



Governance Committee

Table with 2 columns: Field (Subject, Date, Presenter, Department) and Value (Solid Waste Servicing Strategy Annual Update, March 11, 2025, Christian Yee, Solid Waste & Recycling Advisor, Utility Services)

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Governance Committee with an annual update of the Solid Waste Servicing Strategy, which was approved by Council in 2021. Administration will provide updates on the strategy’s goals and metrics, as well as site enhancements that are either planned or completed. Administration is also seeking the Committee’s feedback on aspects of service delivery pertaining to the levels of service, specifically determining when the responsibility for waste management services should/might transfer to the County (Goal 6 of the Strategy).

Additionally, Alberta’s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulation will come into effect on April 1, 2025, which will have financial and operational benefits on the County’s Waste and Recycling services.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Governance Committee receives the Solid Waste Servicing Strategy Annual Update report for information.

BACKGROUND

On March 23, 2021, a new 10-year Servicing Strategy was approved by Council.

MOVED by Deputy Reeve McKylor that the 2021 Solid Waste Servicing Strategy be approved as presented in Attachment ‘A’ (as amended) to replace the 2007-2057 Solid Waste Master Plan;

AND THAT progress on the 2021 Solid Waste Servicing Strategy be reported back to Council annually.

The strategy, now in its fifth year, guides the ‘how and when’ to increase levels of service to all waste generating sectors, not just residential. This includes the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector and Construction and Demolition (C&D) sectors in the 10-year timeline. The strategy directly advances one of the objectives of Council’s 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: “Service Levels are clearly defined and transparent to residents.”

The strategy is based on the following pursuits:

The ideal state

Waste in Rocky View County is eliminated where possible, with a focus on remaining waste being reused or recycled in systems that maintain products and materials at their highest use.



A stronger leadership role for the County

Establish and support services (or service delivery models) in Rocky View County that enable the elimination of waste and encourage a circular economy.

Goals

- Goal 1: Residential waste produced in Rocky View County will be managed in accordance with the 3Rs of reduce, reuse, and recycle to encourage waste elimination over landfilling.
- Goal 2: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste produced in Rocky View County will be managed in accordance with the 3Rs.
- Goal 3: Construction and demolition (C&D) waste produced from new developments and/or renovations will be minimized and resource reuse maximized.
- Goal 4: Rocky View County will be seen as a preferred location for markets and industries that consume recyclables and/or actively minimize waste.
- Goal 5: Rocky View County influences and leverages regional, provincial, and national opportunities to advance 3Rs policies and programs.
- Goal 6: Rocky View County establishes appropriate levels of service that ensure efficient waste management and diversion options are accessible to County residents.
- Goal 7: Rocky View County measures and demonstrates success of its programs and is recognized as a leader in waste management.
- Goal 8: Legacy landfills are effectively managed.
- Goal 9: Advocate with regional neighbours to promote waste to energy to become the go-to for waste disposal.

For each goal, there is a set of actionable objectives that provide the priorities for how to achieve the goals over the 10-year timeline. Each goal also has performance metrics and indicators, which supports measuring and reporting progress towards the goals. The 2021-2031 Solid Waste Servicing Road Map, including the objectives, timelines, and metrics, is provided in Attachment A. Administration has made considerable progress on these metrics, objectives, and achievements, as seen in Attachment B for 2024.

DISCUSSION

Over 55,000 visitors participated in one or more County managed solid waste service offered in 2024, up from 53,998 in 2022. The number of households receiving County managed curbside collection increased from 1,911 to 2,009 and the Solid Waste and Recycling group received 899 service requests. In addition, subscriptions for the Waste Guide App are up to 979 users, which is up 70% from 2023.

Solid Waste Servicing Strategy Annual Update

The strategy also identifies underserved areas in the County as well as sites that could use improvements:

- Goal 2: Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) waste produced in Rocky View County will be managed in accordance with the 3Rs Hierarchy.
- Goal 6, Objective J: Replace the Springhill Chuck Wagon with a Full-Service Transfer Site & Recycling Depot
 - This site transitioned to a Transfer Site in July 2024 and now offers additional services such as bulk garbage and year-round Ag material collection.
- Goal 6, Objective J: Replace the Springbank Recycling Depot with a Full-Service Transfer Site & Recycling Depot
 - Relocation to the west portion of the Springbank Dog Park will be completed on April 30, 2025, with the goal of becoming a Full-Service Transfer Site in 2026.
- Goal 6, Objective J: Add a Transfer Site in the East Section of Rocky View County between Langdon and Keoma
 - Administration will be piloting a bi-weekly Chuck Wagon in the Conrich area starting in Q2 2025. This will result in the Balzac Chuck Wagon shifting from weekly to bi-weekly service. Administration has also engaged the City of Chestermere regarding usage of their Eco Centre.

These services are important to residents, considered a core municipal service by the provincial government, and provide tremendous opportunity for customer service while adding value to County citizens. Continuously improving our communications with those who use these services, and their experience, is a priority. In Q4 2024, Administration launched a Waste and Recycling Education Campaign that included multiple posts on social media, complemented by articles in three editions of the County Connection e-newsletter. The campaign reached almost 57,000 people and Administration will be continuing these education campaigns in 2025. This advances Council's strategic objective for customer service (SD3): Citizens are satisfied with public engagement opportunities and availability of information.

The Solid Waste Servicing Strategy defines County managed curbside collection as the standard of service for areas with population density greater than 400 people/km². When reviewing population density from an Area Structure Plan perspective with defined boundaries, Elbow Valley now meets this threshold.

In addition, Rocky View County is a registered Community under Alberta's EPR system, which means that County managed recycling programs are eligible to transition on April 1, 2025. EPR shifts the physical and financial burden of collecting, sorting, processing, and recycling waste to the producer and away from local governments and taxpayers. For example, this means that municipalities who are currently operating curbside recycling programs or self-haul facilities will receive financial compensation from producers to help cover the costs of operating these programs. This will be discussed further in the Solid Waste Full Cost Recovery report that will be presented at the March 25, 2025, Council Meeting.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration does not have an alternate direction for the Governance Committee's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Rocky View County Servicing Strategy 2021 – 2031 Road Map

Attachment B: Metrics and Achievements

Attachment C: Solid Waste Servicing Strategy Annual Update Presentation