

Corporate Report

REPORT NUMBER	193-2024-Infrastructure, Development & Operations-Environment	
DATE PREPARED	May 22, 2024	FILE
MEETING DATE	June 3, 2024	
SUBJECT	Solid Waste Management Strategy Annual Update	

RECOMMENDATION

For information only.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This Report directly supports the Sustainability Pillar in the 2023-2027 Maamawe, Growing Together Corporate Strategic Plan, to plan and deliver cost-effective services. Planned 2024 Solid Waste Strategy Objectives include Blue Box Program Transition and continued implementation work on the Food and Organic Waste Diversion (Green Bin) Program and Automated Cart Based Collection.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the progress made implementing the Solid Waste Management Strategy (SWMS) in 2023 and identifies key planned objectives for 2024.

DISCUSSION

City Council approved the SWMS in principle in 2014. The SWMS is a blueprint that provides strategic direction for managing residential, multi-residential and Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector waste management activities. It established a practical and sustainable policy framework for solid waste management in the City of Thunder Bay over the short, medium and long-term planning periods.

As Administration continues to work towards implementing the SWMS, the following outlines the progress made in 2023 and key planned objectives for 2024:

2023 Progress

Food and Organic (Green Bin) Waste Diversion – Program Implementation Work

Since Council approval of the mandated Food and Organic Waste (Green Bin) Program, work has continued towards implementing the recommendations for program rollout. Key objectives achieved in 2023 consisted of finalizing a procurement strategy for securing an aerobic processing solution for the City's Green Bin waste and development of an Expressions of Interest (EOI).

Automated Cart Based Collection – Program Implementation Work

Supply chain issues are still causing delays across the industry when it comes to the procurement of waste collection vehicles. A key objective achieved in 2023 was awarding a Tender to secure the required residential waste collection vehicles to accommodate auto-cart technology and co-collection of garbage and Green Bin waste for program roll-out. Council approved the Tender award on September 11, 2023 and the current estimated delivery is now the spring of 2025.

Blue Box Program Transition

On June 3, 2021, the Province approved the Blue Box Regulation *O.Reg.391/21*. The regulation removes the responsibility to operate Blue Box (blue bag) recycling programs from municipalities and instead makes the Producers of blue box materials directly responsible for the operation and financing of the programs and outcomes established in the regulation. Communities transition their Blue Box (blue bag) programs between 2023-2025. The City of Thunder Bay has a transition date of July 1, 2024, to comply with the regulation.

Work continued in 2023 with Producer's and the City's current service provider to ensure a smooth transition of services.

Solid Waste (Landfill) Financial Plan – Update

Council approved an updated 20-year Solid Waste (Landfill) Financial Plan in 2023. As part of the updated Plan, special tipping fee rate agreements were introduced for waste haulers that bring in a minimum tonnage of waste annually to the Landfill Site effective January 1, 2024, and city waste packers and all other city operations will now be charged the applicable tipping fee rate at the Landfill Site for measured tonnage over the scale effective January 1, 2027. The goal of the updated Plan was to achieve full cost recovery from all users that cross the scale at the Landfill site.

2024 Key Objectives

Food and Organic (Green Bin) Waste Diversion – Continued Program Implementation

To issue an Expression of Interest (EOI) and Request for Proposal (RFP) to award and secure an aerobic processing solution for the City's Green Bin waste. This is a complex undertaking to develop the documents, select and award an appropriate solution. To date the EOI procurement piece has been completed.

Automated Cart Based Collection – Continued Program Implementation

To complete a route assessment analysis to identify challenging/problematic collection areas and come up with solutions to ensure safe and efficient collection of automated carts on city streets for garbage and Green Bin waste. Another key objective is to Tender and secure the required automated collection carts for both garbage and Green Bin waste for residential households. The supply chain issues related to the delivery of the required waste collection vehicles could delay the start date of the Green Bin program beyond 2025. Administration will be communicating and providing status updates to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on program roll-out.

Blue Box Program Transition - Implementation

The City of Thunder Bay will, in accordance with *O. Reg 391/21*, transition its residential Blue Box (blue bag) recycling program to full producer responsibility on July 1, 2024. Circular Materials (CM) will manage the program after July 1, 2024 and have contracted GFL (the City's current recycling service provider) to continue providing Blue Box collection services to City residents after transition. GFL will be implementing a new automated recycling cart system effective July 1, 2024 in which blue bags will no longer be accepted.

Multi residential households (i.e. apartments) will also be switching over to a new collection system, where buildings will be assessed to move to either cart based or front-end bin collection services.

Administration has partnered with CM on some promotion and education initiatives and is currently working with both CM and GFL to support a successful transition of services.

Leaf and Yard Waste Curbside Collection – Expansion

Council approved starting in 2024, the expansion of the curbside leaf and yard waste collection program from two to three collections annually. The expanded program is part of the approved Food and Organic Waste (Green Bin) Program Implementation Plan and the least expensive option to partially meet the 50% diversion requirement for Green Bin waste. The additional collection in 2024 will take place in the fall and a multi-

media promotion and education campaign will be utilized to get the message out to the community.

Waste Reduction Trends

As Administration continues to implement components of the SWMS, positive results in overall waste reduction in the community have been realized. The table below summarizes waste reduction trends from the last five reporting years:

Waste Reduction Trends 2019-2023:

Description	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total residential waste generated (Metric Tonnes)	46,004	48,505	47,641	45,928	45,240
Total residential waste diverted (Metric Tonnes)	12,204	12,233	11,697	12,202	12,352
% of residential solid waste diverted from landfill	27%	25%	25%	26%	27%

It should be noted the City saw an increase in the amount of residential waste generated between 2020-2021 due to Covid-19, which negatively affected our waste diversion rate. Figures for 2022 and 2023 are trending back to a more historic normal.

LINK TO EARTHCARE SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The initiatives identified support numerous actions within the Waste section of the EarthCare Sustainability Plan.

The EarthCare Objective A, Corporate Action A “Develop and implement a Solid Waste Management Strategy (SWMS) for the next 20 years”.

The EarthCare Objective A, Corporate Action B “Recover the costs of waste from those creating the waste. (Follow the Extended Producer Responsibility model for managing waste as per provincial guidelines)”

The EarthCare Objective A, Corporate Action C “Maintain and promote provincial waste minimization programs”

The EarthCare Objective E, Corporate Action A “Increase the amount of household hazardous waste diverted by maintaining and developing new programs to increase accessibility of diversion programs”

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

The costs associated with program development work outlined in this report are accounted for in the 2024 Solid Waste and Recycling Services Capital and Operating Budgets.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that this report should be received for information and the objectives identified will be implemented as outlined in this report.

BACKGROUND

At the April 7, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting, a resolution was passed relative to Report No. 2014.017 (Roads) – Solid Waste Management Strategy requesting that Administration report back to Council on an annual basis on the progress of the Solid Waste Management Strategy.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ATTACHED

None.

REPORT PREPARED BY

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REPORT SIGNED AND VERIFIED BY

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05/24/2024