



Council Report

Report Number: WM2021-017
Meeting Date: December 14, 2021
Title: Review and Extension of Textile Pilot Program
Description: Review of the Textile Pilot Program in 2021 and recommendation to continue the textile pilot in 2022
Author and Title: David Kerr, Manager Environmental Services

Recommendation(s):

That Report WM2021-017, **Review and Extension of Textile Pilot Program**, be received;

That Council approve extending the textile pilot program until December 31, 2023; and

That Staff report the results of the pilot program and future recommendations for textile recycling to Council by the end of Q2 of 2023.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of November 17, 2020 Council adopted the following resolution:

CW2020-175

That Report WM2020-011, **Textile Recycling Pilot Program**, be received;

That Staff issue a Request for Proposal to partner with an organization to develop and implement a textile recycling pilot program for 2021; and

That Staff report the results of the pilot program and future recommendations for textile recycling to Council by June 30, 2022.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

Talize/Recycling Rewards was awarded the contract with the City through a Request for Proposal procurement to provide textile collection and reuse/recycling services to the City for the one-year pilot project. Talize's services are currently provided at no cost to the City and the City receives a small revenue for the textiles collected which helps offset internal operating costs.

Textile collection bins were placed at each of the City's five open landfill sites for drop off beginning in April and two curbside collection events were completed in 2021. The first event ran the week of June 21st to 24th and the second collection event ran the week of October 18th to 21st. Textiles were also collected at the four round up event days during the fall. The following table outlines the tonnages of textiles collected and diverted from landfill during this pilot project from April 1st to November 1st, 2021.

Textiles Collected at Landfill Sites	16 tonnes
Textiles Collected Curbside	25 tonnes
Textiles Collected Event Days	1 tonne
Total Textiles Diverted from Landfill	42 tonnes

In the initial staff report brought to Council recommending the pilot program in 2020, Staff set a goal of collecting and diverting 40 tonnes of textiles through this textile pilot program. We are pleased to say we have achieved and surpassed this goal.

For the first curbside collection event, residents were asked to place textiles at the curb for pick up on designated days that corresponded with their waste collection day. Due to the large size of the municipality and it being the first time the contractor had completed collection for Kawartha Lakes there were some areas which were missed. After debriefing with the contractor on how to improve collection for the second event the contractor recommended the public register ahead of time for curbside collection. Rather than the contractor's trucks driving through the entire collection area looking for textiles set out, residents were asked to call ahead of the collection week to schedule and confirm with the contractor that they would be participating in the collection. This adjustment was successful in reducing the number of missed collections and operations ran more smoothly. There have been no issues with collection of the bins at the landfill sites, or the collection of textiles at the round up event days in the fall. Textile bin collection at landfill sites ran very smoothly throughout 2021.

Staff are recommending to continue the textile pilot program for 2022. If approved by Council, Staff will renew the contract with Talize/Recycling Rewards to continue with the textile collection bins at landfills, plan two curbside collection events (involving pre registration as was done in the 2nd collection event of 2021) and offer textile collection bins at round up events in 2022.

Rationale:

Staff are recommending to continue the textile pilot program for 2022 because the program provides an effective means to increase diversion from landfill through offering curbside and drop off service for residents to donate their textiles for reuse/recycling. The program currently operates generating both landfill deferral savings and provides a modest revenue to the City to offset operational costs. This program contributes to the overall goal of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy to increase waste diversion to 70% by 2048. As more residents become aware of the program through the extended pilot staff believe the amount of textiles diverted each year from landfill will continue to increase. As the contractor becomes more familiar with the municipality staff also expect the overall textile service to continue to improve.

Other Alternatives Considered:

Council could decide not to make the textile program permanent and cancel the program; however, this would not be in line with Council's approval of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy.

Council could delay making a decision until all of the 2021 data is received and Staff would provide Council with a report as initially recommended by Q2 of 2022. However, Staff is confident that there is sufficient data received at this time to make a recommendation to continue the pilot for an additional year. Increasing the pilot for another year would ensure there is no disruption in service and the landfill textile bins would remain accessible for the public. In addition, this would give an opportunity for the contractor to find further improvements and efficiencies to the textile program. The current contract with Talize/Recycling Rewards ends December 31, 2021. Staff plan to go out with an RFP process in 2022 if Council approves continuing the textile program at that time.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

One of the four Strategic Priorities of the Plan is A Healthy Environment and one of the main items under this category is "Increase Waste Reduction and Diversion". This will be achieved through executing the updated Integrated Waste Management Strategy. A textile reuse/recycling program is an initiative from the updated Waste Strategy which diverts waste from the landfills.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no costs associated with the contract for the textile program. The City receives revenue for the textiles collected. In 2021 approximately \$4,500 in revenue was received. Advertising costs for the program in 2021 were approximately \$5,500.

Landfill space savings of textiles diverted in 2021 was approximately \$18,900. Landfill space is valued at \$150/tonne with textiles being approximately one third (1/3) the density of compacted municipal waste. This estimate assumes the density of used clothing to be 0.25 tonnes per cubic meter which is based on USEPA figures as an average between loose and baled clothing, and the average density of compacted waste is estimated at 0.75 tonnes per cubic meter.

Overall this results in a cost savings of \$17,900 (deferred costs) in 2021.

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