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2026 CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE

Update on Circular Economy Partnerships in 2025

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 process to advise Council on the use of the Authority. This briefing note provides an overview of partnerships entered into by the General Manager of Solid Waste Management Services and the Executive Director of Environment Climate & Forestry in 2025 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.

- With the transition of the Circular Economy & Innovation (now called Incubation & Design) unit from Solid Waste Management Services to the Environment, Climate & Forestry Division, on June 26, 2024, City Council adopted Item [IE14.7](#), extending the

above mentioned authority to the Executive Director, Environment, Climate & Forestry Division.

- 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 works toward several desired circular economy outcomes, including:
 - Waste reduction and diversion, including in 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 2025 budget year, Environment, Climate & Forestry Division has leveraged the authority delegated in item IE22.8 for the following agreements:
 - Membership as a Network Partner of Generate Canada's Circular Economy Leadership Canada (CELC) initiative, a multi-sectoral program aimed at accelerating systems change and the transition to a low carbon, circular economy in Canada.
 - Participation in a Government-to-Government Circular Economy Policy Incubator facilitated by Generate Canada's Circular Economy Leadership Canada (CELC) initiative, which brings together government stakeholders to support continued knowledge sharing, collaboration, and coordination on circular economy efforts across Canada.
- For the 2025 budget year, Solid Waste Management Services Division has leveraged the authority delegated in item IE22.8 for the following agreements:
 - Continued participation in the Love Food Hate Waste Canada campaign (since 2018), which is a Canada-wide consumer behaviour-change campaign. The campaign transitioned from being led by the National Zero Waste Council to FoodMesh beginning January 1, 2026. Solid Waste Management Services entered a one-year partnership for the 2025 campaign from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

The campaign aligns with the City's Long-term Waste Management Strategy. And 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.

- Continued operation of the Community Reduce and Reuse Programs (CRRPs).
- The CRRPs were implemented as part of recommendations of the 2016 Council approved Long-term Waste Management Strategy (LTWMS) and supports the circular economy by enabling reuse and repair activities, 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.

The CRRPs provide 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 the delivery of the CRRPs. In 2025, the General Manager, Solid Waste Management Services executed 12 agreements with 9 non-profit organizations to continue operation of the CRRPs from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

Questions & Answers:

What are the budget implications of the 2025 Circular Economy Partnerships?

- **Circular Economy Leadership Canada Network Partner:** The membership fee to become a Network Partner for one year was \$1,000. The City paid \$750 as the pro-rated membership fee for the remaining months left in the year at the time of signing the membership agreement. The membership fee was funded through the 2025 Capital Budget for Solid Waste Management Services (SWMS).
- **Government-to-Government Circular Economy Policy Incubator:** The cost to participate in this initiative until December 31, 2025, was \$7,500. The participation fee was funded through the 2025 Capital Budget for SWMS.
- **Love Food Hate Waste Campaign:** As a LFHW Campaign Partner, the City of Toronto contributes an annual Servicing and Sub-Licensing Fee. As identified in the Table below, the total financial commitments to date are \$138,000 and are funded through the 10-Year Capital Plan for SWMS.

Table 1 – Love Food Hate Waste Fees

Term	Fee
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July 2021- June 2022	\$22,000
July 2022 – June 2023	\$42,000
July 2023 – December 31, 2024	\$42,000
January 1 – December 31, 2025	\$32,000
TOTAL	\$138,000

- **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 budget for each term of the 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 funded through the SWMS's 2025 Capital Budget.

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