 tonnes CO₂e per year. These annual emissions are avoided when organics are composted or processed outside of a landfill.
- Potential delays to multi-family and ICI organics program development could occur while implementing the curbside organics program. Industry best practice is to roll organics programs out to the curbside sector first since yard waste is usually higher in this sector and since municipalities generally provide collection services for curbside customers but not all multi-unit or commercial customers.
- There are potential impacts to organics processing. For example, delays in implementing an external processing facility would result in additional costs and footprint to operate the existing compost depots, provided the same service level is maintained.