

BRIEFING FORM

SUBMITTED TO: Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

MANAGER'S APPROVAL:



Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources

DATE OF MEETING: 02 August 2012

SUBJECT: Mattress Recycling

ORIGIN

ESSC June 26th, 2012 meeting discussion 'Why HRM does not Recycle Mattresses'

RECOMMENDATION/ DECISION REQUIRED

None required, for information only.

BACKGROUND

Mattress recycling is an activity carried out by the private sector across Canada and North America. Typically there is a fee charged by a processor for the service. Fees range from \$10 - \$15.00/mattress. Across Canada there is a range of programs and stewardship models responsible for the capture and diversion of this material away from landfill.

In NS, there have been R&D projects conducted to review the local processing and mattress diversion opportunities. In 2009, RRFB funded a Mattress and Box Spring R&D project undertaken by Halifax C&D Recycling. The objective of the study was to identify the

feasibility of mattress recycling and examine marketing options. The report concluded that the key to making the business case for a recycling operation was to apply a fee to properly dispose/divert mattresses to fund the sustainability of the diversion program.

The application of a fee can be advanced as part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). This policy approach has been advanced by the Canadian Ministers of the Environment (CCME) and this encourages shared responsibility where all entities in the product chain have responsibility to reduce the lifecycle impacts of a product with the primary responsibility with the producer or brand owner who makes the design and marketing decision.

The EPR approach shifts the financial burden to fund diversion of a designated product from the municipal tax base to the product manufacturer or brand owner. The product manufacturer or brand owner becomes responsible for funding the establishment of a recovery and recycling program.

In the 2011 NSE “Our Path Forward: Building on the Success of Nova Scotia’s Solid Waste Resource Management Strategy” <http://novascotia.ca/nse/waste/docs/Solid.Waste.Strategy-Our.Path.Forward.2011.pdf>, there is direction for how the province can increase and maintain leadership in waste management. One of the six strategic goals includes “To Increase Producer Responsibility for End-of-Life Management of Products and Materials. This is linked also linked to the NS Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) that states product stewardship is to be used to ensure the province meets its disposal target. In 2007 the province set out a target to reduce disposal to achieve 300 kg/pp./yr. by 2015. The province, through support from municipalities and some EPR models already in place have made progress from 477 kg/person in 2007 to 401 kg/person in 2010.

ALTERNATIVES AND ASSOCIATED RISKS

Staff contacted other Canadian cities to discuss mattress recovery programs and the following is an outline of recovery options and costs:

Jurisdictions	Recovery Options	Municipal Costs	Other Notes
Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate collection of bulky items • Mattresses sorted and separated for further processing • Private sector recycling processor is engaged 	\$200/T for collection \$400/T for processing	1,500 T/Yr. collected
Metro Vancouver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited item unacceptable for 	\$9.00/unit processing costs	No curbside collection of bulky items

Region (serves 22 municipalities)	landfill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted separately at transfer station drop off • Tipping fee charged \$20/mattress • Material shipments to private recycling processor 		including mattresses in most municipalities 125,000 units recovered in 2011. Resident pay for recycling at drop off
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A mechanism for funding a mattress recycling program would be required if HRM were to implement a program. In these 2 major cities, the costs to fund the recovery and processing is funded by the municipality (Toronto) or the resident pays a recycling fee in most municipalities in Vancouver and it is not accepted at landfill.

IMPACT/BENEFITS:

Currently, the financial burden for management of end of life materials placed curbside and arriving at municipal waste processing facilities rests with the municipal taxpayers. Mattresses are part of the residential garbage stream where collection occurs every two weeks with other bulky items. In terms of data, from recent waste audits, mattresses represent less than 1 % of the garbage stream composition.

Where stewardship is in place, municipalities play a role in promoting mattress diversion. Costs paid by municipalities such as noted in other jurisdictions are in effect subsidies to producers.

COMMUNICATION ISSUES/OPPORTUNITIES:

N.S municipalities have expressed an interest in moving EPR forward – to recognize waste as a resource value rather than as landfill waste. UNSM resolution 6A was passed at its annual conference in October 2010 to encourage the NS Minister of Environment to implement EPR programs for products remaining in the residual waste stream which can be diverted as in other jurisdictions. In January 2011 UNSM received a response from Minister Belliveau to indicate his staff is developing plans for additional EPR programs.

In the Fall of 2012 the province will be developing an EPR framework to enable additional products and packaging be diverted away from landfill disposal. Municipalities will learn more of this framework as meetings occur over the coming months. It is anticipated that Regions and Municipalities will be consulted as stakeholders. Many other jurisdictions are moving towards an EPR approach to waste management that shifts lifecycle costs from the taxpayer to industry responsible for costs and material recovery to divert more material from disposal.

ATTACHMENTS:N/A

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