

Appendix G

Circular Economy and Advocacy Strategy: Initiating a Circular Economy

January 23, 2020

Initiating a Circular Economy

Current Circular Economy Activities

York Region's SM4RT LIVING Plan is moving York Region away from the traditional linear model of waste management to a more sustainable circular economy approach. The following table summarizes circular economy activities currently being carried out by York Region.



- Advocating to the province to make producers responsible for capture and recycling of their products to drive better packaging and product design that is more recyclable and durable for reuse
- Advocating for provincial leadership to drive change and create opportunities for innovative solutions that result in increased diversion and improved environmental outcomes



- Providing residents opportunities for reuse and repair through innovative programs such as Repair Cafés, the Lendery, Curbside Giveaway, and textile diversion
- Building community partnerships to expand programs and shift mindsets and behaviours to reduce consumption and increase reuse



- Providing convenient, accessible, and efficient collection programs to single-family and multi-residential homes
- Reclaiming energy and resources such as metals from residual waste
- Proactively planning for long-term capacity needs and leveraging technology to improve efficiency of infrastructure
- Maximizing opportunities for recycled material to become new products and packaging

Recommended Circular Economy Actions

The following table summarizes a list of actions that the Region could carry out in collaboration with stakeholders to address the current linear system and initiate circular economy solutions.

1. Extended Producer Responsibility	Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a crucial component of the circular economy. ACTION
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	As Ontario transitions the Blue Box program to an extended producer responsibility system, the following issues should be advocated for: • Appropriate timelines for transition • Avoiding stranded municipal assets • Standardized Blue Box • Multi-residential and Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) waste diversion programs • Effective diversion targets • Promoting the four Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recovery) • Effectual and consistent province-wide promotion and education • Maintenance of customer service levels/"seamless transition" In addition other advances could be made at a national level including harmonization of provincial EPR approaches
1. Green Procurement	A Green Procurement policy could require the Region to procure products or services from vendors dedicated to waste reduction, reuse and recycling and requiring vendors to design with end of life management in mind. ACTION Develop policy that: • Builds repair and reuse into the Region's procurement and discard policies, including a policy regarding preference for durable, repairable, and reusable items EXAMPLE <u>City of Toronto</u>
2. Advocate for Regulatory Action	Advocating for regulations that support the circular economy by providing frameworks, processes, and/or focusing on specific packaging or products. Effectively advocating for waste management regulations can avoid the inefficiencies, oversight of downstream solutions, and unintended consequences that waste management regulations contained. ACTION The following are priorities for advocacy: • Food and Organic Waste e.g. <u>Food and Organic Waste Framework - MECP</u> • Single-use packaging e.g. <u>Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste - CCME</u> • Consumer Rights e.g. <u>Right to Repair</u> • <u>Material Bans i.e. Disposal Ban Program - Metro Vancouver</u>

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	• Circular Fashion e.g. <u>Ontario Textile Diversion Collaborative's Key Activities</u>
3. Investments in Circular Economy research, pilots and programs, and campaigns	A transition to a circular economy requires a shift in the mindset and the knowledge base to support the transition. The SM4RT Living plan has initiated this transition with its waste reduction strategies and targets. Funding circular economy activities, supporting circular economy research, can accelerate the growth of the circular economy in the Region. ACTION A common first step for municipalities shifting to a circular economy is to undertake a mapping of material and energy flows in the municipality. This work can be done in partnership with consultants and universities. <u>Circle City Scan of Glasgow</u> – Glasgow <u>Jurisdictional Scan for Circular Economy</u> – British Columbia Implement a Community Waste Diversion Fund that supports community groups that are delivering waste reduction and diversion programs and increasing public engagement. EXAMPLE <u>Waste Reduction Community Grants</u> - City of Toronto <u>City Lab 010</u> – Rotterdam <u>Urban Renovation Contract, Village Finance</u> - Brussels Develop an Circular Economy Incubator that will allow small businesses and entrepreneurs to experiment with circular economy initiatives and receive support services EXAMPLE <u>Greenbiz</u> – Brussels <u>BlueCity</u> – Rotterdam <u>Paris&Co Incubators</u> – Paris
4. Product Life Extension Mechanisms	Product life extension involves exploring options that ensure the longevity and use of products through reuse, repair, repurposing, and in some cases recycling. There is a need for industry to assume responsibility to provide repair and reuse alternatives as part of stewardship/EPR. ACTION Facilitate access over ownership EXAMPLE <u>The Sharing City Seoul</u> Advocate for in the development of regulation or EPR approaches that

