

# PW31.10 Attachment 1

## ATTACHMENT 1

### Background Information – Provincial Legislative Framework and Other Jurisdictions

#### *Provincial Waste Diversion Framework and Single-Use Items*

The *Waste-Free Ontario Act, 2016*, introduced the *Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016*, (provides for continued operation of the existing Blue Box Program Plan) and the *Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016*, (provides a framework for full Extended Producer Responsibility), each of which were separately proclaimed. As required by this legislation, the Province developed the Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario: Building the Circular Economy (the Strategy), which outlines policies and programs which will be established under the new legislation to support further waste reduction and diversion. The Strategy includes commitments to establish new environmental standards including packaging standards, designate new materials, ensure producers recover more materials, implement disposal bans on specific materials, and to transition existing waste diversion programs - including the Blue Box Program Plan – to a new full producer responsibility framework.

As outlined in the Decision History for this report, staff have previously reported to City Council on the successes and challenges over the past year in working towards Extended Producer Responsibility, such as work undertaken to work with Stewardship Ontario to develop an amended-Blue Box Program Plan. Although work is still being undertaken to transition towards full extended producer responsibility, it is expected that regulations will include requirements for producers to reduce the use of non-recyclable packaging and increase recovery of recyclable materials.

#### *Methods to Address Single-use and Takeaway Products in Other Jurisdictions*

Large Canadian municipalities have been addressing the challenges of managing single-use or takeaway containers through both voluntary and mandatory approaches. Mandatory approaches could include materials bans or fees, while voluntary approaches typically involve a combination of education and incentive programs. The City of Montreal implemented a By-law prohibiting the distribution of plastic shopping bags from retail stores on January 1, 2018. This By-law was developed through a public consultation process which began in 2015 and officially adopted in 2016. The City of Victoria will implement a by-law to regulate the use of plastic bags on July 1, 2018. The Victoria By-law was developed following eighteen months of public consultation.

The City of Vancouver is currently implementing its own comprehensive, multi-year 'single-use item reduction strategy'. This strategy focusses on disposable cups, straws and utensils, containers and plastic and paper bags, with the aim of dramatically reducing these single-use items. The Vancouver program included a two-year public consultation process to identify priority items to address, along with a commitment to ongoing dialogue to help develop longer term approaches to reduce single-use materials. A mixture of voluntary and mandatory approaches are recommended in the final single-use item

strategy, which was adopted by Vancouver City Council in May 2018. New By-laws restricting use of single-use items could be in place in Vancouver as early as 2019. Solid Waste Management Services staff met proactively with City of Vancouver staff in 2017, to gain a better understanding of their strategy and approach.