

## **Priorities Committee Meeting\_Oct17\_2023**

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### **STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**

#### **Waste Management Roadmap Annual Update 2023**

##### **Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with an annual update on the Waste Management Roadmap, as well as an update on a new provincial regulation related to Extended Producer Responsibility.

##### **Our Strategic Goals**

Goal 3 - Responsible Development

Goal 4 - Municipal Excellence

Goal 3 Priority - Environmental stewardship that addresses climate change and demonstrates responsible use of land and natural resources

Goal 3 Priority - Investment in our infrastructure that supports development and complete communities

Goal 4 Priority - Relationships with all levels of government and key stakeholders that are strategic, purposeful and productive

##### **Report**

The Waste Management Roadmap and accompanying Implementation Framework will guide the collective effort, actions and resources needed to set a path over the next 10 years for the community in reducing and diverting waste from landfill and moving towards a circular economy.

Guided by our Waste Management Roadmap, Strathcona County is embarking on a journey to shift how we as a community think about and manage our waste together. This new strategy identifies the community's philosophies and priorities and will serve as the high-level document that extends focus beyond traditional end-of-life waste management to a more holistic, circular approach to the delivery of waste prevention and management services and programs across the community.

The 2023 annual update presentation (Enclosure 1) provides information on the following actions and activities:

- Implementation of the Sort & Save Initiative
- HodgePodge Lodge expansion project and operations
- Edmonton Metropolitan Region Board - Solid Waste Collaborative
- Commercial and institutional waste initiatives
  - Partnership with Circular Innovates Council for piloting food waste reduction and diversion from commercial businesses in Strathcona County
- Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation (EPR)
- Annual program performance and metrics

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### Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

In November 2022, the Government of Alberta passed [regulations](#) shifting the physical and financial responsibility of collecting, processing and recycling materials—from municipalities to producers. EPR has been implemented in other provinces and is now coming to Alberta.

Alberta's EPR system concerns residential packaging and paper products (PPP or blue bag materials), and hazardous and special products (HSP). In each of these categories, only specific materials are designated for management by EPR and not all materials currently handled by municipalities in these categories are covered by the regulations.

Producers will be required to provide common collection systems for PPP and HSP by April 1, 2025, allowing for a two-and-a-half year transition period from when the legislation was enacted November 30, 2022. This new legislation will impact the County's current collection services, including operations, costs, education programs and overall service levels.

The Alberta Recycling Management Authority (ARMA) is the designated oversight body for EPR. They will be responsible for ensuring that regulated parties undertake their required roles in the system and achieve the results required by regulation. The entities responsible for implementing recycling collection services are called "Producer Responsibility Organizations" (PROs). Over the next year, administration will be working closely with these organizations to understand our roles and responsibilities under the new regulation, which will include:

- Stating our intent to participate in EPR by registering before December 31, 2023.
- Registering as a producer. Under the regulation, Strathcona County will be considered a producer as we distribute paper products to the residential community. Strathcona County will be obligated to register as a producer and depending on the quantity of materials we distribute, may be required to contribute financially to the system.
- Negotiating with PROs for services in our community. PROs must submit their plans to collect and manage their designated materials by April 1, 2024. At this point, municipalities who want EPR systems to operate in their community will need to engage with PROs on one of the two options:
  - Municipalities can remain involved as a service provider to a PRO and would do so under a mutually agreeable, contractual relationship directly between the PRO and the municipality.
  - Municipalities can turn over recycling programs entirely to the PROs and they provide these services directly to residents.

Administration has been engaged throughout the EPR development process. Once more specific details are understood, administration will undertake a detailed review and will return to Council in the new year with recommendations and considerations about Strathcona County's best path within the EPR system.

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### **Council and Committee History**

April 4, 2023	Council approved Bylaw 11-2023 – Waste Management Bylaw 39-2014 Amending Bylaw No. 2
June 7, 2022	Update to Priorities Committee on the first annual update for the Waste Management Roadmap.
September 14, 2021	Council approved the nine themes and associated outcomes in the Waste Management Roadmap. Administration is to provide an annual update and report card to Priorities Committee on the progress made on its implementation.
November 17, 2020	Update to Priorities Committee regarding a collaborative study on Extended Producer Responsibility.
May 14, 2019	Update to Priorities Committee regarding Green Routine 2.0 and impacts from the recycling changes implemented in the fall of 2018.
February 26, 2019	Council approved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program and provide a report on this work by Q1 of 2020.</li><li>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.</li></ol>
February 6, 2018	Council approved: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li><li>2. That the resolution, as set out in Enclosure 3, be approved as Strathcona County's submission to the Alberta Association of the 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.</li></ol> 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.

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### **Other Impacts**

**Policy:** N/A

**Financial/Budget:** N/A

**Legislative/Legal:** Waste Management Bylaw 11-2023, Alberta's Extended Producer Responsibility Regulation 194/2022

**Interdepartmental:** Communications, Legislative & Legal Services

**Master Plan/Framework:** Waste Management Roadmap

### **Communication Plan**

Communication goals: Strathcona County is a leader in waste management, taking an effective approach to waste reduction and diversion. Stakeholders perceive value in Strathcona County's waste management services and want to take ownership as leaders.

Communication objectives are to create stakeholder understanding of waste management as a shared responsibility, of their roles, and how the program and initiatives are progressing. Next steps are sharing the annual report card, as well as results from recent public engagement processes.

### **Enclosure**

- 1 Strathcona County's Waste Management Roadmap Annual Update 2023 presentation