



Report Number: C2019-0129

Meeting: Combined Meeting of Council

Meeting Date: 2019 February 04

NOTICE OF MOTION

RE: Extended Producer Responsibility

Sponsoring Councillor(s): Councillor Peter Demong

WHEREAS recycling is an important activity for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, and allows products at end-of-life to be processed into valuable new products;

AND WHEREAS the costs of programs for collecting, processing, and marketing recyclable materials in Alberta are currently carried by local governments, funded by tax-payers;

AND WHEREAS the recycling stewardship programs for five regulated materials in Alberta (beverage containers, electronics, paint and paint containers, tires, and used oil materials) achieve some consistency across the province for how these materials are collected and recycled, but do not cover the full costs of collecting and managing these materials, requiring tax-payers to fund the remainder;

AND WHEREAS the companies that produce products that need to be recycled can design and operate more effective and efficient recycling programs if they work together province-wide than individual municipalities or the Government of Alberta can on their own, allowing for improved waste diversion infrastructure across the province and higher quality end products;

AND WHEREAS extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that places the financial and/or physical responsibility for end of life management of products with the companies that produce those products, and would remove the financial burden for recycling programs from taxpayers;

AND WHEREAS Alberta is the only province in Canada that has not legislated EPR for any materials, and is falling behind in its commitments under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR;

AND WHEREAS Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance Inc., an organization that manages EPR programs in four (4) Canadian provinces on behalf of obligated producers of packaging and paper product (PPP), has signaled its support for the CCME goal of producer-led EPR in the province of Alberta and is committed to working collaboratively with Alberta's urban and rural municipalities to:

- Assist in the funding of the collection of baseline measurement data that will inform the design of an appropriate EPR framework for Alberta;
- Assist in the development of recommendations for an appropriate EPR regulatory framework for the province; and
- Work with stakeholders to foster support for an EPR program for PPP;

AND WHEREAS producer-led EPR in Alberta would allow recyclable materials from Alberta and British Columbia to be managed as a whole, generating a large volume of higher quality materials that could

NOTICE OF MOTION

incentivize the development of processing infrastructure in western Canada, creating local jobs and minimizing the dependence on global recycling markets;

AND WHEREAS at the 2018 March 14-15 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Municipal Leaders Forum, The City of Calgary presented a Request for Decision (RFD) to advocate that the Government of Alberta develop and implement legislation to establish EPR in Alberta, and the RFD received unanimous support from municipalities in attendance;

AND WHEREAS it is important for the success of an EPR program in Alberta that there is a shared understanding of the benefits, challenges, and risks associated with such a program for communities of all sizes, industry, and the Province of Alberta;

AND WHEREAS to advance the development of an EPR program in Alberta, research is required on the Alberta recycling systems and supply chains, and the potential impacts of an EPR program in this province,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT COUNCIL:

1. Allocate funding from the Fiscal Stability Reserve (FSR) not to exceed \$50,000, to contribute to the work described below, which will require additional funding partners to carry out, and

Direct Administration to:

1. Cooperate with other Alberta municipalities, AUMA, producers and recyclers of packaging and paper products, and the Province of Alberta to develop a baseline that can inform the design of a provincial EPR program by researching:
 - The benefits, challenges, and risks of an EPR program in Alberta for these groups and their constituents;
 - The current recycling systems and supply chains across the province, and potential impacts of an EPR program in Alberta; and
2. Report back through the SPC on Utilities and Corporate Services no later than 2019 October.