

Strathcona County's Waste Management Roadmap Annual Update 2022

Priorities Committee
June 7, 2022

Waste Management Roadmap

- Planning for the next 10 years of waste management in our community.
- It's a collective, community-wide commitment to rethinking waste and diverting from landfill.
- It prioritizes an expanded waste hierarchy: rethink, reduce, reuse, recycle, recover and residual, which moves the community towards a circular economy and leading practices in waste management.
- Approved by Council on September 14, 2021.



Vision and philosophies

Managing waste together:

Our community's commitment to rethinking waste

We are in this **together**;
everyone has a role to play.

...

Easy, **convenient** and understandable.

...

Equity and **flexibility** with positive
incentives that creates accountability.

...

Move towards a **circular economy**.

...

Be a **forward-thinking** community that has
leading practices in waste management.

...

Refocus on the **waste hierarchy**:

Rethink our use and design of materials
and move towards a closed loop model;

Reduce the amount of waste we generate;

Reuse what we can;

Recycle and compost into new materials;

Recover the remaining resources
to reinvest back into the economy; and

Residual disposal of actual waste—safely.

...

“TOGETHER WE VALUE WASTE AS A
RESOURCE AND ARE COMMITTED TO
RETHINKING OUR PRACTICES IN ORDER
TO MAKE STRATHCONA COUNTY THE
MOST LIVABLE COMMUNITY IN CANADA.”

Themes



WORKING TOGETHER

WASTE MANAGEMENT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Waste is generated by everyone, so we must acknowledge, engage on and increase awareness about the role that everyone plays.



BEYOND THE CURB

CREATING CONTINUITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

Waste generated in a community goes beyond the residential sector. County residents want the greater community to be more involved in formal waste diversion practices.



PLASTICS SOLUTIONS

PREVENTION, INNOVATION AND ADVOCACY

Plastic has become part of our daily lives, and many of these plastics are used only once and trashed. Recognition is increasing for the need to have better solutions in place to reduce plastics overall.

Themes

CONVENIENCE IS KEY

MAKING REDUCTION AND DIVERSION SIMPLE AND ACCESSIBLE



Ease and accessibility have a big impact on participation and performance in successful waste management strategies.



PROCESSING MATERIALS

FINDING OPPORTUNITIES AND VALUE IN WASTE

Processing plays an important yet mostly hidden role when managing waste in a community. Processing must be a deliberate focus of a program to ensure materials avoid land filling.

ASSESSING BEHAVIOURS

UNDERSTANDING DRIVERS AND WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE



Behaviour change is a consideration when developing waste management programs. Changes in behaviour not only affect waste diversion, but can also empower residents.

Themes



WASTE MATTERS

CONNECTING OUTCOMES & EDUCATING USERS

With a long list of items that are typically disposed of, understanding what goes where, why it's important to sort and what happens to the materials after collection is key to encouraging participation and connecting outcomes. Residents are eager for more education and information.



TOOLS FOR CHANGE

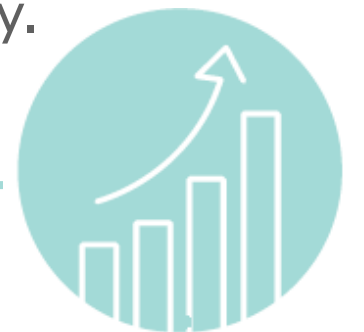
INCENTIVES AND COMPLIANCE

Waste characterization audits have confirmed that there is room for improvement in waste diversion, and that not all households are fully participating in the program. Financial incentives, positive reinforcement and compliance tools are all opportunities to increase rates of utilization.

TRACKING SUCCESS

COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP AND TARGETS

Strathcona County has a vision to be Canada's most livable community. The County should strive to remain a leader in waste management and look to improve results for the entire community.



Implementation framework

Setting the stage for implementation

- The Roadmap sets a forward-thinking path over the next 10 years of where we need to go or get to as a community generating waste.
- The implementation framework will guide the collective effort, actions and resources needed to fulfill the desired outcomes.

