

## **Progress Update on the Long Term Waste Management Strategy Review**

Date: May 13, 2024

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services

Wards: All

### **SUMMARY**

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The City's Long Term Waste Management Strategy (Waste Strategy) was approved by City Council in 2016 and provided recommendations and a long-term planning framework to guide the City's waste management policy, planning, and program decisions over the next 30 to 50 years. A review of the recommendations after the first five years of implementation was recommended as part of the Waste Strategy, however, this was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June 2023, as part of its consideration of the Residual Waste Management Work Plan, City Council directed Solid Waste Management Service (SWMS) to submit an interim Waste Strategy update report no later than June 2024 and a final Long Term Waste Management Strategy update (Strategy Review) by June 2025.

The purpose of this report is to provide an interim progress update on the City's Long Term Waste Management Strategy Review. The report provides a summary of the work completed to date, an update on the progress of the Residual Waste Management Work Plan<sup>1</sup>, and next steps for engagement with the public and interest groups.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services recommends that:

1. The Infrastructure and Environment Committee receive this report for information.

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<sup>1</sup> Residual Waste Management Plan, link:  
<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/ie/bgrd/backgroundfile-236734.pdf>

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no immediate financial implications resulting from this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on April 3, 2024, Bid Award Panel adopted Item BA73.2, entitled "Award of Doc4316606042 to GHD Limited for Professional Consulting Services to Review and Update the City of Toronto's Long Term Waste Management Strategy for Solid Waste Management Services" which granted authority to award the contract, Request for Proposal, Doc4316606042 to GHD Limited.

The Bid Award Panel Decision document can be viewed at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.BA73.2>

At its meeting on June 14 and 15, 2023, City Council adopted with amendments Item IE4.1, entitled "Long-Term Residual Waste Management Options for the City of Toronto" which directs the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to provide an interim report to City Council, through the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, no later than June 2024, with a final report to be provided by June 2025, on an updated Long Term Waste Management Strategy review that maximizes waste diversion, takes every practical step to keep inappropriate waste out of garbage, and is consistent with TransformTO and the City's carbon budget carbon accountability mechanism.

City Council also directed the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services to report back to City Council, through the appropriate Standing Committee, on the related staff complement change to expedite the work outlined in the Residual Waste Management Work Plan.

The City Council Decision document can be viewed at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.IE4.1>

At its meeting on July 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2016, City Council adopted item PW14.2 entitled "Final Long Term Waste Management Strategy" and approved the Waste Strategy which included recommended options and implementation plan, as presented in Attachment 1 to the report (June 2, 2016) from the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services.

The City Council Decision document can be viewed at:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2016.PW14.2>

## COMMENTS

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### Strategy Review Status

Staff began work in June 2023 to procure professional services to support the completion of the Strategy Review and issued a Request for Proposals in December 2023. A contract was awarded to GHD Limited in April 2024 with work scheduled to commence in late May 2024 following the completion of the legal agreement sign-off.

The Strategy Review will include a comprehensive assessment of the implementation actions to date and recommend any continued or new implementation actions that the SWMS rate program can support to maximize waste diversion and align with other City priorities such as the TransformTO Net Zero Strategy. The outcomes of the Strategy Review will be presented in a separate report to City Council and will also include broader updates to the public as well.

### *Overview and Key Deliverables of the Strategy Review*

The Strategy Review scope of work will include, but not be limited to the following activities:

- A review of the current state of Toronto's integrated waste management system to determine the City's current and future waste management requirements
- A review of the Waste Strategy's action plan and update on the status of each recommendation, key learnings, and an analysis of performance metrics and measurable outcomes
- An analysis of factors influencing the Waste Strategy implementation including, but not limited to, relevant City Council direction since the original Waste Strategy approval and Provincial and Federal policy and regulatory changes
- A jurisdictional scan to explore gaps, opportunities and emerging areas of interest, as well as challenges and best practices, and identify proven and effective waste reduction and diversion strategies and initiatives not previously considered or implemented in the Waste Strategy
- Determination of Toronto's waste management requirements to achieve its long-term waste management goals, building upon the needs identified in the 2016 Waste Strategy and setting waste diversion and reduction goals and targets to work towards a zero-waste future
- Quantitative and qualitative evaluation and identification of the most appropriate and feasible options to help the City achieve its long-term waste management goals
- Three phases of consultation with the public and interest groups to gather feedback on reducing overall waste for Toronto, maximizing waste diversion from landfill, and considerations for long-term planning activities related to the management of Toronto's residual waste (garbage), including the potential option of Energy-from-Waste.
- Delivery of an updated 10-year Waste Strategy implementation (2025 – 2035) that builds upon the 2016 Waste Strategy and identifies waste management policies and programs to reduce and manage waste over the long term.

SWMS will inform City Councillors of all general public and interest group consultation and engagement activities to help encourage participation from their constituents.

## **Residual Waste Management Update**

The Strategy Review is also intended to help refine the City's projection of residual waste (garbage) that will require management in the long term. In particular, opportunities to further reduce and divert waste from landfills are critical to identifying short-, medium-, and long-term options for the management of the City's residual waste.

Work has begun to develop the Residual Waste Management Work Plan (the Plan), approved by Council in June 2023, including hiring new and deploying existing staff to help coordinate the development and implementation of the Plan. Initial steps have also been taken to move forward with critical preliminary and foundational work that will help inform options, including:

- Initiating engagement with private landfills in the province that may be willing to meet the City's residual waste needs
- Building an engagement plan to undertake initial consultation with the public, interest groups, and other interested parties about perceptions related to the use of Energy-from-Waste as a potential option to meet the City's residual waste needs
- Issuing a Request for Quotation to study the technical feasibility of expansion potential at the Green Lane Landfill.

The City also intends to engage with Ontario municipalities that may be willing to meet the City's residual waste needs through their existing landfills or by potentially hosting a new landfill.

The Strategy Review will continue to examine areas within the City's control that can contribute to waste reduction and diversion. The City will report separately on the progress of the Residual Waste Management Work Plan, including summaries of consultation efforts, long-term waste disposal options, and recommendations.

## **Next Steps**

The Strategy Review activities will begin in late May 2024 and focus on the first three deliverables, which include updating the baseline established during the development of the Waste Strategy, completing a review of the current Waste Strategy, and conducting a needs assessment.

The work completed for the Strategy Review's first three deliverables will set the foundation for the first phase of consultation, tentatively scheduled for the end of 2024. This phase of consultation will focus on reviewing the vision and guiding principles and making any necessary updates, generating ideas to help reduce and divert waste from our landfills, and developing a better understanding of perceptions, questions, and concerns related to the potential to use Energy-from-Waste as an option to manage the City's residual waste (garbage). Community engagement activities and public consultation events will be scheduled to provide opportunities for the public and interest groups to participate and provide input during all phases of the development of the

updated Waste Strategy. The final report on an updated Waste Strategy is targeted to be presented to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee and City Council in the first quarter of 2026.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Matt Keliher  
General Manager  
Solid Waste Management Services

## ATTACHMENTS

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