

Attachment 1 - Solid Waste Management Master Plan Recommendations

Support the Circular Economy

1. Circular Economy Policy

Develop and implement a Circular Economy Policy and Supporting Framework that draws on lessons learned from the Our Food Future pilot project, identifies catalytic roles the City of Guelph and municipalities can play in development and support of CE principles, and ultimately ties in to, and supports, the Economic Development and Tourism Department's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy and regional strengths.

2. Attract circular economy businesses

Work with the City's Economic Development and Tourism Department to attract and support businesses that contribute to the circular economy.

3. Waste exchange opportunities

Support non-profit organizations and businesses in identifying waste exchange opportunities, in partnership with the City's Economic Development and Tourism Department and Innovation Guelph, through the ReSource Exchange platform and other opportunities.

4. Zero Waste Economy Transformation Lab

Establish a group comprised of community members, City staff, and business owners who work collaboratively towards making Guelph a zero waste city through development of circular economy initiatives. The Lab will engage in research, prototyping, pilots, policy development and advocacy, stakeholder engagement and collaboration to reduce waste and increase diversion to reuse materials and create secondary economic market opportunities.

Future State

5. Residual Waste Management

Explore approaches to identify alternatives to landfilling (e.g., feasibility study, request expressions of interest to provide alternative disposal capacity).

6. Monitor and Update SWMMP

Monitor progress and update SWMMP every 5 years

7. Blue Box Transition

The City will continue to monitor developments to the Blue Box Regulation as details are made available and use the Blue Box

Transition Strategy tool and financial model, if applicable, to evaluate the viability of providing services as a contractor to a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) in the new system and/or to determine the feasibility, costs and diversion impacts of providing services to non-eligible customers (IC&I, downtown).

Single Use Items

8. Implement a phased approach to the reduction of single use items and approve the applicable by-law.

8.1 Phase 1, ban the most problematic materials as of March 1, 2023

8.1.1 Plastic shopping bags (including non-certified compostable bags and biodegradable bags, certified compostable bags would be exempt) - Foam cups and takeout containers.

8.1.2 Plastic straws (available on demand for accessibility purposes, and exempt from the ban in places like hospitals).

8.2 Phase 2, apply the following additional requirements as of March 1, 2024

8.2.1 Apply a fee of at least \$1 for reusable bags in Year 1, increasing fee after, and work with the community to ensure there are no impediments to access reusable bags (e.g., Bag Banks).

8.2.2 Require minimum 40% recycled content for paper bags - Fee of at least \$0.25 for disposable cups which is shown on receipts and menus.

8.2.3 Offer single-use utensils by request only.

Downtown Services Review

9. Downtown Waste Collection Service

9.1 Conduct further engagement, as part of the Downtown Infrastructure Revitalization program, for a potential pilot project where participating businesses and residents receive daily door-to-door collection system that will move materials to a central collection area for pick-up.

9.2 Pilot door-to-door collection and use information to explore enforcement measures and alternative funding models.

10. Downtown Public Space Containers

10.1 Permit the use of Public Space Containers (PSCs) for pedestrians only.

10.2 Consolidate PSCs and strategically place in permanent locations with colour coding to help reduce contamination and improve the quality/quantity of recyclable materials captured.

11. Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (IC&I) Waste Programs and Services and approve applicable changes to the Waste Management By-law

11.1 Small mixed-use buildings - Limit three stream collection services to small mixed-use buildings (commercial with a residential component), provided they are located on a residential collection route, they generate waste that fits into residential set out limits (240 L grey, 360L blue, and 80L green cart volumes) and, they comply with the waste by-law to participate in all waste streams.

11.2 Institutional facilities - Limit three stream collection services to some institutional facilities (e.g. places of worship, daycares, community centres) provided they are located on a residential collection route, they generate waste that fits into residential set out limits (240 L grey, 360L blue, and 80L green cart volumes) and, they comply with the waste by-law to participate in all waste streams. Non-eligible establishments, as defined in the Blue Box Regulation, will be serviced until Blue Box transition in 2025 at which time the City will conduct a review.

