

Blue Recycling Bag Changes

Governance, Priorities and Finance Committee

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Utilities & Environment



Presentation

1. Global Market Changes
2. City of St. Albert's Approach to the Blue Recycling Bag Changes
3. Questions?



Changes to the Global Market

- Majority of recyclables are sent overseas to be processed
- Global markets implemented new restrictions in 2018 on what materials they would take
- Reduce contamination in the recycling bales
- Cannot sell or make new items when contaminated

Changes to the Global Market

- Some items will no longer be accepted
- Items that will still accepted need to be empty, clean and dry
- Municipalities across North America including in Edmonton Region are adapting to these new restrictions



St. Albert's Environmental Master Plan

- Goals:
 - Reduce solid waste generation to 105 kilograms or less per person per year by 2020
 - Increase waste diversion rate to 75% by 2020
- In 2017:
 - Solid waste generation was at 123 kilograms per person
 - Residential waste diversion was at 64%
- With the proposed changes, the numbers will be impacted

Current Education and Outreach

- Many items that are incorrectly placed in the recycling
- “Oops! What Goes Where?” campaign has educated residents on these common mistakes
- Promote the Be Waste Wise App and stalbert.ca/waste



New Acceptable List for Recycling

- Plastic food and household bottles, lids and containers (hard, rigid plastics)
- Aluminum and tin cans, pie plates and containers
- Paper greeting cards and gift wrap
- Office paper, envelopes, craft paper
- Books, magazines, flyers, newspapers, catalogues
- Cardboard, Boxboard such as cereal boxes, cracker and cookie boxes

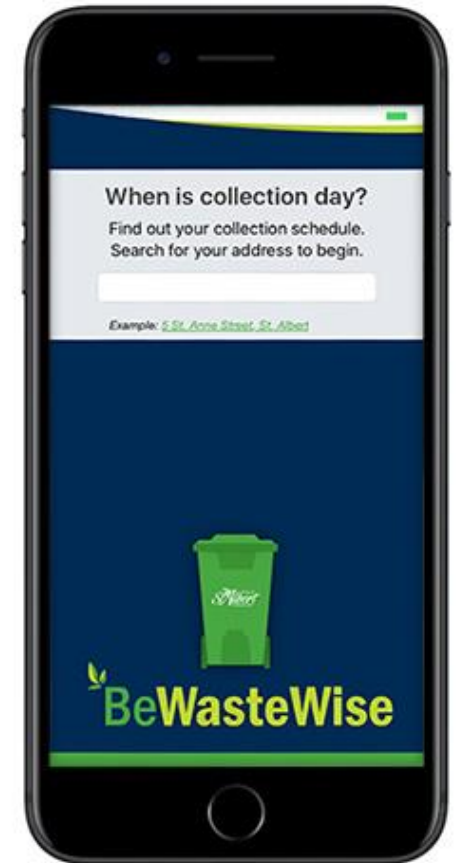


No Longer Acceptable for Recycling

- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic packaging from toys, food and household items
- Plastic clamshells from berries, salad, bakery items
- Single serve plastic cups (yogurt, pudding, sauces)
- Single serve, “to-go” cups from coffee, fountain drinks, smoothies, Solo style cups
- Spiral wound containers from chip cans, paper coffee cans, frozen juices and ready to bake pastries
- Tetra Pak containers from soup, broth, liquid eggs

Executing the Recycling Changes

- Update the by-law
- Developed key messages to share with residents, media, etc.
- Develop education and outreach - new sorting lists, updates to website and App, newspaper advertisements, etc.
- Reject contaminated bags as of November 1
- Encourage waste minimization and reduction



Financial Implications

- Additional costs of processing recyclables in the current global environment will mean increased costs to utility customers.
- Current estimate of increase due to processing of recyclables is \$0.55 per month.

Thank You!

Any questions or comments?

