



STAFF REPORT

Title: Food Cycle Science Corporation Pilot Program

Meeting Date: September 17, 2024

Executive Summary:

At the August 13, 2024, regular Council meeting, Mr. Jacob Hanlon from Food Cycle Science presented a virtual PowerPoint on municipal food waste diversion, proposing a pilot program using the Food Cycler product as a potential solution. At the August 27, 2024 meeting, the Council referred the initiative to the Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.

The purpose of this report is to outline the City's current food waste diversion services and propose a pilot program using the Food Cycler as an additional solution. The Corporate Priorities Committee is asked to review and recommend a course of action.

Background:

A 2014 waste audit, conducted as part of the Integrated Waste Study, identified that organic and food waste comprised 42% of total waste hauled, making it the largest component. Regular garbage made up 27%, recyclables 20%, and the remaining 11% was other material that could be repurposed.

Current Organic/ Food Waste Diversion Services:

Under Waste Management Bylaw No. 519-UT-17, the City offers the following food and organic waste diversion services:

- Green Bin Collection (or bags in manually collected areas):
 - Biweekly, from April 1 to November 15, with additional special pickups.
- Drop-off at Waste Management Facility (compost pile): Available year-round.
- Costs to Residents:
 - \$3.00/month for residential curbside collection.
 - No charge for residential drop-off at the Waste Management Facility.
- Current Curbside Collection Trends (Weights):
 - Curbside Collection:
 - 2023: 676 tonnes.
 - 2024: 365 tonnes (as of the end of July).
 - Residential Drop-off:
 - 2023: 320 tonnes.
 - 2024: 349 tonnes (as of the end of July).



Please note that the City of Cold Lake accepts food waste as per the Waste Management Bylaw No. 519-UT-17 and curbside program being offered.

Proposed FoodCycler Pilot Program (if Council desires to implement):

The proposed pilot program is based and modeled after pilot programs offered in other municipalities. This program tends to offer an additional or alternative solution to food waste diversion.

1. Participation:
 - Minimum of 100 residents sign up or join a waitlist.
2. Agreement with FoodCycler:
 - Units are acquired at a discounted rate.
 - Discount: \$400/unit.
 - Municipal contribution: \$100/unit, capped at \$10,000.
 - Resident cost: \$200-\$300/unit.
3. Program Size:
 - A minimum of 100 units would provide a sample size of approximately 2% of current account holders.
 - If demand is high, the number of units could be increased.
4. Program Logistics:
 - Participants purchase units upfront.
 - Over 12 weeks, participants track usage and complete an exit survey.
 - Data collected will be used to assess the program's effectiveness in diverting food waste.
5. Benefits for Participants:
 - Residents receive discounted FoodCycler units in exchange for participation.

Additional Cost Considerations for Participants:

- Energy Costs:
 - 0.8–1.5 kWh per cycle.
- Filter Replacement:
 - Filters last 3–4 months or approximately 500 hours.
 - Filters cost \$75–\$100 for a pack of four.
- Spare Buckets:
 - Cost: \$50–\$80 each.

The monthly cost to operate FoodCycler will range from \$8 per month to \$20 per month based on 1 cycle per week to 4 cycles per week.

Potential Diversion Based on Other Municipalities:



- Drayton Valley (100 participants):
 - Diverted 14.5 metric tonnes/year.
 - 0.145 tonnes/household/year.<https://www.draytonvalley.ca/foodcycler-pilot-project/>

- Tumbler Ridge (130 participants):
 - Diverted 33.3 metric tonnes/year.
 - 0.26 tonnes/household/year<https://www.districtoftumbleridge.ca/p/foodcycler-municipal-program>

Both of these municipalities do not have any organics collection programs.

For additional information and further reading on the FoodCycler, following resources are recommended.

<https://foodcyclescience.com/pages/municipal-solutions>

https://foodcycler.com/?srsltid=AfmBOorGXu9q5MrAfRhCSFWyppLV7tAYJoSf14Lq3z6GAtY4y_sX5VuY

As the City of Cold Lake provides organic collection program and there is a future vision to expand this program to a year-round collection program. The City's business plan and waste diversion vision recommends to provide weekly organic collection and bi-weekly waste collection service. This has been presented and discussed at previous council meeting and administration is of the opinion that the enhancement to the service will be better served once Council sets a diversion goal.

For the FoodCycler pilot program, if Council would like to implement, administration recommends to prioritize area where no organic collection services are currently provided. e.g. multifamily dwellings, commercial establishments

Alternatives:

The Corporate Priorities Committee may wish to consider the following options:

1. Recommend that Council direct administration to engage with Food Cycle Science to implement a community organic recycling program in an effort to develop an understanding on diverted organics from residential properties that and allocate \$10,000 for the program roll out.



2. Recommend that Council direct administration to engage with Food Cycle Science to implement a community organic recycling program in an effort to develop an understanding on diverted organics from residential properties that do not have access to an organic recycling program and allocate \$10,000 for the program roll out.
3. Direct administration to provide further information on the option and current services presented or make changes to options presented
4. Accept the report as information.

Recommended Action:

That the Corporate Priorities Committee recommend that Council direct Administration to engage with Food Cycle Science to implement a community organic recycling program in an effort to develop an understanding on diverted organics from residential properties that and allocate \$10,000 for the program roll out.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Yes

Submitted by:

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