11.3 Schools - Introduce organics collection services to schools not currently receiving City service. Continue to provide Blue Box recycling services to schools that have been historically serviced, until transition to full extended producer responsibility in 2026 at which time all schools will fall under the Blue Box Regulation as an eligible source.

Promotion and Education (P&E)

12. Increase the annual P&E budget to \$4/HH

Increase the annual Promotion and Education budget from approximately \$2.30 to \$4 per household to support new initiatives such as outreach and youth campaigns. Develop metrics to measure P&E initiatives (e.g., diversion rate, decrease in contamination, hits/activity in social media and website).

13. Enhance support for outreach and communication

Gain an understanding of the community's knowledge about waste management, social media strategy, dedicate a webpage for residents and more in-person outreach.

14. Youth P&E

City to partner with the school board and community organizations to develop age-appropriate educational materials that focus on the most pressing waste issues and conduct in-school outreach.

Reuse

15. Community sharing and repair

Collaborate with local groups to increase opportunities for sharing, reusing, repairing and repurposing and, promote and provide space, and/or fund materials for programs and events.

16. Support community organizations

Leverage existing, or develop a new, funding program to support local groups that help to reduce materials sent to the landfill.

17. Waste recovery "shopping"

Partner with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide space to establish a reuse centre where residents can drop-off items and/or buy gently used goods at a nominal fee. The NGO will operate the reuse centre and the City will promote it.

18. Textile reuse and recycling

Create a textile bin network for households to collect clothing or other textile waste for reuse and/or recycling and approach charities collecting textiles to gauge interest in partnering. Launch a textile reduce, repair and donate P&E campaign that promotes the collection bin program and other textile reuse programs operating in the City.

Recycle

19. Collect more waste streams at the Public Drop-off Depot

Conduct a feasibility study to expand the types of items allowed at the PDO (e.g., mattresses and box springs). Explore other items based on availability of reuse and recycling opportunities.

20. Conduct a Feasibility Study to determine need for additional public drop-off location

Assess the need for additional drop-off locations such as a second PDO that offers the same services as the WRIC PDO. The feasibility study would consider potential locations and cost implications.

21. Collect more residential waste

Conduct a feasibility study to increase diversion by providing greater access through a mobile collection unit that travels to collect things like hazardous household waste.

22. Improve diversion in apartment and condominium buildings

Continue implementing the multi-residential (MR) strategy to improve diversion at currently serviced MR properties and, onboarding new MR properties with the implementation of a volunteer ambassador program that works with the City and building staff to improve waste reduction and diversion efforts.

Organic Waste Reduction and Recycling

23. Process Yard Waste

The City will conduct a feasibility study for a leaf and yard waste processing pad. The study will confirm the preferred location (e.g., WRIC), permitting requirements - such as ECAs, materials to process (e.g., loose leaves and/or yard waste), and potential end markets for finished compost. The findings will be compared to the current approach to processing yard waste (private sites).

24. At Home Composting

The City will promote and provide ways for residents to compost at home and in the community through educational materials, in-person outreach, and increasing the types and locations for the sale of composters.

Data Gathering

25. Community-Based Social Marketing

Select a target behavioural change (e.g., based on waste audit data), determine what the barriers and benefits are specific to that behaviour, develop a strategy accordingly and create a pilot project.

26. Conduct regular waste composition audits

The City will conduct comprehensive seasonal waste composition audits to gather information on what households are throwing out and how well they are participating in waste diversion programs. This will help the City understand future waste management needs.

Education and Enforcement

27. Implement disposal bans

Identify materials to be banned from disposal (e.g., e-waste), draft changes to the waste management by-law for Council to approve, and develop educational materials about the ban.

28. Enhance education and enforcement mechanisms

Increase curbside audits and/or collection staff will visually audit waste carts/bins set out for collection to ensure residents and non-residential customers are appropriately sorting their waste. Technology will be leveraged to improve waste management program participation (e.g., artificial intelligence).

Funding Waste Management Services and Programs

29. Assess user fee structure and subsidization levels

The findings from the research and community engagement will be used to inform the City's review of the Council approved user fee structure and approval of user fee subsidization levels as part of the Corporate Service Rationalization Review's recommendation to review opportunity for budget savings and, equitable and consistent user fee recovery practices.