

# Information Report

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Service Area	Infrastructure, Development and Enterprise Services
Date	Friday, June 12, 2020
Subject	<b>Transition of Battery Recycling Program to Individual Producer Responsibility</b>

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform City Council and Guelph residents on the transition of the battery collection program to Individual Producer Responsibility under the Waste Free Ontario Act (WFOA) on July 1, 2020.

### Key Findings

Effective July 1, 2020, battery producers will be environmentally and financially responsible for collecting, reusing, refurbishing or recycling batteries at their end-of-life.

Producers, through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) may solicit municipalities, businesses or other organizations to become a service provider to collect single-use and rechargeable batteries on their behalf.

The City was approached by a PRO, Call2Recycle, to collect batteries. Based on the amount of compensation offered the City has chosen to continue to accept batteries from residents at the Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) depot, and to discontinue the annual curbside battery collection program.

The City will enter into a one-year agreement with Call2Recycle beginning July 1, 2020 to collect batteries at the MHSW depot. Staff will analyze the program's performance during the first year to determine direction with respect to future program offerings. This timeline corresponds with the wind up of the remaining materials collected under the Municipal Hazardous Special Waste program under the WFOA starting July 1, 2021, which may lead to alternative program options.

Staff continue to monitor and advocate for Guelph's interests and will report back to Council as new information becomes available.

### Financial Implications

Call2Recycle has offered to compensate the City at 55 cents per kg for single-use and rechargeable batteries under 5 kg. Based on the amount of batteries collected in 2019, the compensation would be approximately \$5,089 per year for the depot. The funding covers the cost of resources to manage the program as the MHSW depot remains operational to accept other household hazardous waste from residents.

The funds do not cover the cost to collect batteries at the curb and this service will no longer be provided by the City. The new producer responsibility framework offers an opportunity for the City to transfer collection services to the producers for services that do not support full cost recovery. Battery producers are legislatively responsible for collecting batteries when consumers discard them and are required to implement additional means of collection, including a new regulatory requirement to provide one collection site for every 15,000 residents.

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## **Report**

### **Individual Producer Responsible Battery Program**

Stewardship Ontario's single-use battery recycling program will wind up on June 30, 2020. Beginning July 1, 2020, producers of single-use and rechargeable batteries will be environmentally and financially responsible for collecting, reusing, refurbishing or recycling batteries at their end-of-life. Under the new producer responsible regulation, producers who supply single-use and rechargeable batteries weighing 5 kg or less into the Ontario market will be required to establish and operate battery collection and management systems when consumers discard them.

Producers will have the choice to work with Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to operate battery collection and management systems on their behalf to meet their legislative obligations and targets. PROs may solicit municipalities, businesses or other organizations to become a service provider to collect single-use and rechargeable batteries on their behalf.

### **Municipal Hazardous Special Waste (MHSW) Depot**

The Waste Resource Innovation Centre (WRIC) operates the MHSW depot for Guelph residents to dispose of hazardous materials including single-use batteries and rechargeable batteries free of charge. This program has been in effect since 2005. City Hall and Guelph's Fire Stations also allow residents to bring their batteries to them for collection.

The MHSW depot currently receives compensation for single-use batteries from Stewardship Ontario (SO) for a portion of the depot's operating hours. SO also covers the cost of transportation and recycling. The payment from SO for the battery collection program is currently \$3,655 per year which ends June 30, 2020. Rechargeable batteries are sent from the MHSW depot to Call2Recycle at no cost to the City for transportation or recycling. In total, the City collected 9,252 kg of single-use and rechargeable batteries at the MHSW depot in 2019.

### **Curbside Battery Collection Event**

The City has run an annual curbside battery collection program for Guelph residents since 2015. This is a two-week program run in the fall where residents can place single-use batteries at the curb on their blue cart collection day during the program dates. The City received compensation from Recycling Materials Company Inc. for the batteries collected during the event. In 2019, the City collected 2,455 kg of batteries at the curb and was compensated \$2,788 for the program. The net cost for providing the two-week curbside battery collection event was approximately

\$11,000, which included promotion and education, staff resourcing deployed from other positions and vehicle costs.

### **Battery Program starting July 1, 2020**

The City has been approached by a Producer Responsibility Organization, Call2Recycle, to enter into a contract to become a service provider to collect single-use and rechargeable batteries on behalf of producers. The PRO has offered to compensate the City at 55 cents per kg for single-use and rechargeable batteries.

Based on the amount of batteries collected in 2019, the new compensation would be approximately \$5,089 per year for the depot. The funding is sufficient to cover resources such as staff time and overhead costs to manage the program since the MHSW depot remains operational to accept other household hazardous waste from residents. Transportation and recycling costs are covered by the producers. As a result of the funding offered, the city will continue to accept batteries from residents at the MHSW. As well, City Hall and the City's Fire Stations will continue to accept batteries from residents at their respective locations and we will arrange to have the batteries picked up and dropped off at the MHSW as required.

Staff will analyze the program's performance during the first year to determine direction with respect to future program offerings. This timeline corresponds with the wind up of the remaining materials collected under the Municipal Hazardous Special Waste program under the WFOA starting July 1, 2021, which may lead to alternative program options.

The City will no longer offer the annual curbside battery collection. The net cost of this program is approximately \$11,000. As it is the battery producer's responsibility to determine which collection and management systems to use to meet their legislative obligations and targets, the City has chosen to not provide this service on behalf of producers. Producers may choose to partner with other businesses or organizations to run collection events and implement the new regulatory requirement to provide one collection site for every 15,000 residents.

### **Environmental Risk**

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) has delegated the responsibility of battery collection, recycling and disposal to battery producers when consumers discard them. The Ministry has set performance targets as part of the regulation to ensure producers meet the intended environmental outcomes.

### **Financial Implications**

Call2Recycle has offered to compensate the City at 55 cents per kg for single-use and rechargeable batteries. Based on the amount of batteries collected in 2019, the compensation would be approximately \$5,089 per year for the depot. The funding covers the cost of resources to manage the program as the MHSW depot remains operational to accept other household hazardous waste from residents.

### **Consultations**

City staff are participants in the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative, which includes the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the City of Toronto, the Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario and the Municipal

Waste Association. We have consulted with these organizations to ensure the City supports a consistent approach to the IPR framework transition.

Solid Waste staff consulted with internal staff including representatives from Legal Services, Communications, Facilities and Energy Management and the Guelph Fire Services.

### **Strategic Plan Alignment**

Working together for our future: Develop a long-term financial and resource strategy that is achievable and affordable.

The new producer responsibility framework offers an opportunity for the City to recoup funding for operating the battery program at the depot and transferring alternative collections options to the producers for services that do not support cost recovery.

Sustaining our future: Mitigate climate change by reducing Guelph's carbon footprint.

One of the overall objectives of the province's circular economy approach is improved resource management through greater recovery, waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, including promotion of design-for-the-environment that would increase the environmental performance of the battery program.

### **Attachments**

Not applicable

### **Departmental Approval**

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