



**PUBLIC AGENDA
SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, November 9, 2017, 11:30 a.m.
Committee Room A, Second Floor, City Hall
Committee Members:**

**Ms. K. Aikens, Chair
Mr. B. Sawatzky, Vice-Chair
Ms. E. Akins
Ms. A. Bugg
Ms. K. Engele-Carter
Ms. A. Garg
Councillor S. Gersher
Ms. S. Harrison
Mr. S. Homenick
Dr. D. McGrane
Ms. K. Palmer**

Pages

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

Recommendation

That the agenda be confirmed as presented.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Recommendation

That the minutes of meeting held October 12, 2017, be adopted.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR [CK. 175-9]

Verbal Update - B. Sawatzky, A/Chair

Recommendation

That the information be received.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE [CK. 375-4]

The Subcommittee will provide a verbal update on its recommendation for selection of an individual or organization to fulfill a contract related to climate change and public engagement.

Recommendation

That the Committee provide direction.

9. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Environmental & Corporate Initiatives [CK. 7550-1]

Verbal Update - B. Wallace

Recommendation

That the information be received.

9.2 Update on City Council Strategic Priority Areas: Environmental Sustainability [CK.116-1, x 7550-1]

4 - 11

The attached report drafted by Councillors Gersher and Loewen, dated October 16, 2017, is being forwarded to the Committee for its information.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

10. STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURES [CK. 1704-5]

12 - 12

Attached for the Committee's information is a current Statement of Expenditures for October, 2017.

Recommendation

That the information be received.

11. COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE [CK. 175-9]

The Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee meets on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m., with the exception of July, August, and December.

The following dates are being proposed for 2018:

- January 11
- February 8

- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8

Recommendation

That the meeting dates for the Saskatoon Environmental Advisory Committee for 2018 be approved.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Update on City Council Strategic Priority Areas: Environmental Sustainability

Recommendation

That the information be received.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the members of the Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) with an update on the progress that has been made in regards to City Council's strategic priority area, Environmental Sustainability.

Background

- On April 24, 2017, City Council formally adopted a new leadership model in which each member took on a leadership role for one of ten strategic areas.
- The ten strategic areas are Community Safety and Wellness, Core Services, Downtown Development, Economic Development, Environmental Sustainability, Information Technology, Reconciliation, Inclusion and Diversity, Recreation, Culture and Leisure, Regional Planning, and Transportation.

Report

Strategic Area Process

On August 28, 2017 City Council supported two significant areas highlighted as priorities within environmental sustainability. The two areas were waste diversion and greenhouse gas reduction. City Council is prioritizing transforming our position as one of the highest emitters of greenhouse gasses to a model city of innovation in energy conservation, renewables, and waste diversion.

Councillor Sarina Gersher and Councillor Mairin Loewen have been leading this strategic area. Regular monthly meetings have been set up with members of Administration dedicated to topics of sustainability. These meetings have been very helpful and have allowed Councillors Gersher and Loewen to work with Administration towards achieving strategic goals adopted by City Council in the area of Environmental Sustainability.

There have been many reports generated on this broad topic since the adoption of City Council's priority areas. As such, this report is an opportunity to highlight the decisions that have been made at City Council and the decisions that are yet to be made regarding waste diversion and greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste Diversion

City Council has set the target of achieving a waste diversion rate of 70% from the landfill by 2023, and the current waste diversion rate is 21.8%. This has been identified as a priority for many reasons: the large capital and operational costs associated with building a new landfill; the fact that recyclable, compostable, repairable, and reusable

materials end up in the landfill; and the fact that Saskatoon has the second lowest waste diversion rate amongst large Canadian cities.

