



Est. 1873

REPORT TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

PRESENTED: JULY 27, 2020 - REGULAR MEETING
FROM: ENGINEERING DIVISION
SUBJECT: RECYCLING DEPOT ASSESSMENT

REPORT: 20-107
FILE: 5380-01

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council request Metro Vancouver to move towards establishing recycling depots at the Langley and Surrey transfer stations operated by Metro Vancouver as soon as possible, to be funded in a manner that recognizes the regionally-serving nature of such facilities; and further

That Council request Metro Vancouver investigate relocating the Langley Transfer Station to a more suitable geographic area, subject to appropriate zoning and locational considerations, in collaboration with the Township of Langley.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the Regular Evening Council Meeting on July 8, 2019, Township resident Charity Gosling appeared as a delegation to speak to the need for a one-stop recycling facility in the Township. At that meeting Council resolved to refer the delegation request to staff for a report.

Recycling depots offer convenient drop off for recyclable items not collected curbside, reduce illegal dumping, lower carbon emissions from private vehicle travel; and keep material out of landfills. The regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) recommends implementation of a recycling depot model that includes numerous, small scale, one-stop recycling depots. Currently, nine of the twenty-one member municipalities are served by Metro Vancouver operated recycling depots, including: the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, Village of Lions Bay, City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, with City of New Westminster and, City of Surrey, pending.

Metro Vancouver is currently completing a system review to assess the regional network of transfer stations, and recycling depots, expected to be completed in early 2021. Adding recycling depots to the Langley and Surrey transfer stations, located at 1070 - 272 Street in Langley and 9770 - 192 Street in Surrey, respectively; and, potential relocation of the Langley Transfer Station to a more central location, would be consistent with the ISWRMP; and would introduce convenient and accessible one-stop recycling centres for Township residents.

There are no financial implications with the recommended approach, as the Township's expectation would be that implementation of the recommended steps would be funded by Metro Vancouver in a manner that recognizes that recycling depots benefit all residents in the region, for example, through the regional tipping fee.

PURPOSE:

To seek Council support to request that Metro Vancouver establish recycling depots at the Surrey and Langley transfer stations, and, investigate relocating the Langley Transfer Station to establish convenient and accessible one-stop recycling centres for Township residents.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

At the Regular Evening Council Meeting on July 8, 2019, Council referred the delegation from Charity Gosling regarding a one-stop recycling facility to staff for a report.

Recycling depots have been operational within various municipalities since as early as 1995 when the Solid Waste Management Plan identified the provision of more accessible recycling opportunities as a priority. The purpose was to provide convenient opportunities for residents and small business owners to recycle larger quantities of curbside recyclables.

The Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP), which was approved by the Province in 2011, recommends strategies to increase the opportunities for reuse by developing a model for recycling depots that includes numerous, small scale, one-stop-drop depots for recycling and small quantity drop-off disposal, including:

Strategy 2.2.4, recommends that Metro Vancouver do the following:

- a. Establish a stakeholder and municipal working group to determine the scope, terms and conditions including the responsibility for funding and operating, and the relationship to existing and planned EPR programs and municipal Eco-Centers for participating municipalities and industries.
- b. Develop the model of Eco-Centers to include numerous, small scale, one-stop-drop depots for recycling and small quantity drop-off disposal.
- c. With municipalities, determine the terms and conditions for participating municipalities and industries and develop appropriate business cases.
- d. After determining terms and conditions, including the responsibility for funding and operating, establish the first Eco-Centre in Surrey to replace commitment for a residential drop-off facility.
- e. Progressively expand the Eco-Centre system across the region as municipal business cases determine.

In addition, Strategy 2.2.7 tasks municipalities within Metro Vancouver to work with Metro Vancouver on actions designed to establish Eco-Centres.

Over the years, the Provincial Recycling Regulation expanded existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs to include many more consumer products. Recycling depots were expanded, and others constructed to accommodate some of these additional products in an effort to provide residents and small businesses with the option to recycle materials at a single location rather than having to drive to multiple locations within a municipality or region.

Through discussions with staff from Metro Vancouver, it was learned that an assessment of the regional solid waste system is currently being completed to gain an understanding of the regional transfer station / recycling depot network and current and potential future services, which, will include short term and long term recommendations for improvements and upgrades both system-wide and at individual facilities for materials management, transfer and disposal efficiency.

The analysis is expected to be completed in early 2021. Therefore, this is an ideal time for the Township to ask Metro Vancouver to improve access to convenient recycling options for Township residents, consistent with the ISWRMP, and the regional recycling depot model.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

There are currently nine municipalities being serviced by recycling depots operated by Metro Vancouver, adjacent to a Metro Vancouver Transfer Station, with a funding model negotiated with each municipality, or, each group of municipalities, as follows:

North Shore Recycling Centre 30 Riverside Drive, North Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of North Vancouver • District of North Vancouver • District of West Vancouver • Village of Lions Bay
Coquitlam Recycling Centre 1200 United Boulevard, Coquitlam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Coquitlam • City of Port Coquitlam • City of Port Moody • City of New Westminster (pending)
Surrey Recycling and Waste Drop-off (under construction) 6711 154 Street, Surrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Surrey

In addition, there are three municipalities within Metro Vancouver that own and operate their own recycling depots, including, Burnaby, Richmond, and Vancouver. Maple Ridge is the only municipality in the lower mainland that has a recycling depot operated by a community-based, not-for-profit organization.

