

# Background

## *Provincial Food and Organic Waste Framework*

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change released the Food and Organic Waste Framework on April 30, 2018. The Food and Organic Waste Framework consists of two complementary components:

1. ***The Food and Organic Waste Action Plan*** - This plan outlines strategic commitments to be taken by the Province to promote food waste prevention, reduction and resource recovery. Some of these initiatives are listed below:
  - Work with partners to develop promotion and education tools to support food waste prevention and reduction.
  - Enhance and incorporate waste reduction and resource recovery activities within schools.
  - Work with the Government of Canada on preventing food waste.
  - Work with partners to support innovative approaches and tools to rescue surplus food.
  - Develop food safety guidelines to support the safe donation of surplus food.
  - Support research aimed at reducing and recovering food and organic waste.
  - Develop data collection mechanisms for measuring progress in waste reduction and resource recovery of food and organic waste.
  - Amend the 3Rs Regulations to include food and organic waste and increase resource recovery across the IC&I sector.
  - Ban food and organic waste from ending up in disposal sites. A phase in approach commencing in 2022 is being considered.
  - Support resource recovery of food and organic waste in multi-unit residential buildings.
  - Develop best management practices to support effective use of public waste receptacles.
  - Review existing approval processes and requirements for resource recovery systems using a modern regulatory approach.
  - Require standardized training for owners and operators of resource recovery systems that undertake composting and anaerobic digestion.
  - Review its D-Series Land Use Compatibility Guidelines to support the development of resource recovery systems.
  - Support healthy soils with strong standards and clear requirements for the use of soil amendments, while protecting the environment and human health.
  - Review regulatory approaches related to soil amendments.
  - Promote the on and off-farm end-use of soil amendments made from recovered organic resources.

- Promote the use of soil amendments as part of the Agricultural Soil Health and Conservation Strategy.
- Support development of renewable natural gas including consideration for linkages to food and organic waste.
- Support green procurement practices, including the use of end-products, such as compost and digestate (digestate is the solid or liquid material that results from the treatment of anaerobic digestion materials in a mixed anaerobic digestion facility).

2. ***The Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement*** - The “Policy Statement” falls under the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act and provides direction to the province, municipalities, producers, Industrial, Commercial and Institutional sector (e.g. retailers, manufacturers, hospitals, schools), the waste management sector and others to further the Provincial interest in waste reduction and resource recovery as it relates to food and organic waste.

A high level review of the “Policy Statement” has been conducted by staff and the preliminary analysis and impact to Greater Sudbury is listed below:

- ***Municipalities must maintain existing or expand municipal curbside collection service of source separated food and organic waste, so that residents have access to convenient and accessible collection services.***

The City of Greater Sudbury is compliant with this requirement. All residents on the City’s curbside collection program have access to and can participate in the weekly Green Cart organic collection program and the weekly Leaf & Yard Trimmings collection program.

The Province has also set a target and Greater Sudbury must reduce food and organic waste by 70% by 2023. The new waste collection policies approved by Council in 2016 will assist with meeting this target. Further analysis regarding this target will be made once the Province develops guidelines for measuring progress (i.e. clarification on the types of food and organic waste collected for resource recovery, guidelines for establishing a baseline measurement used for measuring progress and clarification on how prevention, the rescue of surplus food and resource recovery efforts can be counted towards the targets).

- ***Where collection is not provided to residents, Greater Sudbury must provide for the resource recovery of food and organic waste through means such as home composting, community composting and local event days.***

The City of Greater Sudbury is compliant with most aspects. Home composters are sold from the City’s Recycling Centre on Frobisher Street. Residents without municipal curbside collection services may dispose of the food and organic waste at the Sudbury, Azilda and Hanmer Landfill or the Walden Small Vehicle Transfer Station. Each site has a designated area or container for leaf & yard trimmings and organic waste.