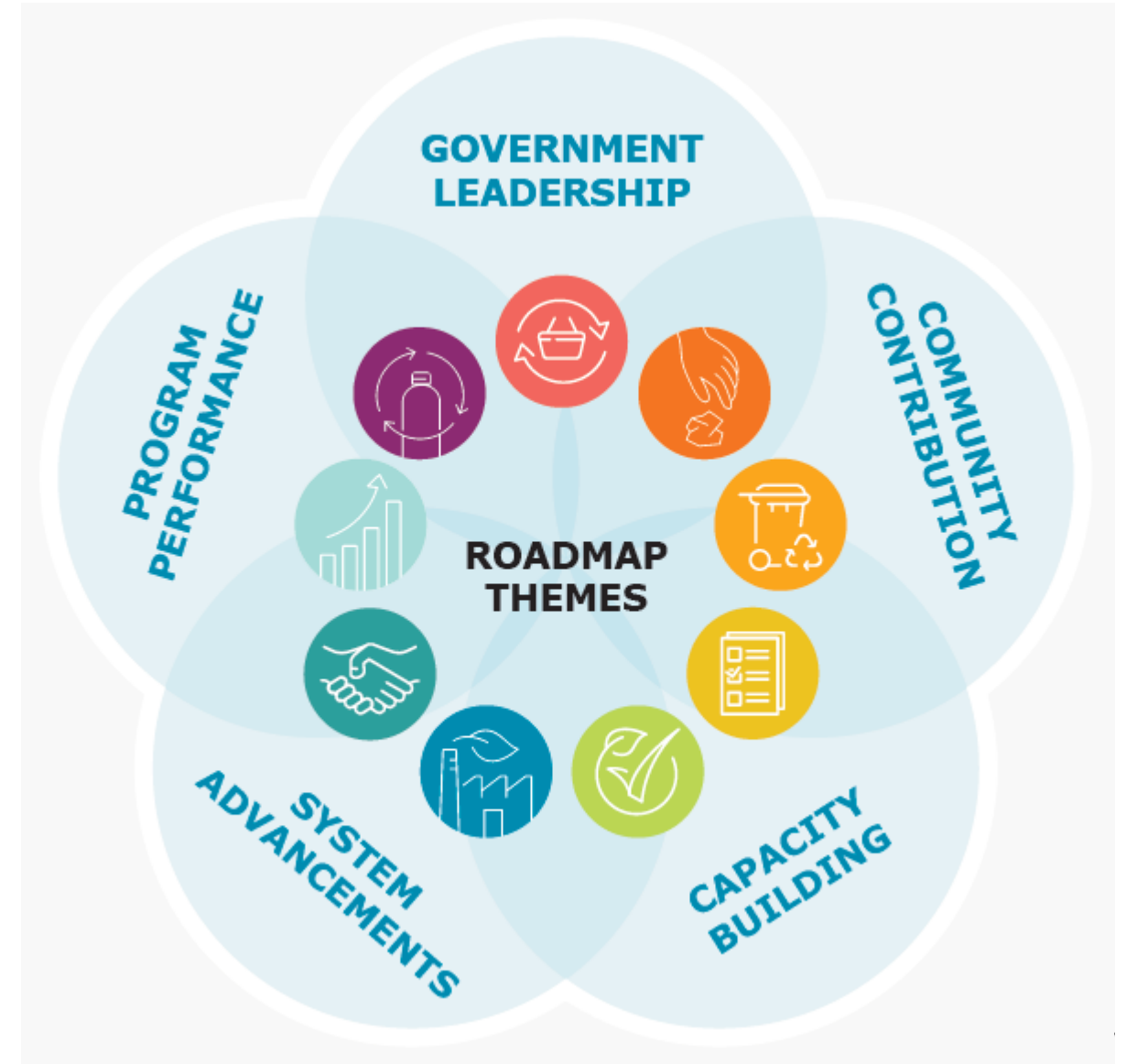
Key components of the implementation framework:

- *Ensure alignment to corporate and community priorities;*
- *Consider allocation of fiscal and human resources through business and budget planning process;*
- *Clarify roles, responsibilities, deliverables and timelines;*
- *Build informed and adaptable initiatives; and*
- *Allow for evaluation, refinements and reporting back.*

