



STAFF REPORT

Title: Support Request for Styrofoam Recycling Project – MD of Bonnyville

Meeting Date: May 21, 2019

Executive Summary:

The Municipal District of Bonnyville has requested support for the purchase of a mobile Styrofoam Recycling Trailer. Based on administration's initial review it is felt that Styrofoam is a lower priority in comparison to other recycling opportunities. The City of Cold Lake can contribute to the purchase of such equipment, however, without having a program in place, there may be a very limited benefit for the City and its residents. Letter from the MD of Bonnyville attached for reference.

Background:

The City of Cold Lake is currently in the process of developing and implementing a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Cold Lake South Landfill. The design of the facility is intended to bale the recyclable materials currently being removed from the City's waste stream. This includes the following:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Blue or Transparent Bag; which includes:
 - Aluminum Cans, Beverage Containers (cans, bottles, milk & juice jugs/cartons & boxes), Clean Aluminum Foil & Plates, Plastic Bottles & containers used for beverages, cleaners, windshield washer fluid and other household liquids (please remove caps & lids), Plastic Tubs & lids for yogurt, margarine, sour cream, cottage cheese and ice cream (please remove lids & caps), Plastic Bags including grocery, retail store carry out (please, empty & remove receipts), bread, produce, dry cleaning bags, rinsed milk bags. Glass is not accepted.
- Organics.

The City currently does not have a program to remove Styrofoam from the waste stream. Styrofoam is either being landfilled (in the City's Class III Landfill) or being transferred to a regional landfill via the Transfer Station. A program would either need to be developed to remove the Styrofoam at the source, providing drop off bins, remove the Styrofoam at the MRF, or a hybrid thereof.



It should be noted that Styrofoam is highly compactable in the City's Transfer Station (mixed in with other products) and the material is also very light in weight. A program that is labor intensive (e.g. separating it from the mixed blue or transparent bags) will likely have larger financial burden. Further to the above, a bulk storage mechanism would be required during the periods of which the City does not have access to the proposed mobile recycling trailer.

The investment into a Styrofoam Recycling Trailer isn't significant, however, it is administration's opinion that dealing with other challenges such as mattresses can be an example of a higher priority product. Mattresses use a significant amount of "airspace" in the landfill as they do not compact well and create operational issues while burying. Further mattresses are easily separable from the waste stream and put into containers for further disposal.

If City Council has interest in contributing to the purchase of this trailer, it is recommended that some form of commitment be made to the interim storage of the product prior to it being baled.

Further to above, it may be of greater convenience for the municipality to purchase its own equipment.

Alternatives:

The Corporate Priorities Committee of Council may:

1. Recommend that Council support the MD of Bonnyville's request to assist in the purchase of a mobile Styrofoam Recycling Trailer.
2. Accept the request as an information.
3. Request further review of other recyclable options from current waste stream.

Recommended Action:

Administration is soliciting Council's feedback in regards to assisting the region in the purchase of a Styrofoam Recycling Trailer.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Yes

Submitted by:

Kevin Nagoya, Chief Administrative Officer