Staff is reviewing whether the City will be required to install organic and leaf & yard trimmings containers at the City's 13 residential waste drop-off depots. A follow-up report will be provided to the Committee, including whether there is a requirement for additional resources.

- ***Municipalities shall provide promotion and education materials to residents that support and increase participation in resource recovery efforts available to residents in their community. Municipalities shall also develop and implement their own promotion and education programs aimed at preventing food waste. The focus of the education program should primarily be on reaching consumers directly through information that will assist consumers in preventing and reducing food waste.***

The City of Greater Sudbury provides information in various formats to increase participation in resource recovery efforts. However, additional resources may be required to meet each Provincial target level and to develop materials for the prevention and reduction of food waste. A follow-up report will be provided to the Committee, including whether there is a requirement for additional resources.

- ***Municipalities should ensure that their official plans, zoning bylaws, plan of subdivision approvals and site plan approvals support the resource recovery of food and organic waste for their residents.***

The Planning Division has been advised and they will review the requirements.

- ***By-laws must be made consistent with the Policy Statement by April 30, 2020.***

This requirement will be completed as part of the consolidated update to the Waste Management By-law.

- ***Multi-unit residential buildings shall provide collection of food and organic waste to their residents, implement best practices to support convenient access and shall provide promotion and education materials to residents.***

The City of Greater Sudbury currently has a voluntary program available to multi-unit residential buildings on a cost recovery system. However, no building has voluntarily joined the program.

A business case to address the anticipated regulatory requirement was developed in 2018. With the requirement now confirmed, staff will review the new Provincial requirement and provide the Committee with an updated report in 2019.

The Province has set a target that multi-unit residential buildings must reduce food and organic waste by 50% by 2025.

- ***All retail shopping establishments, retail shopping complexes, office buildings, restaurants, hotels and motels and large manufacturing establishments, subject to O. Reg. 103/94 under the Environmental Protection Act, that generate 300 kilograms or more of food and organic waste per week shall source separate food and organic waste and shall provide users of these facilities promotion and education materials.***

The Province has set a target for these establishments and they must reduce food and organic waste by 70% by 2025.

***and***

- ***All retail shopping establishments, retail shopping complexes, office buildings, restaurants, hotels and motels and large manufacturing establishments, not subject to O. Reg. 103/94 94 under the Environmental Protection Act, that generate 300 kilograms or more of food and organic waste per week shall source separate food and organic waste and shall provide users of these facilities promotion and education materials.***

The Province has set a target for these establishments and they must reduce food and organic waste by 50% by 2025.

The City of Greater Sudbury has limited capacity to process large quantities of food and organic waste from these establishments. A limited program was established in 2018 and staff is currently working with ConverGen (a Greater Sudbury Utility company) to develop long term processing capacity.

- ***All other retail shopping establishments, retail shopping complexes, office buildings, restaurants, hotels and motels and large manufacturing establishments that generate less than 300 kilograms of food and organic waste per week should source separate food and organic waste.***

The City of Greater Sudbury has developed a program for these smaller generators of food and organic waste. The program was developed in 2018 and is called the Biz Cart program.

- ***Educational institutions and hospitals, subject to O. Reg. 103/94 under the Environmental Protection Act, that generate 150 kilograms or more of food and organic waste per week shall source separate food and organic waste.***

The City of Greater Sudbury has established a program for educational facilities and those facilities are aware of the program. The local hospital recently submitted an application for their Ramsey Lake location under the City's limited IC&I organic waste processing program.

The Province has set a target for these establishments and they must reduce food and organic waste by 70% by 2025.

- ***Owners and operators of resource recovery systems shall manage source separated waste streams in a manner that limits contamination; uses appropriate technologies that can effectively recover collected materials; not direct or send source separated food and organic waste for disposal.***

The City of Greater Sudbury owns and currently contracts the operation of the resource recovery (processing) system to the operator of the Sudbury Landfill & Waste Diversion Site.