The following items have been approved by City Council:

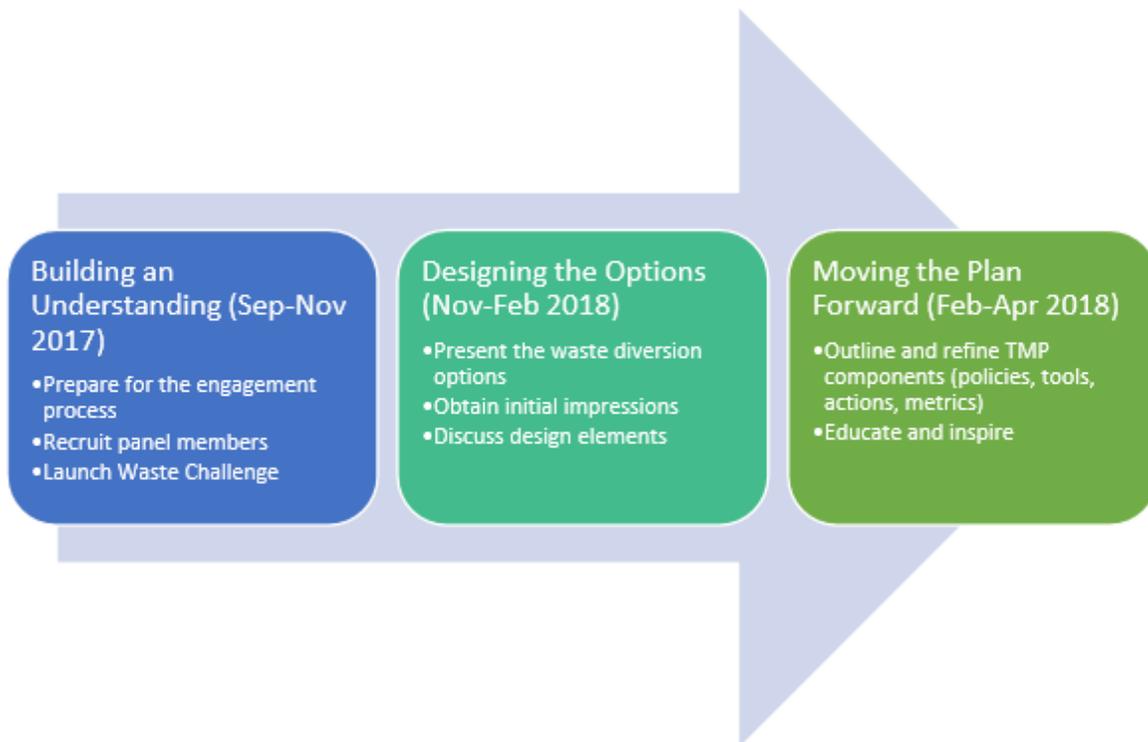
- Waste Characterization Study (February 27, 2017)
 - This report provides a preliminary summary of the 2016 comprehensive, community-wide Waste Characterization Study.
 - An estimate of the total solid waste in Saskatoon (including private waste disposal and recycling) indicated that 66% was being generated by businesses and organizations in the Industrial, Commercial, Institutional (ICI) sector and 34% is generated by residential properties.
 - The Waste Characterization Study indicated that 77% of waste sampled in residential black carts could be diverted from the landfill if new programs for diversion are made available.
 - On average, a single-family household puts 15.6 kg of waste in their black cart each week, and multi-family household generates 7.2 kg. The biggest percentage of this (58% and 40% respectively) is organic, mostly food waste.
- Waste Opportunities (May 23, 2017)
 - This report highlighted that the Waste Diversion Plan should focus on organics, ICI sector and solid waste as a utility.
 - Another useful report presented May 23, 2017 to City Council was the Waste Management Master Plan – State of Waste. This report outlined Administration’s intentions to improve the current state of waste management in Saskatoon.
- Waste as a Utility
 - June 26, 2017
 - City Council instructed Administration to investigate a new business model for waste services that includes a waste utility;
 - It was also decided that the report about front-street garbage and recycling collection should be considered along with the other factors surround the Waste as a Utility, and this report was therefore deferred.
 - Environmental benefits of an expanded waste utility include waste reduction, increased waste diversion, and user accountability.
 - Social benefits can be achieved, such as improved convenience and user friendliness, safety, and environmental compliance
 - Financial benefits are achieved such as improved transparency of the true costs of waste management and landfilling and greater security and sustainability for the municipality.

- August 28, 2017
 - City Council directed the Administration to continue to develop a program to expand the Waste Services Utility to include variable-pricing options; and
 - That the Administration engage citizens and stakeholders on variable-pricing options based on the information presented in this report, and report back in the first quarter of 2018 with a proposed design and timeline for implementation for a utility model.
 - Affordability and responsiveness to citizen ability to pay are among the values established by City Council and will be considered in the design of any future waste utility.
 - A successful waste diversion program is critical to deferring the closure of the landfill. The costs to close the existing landfill and establish a new landfill are estimated at \$26 million and \$100 million respectively, in addition to increases in operational costs.
- September 25, 2018
 - City Council voted that the waste handling funding gap decision be deferred to the 2018 decision on waste utility options; and
 - That all other service level changes for waste handling be considered during development and implementation of waste utility options.
- Organics (August 28, 2017)
 - City Council supported a decision to research and develop a city-wide organics program for the Residential, Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional sectors.
 - 32% of Saskatoon's total landfilled waste is organics (food and yard waste); this includes 36,600 tonnes from residential sources and 41,700 tonnes from Industrial, Institutional, or Commercial Sources.
 - 58% of material collected in black carts at the curbside in Saskatoon is organic, presenting an excellent diversion opportunity.
 - Saskatoon is one of only two cities with no city-wide Curbside Collection Program for yard waste and one of only five without a Food Waste Collection Program (out of 30 Canadian cities with populations greater than 150,000).
- Recovery Park (August 28, 2017)
 - City Council approved that a Request for Proposals be issued for specialized design services for the scale house and occupied buildings associated with Recovery Park.

- Communications and Engagement
 - On June 26, 2017 approval was granted by City Council that an RFP would be issued for an external engagement consultant to develop an overarching engagement strategy and the necessary individual engagement plans, facilitation, and coordination of time-sensitive engagement activities. The scope of work will include engagement activities, engagement program design, and providing expertise regarding specialized services such as online engagement technology. At the same time, Administration will begin to build internal engagement capacity by hiring an Engagement Consultant.

The following items will be sent to City Council for approval:

- Communications and Engagement
 - City Council will be receiving a report on October 23, 2017 that outlines the communications and engagement strategies for Waste Diversion and Climate Change and the attached timelines for community engagement and follow up with City Council. Highlights include:
 - The Waste Diversion Plan will provide a roadmap for the City of Saskatoon's waste management programs including analysis of financing options, changes to the Waste Bylaw, collection frequency, disposal bans, recycling options, city-wide organics, data management, and community education and awareness. Communications will be developed to explain these potential changes in a manner that supports community dialogue and provides clarity on what is possible.
 - Community reference panel where a representative sample of 40-50 citizens are recruited to participate in design workshops to fully explore alternative service options and their implications.
 - Phase One: Pre-Engagement campaign (1 month – October 2017). The 30-day Waste Challenge launched on October 2, 2017.
 - Phase Two– Engagement (1-2 months – starting January 2018). Communications to alert residents to opportunities to engage in a discussion on waste diversion might include radio announcements, billboards and signage.
 - Phase Three – Reporting/Data Analysis (1-2 months – starting March 2018). Gather and analyze data needed to inform future planning. Communications will focus on reporting outcomes, 'what we heard', and how the City plans to continue engagement in the future.



- Waste as a Utility
 - SPC EUCS will be recommending to City Council on October 23, 2017 that through the Waste Utility consultation, the Administration engage with relevant stakeholders such as senior and disability services organizations as well as the Saskatoon Accessibility Advisory Committee to address accessibility needs as well as any updates required to the Special Needs Garbage Collection Service; and
 - That use of Reserves be considered as one of the financial options for any capital investment for the new waste service levels.
- Landfill Replacement Reserve (LRR)
 - The financial implications of having perpetually underfunding the LRR can be reviewed under the May 23, 2017 report titled “Waste Management Master Plan – State of Waste”.
- ICI Sector
 - A report is expected to go to SPC EUCS in November 2017 to highlight waste diversion opportunities in the ICI sector.

