



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

To / Destinataire	Mayor and Members of Council	File/N° de fichier:
From / Expéditeur	General Manager Public Works Department	
Subject / Objet	Solid Waste Master Plan Component Project Update	Date: May 3, 2023

Ahead of the May 4, 2023 Curbside Waste Diversion Policy Technical Briefing, staff are providing Council with an update on the Solid Waste Master Plan (Waste Plan) and its component projects to detail how they work together to address the City's waste management challenges and adequately prepare for future waste management needs.

The City owns and operates the Trail Waste Facility Landfill, which is an important City asset. Air space continues to be consumed daily and every decision made on waste reduction and diversion, including household waste disposal habits, will have implications on the life of the asset and capital expenses of any future disposal options. As previously shared in the Phase 2 Solid Waste Master Plan report received by Council in July 2021 ([ACS2021-PWE-SWS-0003](#)), if changes aren't made to waste disposal habits, the Trail Waste Facility Landfill could reach capacity in the next 13 to 15 years, between 2036 and 2038. Siting and developing a new landfill or implementing an alternative residual waste management technology could cost taxpayers between an estimated \$300-450 million dollars and can take up to 15 years to become fully operational. As Council was informed in the Phase 2 Solid Waste Master Plan report, changes to waste disposal habits are required in the short-term in order to defer the need to begin the process to site a new landfill or alternative residual waste management facility in the short term. Both options require community participation in waste diversion programs in the interim to ensure there is enough time to move forward with the future disposal option chosen by Council, comply with provincial regulations and diversion targets, and reduce the amount of unnecessary waste sent to landfill.

The Council-approved vision for the Waste Plan is: *A Zero Waste Ottawa achieved through progressive, collective and innovative action*. Key goals of the Waste Plan include extending the Trail Waste Facility Landfill beyond its existing anticipated end of life and reducing the amount of waste generated by residents by maximizing the use of recycling and diversion programs. Further, the Province is requiring municipalities to divert more waste from landfill by setting a target for curbside households to reduce and recover 70 per cent of food and organic waste from its waste stream by the end of this year; a target that the City is falling short of with an approximate 60 per cent capture rate. The Province has also stated its priority to ban organic waste from landfill by the end of this decade, which will require significant community behaviour change to achieve.

The Provincial Blue Box program, which Ottawa is transitioning to starting this July, shifts the cost of collections and processing from residents to producers. By placing more recycling materials in the blue and black boxes, it reduces the tonnage of materials needing to be managed with the City's waste streams.

Exploring opportunities to optimize and extend the life of the Trail Waste Facility Landfill was identified as a priority by City Council as part of approvals through Phase 1 of the Solid Waste Master Plan ([ACS2019-PWE-SWS-0001](#)). Extending the life of the Trail Waste Facility Landfill and deferring the need to invest in a new landfill or alternative residuals management technology requires a multi-pronged approach, including medium and longer-term actions that will be presented to Council through the Waste Plan, as well as a series of shorter-term actions that are being developed alongside the Waste Plan to support its vision, guiding principles, and goals. Together, the shorter-term actions will have a cumulative impact on extending the life of the landfill by reducing unnecessary waste to landfill and increasing diversion. The proposed Curbside Waste Diversion Policy is one of those critical short-term actions. Programs like this policy, which encourage changes in resident behaviour, will also compound benefits over the long term, as the City is required to manage the waste footprint beyond the life of the existing Trail Waste Facility Landfill.

Staff will be bringing several component projects forward this term for Council consideration that will include recommendations or provide updates on various projects that support immediate efforts to extend the life of the Trail Waste Facility Landfill. They also support achieving provincially mandated waste reduction and diversion targets and promote more sustainable resident behaviours that will support the City's long-term goals. These behaviour changes will ultimately reduce the amount of garbage that requires collection, processing and disposal.

In addition to the Curbside Waste Diversion Policy going to Committee on June 5 and ongoing operational enhancements, the component project updates being presented to Committee and Council over the next two years include:

- Implementation of the Multi-Residential Diversion Strategy
- Transition to Provincial Blue Box with Individual Producer Responsibility
- New Residential Curbside Collection Contract
- Reporting back to Council on Landfill Site Optimization (Residuals Waste Management Strategy)
- Future Organics Processing Capacity (Post-2030)

All of these projects directly or indirectly impact each other, support or promote residential waste diversion and align with the Waste Plan's vision, goals and guiding principles. A summary of these component projects is available in the [Phase 2 Solid Waste Master Plan](#) report. The impacts of behaviour change supporting increased diversion will ultimately lead to efficiencies in other component projects leading to compounding benefits.

Mid-term and longer-term actions will be tabled for Committee and Council consideration through the draft Waste Plan this fall. Longer-term solutions presented in the Waste Plan, as outlined in the Phase 2 Solid Waste Master Plan report, include a new landfill and implementing alternative residual management technologies such as Mixed Waste Processing and Mass Burn Incineration. Although alternative technologies such as Mixed Waste Processing and Mass Burn Incineration reduce dependency on landfills, they require landfilling to manage the remaining end products, so investments in preserving capacity at the Trail Waste Facility Landfill are still needed for this option. Extending the life of the landfill maximizes Council's options to manage future waste management needs.

If you have any questions on the Solid Waste Master Plan or the various component projects of the Waste Plan outlined in this memo, please contact Shelley McDonald, Director, Solid Waste at shelley.mcdonald@ottawa.ca or by phone at extension 20992.

Original signed by

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