- ***To promote effective and efficient resource recovery, owners and operators of resource recovery systems may adopt financial measures that encourage generators to maximize resource recovery and discourage disposal.***

The City of Greater Sudbury has established various measures to encourage resource recovery and discourage disposal. For example, a fee is not applied for leaf & yard trimmings segregated from garbage and delivered to our processing sites.

- ***Municipalities and owners and operators of resource recovery systems that process food and organic waste are encouraged to support new technology and innovation to recover compostable products and packaging.***

The option of recovering compostable products and packaging will be considered as part of the new long term processing system review.

- ***Municipalities and other planning authorities should protect existing and planned resource recovery systems from incompatible uses and plan for new systems, where appropriate, to meet projected needs.***

The City of Greater Sudbury is maintaining the current processing systems and is currently reviewing a new long term processing system that will meet projected needs.

- ***Municipalities and other planning authorities are encouraged to pursue regional approaches to address food and organic waste resource recovery capacity needs, including supporting resource recovery systems that build economies of scale for food and organic waste processing.***

The current review of a new long term processing capacity is considering selling spare capacity to other municipalities.

- ***To ensure appropriate siting and compatibility between uses and adjacent uses, municipalities shall ensure that approvals for new or expanded resource recovery systems address the D-Series Land Use Compatibility Guidelines and the Guideline for the Production of Compost in Ontario.***

The current review of new processing capacity is considering the appropriate siting characteristics that would be required for the short listed new long term processing systems.

- ***Owners and operators of resource recovery systems***
  - ***that create digestate are encouraged to maximize any energy captured to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.***
  - ***should develop outreach plans that ensure regular engagement of local communities, as well as processes to address public complaints, resolve disputes and communicate mitigation measures.***
  - ***that create compost should promote the use and benefits of compost; Educate users on the rules and best practices for using compost and make compost convenient and accessible to residents, community groups, farmers and services that could benefit from using compost.***
  - ***that create compost, digestate or other high-quality soil amendments should promote the beneficial use of these materials to create agricultural soil amendments that improve the quality of existing soils and promote the growth of crops, groundcover or other vegetation.***
  - ***that recover organic resources should increase the beneficial use of recovered organic resources to build soils where they previously did not exist, where it is safe and appropriate to do so.***

The City of Greater Sudbury does not produce digestate. The City of Greater produces compost and when available promotes its availability and benefits.

Public complaints are managed centrally through the City's 3-1-1 system. The system is well established and logs public complaints and resolutions.

- ***Municipalities should consider how their existing policies or procedures could encourage the use of compost, digestate and other soil amendments, such as facility and site maintenance, development, site and facility approvals, and green procurement.***

The City of Greater Sudbury encourages the use of compost for site development and as an alternative to top soil.

Each legislated requirement that the City has not met, in part or in whole, is expected to increase program requirements and costs. However, these costs will be offset in the future from deferred capital costs associated with landfill cell closures and the siting and construction of a new landfill.

## ***Update on the New Long Term Processing System Review for Food & Organic Waste***

The current Organic Composting Area is located in the southwest part of the Sudbury landfill disposal footprint. The area was constructed on top of buried garbage and will need to be relocated once the area is required for landfilling or once the site receives more than 100 tonnes per operating day. The system currently receives approximately 10% of the permitted capacity and can accommodate the expected increases over the next few years from the residential sector, educational facilities and a small portion of IC&I generators.

The current system will not be adequate for the anticipated volumes generated from a landfill ban and the majority of food and organic waste from the IC&I sector. For this reason, staff have expedited a review for a new processing system and are collaborating with ConverGen (a Greater Sudbury Utilities company) on this project.

A project consultant was hired in March 2018 and staff held a kick-off meeting with the consultant in late April 2018. Since that time, the consultant has prepared two technical memorandums. These memorandums covered background reviews, assumptions and identified appropriate technologies. The final feasibility study report is due this September.

Additional information will be provided to the Committee in early 2019.