There are still many decisions that will need to be made before the successful implementation of the waste utility, and we will provide further information about upcoming decision points and timelines in future updates. As this debate proceeds, our focus will be ensuring that any changes to our waste services delivery model produce a higher waste diversion rate while offering convenient options to residents.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

City Council recently adopted targets of reducing corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2014 levels by 2050, and interim targets for both corporate and community reductions were set for 2023. The administration is preparing an opportunities report to ascertain where improvements can be made most effectively and feasibly.

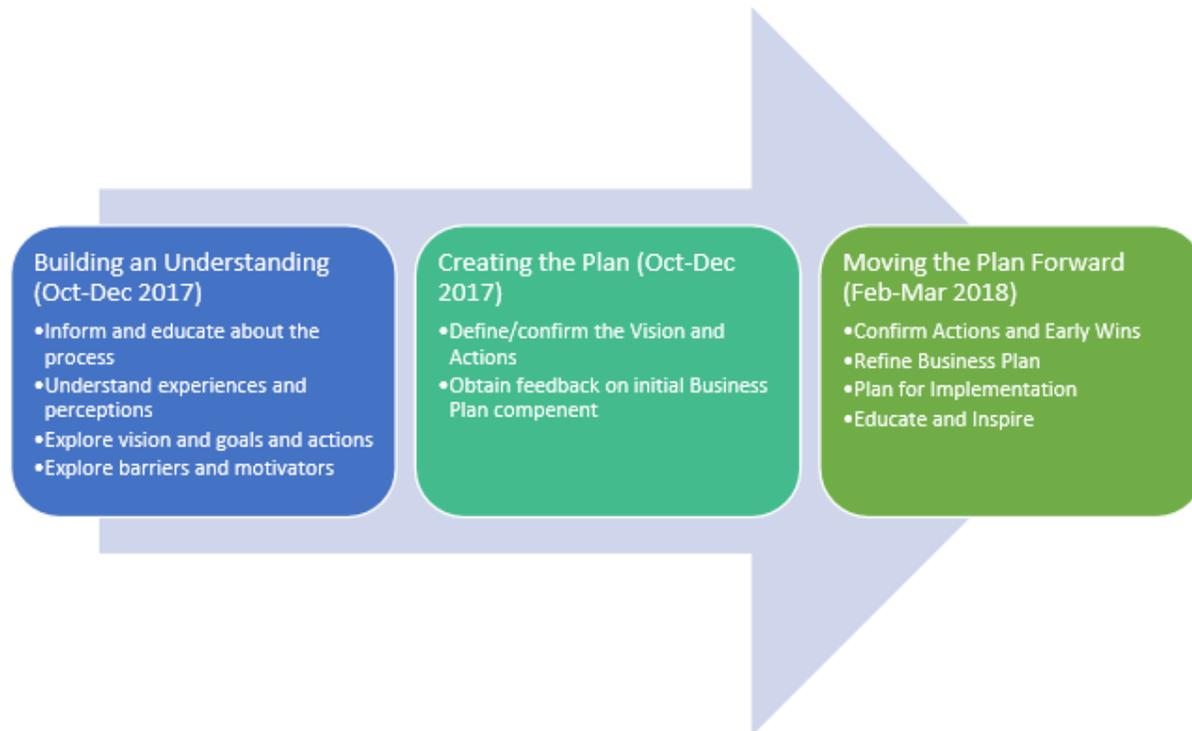
The following items have been approved by City Council:

