

COUNCIL – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 6 May 2025

Subject: Bylaw B-15/2025 2025 Waste and Recycling Rate Amendment

Directorate: Corporate Services and CFO

Issue:

The Extended Producer Recycling (EPR) program came into effect on April 1, 2025. While there are still a number of unknowns related to overall scope and deliverables of the new program, there is additional revenue that will be received this year. Utility rates were originally calculated without this additional revenue, as it was not in place at budget time. A reduction in Utility rates to allow a portion of the savings to be passed on to residents in the current year is being proposed.

Policy / Council Direction:

Changes to a bylaw require council approval.

Background:

During budget deliberations in November of 2024, the EPR program was noted, however it was not factored into the overall Waste and Recycling rates at that time due to the on going negotiations and number of unknowns at the time. Discussion also anticipated the implementation of black cart moving into 2026, and the additional savings related to EPR be used to offset the initial purchase cost of the black carts.

While there are still a number of unknowns as to the service levels and contract conditions after October 2026 with the EPR, and the impact of tariffs on services and cart purchases, administration would like to pass some of the savings onto residents at this time.

Airdrie is in a unique situation with the new Black Cart program getting ready to launch in 2026. Administration is recommending that a portion of the EPR revenue be used to offset the initial funding requirements of the new program. Overall rate decreases followed by larger rate increases tend to be harder for residents to adjust to in the regular billing cycle. The City's preference is to attempt to maintain more consistent rates. With this in mind, administration is proposing the full amount related to the depot revenue, along with a portion of the revenue related to the curbside program be used to reduce the average single family bill by \$3.08 a bill (28 days) as of June 1.

Current overall Waste and Recycling fees make up a total of \$29.40 per bill to the average single family dwelling. Total EPR net revenue estimated to be received in 2025 is \$226,134 for the depot and \$1,362,085 for curbside.

The chart below outlines the current rate structure.

Description	Daily Rate	Budgeted Yearly Total
Residential Waste Fee	\$0.85	\$7,250,630
Environmental Fee	\$0.20	\$2,163,275
Total	\$1.05	\$9,413,905

^{*2025} estimated number of curbside residential customer accounts 23.464

The chart below outlines the proposed changes.

Description	Daily Rate reduction	Total anticipated revenue reduction (June 1 start date)
Residential Waste Fee	(\$0.07)	(\$351,490)
Environmental Fee	(\$0.04)	(\$261,220)
Total	(\$0.11)	(\$612,710)

The additional revenue being received through the curbside program for the balance of this year of \$980,330 will be used towards the purchase of black carts and to mitigate any additional unknowns. Further analysis will be completed as part of the 2026 budget process and updated rates will be brought forward at that time.

This approach is a cautious one in 2025 given the items yet to be determined at the end of the short term EPR contract in October 2026, and the required funding related to the black cart program.

Council Committee Routed Through:

N/A

Administration Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-15/2025 being a bylaw to amend Schedule "B" of Waste Management Bylaw B-07/2017 as follows:

Description	Fee/Charge
Residential Waste Fee	\$0.78 per day*
Environmental Fee	\$0.16 per day*

Alternatives/Implications:

^{*2025} estimated number of residential customer accounts for transfer and depot sites 30,516

Council could choose to provide alternative direction to Administration.

Budget Implications:

Changes to these rates and the corresponding revenue changes related to EPR will be reflected in the quarterly projections as information and household counts are confirmed through the year.

Communications and Engagement:

The website will be updated through communications.

Recommendation:

That Council gives three readings to Bylaw B-15/2025 being a bylaw to amend Waste Management Bylaw B-07/2017 by deleting Schedule "B" and replacing it with the attached Schedule "B", with rates effective June 1, 2025.

Monica Labait
Manager of Treasury

Staff Presenter: Monica Labait

External Presenter: N/A

Department: Corporate Services
Reviewed by: Shannon Schindeler
Attachments: #1: Bylaw B-15/2025

#2: Bylaw B-07/2017 redlined Schedule B