

**Collaboration on Extended Producer Responsibility Baseline Research****Report Purpose**

To provide Council with a report on the opportunity to collaborate on baseline research for the design of a provincial Extended Producer Responsibility program.

**Recommendations**

1. THAT Administration work with other Alberta Municipalities, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association and producers and recyclers of packaging and paper products to develop baseline research to inform the design of a provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, and provide a report on this work by Q1 of 2020.
2. THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Strathcona County, sign a letter of support indicating that Strathcona County is willing to participate in the research request, as set out in Enclosure 3 of the February 26, 2019 Utilities report.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 4 - Ensure effective stewardship of water, land, air and energy resources

**Report**

Recycling is an important activity for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill and allows products at end-of-life to be processed into valuable new products. The costs for collecting, processing and marketing recyclables in Alberta are currently carried by municipal governments, funded by taxpayers.

The companies that produce products can design and operate more effective and efficient recycling programs, if they work together province-wide, than individual municipalities or the Government of Alberta can on their own. This allows for improved waste diversion infrastructure across the province and higher quality end products.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach, typically applied at the provincial level, which places the financial and/or physical responsibility for end-of-life management of products with companies that produce those products, and would remove the financial burden of recycling programs from taxpayers.

Alberta is the only province in Canada that has not legislated EPR for any materials, and is falling behind in its commitments under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR.

Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance Inc. is an organization that manages EPR programs in four other provinces on behalf of obligated producers of packaging and paper products (PPP). It has signaled its support for the CCME goal of producer-led EPR in the Province of Alberta and is committed to working collaboratively with Alberta's municipalities to:

- Assist in the funding of the collection of baseline measurement data that will inform the design of an appropriate EPR framework for Alberta;
- Assist in the development of recommendations for a regulatory framework; and
- Work with stakeholders to foster support for an EPR program for PPP.

A producer-led EPR program in Alberta would allow recyclable materials from Alberta to be managed as a whole, generating a large volume of higher quality materials that could

incentivize the development of processing infrastructure in western Canada, creating local jobs and minimizing the dependence on global recycling markets.

Municipalities need to collectively advocate the province to strengthen recycling in Alberta. At the March 2018 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Municipal Leaders Caucus, the City of Calgary presented a Request for Decision (RFD) to advocate that the Government of Alberta develop and implement legislation to establish EPR in Alberta, and the RFD received unanimous support from municipalities in attendance. The City of Calgary's original RFD is included in the February 6, 2018 Council Report, as set out in Enclosure 1 of this report.

In January 2019, a request for collaboration related to research on an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for Alberta came from the City of Calgary and the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA), as noted in Enclosure 2.

Strengthening provincial recycling programs will ensure higher environmental outcomes in terms of waste diverted from landfill, design for the environment and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. It is important for the success of an EPR program in Alberta that there is a shared understanding of the benefits, challenges and risks associated with such a program for communities of all sizes, industry and the Province of Alberta. To advance the development of EPR in Alberta, research is required on the Alberta recycling systems and supply chains, and the potential impacts of a program in this province.

### **Council and Committee History**

February 6, 2018

Council approved:

1. That the Request for Decision, as set out in Enclosure 2, be approved as Strathcona County's submission to the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Spring 2018 Municipal Leaders' Caucus; and that Councillor Anderson be selected as the elected official spokesperson, on behalf of Strathcona County, to introduce the Request for Decision at the AUMA Spring 2018 Municipal Leaders' Caucus.
2. That the resolution, as set out in Enclosure 3, be approved as Strathcona County's submission to the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties' (AAMDC) 2018 Spring Convention resolutions session; and that Councillor Smith be selected as the elected official spokesperson, on behalf of Strathcona County, to introduce the resolution at the AAMDC 2018 Spring Convention resolutions session.
3. That the Mayor, on behalf of Strathcona County, sign the letter of support for the City of Calgary's Request for Decision, as set out in Enclosure 4.

### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** n/a

**Interdepartmental:** Intergovernmental Affairs has been advised of the collaboration.

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a

### **Enclosures**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | February 6, 2018 Council Report – Provincial Advocacy for Recycling Regulations |
| 2 | City of Calgary email request   |
| 3 | Letter of support for participating in research                                 |