

# **Waste Management Roadmap**

## **Sort and Save Initiative Update**

Priorities Committee  
October 18, 2022

# Agenda

- General overview and background information
- Recap of current system
- Sort and Save proposal and objectives
- Proposed rate model
  - Assumptions
  - Rates
- Roll out expectations

# Strategic & business plan connections



## Responsible Development

Strathcona County is an innovative community that encourages sustainability and respects the environment.

Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources.

2013 Strategic Plan, Goal 4 → County uses best practice approach to waste management.

As part of the 2020 budget process, Council approved a business plan initiative:

- **INIT 155 – Green Routine Pay As You Throw** – Exploring a new model for Strathcona County's waste program is a key step in achieving higher diversion targets. Utilities proposed to do specific engagement on this topic with Green Routine users, as well as conduct an environmental scan and research best practices.

# Connection to Roadmap

- The Roadmap identifies the importance of shared responsibility and the need for equity and accountability in the system. 'Pay As You Throw' (PAYT) is a next step in our waste management program.
- PAYT within the Roadmap:



Equitable waste management system that maximizes efficiencies and promotes waste prevention, while improving environmental behaviours and flexibility for users.



Rewards, recognition, positive reinforcement and incentive-based tools provide inspiration for turning intent into action.



# Pay As You Throw (PAYT)

- A PAYT system is a user pay policy approach that charges households based on the amount of waste they throw out.
  - **Pay more to throw out more and pay less to throw out less.**
- Variable rate pricing that charges based on weight, volume or set out rates.
- Effective tool for reducing waste, controlling waste disposal costs, creating equity in a system and giving residents an incentive to participate in recycling and composting programs.



# Benefits

## Economic

- Establishes a recurring economic signal to modify behaviour.
- Allows small disposers to save money compared to those who use more service and impose more costs on the system.
- Creates the right price signal to incentivize and improve diversion.

## Environmental

- Rewards all behaviours — recycling, composting and source reduction.
- Reduction is the cheapest waste management strategy and thus of the highest priority.
- Leads to further conservation of materials and resources, as well as reduced energy use.

## Social

- Costs are distributed more fairly among residents, and in proportion to the amount of waste each user generates.
- Households have more control as they can choose the level of service they need and pay accordingly.
- Customers are not prohibited from generating more garbage.

# What we know and heard

- Positive, incentive-based program.
- 65% of material currently being thrown out in the black cart and sent to the landfill could be reused, recycled or composted.
- 65% indicated that paying for waste based on how much you throw away is fair.
- Savings to incentivize residents to choose a smaller cart will likely need to be in the range of \$10 to \$15 per month.
- Support for increasing fees associated with additional black carts.





# Current system

- The current Green Routine program is a 'one size fits all' service for households; it does not provide differing service levels based on waste generation.
- All households regardless of size and amount of waste they are placing out for collection are paying the same amount.
- Unlike other utilities that charge based on what the household uses, like power, gas, water and internet.
- Utility fee - \$25.45 per month (since 2015).





# Initiative proposal

## Proposal

- Shift towards a user pay system based on 'volume'.
- Positive, incentive-based approach that is branded under 'Sort and Save'.
- Offer smaller waste cart at an incentivized rate of \$10 to \$15 per month.
  - Conservative estimations for initial uptake of program (~10%).
- As program is full cost recovery, fees for standard cart size will likely need to increase slightly to accommodate incentive program.
- Multiple carts will see a substantial increase to cover costs and discourage use, but not requiring specific reason to access.

# Initiative objectives

## Objectives

- Increased awareness of full costs of managing waste.
- Increased sense of responsibility and stewardship for waste.
- Reward waste reduction and diversion.
- Increase sorting practices and improve diversion from landfill.
- Ability to create a sustainable funding model for waste management to ensure safe, responsible and efficient management.

**SORT & \$AVE**  
**WASTE LESS, SAVE MORE**



# Proposed rate model

- \$12 savings for households per month that opt in for a smaller (120 L) waste cart.
- \$15 (+ \$8) per extra waste carts.
  - Extra organics remaining at \$7 per cart
- Base rates increasing by \$1.80 per household per month.
  - **\$1.03 is due to growth, contract inflation and program expenditures**
  - **\$0.77 is shift to supporting Sort & Save program**
- Budget based on 10% - 12% uptake.
- Hold rates until April 2023, start new program / fees in May 2023.

# Proposed Rates

Description	Sort & Save Rate	2022 to April 2023 Rate	Change
<b>Hamlets</b> (biweekly waste, biweekly organics fall/winter, weekly organics spring/summer, weekly recycling)			
-Large waste, large organics	\$27.25	\$25.45	↑ \$1.80
-Large waste, small organics	\$26.25	\$24.45	↑ \$1.80
-Small waste, large organics	\$15.25	\$24.45	↓ -\$9.20
-Small waste, small organics	\$14.25	\$23.45	↓ -\$9.20
-Multi-family manual collection	\$25.15	\$23.35	↑ \$1.80
<b>Rural</b> (biweekly waste, biweekly organics year-round, weekly recycling)			
-Large waste, large organics	\$25.15	\$23.35	↑ \$1.80
-Large waste, small organics	\$24.15	\$22.35	↑ \$1.80
-Small waste, large organics	\$13.15	\$22.35	↓ -\$9.20
-Small waste, small organics	\$12.15	\$21.35	↓ -\$9.20
-Additional large waste (per)	\$15.00	\$7.00	↑ \$8.00
-Additional large organics (per)	\$7.00	\$7.00	-

# Roll out expectations

- Implementation plan and bylaw amendment to be brought forward in February 2023.
  - Bylaw will need to address process, including unique scenarios like secondary suites, additional carts, etc.
- Begin campaign launch and sign up in March 2023.
  - Proactively communicate with 'additional cart' households about increase
  - Expect a three to six month concentrated roll out
- Transition to new Utility Billing software and the introduction of Sort & Save mean we are expecting increased questions from residents regarding their utility bills.
- Rate model may require additional assessment and financial strategies for following years.



# Questions

