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## **2018 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Long Term Waste Management Strategy: Improving Multi-Residential and Organic Waste Diversion in 2018**

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#### **Issue/Background:**

- In 2016, a total of 385,622 tonnes of residential waste was diverted from landfill through waste diversion programs including Blue Bin recycling, Green Bin organics, Yard Waste, Household Hazardous Waste, and Electronic Waste Programs.
- The combined residential diversion rate was 52% in 2016. Single family households have a diversion rate of 65% and multi-residential buildings achieved a rate of 28%.
- In July 2016, City Council approved the Long Term Waste Management Strategy, (“The Strategy”) which emphasizes waste reduction, reuse and recycling activities to increase resource recovery and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- The Strategy includes an aspirational goal to work towards a circular economy and zero waste future. It also includes a 70% waste diversion target by 2026, for both City serviced residential customers and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional customers that receive City collection services.
- The first five years of the Strategy focuses on hiring staff for its implementation, the development of a Food Waste Reduction Plan, a Textile Collection and Reuse Plan, support for Reuse Events and Sharing Libraries, and exploring opportunities for Waste Exchange initiatives. Table 1, on the following page, illustrates the first five years of implementation.

**Table 1 – Implementation Plan (2017 – 2021)**

Option	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Reduction and Reuse</b>					
Food Waste Reduction Strategy	P	P	I	M	M
Textile Reuse and Collection Strategy	P	I	M	M	M
Sharing Libraries	P	P	I	M	M
Reuse Events	P	I	M	M	M
Waste Exchange	P	P	I	M	M
<b>Multi-Residential</b>					
City Explores Mechanisms to Introduce Additional Controls Over Waste Management, By-laws and Acts	P	P	I	I	M
Updates to Multi-residential Development Standards, Community Composting, Data Management	P	P	P	P	P
Multi-Residential By-laws and Enforcement	P	P	P	I	M
<b>Industrial, Commercial and Institutional</b>					
Construction, Renovation and Demolition Depots, Policies and Disposal Ban			P	P	P
Unit for Research, Innovation & a Circular Economy	P	P	P	I	M
Expand Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Service & By-laws	P	P	P	P	I

P – Planning

I – Implementation

M – Maintain and Monitor

**Key Points:**

2018 Operating and Capital Budgets – Waste Diversion Initiatives

- The 2018 Operating and Capital Budget submission include the following waste diversion initiatives and projects:

*Long Term Waste Management Strategy Initiatives*

- Table 2 outlines the 2018 Capital Budget submission for the Long Term Waste Management Strategy by sub-project.

**Table 2 – 2018 Capital Budget**

Waste Strategy Program/Project Area	2018 Budget (\$)
Reduce, Reuse & Multi-Residential	2,661,000
Promotion & Education	1,580,000
Commissioners Transfer Station	100,000
Mixed Waste Processing Facility with Organic Recovery	3,370,000
Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Diversion	180,000
Research, Innovation and Circular Economy	685,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,576,000</b>

- The 2018 Budget will be used to fund staffing to implement and administer the Waste Reduction Community Investment Program, new promotional/educational campaigns on food waste, develop a textile diversion strategy, conduct Mixed Waste Processing studies, and research markets and opportunities to accelerate the Circular Economy.
- \$1.2M of the 2018 Budget will be used to pilot new waste projects in partnership with Social Development and Finance Administration. This includes projects aimed to raise awareness on reduction, reuse/share, and repair.
  - Bicycle Chain – Use discarded/abandoned bikes to train and provide youth with bike repair skills (Reduction);
  - Urban Harvest – Volunteers coordinate with community residents to collect and redistribute excess fruit and vegetables from fruit trees and gardens on private property (Food Waste Reduction);
  - Sewing Cooperative – Train community members to use sewing machines to repair clothing (Textile Diversion);
  - Community Composting – Support community gardens located in high-density areas and install three-bin composters to manage garden waste (Composting);
  - Reuse/Sharing Space – establish reuse and sharing space in multi-residential buildings to share common items (Reduction).

#### *Improving Diversion in the Multi-Residential Sector*

- Initiatives that will be undertaken and implemented in 2018 to improve multi-residential diversion, include:
  - Developing the Waste Reduction Community Investment Program to fund community-led projects to reduce waste. The budget impact for 2018 is \$221,500, which includes program administration costs and funding for projects.
    - Applications will be accepted starting in January 2018. The program will prioritize proposals that support community-led projects to reduce waste in the multi-residential sector.
  - Approximately \$500,000 is allocated in the 2018 Budget to conduct waste audits, create new education tools, and pilot new engagement tactics.
  - Various education and engagement tactics are being piloted and measured at select multi-residential buildings, including working with community agencies to utilize a Tenant Engagement Guide to deliver waste education, testing of online waste education applications, and new communication initiatives.
  - A Multi-Residential Waste Diversion Advisory Group will be established in 2018 to provide advice and feedback to staff on multi-residential programming and policies to increase diversion from this sector.
  - Exploring legally permissible By-laws to mandate waste diversion requirements to all multi-residential buildings, regardless of service provider:

- Following recent amendments to the *City of Toronto Act*, Solid Waste Management Services was directed by City Council, at their January 31, 2017, meeting to report back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee, on options for expanded waste diversion requirements for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector, which includes multi-residential buildings.
- Solid Waste Management Services recently consulted the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector, which includes multi-residential buildings, on the level of interest and preparedness of locations that do not receive City waste services, for future mandatory approaches to waste diversion.
- Feedback received and key themes from the consultation will be reported back to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee in Q1, 2018.
- Until policies requiring source separation of divertable materials are developed, the budget impact is uncertain.