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	integrate repair/reuse alternatives for appropriate materials (textiles, electronics, and furniture) Support the existing ‘reuse and repair’ market, and strive to support this market rather than becoming directly engaged in service provision. Encourage the development of Sharing Platforms for Construction and Demolition, Organic, and other materials from the IC&I sectors EXAMPLE <u>Circular Amsterdam</u>
5. Partnerships and Collaboration with stakeholders to build capacity and policy for the Circular Economy	Joining and participating in the Circular Economy community eases the implementation of a circular economy. Knowledge exchanges and sharing challenges and successes with other groups implementing a circular economy in complex and fast-growing communities encourages an efficient and unified approach that has greater potential. ACTION Participate in the following groups: <u>National Zero Waste Council</u> <u>Ellen MacArthur Foundation – CE100</u> <u>Great Lakes Circular Economy Forum</u> Continue to collaborate with other municipalities through the Municipal Resource Recovery and Research Collaborative (the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative) to unify messaging and advocate for a smooth and timely transition to full producer responsibility system. Develop a municipal circular economy working group, drawing from the Municipal 3Rs Collaborative member group and utilizing their knowledge and expertise. Develop an internal Circular Economy Committee including representatives from Environmental Services, Economic Development, Property Services, Community and Health Services, and Corporate Policy. The purpose of the group will be to pitch and champion circular economy activities in the organization, develop corporate policies that encourage the growth of the circular economy, and to communicate and educate other employees on circular economy practices. EXAMPLE <u>Making a Circular Economy Pitch in your Organisation</u> – Ellen MacArthur Foundation

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Circular Economy Strategic Advisory Committee

Most municipal examples of the circular systems have placed an emphasis on engagement with stakeholders, particularly with businesses. Partnerships with businesses and other levels of government can help ensure access to adequate support and resources for a successful circular economy system. It is also important to engage citizens as they will be the ones that will need to shift their habits and behaviour to accommodate the circular economy system.

The Circular Economy Strategic Advisory Committee (CESAC) will support the York Region's efforts to initiate a circular economy and support the objectives of the SM4RT Living Plan. The CEWG will be supported and facilitated by the Region's Sustainable Waste Management section.

CESAC Responsibilities

CESAC members will provide feedback to the Region on:

- Proposed, new or revised plans, legislation, and initiatives from the Province and Federal governments and other agencies
- Updates and amendments to the SM4RT Living Plan
- Other studies programs and initiatives, and advocacy positions as referred to by Regional Council or staff
- Champion SM4RT Living Plan programs, initiatives, and campaigns
- Promote and share information related to waste management programs and issues.

CEASC Committee Members

The CESAC will include fifteen members from the community, businesses and community groups in York Region. Applicants who do not reside in York Region, but have a vested relationship or interest in the York Region will also be considered.

Members should collectively bring the following skills and expertise to the committee:

- Expertise and the ability to provide representation from one or more of the following sectors: art, communications/media, construction and development, property management, design, environment, fashion and textiles, hospitality, food and beverage, food waste, manufacturing, recycling, waste management, academia and research, retail, share/swap/repair, small business, technology or another field considered relevant by the City.
- An interest in Circular Economy and the SM4RT Living Plan goals

Outcomes of Circular Economy

By participating in a circular economy with others, the Region has the opportunity to:

- Influence upstream design and decision making at all consumer levels through support and promotion of industries and/or industry organizations already incorporating waste conscious designs into their products, packaging and services
- Support provincial and federal waste prevention, reduction and reuse initiatives using its position as a leader in the Ontario waste management industry
- Engage with residents, non-governmental, and governmental organizations that have some degree of legislative control to effect change in the design and distribution of products

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- Develop advocacy positions related to community and sustainable development that support the implementation of efficient and effective waste management systems, and to have consideration of impacts on waste generation and management in the decision making process when such policies are developed