

Environmental Committee

MINUTES

WED, MAY 17, 2023 7:30 A.M.

QUEEN ST WTP, STAFF ROOM

Members Present	Chair Shannon Erickson, Sandra Bilan, David McKerchar, Kris Gendall, Darcy Zaharia
Absent	Dustin Brears, Stefan Bymak, Matt Poier, Jason Signarowski
City Staff	Michael Buchholzer, Aron Hershmillier, Lyndon Hicks
Presentation	
Recording	Val Fatteicher
Call to order	7:33 a.m.
Adjourn	8:49 a.m.
1. Declaration of Conflict of Interest	
Declaration	No declaration of conflict of interest was made.
2. Approval of Agenda	
Discussion	Review of agenda items for discussion.
Motion 10-23	Sandra Bilan That the agenda be approved as presented. CARRIED
3. Minutes of the March 22, 2023 Meeting	
Motion 11-23	David McKercher That the minutes of March 22, 2023 be approved. CARRIED.
4. Household Hazardous Waste Grand Opening Review	
Discussion	<p>Grand Opening of the Household Hazardous Waste collection site at Recyclability Enterprises was held on April 22nd, in conjunction with Earth Day. Asking visitors to label their incoming products to allow staff to properly sort and provide for improved product collection by GFL. Drop offs have been working effectively. Most aerosols are non-program items (aerosol cooking oil spray, hair products) however bug spray is a collectable item. Will still accept the non-acceptable items when dropped off. There is a higher cost for disposal of un-labelled items.</p> <p>School tours at Recyclability Enterprises will include the HHW collection site. There will be ongoing social media posts and advertising to inform residents of this program.</p>

5. Curbside Organics Pilot Program Update

Discussion	<p>Curbside organics pilot program has been running four weeks now. Slower collection at onset date due to weather. Volumes have increased from approximately 0.4 tonnes to 1.8 tonnes. Summer students have been collecting data and inspecting bins on collection days. Participation on Thursday is approximately 62% and Friday is 65%. Carts placed out for collection have been approximately half full. Regina's pilot program participation rate was 65-72% usage, with collection occurring once every two weeks. Our numbers are comparable. Participation rate in Regina was 71-79% once every two weeks. Contamination rate to date is averaging between 17 and 18% of inspected carts. Contamination has primarily been either sticks or bags. This contamination was more predominant in the program's first week, with visible change noted to compostable bags in contents. Out of the four collection weeks, there has been 40-55% participation. Food waste has been visible in approximately 35% of carts out for collection.</p> <p>Opportunities for restaurant or grocery store organic waste is another option that can be further explored. Commercial waste collection is provided by waste haulers rather than through the City's waste collection contract provided for residents.</p> <p>Program information should be shared on social media and Recycle Coach to inform residents about the pilot program. Incoming inquiries are being recorded for data collection purposes.</p> <p>Saskatoon has already initiated an organics collection program and Regina will be starting their program this fall.</p> <p>Providing a sealable bucket to residents for food waste collection is another option.</p> <p>Residents should be polled about the cost they are willing to contribute to this program and if they support biweekly waste collection.</p>
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6. RecyclAbilities Organics Collection

Discussion	<p>Organics collection site at RecyclAbilities has reopened again on May 15th. Have been recruiting staff to manage product drop offs. Resident feedback has been positive, with some load redirection due to tree waste in their loads.</p> <p>The landfill also continues to provide free disposal of leaves and grass products from city residents.</p> <p>There is still a significant amount of bagged grass and leaves going into the lined cell that come in with residential waste collection.</p> <p>Suggestion to coordinate the organic site collection seasonal opening at RecyclAbilities Centre with Spring Clean Up Week.</p>
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7. Spring Clean-Up Week Review	
Discussion	<p>Spring Clean Up Week had good participation, with 136 loads, as compared to 98 loads in 2022. Minimal complaints were received at the landfill.</p> <p>Group volunteer cleanups were: 2021: 13 groups, 214 participants, including schools; 5 groups in 2022; 5 groups in 2023 with about 50 participants.</p> <p>Program was promoted on Facebook, CTV, in the newspaper, and large digital billboards. Program has received positive feedback from participants.</p>
8. Staffing Changes	
Discussion	Retirements have been announced effective the end of June for the Water Treatment Plant Manager as well as Director of Environmental Services. Internal employees will be filling these positions.

9. Next Meeting Date –

Next meeting date pending results of the Doodle Poll. Proposed for third week of June.

10. Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Strategic Plan Review and Committee Expectations
- Residential Curbside Organics Collection Program – budget plans, program for next year
- HHW Collection Update
- Campaigns for social media to promote to residents.
- City Green Policy

11. Adjournment 8:49 am

Motion 12-23	David McKercher That the Environmental Committee Meeting be adjourned. CARRIED.
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These minutes have been approved by members of the Environmental Committee on June 21, 2023.

Shannon Erickson

Chair

Val Fatteicher

Recording Secretary