Implementation framework

Interconnected themes

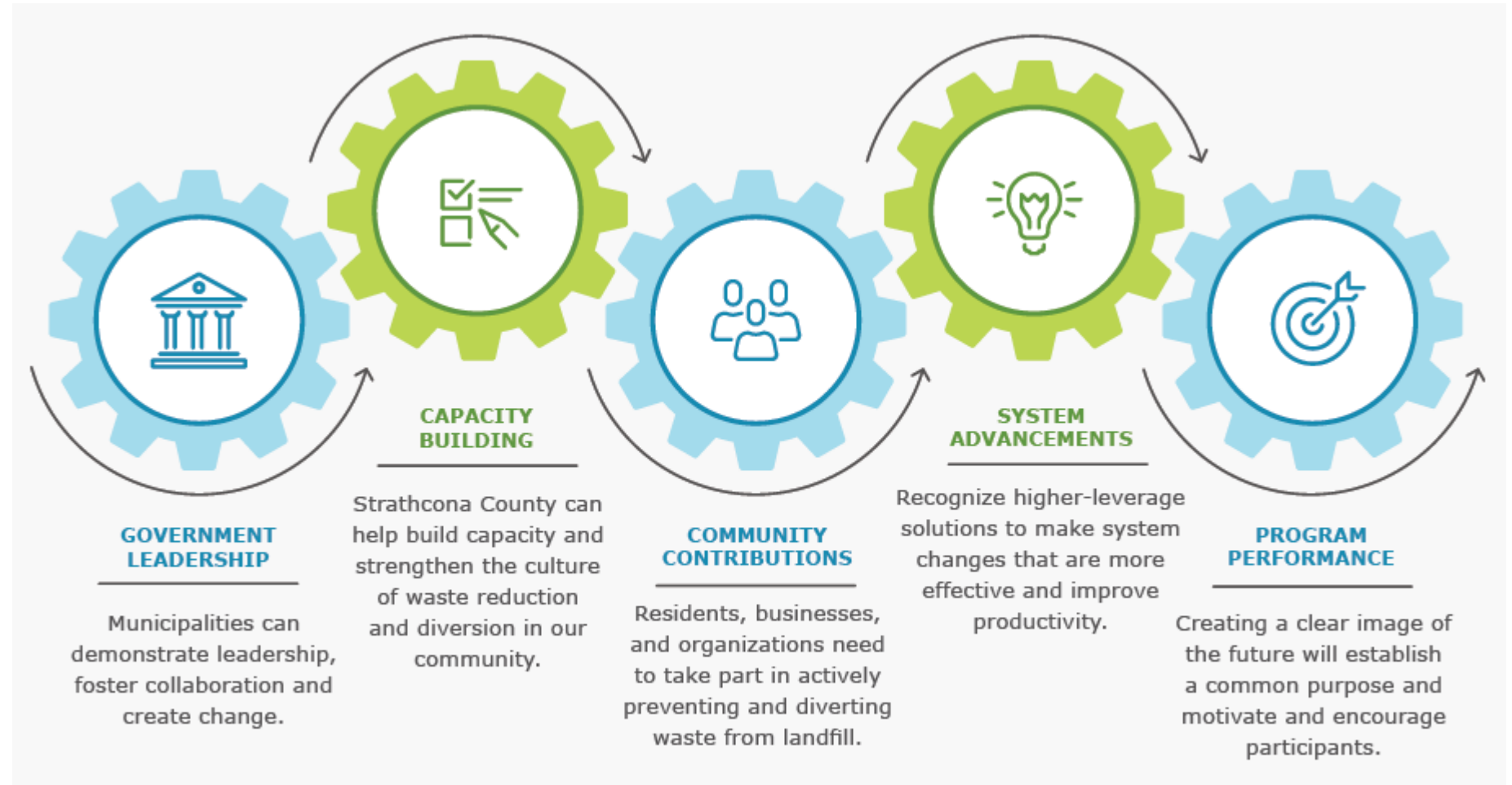
- In taking a holistic approach to our waste management system, it is expected that these themes have interconnections that support the identified outcomes in the Roadmap.
- These themes will serve to inform key growth areas to guide the actions over the next 10 years.



Implementation framework

Each **Key Growth Area**:

- Outlines the **opportunity** for growth.
- Shapes the **desired outcomes** to be realized.
- Proposes **prospective actions** to be taken.



