



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: AUMA REQUEST FOR DECISION – COLLABORATION ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

On December 24, 2018 Councillor MacKay provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 22/2016 that he intended to bring forward the proposed motion below.

In order for Council to debate the motion, the motion must be formally moved.

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

That Administration Cooperate with other Alberta municipalities, AUMA, producers and recyclers of packaging and paper products, and the Province of Alberta to develop a baseline that can inform the design of a provincial EPR program by researching:

- The benefits, challenges, and risks of an EPR program in Alberta for these groups and their constituents;
- The current recycling systems and supply chains across the province, and potential impacts of an EPR program in Alberta; and

That Administration report back through Council no later than 2019 October.

ALIGNMENT TO PRIORITIES IN COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategic Priority #6: Environmental Stewardship: Explore innovative environmental and conservation opportunities.

ALIGNMENT TO LEVELS OF SERVICE DELIVERY

N/A

ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL DIRECTION OR MANDATORY STATUTORY PROVISION

N/A

BACKGROUND:

In March 2018, the City of Calgary sponsored a Member Request for Decision (RFD) at the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Municipal Leaders' Caucus, that calls on the AUMA and its members to advocate that the Government of Alberta, in consultation with municipalities, industry, and other stakeholders, develop and implement legislation to establish Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Alberta in a timely manner.

Since its unanimous approval on March 15, 2018, the AUMA has continued to advocate for this topic. To bolster efforts on the file, the City of Calgary has reached out to other Alberta cities to help with the development of a Baseline Study that will document the current system for collecting and recycling packaging and paper throughout Alberta, to determine pre-EPR market dynamics. The intent is that this Study would help to strengthen and supplement the business case for the Provincial Government to implement EPR.

EPR is an environmental policy approach in which the producer of a product is responsible for that product through the post-consumer stage of its life cycle. EPR shifts the responsibility and costs of recycling from local governments to producers. It incentivizes producers to reduce waste associated with their products and packaging, and to create products that are readily reusable or recycle. EPR exists in other provinces across Canada, and in 2009 as a member of the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the Government of Alberta committed to work towards the develop of EPR programs from priority products and materials, yet still has not implemented a legislated EPR program.

At this time, no funding request is being made of the City of St. Albert. It is anticipated the total cost of the study will be approximately \$150,000 and current funding partners include the AUMA, City of Calgary, and the Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance (CSSA).

The Project Governance Model for the Study is still being developed and will look to incorporate a cross-section of interested stakeholders, including the AUMA, municipalities, non-profits, and industry stakeholders.

Should the proposed Motion be approved by Council, the only requirement from the City at this time would be to provide data when requested as part of the Study's development, to potentially attend several meetings, and to possibly help develop the Project Governance Model for the Study.

At the time of this report, no other municipalities in the Edmonton Metropolitan Region have debated or passed the Motion as requested by the City of Calgary.

The City of Calgary Council is scheduled to consider this Motion on February 4, 2019. The background they have provided is as follows:

WHEREAS recycling is an important activity for reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, and allows products at end-of-life to be processed into valuable new products, and

WHEREAS the costs of programs for collecting, processing, and marketing recyclable materials in Alberta are currently carried by local governments, funded by tax-payers, and

WHEREAS the recycling stewardship programs for five regulated materials in Alberta (beverage containers, electronics, paint and paint containers, tires, and used oil materials) achieve some consistency across the province for how these materials are collected and recycled, but do not cover the full costs of collecting and managing these materials, requiring tax-payers to fund the remainder, and

WHEREAS the companies that produce products that need to be recycled can design and operate more effective and efficient recycling programs if they work together province-wide than individual municipalities or the Government of Alberta can on their own, allowing for improved waste diversion infrastructure across the province and higher quality end products, and

WHEREAS extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a policy approach that places the financial and/or physical responsibility for end of life management of products with the companies that produce those products, and would remove the financial burden for recycling programs from taxpayers, and

WHEREAS Alberta is the only province in Canada that has not legislated EPR for any materials, and is falling behind in its commitments under the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR, and

WHEREAS Canadian Stewardship Services Alliance Inc., an organization that manages EPR programs in four (4) Canadian provinces on behalf of obligated producers of packaging and paper product (PPP), has signaled its support for the CCME goal of producer-led EPR in the province of Alberta and is committed to working collaboratively with Alberta's urban and rural municipalities to:

- Assist in the funding of the collection of baseline measurement data that will inform the design of an appropriate EPR framework for Alberta;
- Assist in the development of recommendations for an appropriate EPR regulatory framework for the province; and
- Work with stakeholders to foster support for an EPR program for PPP, and

WHEREAS producer-led EPR in Alberta would allow recyclable materials from Alberta and British Columbia to be managed as a whole, generating a large volume of higher quality materials that could incentivize the development of processing infrastructure in western Canada, creating local jobs and minimizing the dependence on global recycling markets, and

WHEREAS at the 2018 March 14-15 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) Municipal Leaders Forum, The City of Calgary presented a Request for Decision (RFD) to advocate that the Government of Alberta develop and implement

legislation to establish EPR in Alberta, and the RFD received unanimous support from municipalities in attendance, and

WHEREAS it is important for the success of an EPR program in Alberta that there is a shared understanding of the benefits, challenges, and risks associated with such a program for communities of all sizes, industry, and the Province of Alberta, and

WHEREAS to advance the development of an EPR program in Alberta, research is required on the Alberta recycling systems and supply chains, and the potential impacts of an EPR program in this province,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Administration Cooperate with other Alberta municipalities, AUMA, producers and recyclers of packaging and paper products, and the Province of Alberta to develop a baseline that can inform the design of a provincial EPR program by researching:

- The benefits, challenges, and risks of an EPR program in Alberta for these groups and their constituents;
- The current recycling systems and supply chains across the province, and potential impacts of an EPR program in Alberta; and

That Administration report back through Council no later than 2019 October.

Report Date: February 4, 2019

Author(s): Trevor Duley

Committee/Department: Chief Administrative Office

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer/Chief People Officer: Michelle Bonnici

Chief Administrative Officer: Kevin Scoble