

Planning & Development Services Report to  
Community Development Committee  
2024 December 19

ISC: UNRESTRICTED  
CD2024-1315

## Update to the Action Plan to Minimize Impacts of Waste and Recycling Sites

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on Administration's continued progress on the 2023 Action Plan to Minimize Negative Impacts of Waste and Recycling Sites.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2023 July 4, through IP2023-0501, Council directed Administration to bring amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw 32M98 to address concerns around public health, safety and environmental impacts from the operations of waste and recycling sites in Calgary by no later than 2024 Q2.

On 2024 June 26, through CD2024-0768, Administration requested a deferral of the report back on amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw 32M98 to no later than 2024 Q4. Additional previous Council direction is outlined in Attachment 1.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Community Development Committee recommends that Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

#### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, 2024 DECEMBER 19:**

That Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Debra Hamilton concurs with this report. Administration continues to address concerns with private waste and recycling sites, with recently updated regulations proving successful in gaining improved compliance.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Additional amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw (32M98) to regulate private waste and recycling sites are not needed as an additional compliance tool. Amendments may have unintended consequences to the business community.
- Through effective internal collaboration, and with improved enforcement tools through recent Land Use Bylaw updates (IP2022-503), Administration has been able to work with private operators of twelve historically "non-compliant waste sites" to move towards compliance. Ten of the twelve waste sites have been brought into compliance and enforcement activities are in progress at the remaining two sites.
- The 2023 Land Use Bylaw updates have equipped Development and Fire inspectors with more concrete classifications and definitions to better enforce site compliance.
- Administration continues to work with the Government of Alberta (Alberta Environment and Protected Areas) and site operators to minimize impacts of these sites.

## **Update to the Action Plan to Minimize Impacts of Waste and Recycling Sites**

- Ongoing work includes progress to develop a guide for waste and recycling site operators that explains all applicable provincial and municipal oversight.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Background**

The Action Plan to Minimize Negative Impacts of Waste and Recycling Sites (Action Plan) that was reported to Council on 2023 June 07 included an action to explore potential amendments to the Business License Bylaw 32M98 as an additional enforcement tool. At the time the Action Plan was developed, there were twelve existing “non-compliant waste sites”. These sites had been operating in contravention of Development Authority approval and were accumulating/storing waste in excess of permitted limits which resulted in public health, safety and environmental impacts.

The updates made to the Land Use Bylaw 1P2007 in 2023 to incorporate Waste Storage Sites as a separately classified use under the Land Use Bylaw were instrumental in allowing Development Inspectors to have the knowledge and tools at their disposal to inspect and enforce compliance at these privately-operated sites. The National Fire Code – Alberta Edition (Fire Code) has also been an effective tool for Fire Inspectors to monitor and enforce compliance at private waste sites.

Leveraging the Land Use Bylaw changes and the NFC(AE), an interdepartmental working group has increased inspections and enforcement on the twelve “non-compliant waste sites”. Through these inspections and enforcement efforts, approximately 23,050 tonnes of waste have been removed and the sites have made significant steps into compliance.

#### **Consideration of Business Licence Bylaw Amendments**

In early 2024, Administration reviewed the benefits and implications of potential amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw to add a new type of business licence for these private sites to determine if this could be an additional enforcement tool. Through this review, it was determined that the amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw are not necessary at this time, since they would not add any new enforcement authority. The potential changes considered would still rely on development inspections and enforcement authority under the Land Use Bylaw and Fire Code to be effective.

Adding a new type of Business License to the Business Licence Bylaw would lead to additional new operational requirements for all waste haulers and site operators to navigate, including those that are already operating in compliance, and could result in unnecessary alterations to how they run their sites and businesses overall. The risk this causes is that these businesses may decide to move their operations to neighbouring municipalities with less stringent licensing requirements which would not only negatively impact Calgary, but also make them less accessible for businesses and residents who utilize the services that these waste sites provide.

#### **Next Steps**

Ongoing monitoring, education/outreach and enforcement are key to ensuring ongoing compliance for these privately owned and operated waste and recycling sites. The interdepartmental working group will continue to coordinate ongoing inspections and work with business owners to understand the expectations and requirements for their sites.

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### EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

No additional public communication or engagement was required since no amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw are being brought forward.

### IMPLICATIONS

#### Social

Existing regulations have proven sufficient in reducing public health and safety risks from improper site operations.

#### Environmental

With more waste sites operating in compliance, there has been a decrease in volume of waste stored on site and there is reduced safety and environmental hazards. The reduced waste at these sites reduces the risk and impacts of accidental release of liquids, dust and debris into the environment.

#### Economic

There will be no additional costs for these waste sites as there will be no new business licence requirement.

#### Service and Financial Implications

#### No anticipated financial impact

There are no financial impacts as a result of this report.

### RISK

There are no anticipated risks from not making amendments to Business Licence Bylaw.

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Previous Council Direction, Background
2. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Debra Hamilton	Planning and Development Services	Approve
Peter Steenaerts	Fire Department	Inform

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Author: Amar Chahal, Waste Officer, Planning and Development Services

City Clerks: C. Doi / K. Picketts