

Report to Council



Date: May 02, 2022
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Recycle BC Update
Department: Utility Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives for information, the report from Utility Services dated May 2, 2022, with respect to the Recycle BC Program Update;

AND THAT Council direct staff to report back to Council with a recommendation on the approach to provide recycling service, no later than the end of June 2022.

Purpose:

To provide background and context on the existing Recycle BC Program.

Background:

Recycle BC is the Provincial Stewardship Group that manages residential packaging and paper products (PPP) under the Provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. The City of Kelowna has a multi-year service agreement with Recycle BC that is coordinated by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) for regional consistency. Under this Recycle BC agreement, the City receives funding of \$35.40 per household to offset the cost of curbside collection in the blue bins. The contents of the blue bins are taken to the Recycle BC material recovery facility for sorting and shipping to recyclers. All of the Municipal Contracts with Recycle BC in the region expire December 31, 2024. The Municipalities must notify Recycle BC by July 1, 2022 if they intend to continue to collect recyclables in the curbside program on behalf of Recycle BC, or alternately notify Recycle BC that the City will no longer provide this collection service and Recycle BC will be responsible for the collection.

Discussion:

The attached presentation by Mr. Travis Kendel, RDCO Manager – Engineering Services, provides a summary of the current benefits and challenges of the existing Recycle BC program. This includes potential improvements in service levels such as including curbside collection of glass, and other challenges such as the likely transition to a multi-stream program instead of the single stream.

One significant consideration is the contractual obligation for maximum contamination levels in the blue bins of no more than 3 per cent, and the challenges associated with contamination reduction. Currently Kelowna's residential blue bin contamination rate is at 13.9 per cent which could lead to service credits back to Recycle BC that would lower their payments to the City by up to a maximum of \$480,000 per year.

These surcharges, if applied by Recycle BC, would require additional funding of approximately \$12 per household per year. This may need to be collected by increasing fees to homeowners.

It is important for consistency in the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan that all Municipalities are aligned in any decision regarding the Recycle BC programs.

Conclusion:

The City needs to respond to Recycle BC with our intent to either continue to collect this recycling on their behalf for an effective period of 7 years or request Recycle BC to take over collection. By June 20, 2022 staff, in consultation with the RDCO and the Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee, will provide recommendations on the Recycle BC Contract for Council's consideration based on:

- results of a statistically valid survey of residents,
- feedback from the RDCO and member Municipalities,
- technical considerations,
- financial considerations, and
- consistency with the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Staff anticipate bringing this issue to Council for a decision on June 20, 2022.

Internal Circulation:

Community Communications

Financial Planning

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by: S. Hoekstra, Landfill and Composting Operations Manager

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, Infrastructure General Manager

Attachment 1: Recycle BC Update Presentations

cc: Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
Divisional Director, Financial Services