- Saskatoon Greenhouse Gas Emissions Targets (June 26, 2017)
 - That the greenhouse gas emissions reduction target for the City of Saskatoon (corporate) be adjusted to utilize 2014 as the base year, specifically, a reduction of 40% below 2014 levels by 2023; and a reduction of 80% below 2014 levels by 2050;
 - That incremental targets be set every five years after 2023 and that there be yearly reporting to City Council on progress in relation to the City of Saskatoon's corporate target; and
 - That the community-wide greenhouse gas emissions of 15% below 2014 levels by 2023; and a reduction of 80% below 2014 levels by 2050.
- Communications and Engagement
 - On June 26, 2017 City Council approved the issuance of an RFP for an external engagement consultant to develop an overarching engagement strategy. The scope of work will include engagement activities, engagement program design, and providing expertise regarding specialized services such as online engagement. At the same time, Administration will begin to build internal engagement capacity by hiring an Engagement Consultant.
- Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan (September 25, 2017)
 - A mitigation action plan is required to maintain compliance with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy Agreement, which will be delivered through the Climate Change Mitigation Business Plan.
 - This plan that will enable City Council to meet its greenhouse gas reduction targets; and will act as Saskatoon's action plan document.
- Vehicle Idling Bylaw Implications (June 26, 2017)
 - City Council voted that the Administration undertake preliminary engagement of residents;
 - That further public consultation be referred to the climate change mitigation business plan for engagement plan development; and
 - That the Administration undertake preliminary engagement of primary stakeholders, including educational and health institutions, to gauge initial impressions and feedback on any proposed private vehicle idling

initiatives. Any budget implications should be included in the 2018 Business Plan and Budget deliberations.

The following items will be sent to City Council on October 23, 2017 for approval:

- Communications and Engagement
 - City Council will be receiving a report on October 23, 2017 that outlines the communications and engagement strategies for Waste Diversion and Climate Change and the attached timelines for community engagement and follow up with City Council. Highlights include:
 - Administration is developing a communications strategy that will focus on building public awareness and participation in climate change mitigation activities. Rather than focusing on opportunities for individual action, communications will encourage Saskatoon residents and businesses to work together to build a plan for mitigating the impact of climate change. The tone of the campaign will remain upbeat, interesting, and fun, focussing on collective responsibility, successes, benefits, and showcasing collaboration and partnerships. The core message will demonstrate that it's time for the community of Saskatoon to take action, and encourage stakeholders to get involved in engagement activities.
 - Community reference panel where a representative sample of 40-50 citizens are recruited to participate in design workshops to fully explore alternative service options and their implications.
 - Phase One: Pre-Engagement Campaign (1 month – fall 2017). Activities will focus on launching communications. The goal is to prepare the community for change and ask businesses, institutions, industry, and residents to get involved.
 - Phase Two – Support Engagement (1-2 months – winter 2017). Communications will relate directly to supporting GHG mitigation engagement activities.
 - Phase Three – Reporting/Data Analysis (1-2 months – winter 2017). Gather and analyze data needed to inform future planning. Communications will focus on reporting outcomes, 'what we heard', and how the City plans to continue engagement in the future.



Conclusion

City Council has set ambitious targets relating to environmental sustainability and Saskatoon has tremendous potential to make significant strides and show leadership in this area.

The vision for the future of waste management in Saskatoon includes ensuring services are convenient for citizens, provide long-term affordability and financial viability, and promote stronger diversion of waste from landfilling and improved environmental outcomes.

With respect to greenhouse gas emissions, there is an opportunity to leverage the creativity of citizens, local businesses and industry partners to achieve a variety of community benefits.

Both major initiatives will involve working with concerned stakeholders and the general public in order to effect the changes desired by City Council.

This report has been drafted and submitted to the Governance and Priorities Committee by Councillors Gersher and Loewen.

01-5536-103 - SASKATOON ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 2017 BUDGET - \$6,800								
DATE	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE	GL	TOTAL SPENT	BUDGET REMAINING
		Beginning Balance						\$6,800
5-Sep-17	21654	Student Action for a Sustainable Future Support (SASF) 2017/2018	1,800.00		1,800.00		1,800.00	5,000.00
27-Oct-17	201	Unite Digital Marketing Cooperative - SEAC Promotional Support - Climate Change Awareness	2297.70		2297.70		2297.70	2702.30
		Total					4,097.70	

2017 Budget		
Student Action for a Sustainable Future (SASF) program		1,800
Public Education/Information Gathering		5,000
2017 Total		6,800
2017 Forecast		6,800
2017 Forecasted Variance		0
2017 Actuals		
2017 Budget		6,800
2017 Variance (Under)		-6800