

# Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan – 2024-2025 Work Plan

## ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon's (City) Strategic Plan: 2022-2025 includes the Environmental Leadership outcome that "solid waste diversion is maximized, and landfill operations optimized". The Key Action identified to achieve this is "Implement actions in the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan within proposed timeframes to achieve 70% diversion from the Saskatoon Landfill".

This report provides the status and next steps for the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan (the Plan) and outlines the 2024-2025 work plan including the operational and capital funding requests that are being developed for consideration during City Council's 2024/25 Business Plan and Budget deliberations.

## BACKGROUND

The Plan was received at the Regular Business Meeting of City Council on January 25, 2021. The next steps section of the Administrative report state:

"A follow-up report is planned in mid-2021 that will provide business cases and financial implications for other immediate and short-term actions in the Plan, in advance of the 2022–2023 multi-year business plan and budget."

The [Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan: Implementation Plan and Funding for 2022-2023](#) report was presented at the Standing Policy Committee for Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services on May 3, 2021, and referred to City Council's 2022/23 Business Plan and Budget deliberations for consideration.

At its February 28, 2022, Regular Business Meeting, City Council in part resolved "That Administration report back in 2023 with a service-level and program strategy for the sustained operation of the ICI waste diversion regulation program to commence in 2024".

At its October 31, 2022 Regular Business Meeting, City Council received the [2023 Waste Reserve Structure and Curbside Organics Program Transition Funding Strategy](#), which in part resolved "That the City Clerk's Office update Policy C03-003 Reserves for Future Expenditures, as identified in this report". The update included amendments to the Waste Minimization Reserve to update funding sources and the appropriate uses of funding, as well as raise the permitted cap on the reserve to \$2M.

## CURRENT STATUS

The Plan provides actions to optimize waste management services and progress the target for 70% diversion from the Saskatoon Landfill. An excerpt of the Plan is included as Appendix 1: The Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Action Summary.

As of May 2023, the status of the 32 actions in the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan were:

- 4 actions were fully completed/operational;
- 2 actions are operational through capital funding;
- 12 actions are currently ongoing capital projects that could begin full or partial operations by the end of 2025;
- 4 projects are currently ongoing capital projects that are not expected to be completed or operational until 2026 or later;
- 5 actions are proposed to start as new projects during 2024-2025, where timelines to operations have not yet been determined; and
- 5 actions are not proposed to start until 2026 or later.

The phasing of the Plan's actions is provided in *Appendix 2 - Status of Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan Actions*.

### DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The 2024-2025 work plan includes actions that are ready to become operational between now and 2025, as well as both ongoing and newly proposed capital projects to develop and implement actions. The actions are organized based on their proposed funding source to align with the types of funding requests that will be made through the 2024-2025 business plan and budget process and include a brief description of the activity planned for 2024-2025. Additional information on each is available in Appendix 3 - Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Plan 2024-2025 Work Plan.

#### New Operating Programs

The following actions are proposed to become operational in 2024-2025 through mill rate, utility programs or user fees.

*Table 1: New Operating Programs*

| Action                                                                                 | Description of 2024-2025 Work Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Requirements for businesses and organizations (ICI) to divert recyclables and organics | The regulation requiring business recycling will be fully phased in by 2024 and the regulation requiring organics for businesses that generate food or yard waste as part of their operations will be transitioning from education to full phase-in by Q4 2024. |
| Material Recovery Centre (Recovery Park)                                               | The Material Recovery Centre will open in Q3 2024 as outlined in the Material Recovery Centre Program Update Report that is scheduled to be heard at SPC on EUCS Committee Meeting on June 6, 2023.                                                             |
| Accessible curbside collections program                                                | The Assisted Collections Program became operational through capital funding in 2023 and will transition to operating in 2024.                                                                                                                                   |

## Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan – 2024-2025 Work Plan

|                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Waste reduction through procurement and specifications | The Triple Bottom Line Program is used City-wide to advance waste reduction and diversion across corporate projects and procurements. It is proposed to transition TBL from capital to operational starting in 2024. |
| Economic incentive tools to support                    | The Variable Rate Black Cart Program is planned for 2024. Additional reporting on implementation and funding is planned throughout 2023.                                                                             |
| Proper Disposal of Elm Wood Waste                      | Enhanced education and communications on proper elm wood waste disposal is required for the protection of one quarter of Saskatoon's urban forest.                                                                   |

### Ongoing Capital and Funded Initiatives

The following funded initiatives are proposed to continue during 2024-2025. Depending on their status, some may utilize capital funding to initiate operations with the intention of seeking ongoing sustaining funding through future budget cycles.

