

Staff Report



To	Committee of the Whole
Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Environment
Date	Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Subject	Solid Waste Management By-law Update

Recommendation

1. That City Council approve the proposed amendments to the Waste Management By-law to align with the Blue Box Regulation.
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Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

This report provides Council with proposed amendments to the Waste Management By-law to align it with the provincial [Blue Box Regulation](#).

Key Findings

Proposed amendments to the Waste Management By-law for Council approval generally cover:

- New and revised definitions to align with changes to the recycling system; removal of schedule defining recyclables, which is now defined under the provincial Blue Box Regulation
- Clarification of where the City remains involved with the recycling system and is empowered to enforce it.
- Removal of schedules containing Waste Management Plans and City Waste Collection Agreements to provide better flexibility to keep them updated.

Strategic Plan Alignment

The Blue Box Regulation transitions operational responsibility from municipalities to Producers of Blue Box materials. Producers will become fully responsible for collecting and recycling Blue Box materials, as well as meeting escalating recycling targets. Placing full financial, operational, and performance accountability for the Blue Box program on the Producers of Blue Box materials incentivizes a circular economy by promoting design-for-the-environment through waste reduction, reuse and improved recycling which decreases natural resource extraction and pollution, including greenhouse gases.

Future Guelph Theme

Environment

Future Guelph Objectives

Environment: Empower the community to help create a sustainable city

Financial Implications

There are no current or forecasted financial impacts related to capital or operating costs as a result of the recommendations outlined in this report. No additional resources have been allocated to enforce the Waste Management By-law as amended as proposed.

Report

Council previously received, in a prior Blue Box Transition Status Update [2024-449](#), notice that changes to the Waste Management By-law were required to align with the provincial Blue Box Regulation. The current Waste Management By-law assumes that City is responsible for recycling, however, as of January 1, 2025, recycling is no longer a municipal responsibility upon transition to the new producer responsibility model.

The proposed amendments generally cover:

- New and revised definitions to align with changes to the recycling system; removal of schedule defining recyclables, which is now defined under the provincial Blue Box Regulation.
- Clarification that the City remains involved in recycling only for non-eligible sources not served through the Blue Box Regulation.
- Clarification that the by-law only controls those non-eligible recyclables still managed by the City and any eligible recyclables and associated containers only where they risk becoming a public nuisance.
- Removal of schedules containing Waste Management Plans and City Waste Collection Agreements to provide better flexibility to keep them updated.

Proposed changes to the Waste Management By-law for Council approval are provided in Attachment-1.

If approved, the amendments to the Waste Management By-law will take place effective immediately.

Financial Implications

There are no current or forecasted financial impacts related to capital or operating costs as a result of the recommendations outlined in this report. No additional resources have been allocated to enforce the Waste Management By-law as amended as proposed.

Consultations and Engagement

Legal and Court Services and Bylaw and Security were consulted in the development of the proposed amendments.

Attachments

Attachment-1 Final Draft Waste Management By-law Update (By-law Number (2025) – 20995)

Departmental Approval

None.

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