

## **Background**

The Solid Waste Advisory Panel functions as Council's public liaison on current solid waste management issues. The Panel's primary objectives are to:

- increase waste diversion and recycling efforts; and
- for the dissemination, review and exchange of solid waste information

The Panel met on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Five reports were presented and reviewed with the Panel members. Two reports relate to landfill and landfill diversion and a summary of each report are listed below. Staff will review each report summary and be available for questions or direction.

### **2018 Solid Waste Advisory Report Summaries – Landfill & Landfill Diversion**

*Report # 1 – Extending Landfill Hours of Operation in 2021:* In 2016, Council approved the implementation plan for the new waste collection policies. In the plan, staff indicated that options to deal with potential storage issues would be reviewed and reported back to Council. One of these options was the extension of landfill operating hours to Sundays in the summer months.

The annual cost for a full day during the Summer was estimated at \$607,947.40 (excluding taxes) and the annual cost for half a day was estimated at \$383,513.90 (excluding taxes).

It was also identified that the majority of municipalities that have every other week garbage collection services do not operate landfills on Sundays. Residents in those communities have been able to manage their waste with their weekly green cart and recycling collection services. The periodic generation of extra garbage, can either be handled with the purchase of garbage bag tags or by the delivery to the landfill sites between Mondays to Saturdays.

For these reasons, the Panel supported maintaining the current landfill & transfer station operating hours following the changes in 2021.

*Report # 2 – Recycling Mattresses and Box Springs:* An overview of the challenges associated with the disposal of mattresses and box springs and the pilot projects to recycle these items was provided. A total of 874 mattresses and box springs were diverted during the pilot projects. Although the pilots were a success and proved to save landfill space, staff will conduct additional analysis during the 2018/2019 period and include provisional pricing to recycle these items in future operating contracts. A report to establish a permanent program will be prepared for the Operations Committee in 2019.

Staff also expects that these items will be designated under the Ontario Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act. This means that producers will be environmentally accountable

and financially responsible for these items. If the designation and adequate funding becomes available, staff will implement the recycling program within those guidelines and report back to the Operations Committee. The Panel was supportive of this position.

## **Conclusion**

Extending the landfill hours of operation on Sundays following the waste collection policy changes in 2021 would provide some added convenience, but at a significant cost to the operating program. With a little effort, residents can divert the majority of their waste by participating in existing programs and for the periodic generation of extra waste, residents can purchase garbage bag tags or visit their landfill site which is open six days per week.

If the Committee wishes to pursue one of the options for extending the hours of operation, it would be appropriate to direct staff to prepare a business case for consideration in the 2020 budget deliberations.

The pilot for diverting mattresses and box springs was successful. Additional analysis will be conducted during the 2018/19 period and staff will report back in 2019 on options to establish a permanent program in 2020.