

What did City Council approve at its June 13 Council meeting regarding the establishment of a curbside recycling program for Saskatoon?

City Council approved the following:

- that a city curbside recycling program be mandatory;
- that the funding required for the first seven year contract be \$29 million dollars;
- that a Request For Proposals (RFP) document be developed for recycling service from the private sector including:
 - the entire city receive the same service from the same contractor that could be made up of more than one company/organization;
 - a requirement for proposals to include both collections and processing;
 - that glass not be a part of a curbside program;
- that the 'No Harm' to Cosmo directive would mean providing 7800 tonnes of unsorted recyclable fibre materials to the end of their contract with the City in 2018. Council resolved to establish a task force to examine work opportunities for residents with disabilities in Saskatoon.

What does mandatory curbside recycling mean?

Mandatory curbside recycling means the program will serve street-oriented residential properties (including single family homes and townhomes). In other words, if the residential property is currently serviced by a City-supplied 100-gallon or 65-gallon waste container, it will be provided with a container (or containers) for recycling under a mandatory curbside program.

A program for residents living in other types of residential properties (such as apartments and apartment-style condominiums) will be discussed by City Council in the Fall of 2011. At this time, recycling from businesses and institutions has not been discussed.

What happens next?


A draft RFP will be brought forward to the Executive Committee meeting on July 11, 2011. If approved by Council on July 13, the RFP will be issued and responses solicited from private companies and organizations by the Fall of 2011. Once evaluated by a technical committee, the results will be reported to City Council for consideration of an award of contract. Once a contract has been successfully negotiated, the time-lines for the launch of the residential curbside recycling service will be established.

When will the City's mandatory curbside recycling program start?

A City-sponsored residential curbside recycling service will not be operational until 2012 (likely mid year). Until the program is implemented, the status quo will remain in place.

What types of materials will be included in the mandatory curbside recycling program?

The material that will be collected by the mandatory curbside recycling program will be determined once the successful bid for the Recycling RFP is accepted. The City's emphasis is on achieving the maximum range of materials with the exception of household glass (eg. pickle jars, jam jars, etc).

Typical materials expected for inclusion in the program are papers, cardboard, box-board (cereal boxes), tin cans, milk jugs, aluminum and plastic beverage containers, plastic shopping bags and other plastic containers having a recycling symbol and a number inside (eg. ).

How much will mandatory curbside recycling cost?

While a budget has been approved, the actual costs will only be confirmed once a contract has been successfully negotiated. The budget for the first year of the mandatory curbside recycling program is \$4.24 per household per month.

How will residents pay for mandatory curbside recycling?

City Council resolved in January of this year to have Administration provide a report on the implications of a waste utility in Saskatoon. There are numerous options and each affect property owners differently. The report will try to explain these various scenarios with the intent of helping Council in their decision on how to fund future services and programming.

How will the City make sure that recyclables picked up at the curb are actually recycled?

The Recycling RFP will contain specific performance standards that must be achieved, along with thorough monitoring, auditing and reporting requirements required to be in place to ensure contractor(s) are achieving a high level of environmental performance. The RFP will also request qualifications and experience from proponents, and this will include the location and/or quality of their re-sale markets.

Will curbside recycling extend the life of the current landfill and why is that important?

Yes it will extend the landfill's life. The more we divert from the landfill, the longer the landfill remains functional in its current location. Finding a new landfill site, constructing it, staffing it, and meeting all the environmental regulations is time consuming and expensive. Closed landfills also remain an expense as they must be monitored and maintained. There is also the issue that a new landfill would be much further away from Saskatoon than the current site with increases trucking costs and greenhouse gas emissions.

What happens to the existing depots?

The recycling depot program will continue to operate after the establishment of a mandatory curbside recycling program.

Today there are 78 recycling depots in Saskatoon. Six of these are owned and maintained by the City of Saskatoon. These are located at:

1. Lawson Heights Mall – 134 Primrose Drive
2. University Heights Recycle Centre - Lowe Road
3. Lakewood Civic Centre – 1635 McKercher Dr
4. City of Saskatoon Landfill – Dundonald Avenue, 1.1 km south of 11th Street
5. Meadowgreen Recycle Depot – corner of 22nd Street W and Witney Avenue
6. Edmonton Avenue & Avenue P Recycle Depot

The remaining depots are managed by Cosmopolitan Industries, but the City collects the materials from these depots and delivers it to Cosmo.

What is the intent of the City's 'no-harm' to Cosmopolitan Industries?

The intent of the 'no-harm' to Cosmopolitan Industries policy is to ensure that Cosmo continues to receive 7800 tonnes of unsorted recyclable fibre materials through to the end of the term of its Agreement in 2018.

There are many sources in Saskatoon for recyclable fibre materials (including newspapers, flyers, inserts, office paper, cardboard, and box-board). Over the last few years Cosmopolitan Industries has received between 6500 and 7800 tonnes of fibre per year from the depot program and additional tonnes of fibre from its work with businesses and institutions.

What have been the results of the Cosmo-City partnership through the depot program?

Cosmopolitan Industries sorts, bales, and markets the fibre materials collected from 78 recycling depots throughout the city. The costs for the City to collect and deliver material to Cosmo is approximately \$338,700/year. The costs for Cosmo to process and market the material is approximately \$498,600/year. Cosmo sells the material to paper mills for processing into new paper and fully covers their annual processing costs with the revenue from these sales. They also generate an average annual return of \$145,000/year which they pay to the City. Between 2005 and 2009, this return did not fully cover the City collection costs and therefore, the depot program recycled 35,019 tonnes of paper at a net cost to the City of \$968,269.