

MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING STRATEGY: BYLAW 20M2001 AMENDMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council approval is required to amend the Waste and Recycling Bylaw (20M2001) that will support the multi-family recycling strategy which was approved by Council on 2014 February 10. An extensive engagement process found that the majority of the multi-family tenants and industry stakeholders support a city-wide multi-family recycling program. The stakeholders preferred a solution where the Bylaw will establish the requirements for recycling at multi-residential complexes¹. Owners will be required to provide on-site storage and collection of recyclables. As well, The City will assist complex owners and residents by providing communication, education, monitoring and stakeholder engagement.

This strategy balances resident demand, cost efficiency and flexible service, and will also support private industry's role in delivering the service. In order to provide program clarity and ease implementation, amendments to the current Waste and Recycling Bylaw are required. Bylaw amendments will come into effect in two phases: 2015 January 1 for community recycling depot provisions and 2016 February 01 for multi-family recycling provisions to allow sufficient time for residents and industry to prepare and adopt.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw amendments (Attachment 1) to the Waste and Recycling Bylaw 20M2001 in respect of recycling at multi-residential complexes for:

- a) The community recycling depot provisions to come into effect 2015 January 1 and;
- b) The multi-family recycling provisions to come into effect 2016 February 1.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2014 February 10, Council approved Report UCS2014-0026 Multi-Family Recycling Strategy, and directed Administration to:

1. Design a multi-family recycling program, as outlined in Attachment 1 for implementation in 2016; and
2. Return to Council with amendments to the Waste & Recycling Bylaw (20M2001) no later than 2014 September.

On 2014 June 9, Council approved Report UCS2014-0441 Waste and Recycling Bylaw Amendments Deferral Report, which deferred amendments to the Waste and Recycling Bylaw (20M2001) to no later than 2014 October.

¹ Recycling at 'Multi-residential complexes', as referred to in the Waste and Recycling Bylaw is commonly referred to as 'multi-family recycling'. These two terms can be used interchangeably.

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BACKGROUND

The Waste and Recycling Bylaw regulates and controls the storage, collection, recycling and disposal of waste within the City of Calgary. The Bylaw needs to be amended to impose conditions upon the owners of multi-residential complexes necessary for the implementation of a multi-family recycling program.

The Multi-family Recycling Strategy recommended recycling opportunities for multi-residential complexes that require a minimum level of service. Owners of multi-residential complexes will be required to provide adequate onsite storage space and containers for recyclable materials (as listed in Schedule C of the Waste and Recycling Bylaw). This provision needs to be added to the Bylaw, and other sections added or modified to provide clarity for the implementation of the multi-family recycling program.

The Bylaw intentionally does not attempt to impose strict parameters around what constitutes “adequate” recycling containers at multi-residential complexes. There are a large variety of multi-residential complexes in the City, which necessarily means that the adequacy of recycling containers will vary depending on the nature of any particular complex and service schedule. Thus, the Bylaw sets out a broad requirement so that the owner of a complex has some discretion to determine how to address the recycling needs of that complex.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

The proposed changes to the Waste and Recycling Bylaw (20M2001) introduce new sections designed to improve the multi-family experience, and to enable enforcement. Fines, which are consistent with existing fines, were added for offenses. The amendments were developed in consultation with the Law Department.

Proposed Changes to the Waste & Recycling Bylaw

Section 42.1 – Community Recycling Depots. Add language to prevent Community Recycling Depot (CRD) users from using anything but the deposit slots in the CRD bins and prevent tampering, interfering with the function of or damaging a CRD bin. Add language to prevent commercial haulers from depositing waste or recyclable materials at a CRD. It is proposed that these changes come into effect 2015 January 1, as the issues around CRDs are current.

It is proposed that the following changes come into effect 2016 February 1, to allow multi-residential complex owners time to put the requirements in place.

NEW – Section 42.4 – Recycling at Multi-residential Complexes. This new section will outline the responsibilities of multi-residential complex owners and residents in providing and utilizing recycling containers on-site.

Schedule A – Fines and Penalties. Fines were added for new multi-family residential recycling requirements; the new fines are consistent with the existing fines.

Schedule C – Recyclable Materials. Update the wording to reflect both single-family and multi-residential complexes.

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These changes are expressed in more detail in Attachment 1, Text of a Proposed Bylaw to amend Bylaw 20M2001, the Waste and Recycling Bylaw.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Details of the engagement process for the Multi-family Recycling Strategy were included in the UCS2014-0026 Report.

Waste & Recycling Services (WRS) worked with WRS operations and consulted Law, Animal and Bylaw Services (ABS), City-Wide Policy and Integration (Planning Development and Assessment), and The Calgary Fire Department in development of the bylaw changes to ensure that the multi-residential recycling strategy would not impact existing operations and support the goals of The Corporation.

In collaboration with Land Use Planning and to align with the Land Use Bylaw 1P2007, which requires new buildings to provide recycling, WRS is developing Standards and Guidelines to advise multi-residential complex owners on the provision of the correct space and containers.

Strategic Alignment

Implementing the Multi-family Recycling Strategy is one of Council's priorities in the 2015 to 2018 Action Plan.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Diverting materials from landfills requires changes in behaviour by Calgarians. Implementation of waste diversion programs like multi-family recycling will make Calgary a more attractive place to live and increase Calgary's reputation as an environment-friendly city. An extensive engagement process found that the majority of the multi-family tenants and industry stakeholders support a city-wide multi-family recycling program.

Environmental

Diverting waste from landfills is a critical component of reducing Calgary's impact on land, air and water. Diverting waste redirects natural resources back into the economy and reduces future contamination and environmental liability.

Economic

Diversion programs create jobs and business opportunities in the transportation and processing of these multi-residential complex recycling materials.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

WRS has budgeted \$750,000 in 2015 and \$350,000 annually thereafter for the Multi-family Recycling Strategy. Efficiencies realized in CRD operations will be reinvested into implementation of Multi-family Recycling Strategy, for no net increase in WRS' tax supported budget.

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Current and Future Capital Budget:

There are no capital budget implications in approving the amended Bylaw.

Risk Assessment

If multi-residential complex owners, residents and service providers do not comply with the Bylaw amendments there is a risk to achieving the diversion targets in the 80/20 by 2020 strategy.

Education and communication will be used to mitigate this risk. Approval of the Bylaw in 2014 October should allow sufficient time to educate multi-residential complex owners on their requirements, to arrange for service contracts and containers, and for complex owners to educate their residents about these requirements prior to the bylaw amendments coming into effect on 2016 February 1.

It is intended that infractions will initially be addressed with education, with enforcement only considered after education support.

The implementation of multi-family recycling may bring increased pressure on the Community Recycling Depots (CRDs). CRDs accept recyclable material from any user as long as the depot bins are used appropriately. However, the CRDs are currently being utilised by some commercial service providers as a no cost, tax-subsidized, processing solution. It gives such companies a cost advantage over those paying for processing. Additionally two other risks arise: capacity due to increased commercial use and unsafe practices (e.g. propping open top lids), creating a liability to The City.

WRS will develop an education and communication strategy for commercial haulers on CRD requirements and use, and continue to investigate additional mitigation tactics to prevent commercial haulers from depositing waste or recyclable materials at a CRD.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Implementing the Multi-Family Recycling Strategy is one of Council's priorities in the 2015-2018 Action Plan. The Bylaw amendments will bring clarity to multi-residential complex owners and residents ensuring that all multi-family buildings participate in recycling and provide increased regulation with the use of community recycling depots by commercial haulers.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Text of proposed amendments to the Waste and Recycling Services Bylaw 20M2001