2021-22 Actions

Initiatives	Update
Complete public engagement plan with commercial sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed April 2022 ➤ Develop plan 2024+
Development of 'pay as you throw' program for residential sector and examine new rate structure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine new rate structure that will drive reduction and diversion practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Completed engagement April 2022 ➤ Feedback from PCM - June 2022 ➤ Develop rate structure for approval as part of 2023 Budget Process
Prepare for implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility by the province.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Regulatory Approval June 2022 ➤ Ongoing through 2024
Revisit multi-family diversion practices for organics and recycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Linked to EPR, 2023 Initiative
Focus on reduction programming.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Progress
Set new targets and align with the Region for the monitoring and measurement program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Progress

Commercial engagement



- Sought feedback from businesses on current practices, future opportunities and roles and responsibilities for businesses and Strathcona County.
- Public engagement process included:
 - Online survey – 80 respondents
 - One focus group discussion (virtual)
 - One information sharing session with the Chamber of Commerce
 - Five direct interviews

- Hospitality, restaurant (18)
- Retail (18)
- Other (12)
- Home based business (10)*
- Grocery or food production (8)
- Property management (7)
- Construction and demolition (6)
- Office (6)
- Not-for- profits (2)
- Manufacturing and production (2)

Commercial engagement



What we heard – key themes

- Participants were not surprised at resident sentiment for the commercial sector needing to play a bigger role in waste management.
- The County should be a leader in waste management and in moving commercial waste management forward.
- Future programs need to be cognizant of impacts to the commercial sector. It should be cost-effective, fair, consistent across the sector and beneficial to the entire community.

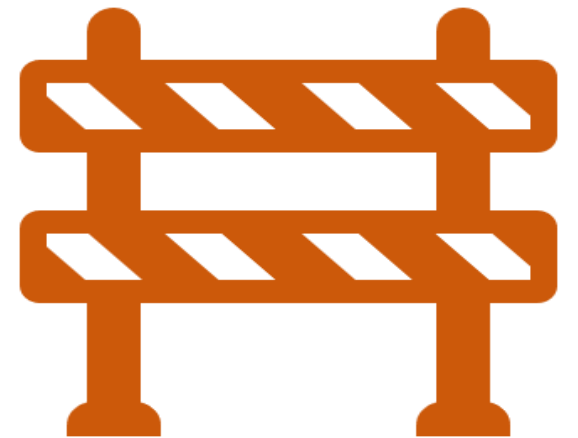


Commercial engagement



What we heard – key themes

- Some businesses have fairly robust diversion programs in place while some are just starting to explore their options.
- The top barriers to implementing more comprehensive diversion practices include:
 - logistical and space constraints;
 - staff and tenant education;
 - costs;
 - not within their control (i.e.. property managers); and
 - yuck factor with organics for food related businesses.



Commercial engagement



Opportunities & support

- Specific diversion events for commercial sector.
- Showcase champions and share current practices.
- Acknowledged voluntary would be ideal, but likely not realistic in achieving a level playing field.
- Program should include incentives with a regulatory component; it should be phased in, simple and convenient to implement.
- Strathcona County should provide information, education and resources, as well as leadership on incentive and regulatory approaches.

Commercial engagement



Next Steps

- ✓ Share the What We Heard Report from engagement process.
- ✓ Develop a Commercial Strategy for 2024 - 2026.
- ✓ As required, elements may be brought forward through the annual budget process or may require regulatory amendments / approvals.
- ✓ Provide an update as part of the annual Roadmap commitment.
- ✓ In the meantime, continue conversations with the business community, explore education opportunities and seek champions.



Pay as you throw

- The roadmap identified 'pay as you throw' (PAYT) as a next step in our waste management program.
- An additional specific survey was conducted allowing Utilities to ask more questions to determine how these new programs could work.
 - Over 1,700 respondents participated in the survey
- Given the complexity of the topic and the implications for rate model changes, Utilities intends to bring forward this discussion for specific feedback from **Priorities Committee on June 21.**

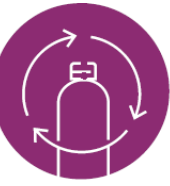


Extended Producer Responsibility

- The Roadmap identifies the need to advocate for and align with provincial plans for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies.
- The Province is developing EPR regulations for packaging and paper products (blue bag materials) and hazardous and specialized wastes.
 - Seeking approval in June 2022



Extended Producer Responsibility



- Utilities is engaged in the provincial conversations and regional discussions to better understand the potential impacts related to the new regulations.
 - Transition and timing for existing contracts
 - Understanding full costs of recycle and hazardous waste programs
 - Gradually start shifting our education and outreach with residents
- Utilities will bring forward a discussion to Council once the regulation is released and we understand how the Province intends the program to operate within municipalities.



