



BOARD REPORT

TO:

Chair and Directors

File No: 5360 01

SUBJECT:

Update on Recycling Program Delivery in the CSR D

DESCRIPTION:

Report from Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Update on Recycling Program Delivery in the CSR D.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

THAT: the Board authorize staff to send a letter to the Minister of Environment outlining the CSR D's concerns with Recycle BC's proposed stewardship plan updates.

SHORT SUMMARY:

On September 12, 2013 the Board authorized acceptance of the Depot Collection Incentive offer with Multi-Materials British Columbia (Recycle BC). Effective January 1, 2015, Recycle BC provided the CSR D with incentive payments for the acceptance of recyclables that are in compliance with the program.

Recycle BC is currently reviewing its stewardship program and CSR D staff has participated in the consultation process, has provided feedback and input to the proposed changes. The Ministry of Environment will be reviewing the Recycle BC plan in 2018. CSR D staff has some concerns with these proposed changes, which, if implemented, would preclude any community with a population under 5,000 or unincorporated community from an agreement with Recycle BC, among other issues.

VOTING:

Unweighted
Corporate



LGA Part 14
(Unweighted)



Weighted
Corporate



Stakeholder
(Weighted)



BACKGROUND:

The CSR D's agreement with Recycle BC for its depot collection program, effective January 1, 2015, led to a complete overhaul of the CSR D's recycling depot collection program. With the advance of this program, the CSR D shifted away from the collection of single stream recyclables, through a series of unmanned collection depots that were open 24/7, to a multi stream source separated recyclable collection program with attendants and hours of operation at all eighteen of its CSR D depots.

The Recycle BC multi stream program requires users of the depots to separate their recycling into six separate categories, with a seventh category coming online in June 2018. The separation of recycling at the source lowers contamination and improves efficiencies at the receiving facilities. Furthermore, having depots staffed significantly improves overall quality of recycling, as attendants are able to help screen materials and engage with users of the depot.

The quality of recycling has recently come under scrutiny as China, a global leader in consuming recyclable materials collected in municipal recycling programs, has imposed quality control measures and material import bans. As of January 1, 2018, under China's "National Sword" policy, the allowable contamination rate is 0.5%, and many types of plastics and unsorted mixed paper are now banned. Recycle BC has indicated that contamination rates for multi-stream curbside collection programs are approximately 4% and single stream contamination is at 11%. Contamination levels of non-program material for CSRD depot material, based on Recycle BC auditing information, is 3.8% on average. In an effort to reduce contamination, Recycle BC has stated in its stewardship plan that by July 1, 2020 curbside programs will need to transition away from single use blue/clear bag collection to reusable containers.

Impacts to Recycle BC and the CSRD

The partnership with Recycle BC for depot collection services creates financial benefits for the CSRD through incentive payments. The Recycle BC depot collection service funds 100% of the collection, transportation and processing costs associated with the program. Prior to 2015, the CSRD depot program cost taxpayers approximately 1.2 million dollars per year. Since working with Recycle BC, the program costs have been reduced to \$500,000 per year. The CSRD continues to be responsible for costs related to contract staffing and land lease arrangements.

Under the Recycle BC program, the producers of the packaging have to pay for the packaging they put into the residential system, by paying fees to Recycle BC, which are then used to run the province-wide collection system. The majority of plastics are processed in the province and new markets have been found for paper and cardboard.

Unfortunately for local governments in BC that do not have agreements with Recycle BC and are still recycling through single stream depots or curbside programs, the changes to China's acceptance policies have made a major impact on their recycling programs. Materials generated in these communities are either being rejected by processing plants in BC or the processing rates have increased drastically, which has placed a major financial burden on local governments. Many local governments are currently stockpiling recyclables or landfilling as a result of these changes.

Changes to Recycle BC's Stewardship Plan

Given the changes in global markets, there is a focus on reducing the amount of contamination being managed by recycling programs. Recycle BC (through their consultation process to update its stewardship plan with the Ministry of Environment) has indicated its intent will be to require curbside programs transition away from single use blue/clear plastic bag collection methods by June 2020. Recycle BC is also introducing a seventh recycling category to be collected at depots, consisting of "Other Flexible Plastic Packaging" in an effort to provide residents with more recycling options and lower contamination levels. Lastly, Recycle BC has proposed in its stewardship plan that in order for a community to qualify for a Recycle BC offer of administration of recycling collection services, it must meet the following criteria:

- A curbside garbage collection program was in place by May 2014;
- The community represents an incorporated municipality; and
- The community has a minimum population of 5,000 residents.

In general, the CSRD's depot recycling program, due to our agreement with Recycle BC, has not been impacted by global changes to recycling markets. Recycle BC continues to provide servicing and processing, and is adding categories to increase recycling options on June 1, 2018. Proposed changes to collection services related to curbside programs, (i.e. the requirement to implement the use of containers for collection rather than blue/clear bag) will impact the City of Salmon Arm and the City of Revelstoke's curbside recycling programs.

It is recommended that the Board support a letter to the Ministry of Environment which outlines the CSRD's concerns with Recycle BC's language related to offering services to communities that currently do not have curbside recycling programs. The limitations outlined by Recycle BC will exclude the District of Sicamous and Electoral Areas in the CSRD from benefiting from this incentivized program, if in the future they wish to engage in curbside recycling programs. In addition, the current Recycle BC stewardship program continues to be subsidized by the CSRD through the taxpayer funded portion of the program (staffing and land lease agreements). In order to be a true stewardship program, all costs should be borne by the steward (industry). The letter should suggest to the Province to act on improving legislation in order to hold the stewardship agencies accountable for the total cost associated with the delivery of the depot program.

POLICY:

The proposed changes are consistent with solid waste management policies, plans and practices.

FINANCIAL:

A letter from the Board will request that the Minister require stewardship groups to fully fund their programs.

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

Changes to global recycling markets have impacted many local governments in BC and across North America. The CSRD's depot recycling program, because of the CSRD's agreement with Recycle BC, has not had any service disruptions. Proposed changes in Recycle BC's plan if approved, will impose a potential burden on Electoral Areas and member municipalities that may wish to opt into the program in the future.

IMPLEMENTATION:

The CSRD will continue to work with Recycle BC to ensure the depot program continues to be successfully implemented.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

The Board endorse the recommendation to send a letter to the Minister of Environment outlining concerns with the Recycle BC's proposed stewardship plan updates.

BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation.*
2. *Deny the Recommendation.*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

LIST NAME OF REPORT(S) / DOCUMENT(S) AVAILABLE FROM STAFF:

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2018-05-04 Recycle BC Stewardship Plan Update.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	May 8, 2018

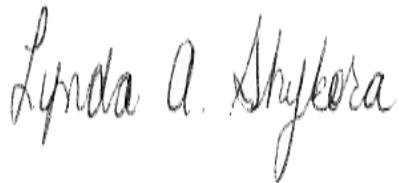
This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

No Signature - Task assigned to Darcy Mooney was completed by assistant Phaedra Turner

Darcy Mooney - May 4, 2018 - 3:39 PM

No Signature - Task assigned to Jodi Pierce was completed by assistant Sheena Haines

Jodi Pierce - May 4, 2018 - 4:11 PM



Lynda Shykora - May 8, 2018 - 9:49 AM

No Signature - Task assigned to Charles Hamilton was completed by assistant Lynda Shykora

Charles Hamilton - May 8, 2018 - 9:50 AM