



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Streetscape Container Garbage and Recycling
Audit Results and Next Steps

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From: Rick Bomhof, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

Date: October 18, 2021

RECOMMENDATION:

That the report from the Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment, dated October 18, 2021, regarding Streetscape Container Garbage and Recycling Audit Results and Next Steps be received for information.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is present the Streetscape Container Garbage and Recycling Audit results and suggested next steps.

POLICY:

N/A

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The City retained the services of a Consulting firm to complete a streetscape container garbage and recycling baseline audit. The purpose of the audit was to quantify the composition of waste in garbage receptacles, the composition and contamination rates in the three-stream receptacles, and to propose the next step to improve waste diversion in the City. The complete report and recommended next steps are also attached in appendices 1 and 2.

The following is a summary of the report findings.

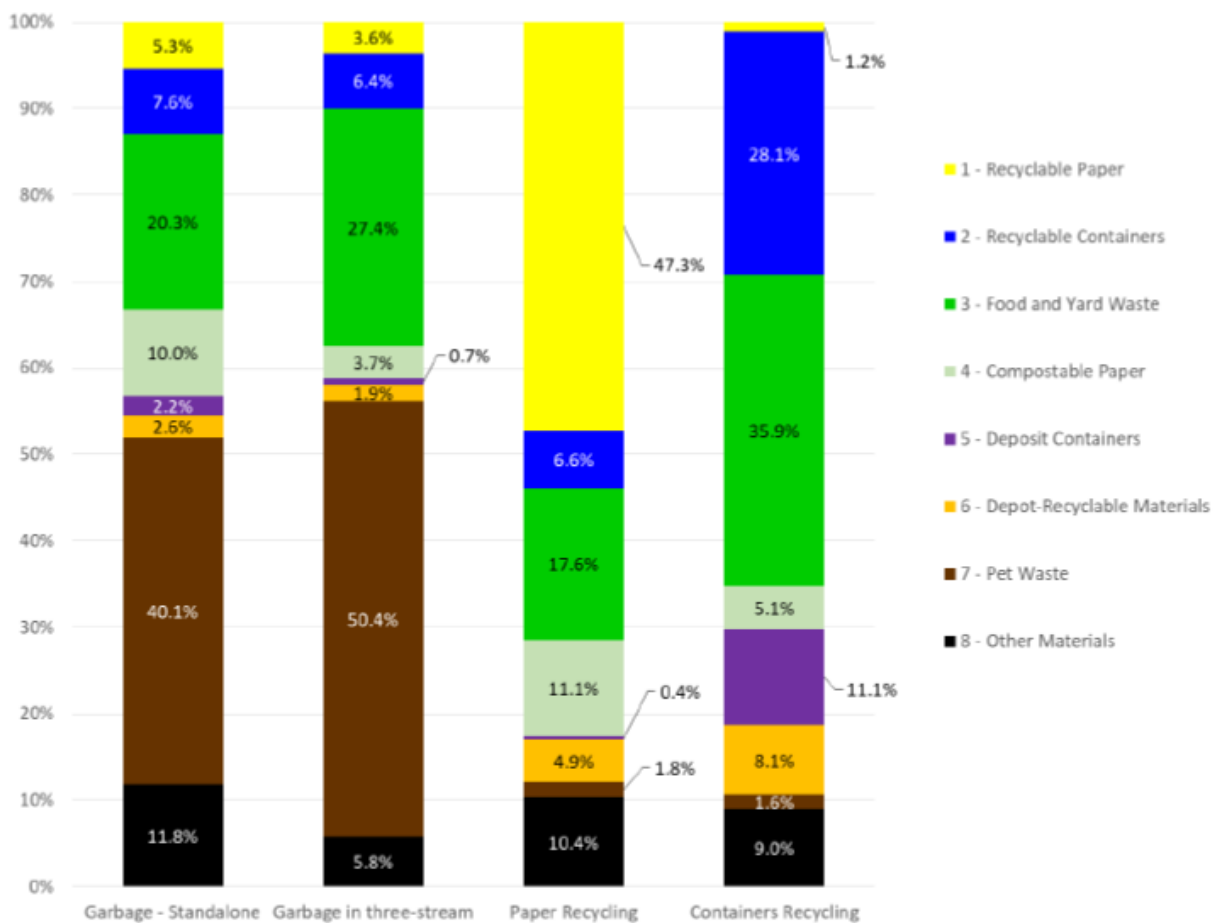
The audit consisted of two parts, namely the waste composition study and a behaviour and observation assessment, to determine if people read the instructions on the containers and to determine the level of effort used to follow the instructions.

Material from 51 receptacles was audited, of which seventeen of them were three-stream garbage and recycling stations; therefore, a total of 85 samples with a total weight of 269.5 kg were audited and analyzed. The sample represents 19% of the total number of receptacles in the City.

The waste composition categories consisted of the following:

#	Primary Category	Secondary Category
1	Recyclable Paper	Paper Packaging and Printed Paper
2	Recyclable Containers	Plastic Packaging
		Metal Packaging
		Single-Use Coffee Cups/Cold Drink Cups/Plastic Takeout Containers
3	Food and Yard Waste	All Food Waste
		All Yard Waste
4	Compostable Paper	Single-Use Compostable Paper Takeout Containers
5	Deposit Containers	All Other Compostable Paper
		Metal Deposit Containers
		Paper Deposit Containers
6	Depot-Recyclable Materials	Glass Deposit Containers
		Glass Packaging
		Plastic Film
		Styrofoam Packaging
		Single-Use Styrofoam Takeout Containers
		Plastic Deposit Containers
		All Other EPR-Managed Materials
7	Pet Waste	All Scrap Metal
8	Other Materials	Pet Waste
		Single-Use Masks
		Single-Use Straws/Plastic Utensils
		Illegal Dumping
		All other materials

The material composition by container stream is shown in the chart below.



On a positive note, the level of recyclables within the paper recycling stream and container recycling stream is much higher than in the garbage stream which means people are making an effort to place the materials in the correct container. This was also observed in the user behaviour study, which indicated that a significant proportion of users were reading the container instructions and placing the material in the correct stream.

The contamination level is still very high though and is too high to deliver to recycling centres without further sorting.

With the base audit now concluded, the next steps (detailed in appendix 2) for the City to improve the program are as follows:

1. Conducting a detailed review of the strengths and weaknesses of the current system in the City plus a jurisdictional scan of systems in nearby municipalities;

2. Developing options to promote a higher success rate in recycling,
3. Conducting “value analysis” to assess the proposed options by initiating stakeholder engagement and City staff workshops;
4. Estimating the preferred option’s Class D cost estimate and Initiating a pilot project for the preferred option and assess results; and
5. Recommending an annual budget to implement new streetscape program in the City.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

A budget request of \$85,000 has been placed in the 2022 Capital Plan to complete tasks 1 – 4 for Council’s consideration during upcoming budget discussions.

Subject to the outcome of the next steps noted above and Council approval, there may be added costs to provide new containers developing a new collection system including the purchase of new collection equipment, additional labour to collect multiple streams of materials and added contract costs for such things as dog waste collection and disposal. This would be quantified after the above studies are completed.

ALTERNATIVES:

Leave the streetscape containers as they are with all waste ending up in the garbage due to contamination levels.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rick Bomhof, P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer