



Subject: *Organics Transfer Station - Status Update*
To: Executive Committee of Council
Date Prepared: September 13, 2023
Related Motions: n/a
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Approved by: Jesse Hulsman, Director of I&O

Summary

The Waste Management Centre operation includes an organics transfer station where materials are stored until shipped offsite for processing. The transfer station has been in operation since the early 2000s. Due to a combination of normal wear and tear and increased weather events (damage/stress) the transfer station cover has been damaged beyond repair. Due to safety concerns the cover and framing was removed in earlier 2023.

Financial Impact Statement

Options for replacement of the transfer station cover: requires further study.

Options for organics management (2014 consultant report update): requires quotation; requires approval for funds from Solid Waste Reserves.

Recommendation

Staff recommend that a report on options for organics management for the municipality be prepared for the December Executive Committee meeting, including costing, for direction of Council on a path forward.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council direct staff to bring a report back on options for organics management at the Waste Management Centre, including costing for the December meeting.

Move that the Infrastructure & Operations Committee recommend that Council authorize the CAO to approve use of Solid Waste Reserve funds for the purpose of professional services fees for organics management options reports, as outlined in this staff report, not to exceed \$10,000.

Background

When the province introduced landfill bans in the late 1990s this included organics (food & leaf/yard waste). The municipality installed an organics transfer station at the Waste Management Centre, where materials are tipped after curbside collection or by commercial customers, and stored until shipped offsite for processing.

The transfer station has been in operation since the early 2000s. As a result, from a combination of normal wear and tear and increased weather events (damage/stress) the transfer station cover has been damaged beyond repair. Due to safety concerns the cover and framing was removed in earlier 2023.

Discussion

As a result of the current physical status of the organics transfer station, the growth within the municipality, and recent procurement of processing results (now sending materials to Guysborough) staff felt it was appropriate to seek direction from Council on the path forward for organics management. Past discussions with Council on opportunities for onsite composting showed interest, however the consultation report (2014) showed we need more material than we had at that time and the discussion was paused.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This work aligns with the Municipality's strategic goal of sustainable infrastructure for now and future growth.

Alternatives

Executive Committee direct staff to report back in December on replacement of cover for the transfer station only.
