

**Will Johnson**  
Deputy City Manager  
Infrastructure Services

**Solid Waste Management Services**  
City Hall, 25<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower  
100 Queen St. West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Matt Keliher**  
General Manager

Tel: (416) 392-4715  
Fax: (416) 392-4757  
Matt.Keliher@toronto.ca  
www.toronto.ca

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## 2024 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

### Update on Circular Economy Partnerships in 2023

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#### Issue/Background:

- At its meeting on June 8, 2021, Toronto City Council adopted the recommendations of item [IE22.8](#), Partnership Authority to Support Toronto's Circular Economy Outcomes. The report recommendations generated no immediate financial implications because the authorities requested were captured in the Solid Waste Management Services Division approved budget as part of the Long-Term Waste Management Strategy. Any future financial impacts would be considered as part of the City's annual budget process.
- Through the report, Solid Waste Management Services Division committed to include an annual briefing note as part of future year budget submissions to advise Council of the program's progress. To that end, this briefing note provides an overview of partnerships entered by the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services in 2023 to advance the City of Toronto's circular economy outcomes.

#### Key Points:

- By adopting item IE22.8, Partnership Authority to Support Toronto's Circular Economy Outcomes, Toronto City Council delegated the following authority to the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services:
  - *City Council authorize the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to negotiate, enter into, and execute agreements, as may be required, with local, regional, national, and international non-profit, public, and private sector organizations to provide in-kind and/or financial support from the approved Solid Waste Management Services budget where it is determined that the project or initiative will advance the City's aspirational circular economy goals, on such terms and conditions satisfactory to the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.*

- Circular economy strategies consider resource consumption and material efficiency for their potential impacts on climate change, environmental degradation, and social outcomes. The City of Toronto is striving to deliver benefits to Toronto residents, industries, and communities by working toward several desired circular economy outcomes, including:
  - Waste reduction, including reduction and diversion of waste streams not managed by the City of Toronto's Integrated Waste Management System.
  - Economic prosperity for a green and equitable pandemic recovery, including green sector development and local supply chain resilience.
  - Local emissions reduction to help build more resilient, low-carbon neighbourhoods.
  - Enhanced well-being, equity and community activation fostered through partnerships with local agencies and non-profit organizations.
  - Strengthened local innovation ecosystems to support local businesses and innovators to develop and scale circular business models.
- For the 2023 budget year, Solid Waste Management Services Division has leveraged the authority delegated in item IE22.8 for the following agreements:
  - Participation in the Love Food Hate Waste Canada campaign (Year 3 of Term 2).
  - Continued implementation of the Community Reduce and Reuse Programs.
  - Execution of a Presenter Broadcasting Agreement with the Toronto Public Library.
- In 2021, the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services executed an agreement with the National Zero Waste Council (NZWC) to participate in Term 2 of the Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) Canada campaign. The three-year term is effective until June 30, 2024. Year 3 of the agreement began on July 1, 2023.
  - LFHW is a Canada-wide consumer behaviour-change campaign run by the NZWC and is a key deliverable of its National Food Waste Reduction Strategy. The City is a member of the NZWC, including its Food Working Group, and has been an LFHW Campaign Partner since 2018.
  - The campaign aligns with the City's Long Term Waste Management Strategy, particularly the development and implementation of a Food Waste Reduction Strategy. Food waste reduction initiatives support the circular economy principle of decreasing demand on limited natural resources required to generate food, especially consumption by urban residents. Preventing wasted food reduces the need and cost for local governments and businesses to manage organic waste,

while also reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste management and disposal.

- In 2023, the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services executed 11 agreements with 11 non-profit organizations contracted to implement the Community Reduce and Reuse Programs (CRRP). Two non-profit organizations, The Neighbourhood Organization (TNO) and FoodShare Toronto, are the only ones contracted to operate two distinct CRRP programs at two unique locations in two different neighbourhoods. The agreements have been renewed annually.
  - The CRRP is a multi-year investment in community-based waste reduction projects and activities. Since 2018, Solid Waste Management Services has contracted with non-profit organizations to provide funding for operating expenses for the delivery of the CRRP.
  - The CRRP furthers the goals of the Long-Term Waste Management Strategy and supports the circular economy by enabling increased reuse and repair, diverting waste from landfill, and recirculating valuable resources within the community. The CRRP focuses on waste reduction through redistribution of surplus harvest, community composting, textile and sewing repair, bicycle repair, and the operation of sharing libraries, primarily in Toronto's Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.
- In 2022, the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services executed a Presenter Broadcasting Agreement with the Toronto Public Library (TPL) to provide a program of presentations to be broadcast live on the TPL website, as well as recorded and available for replay. The agreement is effective until December 31, 2023.
  - The program is part of TPL's "Our Fragile Planet" series and is entitled "3Rs Lifestyle: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle & More." It discusses what happens to the waste collected by the City of Toronto once it arrives at processing facilities, provides an overview of waste sorting and common misconceptions, and available City resources, services, and programs. The program supports the circular economy by enhancing awareness and understanding of waste and diversion.

### **Questions & Answers:**

*What are the budget implications of the 2023 Circular Economy Partnerships?*

- **Love Food Hate Waste Campaign:** As a LFHW Campaign Partner, the City of Toronto contributed an annual Servicing and Sub-Licensing Fee of \$22,000 for Year 1 and \$42,000 per year for Years 2 and 3. The total value of the financial commitment is \$106,000. The \$42,000 fee required for Year 3 of Term 2 was included in the 2023 Solid Waste Management Services budget submission under CSW013-03.
- **Community Reduce and Reuse Programs:** Each CRRP agency enters into an agreement with the City of Toronto and is provided a budget for carrying out the

services. The total annual budget for all 11 agreements is \$1.6 million. Expenses for each agency may include, but are not limited to, service fees, equipment, supplies, travel, training and workshops, and administration of the various programs. The \$1.6 million budget for the CRRPs was included in the 2023 Solid Waste Management Services budget submission under CSW013-03.

- **Presenter Broadcasting Agreement with TPL:** There are no financial obligations associated with this agreement.

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**Prepared by:** Meaghan Davis, Manager, Circular Economy and Innovation, Solid Waste Management Services, 416-392-3752, [Meaghan.Davis@toronto.ca](mailto:Meaghan.Davis@toronto.ca)

**Further information:** Matt Keliher, General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services, 416-392-4715, [Matt.Keliher@toronto.ca](mailto:Matt.Keliher@toronto.ca)

Annette Synowiec, Director, Policy, Planning & Outreach, Solid Waste Management Services, 416-392-9095, [Annette.Synowiec@toronto.ca](mailto:Annette.Synowiec@toronto.ca)

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