Multi-family

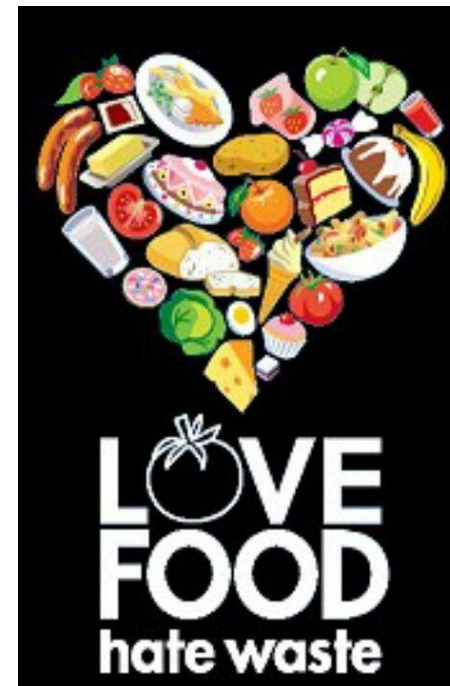
- Current Waste Management Bylaw allows for:
 - Newer buildings (post-2016) to have full diversion programs
 - Grandfathered in buildings (pre-2016) only required to recycle paper products
- Engagement completed for the Roadmap indicated that residents are looking for increased diversion opportunities in multi-family residences.
- EPR regulations may have implications for multi-family not currently participating in full recycling programs.
- Utilities are looking to add requirements to older buildings in 2023/24.



Reduction programming



- HodgePodge Lodge expansion currently in progress for a year-round facility, including gatehouse for site control.
 - Incorporating reuse and recycle materials
 - Expect to be open October 2022
- Textiles program and partnerships
 - Textiles drop off event
 - Community standards bylaw addressing community bins
- Circular Cities Project
 - Love Food, Hate Waste



Regional collaborative



Completed

- Solid Waste Collaborative Action Plan
- Regional Monitoring and Measurement Program



In progress

- Developing Regional Data Strategy to support a long-term Data Model
- ICI Waste Characterization that will inform an ICI Strategy
- Organics Processing Strategy



Metrics

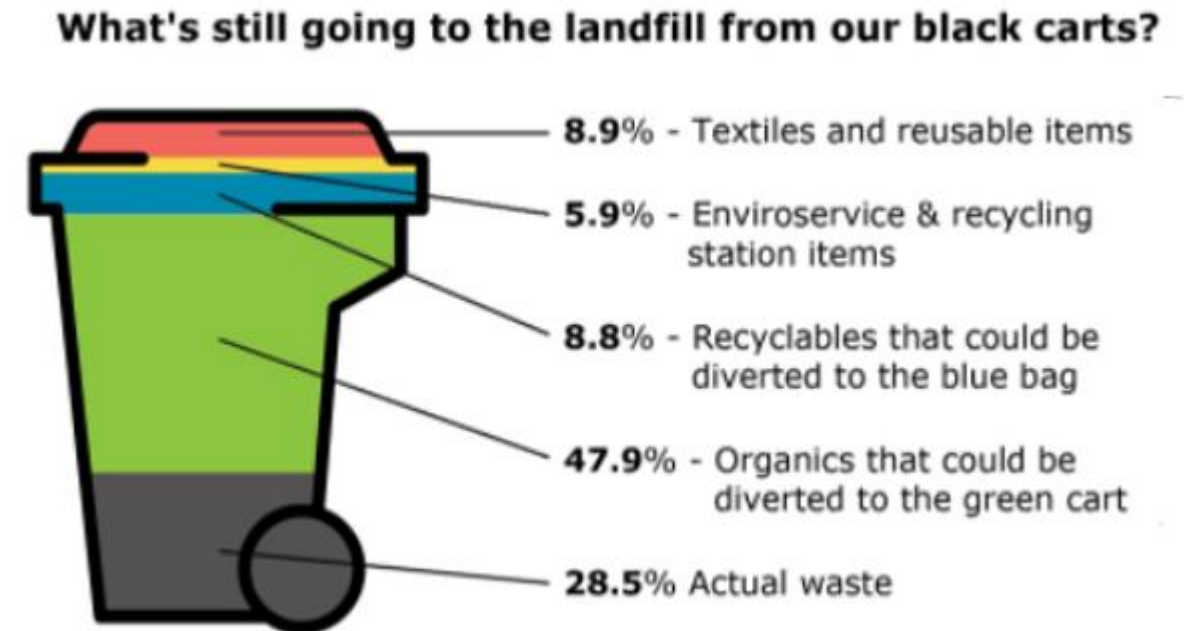
- Align with Regional Monitoring and Measurement Program and Data Strategy
- Program performance metrics
 - Tonnes generated per household
 - Materials collected for recycling and composting
 - Utility fees and cost efficiencies
 - Participation and satisfaction
 - Service delivery metrics
 - Connection to climate change (GHG reductions)
- Report on street auditing program
 - Set out rates
 - Compliance with sorting
 - Assess contamination



