



Public Works Department

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Kerri Snoddy, Regulatory Compliance Officer, Solid Waste Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Waste Management Committees

From: Kerri Snoddy, Regulatory Compliance Officer

Date: January 6, 2020

Subject: Options for Tire Collection

The tire recycling program was the first program to transition to producer responsibility as of January 1, 2019. Prior to this, the program was managed through the stewardship organization called Ontario Tire Stewardship. As the stewardship program was being phased out in 2018 the City's landfills were having difficulty receiving tire pickups. This is because there were no incentives for haulers to travel to the Kawartha Lakes when the majority of tires are located in the GTA. The tires that we receive at the landfill sites are also not ideal for haulers as many still have rims on them and are often in poor condition.

With the new program beginning in January of 2019 managed by producers, municipalities were given the choice as to whether they wanted to continue collecting tires and attempt to have them picked up by producer designated haulers for recycling or to stop collecting tires. If municipalities stop collecting tires they would then tell the customers to bring them to designated drop off locations i.e. garages etc. for recycling. Prior to January 1, 2019 the City would receive approximately \$10,000 per year in funding for tire collection. However, under the new program the City would receive no revenue. In late 2018 the City put out an RFQ to try to enter into an agreement with a hauler to pick up the tires in the future. No haulers were interested.

Under the new program, any commercial business that sells tires is required to sign up as a collection site to receive up to 10 tires per person per day for recycling. To be eligible the customer dropping off tires for recycling does not have to purchase the tires at that location. Even with the additional collection sites available to the public, staff decided to continue collecting tires for the time being through the new program since residents were used to having this service available at the City's landfill sites. Municipalities were also ensured by the province that by signing up with a producer responsibility organization (PRO) it would ensure that tires dropped off at a landfill would be picked up as this was mandatory. The City signed up with two PROs in early 2019 in hopes that the frequency of tire removal at the landfills would improve.

Through the beginning of 2019 the program was running smoothly and the City received some pickups from a small tire hauler in the area. However, this tire hauler had a small capacity as they used cube vans for pick up and would often “cherry pick” the valuable tires leaving all of the other tires on rims or in poor condition at the landfills. When staff reached out to other haulers to come and remove all of these other tires the haulers refused since all of the valuable tires had already been taken. Then in late summer of 2019 the hauler that was in place also reached capacity and would not collect any more tires from the City’s landfill sites. In addition, they told the City they would need to start charging a cost for every tire on rim they collected. As a result, the City consistently searched for other tire haulers. Staff have reached out to the PROs, as well as the Resource Productivity and Recovery Authority (RPRA) who oversees and enforces compliance in the program. To summarize, the City had no luck throughout the last quarter of 2019 in removing tires from the landfills and they have been stockpiling. Only recently the City received confirmation of a pick up from a hauler in early January of 2020 after RPRA and the PRO organization got involved. However, this arrangement is not permanent and staff predict that it will continue to be a struggle receiving tire pickups going forward.

In addition to the issue of receiving tire pickups the City also dealt with issues of commercial businesses attempting to drop off tires at the landfill sites for recycling throughout 2019. With the new program any commercial business that accumulates tires through the nature of their business are required to sign up as a collection site. However, many commercial businesses are unaware of this and have been attempting to drop off tires at the landfill sites in very large quantities (up to 100 at a time). This has caused issues for our landfill attendants as now they are put in the position to educate the businesses and refuse the tires at the frustration of the businesses. Storage at the landfill sites reach capacity very quickly when large loads of tires are dropped off. As a result staff have had to send out communications restricting tire drop off to no more than 10 tires dropped off per person per day.

Due to the ongoing issues with the tire program staff are recommending to stop collecting tires for recycling at the landfill sites, and instead have them diverted directly to the producer collection sites. The City can assist this transition through communication to the public to direct customers to a list on RPRA’s website that compiles all collection sites available (any location that sells tires) within the City of Kawartha Lakes. Residents can take tires to any of these locations for free drop off for tire recycling. Since there are many other options for resident’s available staff believe the issues with the program outweigh the benefit of the City continuing to accept tires for recycling. With other programs transitioning to producer responsibility including waste electronics, household hazardous waste, and the blue box program in upcoming years the City will need to continue to review whether it is beneficial to maintain these programs, or to place focus on other programs which there are no other options readily available to the public for recycling. Staff plan on bringing this recommendation forward to council at the March 10th Committee of the Whole meeting as per the following draft recommendation:

That Kawartha Lakes stop accepting tires for recycling at the City's landfill sites and direct customers to producer operated collection sites for recycling.

Draft Resolution for the Committee:

That the Waste Management Advisory Committee supports the staff recommendation to stop accepting tires for recycling at the City's landfill sites and direct customers to producer operated collection sites for recycling