

**Operational Services Briefing to
Regular Meeting of Council
2024 March 19**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
C2024-0391**

Single-Use Items Update

PURPOSE OF BRIEFING

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an update to Council on the Single-use Items Bylaw repeal process, and information about the Single-Use Items Strategy including an overview of the evaluation framework developed as part of the strategy. Additional information related to waste diversion in public spaces, including the current state and The City’s analysis of waste in public spaces infrastructure options for single-use items in public spaces has been provided.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Process to Repeal Bylaw 1H2023

To repeal Bylaw 1H2023, the Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw, the required two consecutive weeks of advertising for the bylaw to repeal Bylaw 1H2023 was completed with the notice of public hearing on 2024 May 07 published twice in both the Calgary Sun and Calgary Herald between 2024 February 13 and 2024 February 22. The advertisement is included as Attachment 2.

The 60-day petition period is open, having commenced on the date of the last advertisement, during this time a member of the public may submit a petition for a vote of the electors to determine whether the repealing bylaw be passed.

Additionally, prior to the public hearing, members of the public may submit a letter, public opinion poll or other written communication concerning the merits of the proposed repeal of the bylaw to the City Clerk.

Council will then consider the repeal of the bylaw at the 2024 May 07 public hearing of Council. A decision chart is included as Attachment 3, outlining the process and options available to Council.

Whether or not the bylaw is repealed, and should Council elect, there are options for Council on 2024 May 07 to direct improvements and/or changes to waste reduction and re-use provisions set out in the current bylaw.

Single Use Items Strategy and Evaluation Framework

Waste reduction, using less, is the most cost-effective method of managing waste. Reuse is the next best option, and involves items being used again for the same or different purposes with the objective of long-term cost savings.

Managing waste from single-use items contributes to higher landfill costs and the long-term liability associated with managing Calgary’s waste into the future. Also, managing single-use items also adds to recycling and composting costs. They are often difficult to recycle (e.g. due to small size, material types or being soiled with food) and are a significant source of contamination in our recycling and composting streams.

Disposal is at the base of the waste hierarchy (Attachment 4) the proper collection and disposal of the residual solid waste is essential to protecting public health and the environment. Calgary’s three waste management facilities include engineered landfills to ensure the proper disposal of garbage. However, these facilities have finite capacity and The City’s three landfills are significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions, that already require significant investment to mitigate.

One of the program pathways outlined in Calgary's Climate Strategy is waste reduction, which aims to reduce the number of new products used and discarded in Calgary. Reducing waste, including waste from single-use items, reduces greenhouse gas emissions from The City's landfills.

The Single-Use Items Strategy is just one in a suite of waste reduction strategies. The City's corporate waste program has been in place for many years and includes standards for bin systems and signage, as well as catering guidelines and online resources for employees. Waste & Recycling Services is currently conducting an updated evaluation of corporate waste practices.

The Single-Use Items Strategy (Attachment 4) encourages Calgarians to waste less and conserve more, shifting the focus on how we think about these items, eliminating the use of unnecessary items, and replacing needed items with reusable options where possible. The measurement framework included in the strategy is expanded further in Attachment 5.

More than 15 million single-use items, including shopping bags, utensils, straws, and napkins are discarded in the residential and commercial garbage streams in Calgary every week, with millions more discarded in public garbage bins or as litter. Single-use items are a convenience item, designed to be used once before being discarded. They are often unnecessary as many items aren't used before being thrown away in the garbage or as litter.

Waste Diversion in Public Spaces

An estimated 2,000 tonnes of waste are collected from City-owned public spaces (e.g. LRT stations, bus stops, streetside/sidewalks, recreation and park spaces). There are over 6,300 bins in City-owned public spaces serviced over 1 million times per year at over \$4 million annually. City business units continue to work with Waste & Recycling Services to identify waste reduction and diversion opportunities for City-owned public spaces (Attachment 6).

In 2018, Waste & Recycling Services worked with Parks, Mobility and Transit to increase the availability of recycling bins in City-owned public spaces. To ensure that Calgarians receive good value for money requires that The City take a targeted approach to waste diversion in City-owned public spaces, prioritizing the installation and servicing of diversion bins to locations where higher volumes and quality of divertables are generated. The City does not have recyclable, compost and garbage bins widely distributed across City-owned public spaces due to the high cost of purchasing and installing this infrastructure and the increased operating costs required to service additional bins.

The City continues to work to lead by example on waste diversion.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Previous Council Direction – C2024-0391
2. Notice of Public Hearing of Calgary City Council - C2024-0391
3. Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw Decision Chart - C2024-0391
4. CD2022-0985 Single-Use Items Reduction Strategy - C2024-0391
5. Single-Use Items Strategy Evaluation Framework - C2024-0391
6. Analysis of Options for Increased Accessibility of Carts in City Spaces - C2024-0391
7. Memo - Bylaw 2H2024- To Repeal The Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw - C2024-0391
8. Bylaw 2H2024 To Repeal The Single-Use Items Charter Bylaw (1H2023) - C2024-0391

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General Manager Doug Morgan concurs with the information in this Briefing.