



**City of Kingston
Report to Council
Information Report Number 25-208**

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Ian Semple, Commissioner, Transportation & Infrastructure Services
Resource Staff: Karen Santucci, Director, Public Works & Solid Waste
Date of Meeting: August 12, 2025
Subject: Update on Recycling Depot Operation

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 2. Lead Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action

Goal: 2.2 Support climate action and sustainability for residents, businesses and partners.

Executive Summary:

As part of the provincial transition to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), the City of Kingston will no longer be responsible for recycling collection and processing as of July 1, 2025. During the transition period ending December 31, 2025, the City's residential recycling drop-off depot will continue to operate with time-limited funding support from Circular Materials Ontario (CMO).

Looking beyond the transition period, CMO is not obligated to fund this service after January 1, 2026. The City plans to continue operating a drop-off depot in 2026 at the new Household Hazardous Waste facility at 189 Lappan's Lane. The cost to continue to provide some level of service will be reviewed as part of the 2026 operating budget. It is estimated that there would be an increased cost of \$300,000 to continue to provide the same level of service in 2026.

The City has applied to CMO for continued funding, with a decision expected in November 2025. In the interim, staff are preparing the 2026 operating budget that will align with the Mayor's budget directions under Strong Mayor Powers which could require a reduced level of service.

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Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Ian Semple, Commissioner,
Transportation & Infrastructure
Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services	Not required
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate & Emergency Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

The provincial *Resources Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016* requires that producers be responsible for their products and packaging once they reach end of life. As of July 1, 2025, the City of Kingston is no longer responsible for the collection or processing of recyclable materials. Under the new Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model, producers must work through Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) to fulfill their obligations. Circular Materials Ontario (CMO) is the designated PRO overseeing blue box collection and processing throughout the province.

The City is currently in a transition period, from July 1 to December 31, 2025, during which CMO and its contractors are required to maintain service levels consistent with those offered in 2023. After this period, service levels and eligibility may change across the province.

The City currently operates a recycling drop-off depot at Lappan's Lane, which serves residents and businesses from Kingston and partner municipalities (South Frontenac, Loyalist Township, Wolfe Island, and Howe Island). The depot handles an average of 250 vehicles per day, with seasonal fluctuations, and processes approximately 100,000 yards of recyclable material annually. Annual operating costs are estimated at \$300,000, previously offset by revenue from recycled materials and municipal cost-sharing.

Under the EPR legislation, non-residential users such as businesses, not-for-profit organizations, churches, and daycares will no longer be considered eligible sources post-transition. These groups are temporarily permitted to use the depot through December 2025 but may need to seek alternate service arrangements after that date.

With the closure of the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and the sale of the former KARC site, the City plans to relocate the recycling drop-off depot to the new Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility at 189 Lappan's Lane.

The City has applied to CMO for funding to continue the recycling depot operations into 2026 with a decision expected in November 2025. In the interim, staff will work with the Mayor's budget directions to review the recycling depot service level for 2026 budgeting purposes, capping potential City exposure at \$300,000 as part of operating budget preparations.

Public Engagement

Public engagement was not conducted as this report provides an update on information shared as part of [Report Number EITP-25-008](#).

Climate Risk Considerations

Waste diversion programs, such as access to the recycling depot, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the waste stream.

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Financial Considerations

Implications for the budget will be dependent on the Mayor's budget direction and the CMO funding decision expected in November 2025 but may be as high as \$300,000.

Contacts:

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Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Adam Mueller, Operations Manager, Public Works & Solid Waste

Exhibits Attached:

None