Figure 1 shows the locations and distribution of existing recycling depots throughout Metro Vancouver.



Figure 1: Map of Recycling Depots in Metro Vancouver

Some of the items accepted at these regional recycling depots include:

Accepted	Accepted* <i>*only at some locations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronics • Outdoor Power Equipment • Mobile phones • Alarms • Thermostats • Large and small appliances • Mattresses • Scrap metal • Curbside recyclables • Styrofoam • Film plastics • Light bulbs • Cooking oil • Smoke detectors • Household batteries • Car tires 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antifreeze • Car batteries • Paints • Motor oil, containers, filters • Flammable liquids • Propane tanks • Pesticides

In addition, Encorp Pacific (Encorp) operates five locations in or near the Township, which accept some of the items accepted at regional recycling depots such as end-of-life electronics, small appliances, textiles and clothing, paint, and packaging / paper. Encorp is a federally incorporated, not-for-profit, product stewardship group with beverage container management as its core business. Their mandate is to develop, manage and improve systems to recover used packaging and end-of-life products from consumers and ensure that they are properly recycled and not land-filled or incinerated. The specific items accepted at each facility differs, and, in no case represents the full range of items accepted at the regional recycling depots operated by Metro Vancouver. Their locations include:

- Aldergrove Return-It Depot – 27482 Fraser Highway
- Walnut Grove Bottle and Return Centre – 20280 - 97 Avenue
- Fraser Valley Bottle and Return-It Depot – 22575 Fraser Highway
- Langley Bottle Depot – 20137 Industrial Avenue
- Willowbrook Recycling – 19641 - 60 Avenue

The Township of Langley provides all residents with access to municipal curbside recycling collection services (mixed paper, mixed containers and glass containers), collected from properties on a weekly basis. In addition, the Township hosts the annual Household Hazardous Waste Event to provide residents with an opportunity to safely and conveniently dispose of hazardous waste that is not covered by any EPR program. Over the years the event has grown to include some EPR program items such as: household batteries, car batteries, small appliances, electronics, tires, alarms, and thermostats. Despite there being alternative locations to take EPR products throughout the year, approximately 85 percent of the residents that visit the event bring EPR materials, with approximately 15 tonnes of EPR materials collected annually.

Other than this two day event, which simulates one-stop recycling, there are currently no other convenient one-stop recycling depot locations within the Township that accept the same range of items collected at some of the other Metro Vancouver run facilities.

Data provided by Metro Vancouver indicates that the Langley and Surrey Transfer stations, located at 1070 272 Street and 9770 192 Street, respectively, are both used by Township of Langley residents. In a 2018 survey, it was found that 70 per cent of customers at the Langley Transfer Station and 24 per cent of customers at the Surrey Transfer Station were Township residents. Moving immediately to add recycling depots to both transfer stations would directly benefit the residents using these facilities. Further, since the majority of growth in the Township has, and is, expected to occur in the western half of the municipality, relocating the Langley Transfer Station to a more central location in the Township would improve accessibility to convenient recycling options sooner for residents. The new location would need to be in compliance with appropriate zoning requirements.

Environmental Implications:

On July 22, 2019, Township Council declared a climate emergency and on November 18, 2019, adopted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommended emission reduction targets of 45% by 2030 and 100%, or zero carbon, by 2050.

Establishing a recycling depot in the Township of Langley would help the Township meet these targets by providing a single destination for drop-off of all recyclable items. This would replace the current situation whereby residents and small business owners are required to drive to multiple destinations to properly dispose of their recyclable waste. Under the current scenario, there's a higher likelihood that recyclable material ends up in the landfill since not everyone is willing to invest the time, fuel and effort to make the multiple stops necessary.

Although it is difficult to quantify the emission reductions that would be achieved by providing one-stop recycling depots, it would be reasonable to expect that emissions would decrease and waste diversion would increase. In addition, recycling depots in the Township of Langley could further help to reduce illegal dumping in our neighbourhoods. Data shows that approximately 50 per cent of the material regularly found illegally dumped in the Township could've been dropped off at a recycling depot. If located adjacent to a transfer station, approximately 98 per cent of items could be properly disposed of at a single location. Only the hazardous waste items, making up about two per cent of illegally dumped material, would require special disposal.

Financial Implications:

The annual cost to operate a recycling depot can be up to \$400,000 - \$500,000, depending on the size, number of staff needed, and equipment used. In addition, a minimum of 1.5 acres of appropriately zoned land is required to site and build a facility.

Should Council support the report recommendations, and, Metro Vancouver agree to proceed as requested, there would be no direct financial impact to the Township of Langley or its residents. The costs to establish and operate the Langley and Surrey transfer station recycling depots, and, relocate the Langley Transfer Station would be shared in a manner that recognizes that recycling depots benefit all residents in the region, for example, through Metro Vancouver's tipping fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Schmidt
MANAGER, SUSTAINABILITY
for
ENGINEERING DIVISION