

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

ORGANICS PILOT PROJECT – FINAL REPORT

Motion:

That Council approve \$35,000 from the Utility Reserve to develop Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan based on the findings of the Organics Pilot Project – Final Report.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to present Council with information on Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan based on the findings from the final report on the Organics Pilot Project.

Background:

Council approved the implementation of the Organics Pilot in April 2014. The objectives of the Pilot were to:

- Review current residential waste collection system;
- Assess resident acceptability and efficiency of cart system;
- Complete a waste audit in the pilot and non-pilot areas; and
- Survey residents to measure interest in a range of waste options.

There were 1,000 homes who participated in the pilot. The pilot was operated in various locations throughout Fort Saskatchewan in order to identify the impact of carts in different residential zones, and those that were serviced by back lanes.

An analysis of the program was completed at the one year anniversary of the pilot. Based on waste sorted, it was obvious that in order for the City to increase its residential waste diversion from the landfill in a meaningful way, organics must be removed from the waste stream.

The consultant undertook a community survey that provided very good data from which we could draw several conclusions. This information would be used to develop a cart based waste collection program, should Council wish to proceed with an implementation plan (Phase II).

Key recommendations in the Report are as follows:

- Expand the cart system throughout the City;
- Implement bi-weekly garbage collection;
- Implement weekly organics collection (bi-weekly in winter);
- Implement weekly recycling collection;
- Reduce organics and recycling bins from 360L to 240L;
- Develop a waste awareness and education program;
- Update the City's Solid Waste Bylaw;
- Implement a system to address extra garbage needs; and
- Undertake a full system cost analysis of the proposed system.

The next step proposed is the development of an Implementation Plan. The proposed Plan is divided into two phases. This will allow Council to review the Plan and the corresponding rate impacts. A waste management consultant, with experience in advancing waste management programs from concept to roll out, will be required to address the City's specific objectives. There are a number of steps that need to be taken in order to ensure a successful implementation. Activities such as drafting a waste bylaw, waste collection contracts that support the new system, a full cost analysis of the new system to ensure the utility rate structure is sustainable, and the development of a communications and an education plan would be essential to the success of the new program.

Financial Implications:

It is estimated that the cost of Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan would be \$35,000. This proposed funding would be expended from the Utility Reserve, which has an uncommitted balance of \$243,000 as of June 30, 2015. Additional funding will be necessary to address Phase II of the plan, should Council wish to proceed.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

2014-2017 Strategic Plan:

- Goal 3.7: Review results from the pilot program for curbside collection and implement a city-wide program based on the findings.

Community Sustainability Plan:

- Principle C: Stewardship of the Environment...committed to an ethic of environmental stewardship.
- Principle D: Using our resources wisely....We focus on such practices.....creating new products and services from waste.

Alternatives:

1. That Council approve \$35,000 from the Utility Reserve to develop Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan based on the findings of the Organics Pilot Project – Final Report.
2. That Council not direct Administration to develop Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan, and advise how they wish to proceed.

Recommendation:

That Council approve \$35,000 from the Utility Reserve to develop Phase I of the Waste Management Implementation Plan based on the findings of the Organics Pilot Project – Final Report.

Attachments:

Appendix A - Organics Pilot Project Final Report

Prepared by:	Ian Gray Director, Infrastructure Management	Date: July 2, 2015
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager, Infrastructure and Community Services	Date: July 8, 2015
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: July 8, 2015
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: July 14, 2015