

Staff Report

Report To: City Council
Report From: Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Meeting Date: July 22, 2024
Report Code: OP-24-035
Subject: Miller Waste Transfer Station Recycling Convenience Depot
– Follow Up

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-24-035 respecting Miller Waste Transfer Station Recycling Convenience Depot – Follow Up, City Council directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute an agreement with Miller Waste Systems to extend the funding for the Recycling Convenience Depot at the Miller Waste Transfer Station until September 30, 2024, to allow time for public notification and transition arrangements.

Highlights:

- The recycling convenience depot originated through the City's RFP-04-08, which called for the construction of a waste management facility following the closure of the Genoe landfill. It has been part of the Miller Transfer Station since 2004.
- It is proposed that funding be discontinued after September 30th, 2024. Extending funding until this date would allow the City to inform residents of the change through signage posted at the Transfer Station. Residents will be encouraged to use curbside recycling services, and non-eligible sources will be encouraged to seek alternative recycling options.
- Non-eligible sources not listed in the approved Circular Material list can arrange recycling pickup with the waste management contractor of

their choice. A budgetary estimate starting cost for this service is \$20 per week per location, based on a basic one-cart service per week. Costs vary with additional carts or different service levels.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: This report supports the delivery of Core Service.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by considering climate adaptation in the development of the City's strategies, plans and policies.

Previous Report/Authority:

[OP-23-014 Blue Box Transition Opting Out](#)

[OP-24-002 Recycling Convenience Depot Miller Transfer Station](#)

[OP-24-010 City of Owen Sound Recycling Convenience Depot at Miller Transfer Station – Follow-Up Report](#)

[OP-24-031 Miller Waste Systems Transfer Station Recycling Convenience Depot](#)

Background:

History of the Recycling Convenience depot at the Miller Waste Transfer Station

Prior to the closure of the Genoe landfill, the City initiated RFP-04-08 to request proposals for the construction and operation of a solid waste management facility. This facility would handle the transfer, trucking, and disposal of various types of solid waste from industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential sources. The agreement spanned 10 years, beginning on January 1, 2005, and ending in 2016. The contract was awarded to Miller Waste Systems.

In 2015, RFP15-10, The Provision of Curbside Recycling Collection, Processing, and Marketing Services, was issued and awarded to Miller Waste Systems for a 6-year contract with two additional 1-year extensions. This

Agreement included provisions that requested the contractor establish and maintain a Recycling Drop-off Centre on their property, thus establishing a service level within the City's overall waste management provision of service.

The Agreement specified requirements for the Recycling Drop-off Centre, mandating clear identification as the 'City of Owen Sound Recycling Drop-off'. It also required that Miller Waste Systems provide a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Transfer Station in Owen Sound capable of storing, separating, processing, and packaging recycled materials collected under the contract, aiming to maximize revenue from recyclables. The City would receive all revenue generated from the recycled material.

This agreement ended on June 30, 2023, upon the City opting out of curbside residential blue box collection, transferring responsibilities to Circular Materials as per provincial legislation.

Owen Sound Opt's Out of Curbside Residential Blue Box Collection

On June 3, 2021, the Province introduced Ontario Regulation 391/21, transferring recycling responsibility to producers of residential blue box material (known as the PROs). The approved common collection system administrator is a non-profit company called Circular Materials Ontario (CMO).

On July 1, 2023, Miller Waste Systems entered into an Agreement with CMO to be the local provider of curbside recycling collection services from eligible sources in Owen Sound. Through December 2025, Miller Waste Systems will transport the recyclables to CMO's approved Waste Management facility in Mount Forest.

With Miller Waste Systems no longer responsible for recycling material storage, separation, processing, and packaging, they have closed their Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) at the Owen Sound Transfer Station, 2085 20th Avenue East. However, Miller Waste Systems continued operating the City's "convenience" recycling drop-off centre at the Transfer Station.

CMO deemed the recyclable materials deposited at the recycling convenience depot as a non-eligible source; as such, Miller Waste Systems could not bring these materials to Mount Forest with the curbside recycling. Instead, they must transport it monthly to their facility in Pickering, incurring higher transportation costs per unit. As a result, in December 2023, Miller Waste Systems sought financial assistance from the City to maintain the City's

recycling depot at Miller’s facility in Owen Sound, proposing an annual contribution of approximately \$21,000 (or 50% of the associated costs) based on \$140/tonne plus HST and a collection total of approximately 150 tonnes of collected material annually.

Analysis:

In February, staff brought forward a report recommending that the City fund the recycling convenience depot from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2024, at a rate of \$140 plus HST per tonne of deposited recyclable material, with an upset limit of \$10,000 for this six-month period. To date, invoiced expenses through May are slightly below the upset limit. This short extension was intended to allow staff to formally approach the Township of Georgian Bluffs and the Municipality of Meaford for potential cost-sharing for 2024. Based on Council’s direction, it was understood that should a cost-sharing agreement not be achieved, the City would no longer provide the “convenience depot” at the Miller Waste Transfer Station as of July 1, 2024.

Staff brought a report to the May 27 Council meeting advising that the Township of Georgian Bluffs Council supported entering into a cost-sharing agreement only if Meaford also contributed. Meaford staff do not believe Meaford Council supports funding the recycling drop-off.

Data on which businesses currently use the Miller Transfer Station for recycling drop-off is not tracked. Larger commercial and industrial businesses typically have private contracts for recycling collection with service providers such as Miller Waste Systems or Waste Management. However, businesses that are not eligible for curbside recycling collection but lack sufficient recycling volume to justify a removal contract may “fall through the cracks.”

As such, Staff recommend that Council enter into an agreement with Miller Waste Systems to extend the funding for the recycling convenience depot for three additional months, ending on September 30, 2024, with an upset limit of \$5,000. Extending funding would allow the City to inform residents and businesses through signage posted at the Transfer Station indicating that, due to legislated recycling changes, effective September 30, 2024, the City would no longer be financially responsible for the recycling convenience depot. Residents will be encouraged to use curbside recycling services, and non-eligible sources are encouraged to seek alternative recycling options.

Financial Implications:

Non-eligible sources not included in the approved Circular Material list can arrange for recycling collection with the waste management contractor of their choice. The starting cost for recycling pickup is approximately \$20 per week for basic single cart service. Costs will vary based on the number of carts added or the chosen service level.

Communication Strategy:

Through this report. Changes arising from the report will be communicated to the public as per corporate communication methodology.

Consultation:

City Manager

Manager of Engineering Services

Manager of Legislative Services

Attachments:

None.

Recommended by:

Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services

Chris Webb, Manager of Engineering Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services at hjennen@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 3223.