*Table 2: Ongoing Capital and Funded Initiatives*

| Action                                                                                                        | Description of 2024-2025 Work Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vertical landfill gas well installation                                                                       | Work is underway on the horizontal well tie-in and plant upgrades.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Business and organization waste diversion regulation compliance                                               | This project will continue the work initiated in 2023 through the Green Teams 2.0 Implementation project (P.01964.02). It will support corporate environmental sustainability education and action in the workplace. Additional funding is required to continue this capital project to the end of 2025. |
| Compost Depot Review                                                                                          | A review is underway to understand the impact of new programs and City growth on the service levels. Further reporting is planned later in 2023.                                                                                                                                                         |
| Mandatory residential multi-unit organics                                                                     | A pilot project will be launched in 2023 and run through all four seasons. Reporting on results is planned by the end of 2024 that will provide a program recommendation as well as implementation and operation timelines.                                                                              |
| Construction and demolition waste diversion: City of Saskatoon options/Disposal ban at the Saskatoon Landfill | In 2024-2025 this capital project will continue development and implementation of two actions that are being developed in 2023: Construction and demolition waste diversion - City of Saskatoon options and Disposal ban at the Saskatoon Landfill.                                                      |
| Recycling market development for Recovery Park/Recycling depot program review/Provincial                      | Actions in the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan that support the Material Recovery Centre are combined under one project. This project includes: continue the work on recycling market development; create a new capital funding request of                                                      |

|                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| stewardship program review        | \$700,000 to provide funding for new recycling initiatives; and ongoing work on the recycling depot review.                                                                                                             |
| Proper Disposal of Elm Wood Waste | This project will continue the work initiated in 2022 and finish the development and implementation of a program that addresses barriers to proper elm wood disposal and utilize capital funding for initial operation. |

### New Capital Initiatives

The following actions will be initiated as new projects in 2024-2025 pending availability of funding. They are described in Appendix 3 along with estimated costs and funding sources:

- Long-term waste management service and sustainability plan;
- Special/bulky waste program for collection, recycling and disposal;
- Construction and demolition waste diversion: community options;
- Public space and event waste reduction;
- Federal single-use plastic ban and performance standards for plastics;
- Food waste reduction program; and
- 2024 Waste Characterization Study.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct financial implications by receiving this information report.

This report summarizes the Plan's new operational and capital resource requirements, providing estimated costs and possible funding sources in Appendix 3 - Solid Waste Reduction & Diversion Plan 2024-2025 Work Plan. New operating considerations propose a combination of property taxes, utility fees, and user fees, while new capital projects are largely able to be funded by the Waste Minimization Reserve through available Multi-Material Stewardship Western (MMSW) funding.

MMSW funding is available since the City operates residential recycling programs in alignment with *The Household Packaging and Paper Stewardship Program Regulations* and has an agreement with MMSW, the current producer responsibility organization. These regulations were updated in March 2023 and key changes include:

- shifting to a program fully funded and operated by producers;
- adding packaging-like products to the list of designated materials;
- requiring performance targets; and
- phasing in the program over multiple years.

The program plan from the producer responsibility organization(s) is due to the Ministry of Environment on or before September 27, 2023. Engagement with municipalities is required to develop a program plan. After the plan has been approved by the Ministry, the producer responsibility organization will begin its phased-in implementation of the updated product stewardship program. Until a new program plan is approved, the

existing agreement with MMSW remains in place. The full implications on the City's residential recycling programs and funding remain unknown.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Development of the operational and capital projects for the business plan and budget will continue for deliberation in the 2024-2025 multi-year budget as outlined in this report.

Progress on the implementation of the Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan will continue to be reported through the Integrated Waste Management Report and communications, and the Low Emissions Community Plan reporting. An updated work plan will be prepared for 2026-2027 by Q2 2025.

### **APPENDICES**

1. The Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan Action Excerpt
2. Status of Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan Actions
3. Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan 2024-2025 Work Plan

### Report Approval

Written by: Katie Burns, Manager, Community Leadership and Program Development  
Reviewed by: Jeanna South, Director of Sustainability  
Brendan Lemke, Director of Water and Waste Operations  
Approved by: Angela Gardiner, General Manager, Utilities and Environment

Admin Report - Solid Waste Reduction and Diversion Plan – 2024-2025 Work Plan.docx