Metrics



- Shift away from sole focus on diversion rate
 - Doesn't capture reduction
 - Weights of products are decreasing resulting in lower diversion rates despite efforts
 - Seasonal shifts in organics
 - Inconsistency in municipal application
- Focus on where we need to see behaviour change
 - Generation per household (reduction)
 - Amount to landfill → kg / household / annum
 - What remains to be diverted from the black cart
 - Informs education campaigns





Annual report card



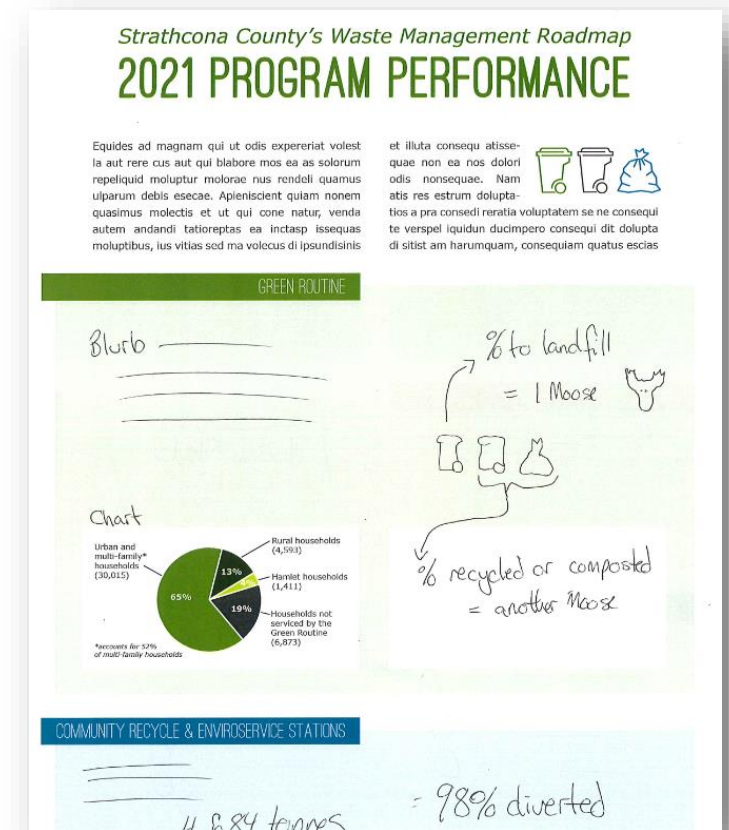
Intended to provide residents and stakeholders with concise, data-driven information about waste management in our community.



Conduit to monitor progress on service delivery, program performance and key metrics.



Report on completed and upcoming initiatives.



What's next

PAYT

- Feedback from PCM and develop rate model for 2023 budget discussions

EPR

- Discussions brought forward post regulatory approval in June
- Determine best approach with existing collection and processing contracts

Monitor

- Waste characterization, street audits and increase compliance

Circular Cities

- Love Food, Hate Waste
- Circular Economy 101 with business community

Partners

- Joint procurement with school boards - EIPS to add organics

Questions?