

REQUEST FOR DECISION

DATE:

December 6, 2018

TOPIC:

Collaboration on Extended Producer Responsibility

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the AUMA Executive Committee recommend that the AUMA Board allocate \$25,000 from the 2018 budget to support the research of the Extended Producer Responsibility project being considered by the City of Calgary; and

Furthermore, assist the City of Calgary communicating this Notice of Motion to AUMA members and implementing this research initiative.

BACKGROUND:

During the 2018 AUMA Convention and the Recycling Council of Alberta Conference, the Minister of Environment and Parks indicated that municipalities need to build grassroots support for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) paper and packaging program. Her statements were echoed by her staff at different meetings explaining that the province is interested in developing EPR programs, but for the provincial government to move forward, the push must come from the bottom up, instead of the top down.

The City of Calgary has been an advocate for an EPR paper and packaging program. At the March 2018 Municipal Leaders' Caucus, it presented a Request for Decision (RFD) advocating the Government of Alberta develop and implement EPR. The RFD received unanimous support from municipalities in attendance. The city wants to continue building ground-up support; it is considering a Notice of Motion in January or February 2019. The proposed motion would direct the city administration to work with Alberta municipalities, AUMA, producers and recyclers of paper and packaging products to develop a baseline of paper and packaging waste data that can inform the design of a provincial EPR program. Furthermore, the research will seek to understand the opportunities, benefits, challenges and risks of an EPR model in Alberta, and the potential impacts of an EPR program on the current recycling system and supply chains across the province. The draft motion attached directs the administration to report back no later than October 2019.

City staff and the Calgary AUMA representative, Councillor Peter Demong, have both approached AUMA staff and the AUMA Board on how we can best collaborate on this recycling Notice of Motion initiative. At the November 16 AUMA Executive Committee meeting, Councillor Demong

led a discussion on how AUMA can support its members on EPR research. The draft motion was shared with the AUMA Sustainability and Environment Committee via email after the November 22 Sustainability and Environment committee meeting. Overall, the committee members welcome the idea.

ANALYSIS:

The initiative aligns with AUMA's current advocacy on EPR and recycling and AUMA's letter writing campaign to modernize Alberta's recycling regulatory framework. To date, AUMA has received 27 letters calling on the Minister of Environment and Parks to expand the current recycling program and create an EPR paper and packaging program. This research will bring clarity to our ongoing discussion on EPR models and add important data that Alberta municipalities can use to develop a solution for an EPR paper and packaging program in Alberta.

AUMA has continued to hear from Alberta Environment and Parks that it understands the benefits an EPR paper and packaging program can bring to Alberta; however, it is concerned that the program will add additional costs to businesses, which is a common misunderstanding. When BC and Saskatchewan launched their paper and packaging programs, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) in both provinces claimed that EPR would add higher costs to businesses. However, CFIB's research was only based on the opinions of its members, not an empirical study. The proposal to collect baseline measurements data and our partnership with the Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (CSSA) will help inform the design of an appropriate EPR framework for Alberta. The data could also be used to estimate the potential costs for businesses in the province. CSSA is a national Producer Responsibility Organization that manages producer's obligations in provincial EPR paper and packaging programs in BC, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. CSSA members are major producers and retailers, including Unilever Canada, Wal-Mart, Loblaw Companies, etc.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCES:

AUMA will allocate \$25,000 from the 2018 budget to support this initiative.

IMPLEMENTATION & MONITORING:

AUMA administration has started the discussion with AUMA members on how best to collaborate on this research project. The funding is contingent on Calgary's approval of the Notice of Motion and our members' support. AUMA administration plans to bring further updates to the January 2019 AUMA Board and Sustainability and Environment Committee meetings.

ENCLOSURES:

1. Draft Recycling Notice of Motion