



Committee of the Whole Report

Report Number: WM2023-008
Meeting Date: June 6, 2023
Title: Textile Recycling Pilot Program Update
Description: Review of Textile Pilot Program in 2022 and recommendation to make Textile Pilot Program permanent
Author and Title: Leanna Jones, Waste Reduction Coordinator

Recommendation(s):

That Report WM2023-008, **Textile Recycling Pilot Program Update**, be received;

That Council approve the establishment of a permanent Textile Recycling Program; and

That this recommendation be brought forward to Council for consideration at the next regular council meeting.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of December 14, 2022, Council adopted the following recommendation:

Council Recommendation WM2021-017

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.

Carried

This report addresses that direction.

In 2021, 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. Based on staff recommendations Council extended that pilot through 2022. Staff continued to monitor the pilot program and collect data.

Textile collection bins that were placed at each of the City's five open landfill sites for drop off continued to be monitored and two more curbside collection events were completed in 2022. The first event ran the week of June 20th to 23th and the second collection event ran the week of October 3th to 7th. Textiles were also collected at the four Round Up event days during the summer. The following table outlines the tonnages of textiles collected and diverted from landfill during this pilot project from April 1st to December 31st, 2021 and all of 2022.

Collection	2021	2022
Textiles Collected at Landfill Sites	21 tonnes	16 tonnes
Textiles Collected Curbside	25 tonnes	11 tonnes
Textiles Collected Event Days	1 tonne	4 tonnes
Total Textiles Diverted from Landfill	47 tonnes	31 tonnes

The curbside collection in June of 2022 ran well and there were no issues noted. Talize also collected at the four Round up events using a cube van and all 4 events were a success. The second curbside collection occurred in October of 2022 and there were some communication issues noted between what Talize was saying to residents and what staff was saying to residents. For example, some residents were missed and it was confusing to residents how and when the missed collections would be picked up. There was also a significant increase in participation from the 2021 fall pick up (3.8T) compared to the 2022 fall pick up (6.7T). Talize had not planned for this increase and as a result the needed Talize trucks and staffing were not available.

To make improvements and minimize further issues, staff met with Talize in December of 2022. The issues were identified and measures were put into place. For example, the public was requested to pre-register with Talize. As well, if there were any pick up issues Talize had created a specific phone extension used for City residents to report missed pick ups. Talize had also requested that residents include "curbside pick up" in the subject line when emailing to register or report missed collection. Also, Talize dedicated the Friday following the Monday to Thursday collection for missed calls. Plans were also made to ensure that if trucks filled up fast, there would be a common location for them to offload to a centralized truck and continue collecting. All of these measures will be implemented for spring collection in June of 2023.

Staff also shared the media release with Talize for 2023 curbside collection a head of time to ensure that staff and Talize were sharing the exact same information with residents and there would be no communication issues.

Textile collection from the bins at the landfill sites in 2023 posed some issues as Talize drivers were sorting the materials and as a result significantly more textiles were being landfilled than collected. A meeting was called by staff in April of 2023 to better understand why these materials were not being collected. At the meeting Staff was assured that sorting will not occur on site and discussions with drivers were had to prevent this going forward.

In 2023 there continues to be bins at the 5 landfill sites which are emptied when full. For further textile collection there are two scheduled curbside pick ups, one in June and one in October. As well textiles are collected at the four Round Up days. Staff will continue to closely monitor each of these events and collect data.

Rationale:

Staff are recommending to make a permanent textile program for 2024. The existing program provides an effective means to increase diversion from landfill through offering curbside and drop off service for residents. The program is promising as it is well used by the public. At the same time, the program provides landfill deferral savings and a modest revenue to the City to offset operational costs. Textile recycling contributes to the overall goal of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy to increase waste diversion to 70% by 2048. As more residents have become aware of the program through the extended pilot, staff are confident there will be sufficient amount of textiles generated annually to more than justify a diversion program. Staff will continue to find ways to improve and expand the program.

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 that specifically designates textile recycling as an initiative.

Council could delay making a decision until all of the 2023 data is received, however, staff is confident that there is sufficient data received at this time to make a strong recommendation to make a textiles program permanent.

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:

The City receives revenue for the textiles collected. In 2021 approximately \$4,500 in revenue was received and approximately \$4,100 in 2022. Advertising costs for the program in 2021 and 2022 were approximately \$5,500 each year.

Landfill space savings of textiles diverted in 2021 was approximately \$18,900 and approximately \$13,950 in 2022. 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.

Factoring in revenue and advertising cost results in a cost savings of \$17,900 (deferred costs for landfill space savings) in 2021 and \$12,550 in 2022.

The current contract with Talize/Recycling Rewards ends December 31, 2023. Upon Council approval, Staff plan to go out with a formal RFP process by the end of Q3 for a permanent textile program.

Department Head email: brobinson@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Bryan Robinson