#### *Improving Organic Waste Diversion*

- In 2016, the City managed 144,381 tonnes of organic waste and diverted this material from landfill.
- Included in the 2018 Budget is the development of a plan to reduce food and organic waste. Solid Waste Management Services has begun to develop and implement recommendations from the Strategy to reduce food and organic waste, including:
  - development of a comprehensive Food Waste Reduction Strategy that will include public outreach and engagement on the value of food, strategies for reducing food waste generation, and new opportunities to divert food and organic waste;
  - working with other Divisions to incorporate food waste reduction messaging into projects and programming; and,
  - gathering data through residential waste audits to determine the amount of edible, inedible and uneaten food in the waste streams to inform program planning.
- The Strategy also includes recommendations to support waste diversion in the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector, including exploring expansion of the existing Garbage Tag program to allow more small businesses convenient access to the Green Bin Organics program.

#### Further Opportunities to Enhance Diversion Rates

##### *Cost Recovery Payment System to Reduce Contamination*

- Solid Waste Management Services continues to see a significant amount of garbage and other non-recyclable material in the Blue Bin recycling stream. The current contamination rate is now approximately 26%.

- In 2016, more than 52,000 tonnes of non-recyclable material were incorrectly put in the Blue Bin.
- It will cost the City and its residents an extra \$5 million per year should this rate increase to over 27%. For every 1% reduction in contamination, the City could save approximately \$600,000.
- To help manage contamination, Solid Waste Management Services has implemented on-site monitoring of Blue Bins for contamination. Heavily contaminated Blue Bins at single family and multi-residential customers are tagged with a note advising the resident that the bin was not collected due to contamination. Residents are provided with Blue Bin program educational information and are instructed to remove contaminants before setting out the Blue Bin for collection on the next scheduled collection date.
- At multi-residential buildings where staff visually inspect and identify heavily contaminated Blue Bins, the bins are collected and charged as garbage at the City Council approved garbage collection rate.
- In order to help offset these costs and reduce the amount of recycling ending up in landfill, the City of Toronto could begin to apply a cost recovery payment from those home and building owners and apartment buildings who set out contaminated recycling bins.
- The “cost recovery” would be assessed to both single family households (approximately \$20.00 per bin) and multi-residential properties (approximately \$100.00 per container).
- In 2018, Solid Waste Management Services could apply the cost recovery payment system utilizing existing staff, without incurring additional Operating Budget impacts, and with no impacts to service levels.
- As part of the 2019 Budget Process, Solid Waste Management Services will report back on the impact of the on-site monitoring activities on the contamination rate in the Blue Bin recycling stream, and evaluate the need for staffing resources.

#### *Providing Commercial Customers with Garbage Bin Size Options*

- City-serviced commercial customers currently only have the option to purchase one size (Extra-Large) of Garbage Bin.
- In 2018, Solid Waste Management Services could offer City-serviced commercial customers with the option to purchase a Large and Medium size Garbage Bin.
- Offering multiple garbage bin options will provide financial incentive to divert additional waste as each bin will be assigned variable rates.
- There will be no impacts to the 2018 Operating and Capital Budgets to implement multiple garbage bin sizes for the City’s commercial customers.

#### **Questions & Answers:**

- Q1. How many tonnes of waste will you divert in 2018, as a result of the Long Term Waste Management Services?

- A1. It is estimated that 8,350 tonnes of waste will be diverted in 2018, in addition to the tonnes that will be diverted through current waste diversion programs.
- Q2. What has Solid Waste Management Services done to improve diversion in multi-residential buildings?
- A2. In recent years, Solid Waste Management Services has implemented numerous programs in multi-residential buildings in an effort to increase their waste diversion, including:
- 3Rs Ambassador Volunteer Program
  - Creation of the Customer Service and Waste Diversion Implementation Unit
  - Education campaigns targeted to our multi-residential customer
  - Toronto Community Housing waste reduction pilot study
  - The Mayor's Towering Challenge
  - Collaboration with Municipal Licensing and Standards By-law Enforcement
  - Tenant Engagement Guide
  - Study to test various engagement tactics including working with community agencies and testing an online waste sorting game
- Q3. Why does the City not offer the choice to purchase a small-sized Garbage Bin to City-serviced commercial customers?
- A3. The volume of a small sized Garbage Bin is equivalent to one garbage bag. Commercial customers can purchase and affix a Yellow Tag to a regular black garbage bag.

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