Memorandum

March 17, 2025 Reference No: 577063133-001

To: City Council

From: Craig McKeown
Acting Deputy City Manager

Subject: **Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Waste Roadmap Development**

Under the direction of Council as part of the 25-year Waste Strategy and in alignment with ConnectEdmonton, Community Energy Transition Strategy, *fresh:* Edmonton's Food and Urban Agriculture Strategy, and the Industrial Investment Action Plan, Waste Services started developing an Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Waste Roadmap in 2024.

Non-residential waste makes up as much as 70 per cent of waste generated in Edmonton, representing an estimated 770,000 metric tonnes of waste per year. There is a significant opportunity for the City to work with industry members to develop a strategic roadmap to better manage the waste footprint of the ICI sector.

This memo provides an update on the City's strategy to support waste reduction and diversion in the ICI sector, including background information, the selected waste focus areas and the timeline of planned engagement and communications tactics to support its development.

Project Background and Introduction

In 2019, Waste Services received direction from Council to end waste collection services to non-residential customers (such as businesses and schools) in Edmonton and focus on advancing policy initiatives and market-based responses in the ICI sector. The most recent update to Council[1] anticipated Administration would begin engagement in Q4 2021 with a bylaw mandating source separation for non-residential businesses to come into effect in 2023. This work was put on hold due to COVID-19 and staff resource constraints.

[1] February 5, 2021 City Operations report Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector Waste Management Update

This work has restarted and the project's scope was expanded to consider not only regulatory measures, as set out in the 25-year Waste Strategy, but other policy tools like education and market incentives to encourage progress in the ICI sector (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Spectrum of policy levers that are being explored by Administration.

To ensure the Roadmap is action-oriented and responsive to market changes, Waste Services selected a four-year period (2026-2030). Baseline research and analysis was conducted to determine specific focus areas. This baseline analysis and review of waste audits and material flow audits across North America highlighted two specific material streams with significant opportunities for action and intervention: organic (food) waste and construction and demolition (C&D) waste. Over half of non-residential waste generated in Edmonton is considered organic material (such as food and wood) and will produce methane when landfilled. The C&D sector represents one of the greatest material-generating and most energy-intensive sectors. Increased demolition related to infilling and densification generates additional waste. These topics are focus areas for other municipalities in North America, as well as Environment and Climate Change Canada, the National Zero Waste Council and many other Canadian organizations. There are also significant environmental, social and economic benefits that can be realized by reducing the disposal of these materials, and there are existing initiatives and tools the City can leverage to make an impact. Areas where actions are already under way include voluntary food rescue as well as building material reclamation and reuse.

A pre-engagement survey sent to interest holders in October 2024 indicated only one-in-five food waste generating businesses in Edmonton voluntarily separate their organic waste from the garbage, while fewer than one-in-three construction and demolition companies separate out materials for recycling or reuse.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Public Engagement Phase 1 - CREATE

A first phase of public engagement is scheduled between March and May 2025. This phase falls on the CREATE position of the Public Engagement Spectrum (Figure 2) and is designed to facilitate collaboration with ICI sector interest holders who influence or will be significantly impacted by any potential actions. It intends to co-create waste management solutions through collaboration, addressing both organic and C&D waste. This involves working with restaurants, grocery stores, demolition contractors, building developers and companies responsible for waste collection and processing. Engagement work will be paused, as necessary, during the 2025 Edmonton Election in accordance with forthcoming election guidelines.



Figure 2. Public Engagement Spectrum used by the City.

Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Committee (ETCRC) meeting

The ICI waste project team has been asked to present to the ETCRC in May 2025, upon completion of Public Engagement Phase 1. This project directly supports the Energy Transition Strategy (2021) *Pathway 1* Action 1.20: Develop waste reduction and materials recovery roadmaps that aim to minimize emissions.

Public Engagement Phase 2 - REFINE

Phase 2 of public engagement will begin in Q4 2025, after the 2025 Edmonton Civic Election, to review what was heard in Phase 1 and refine options before the final presentation to Council.

Strategic Roadmap to Council

The final package is expected to be presented to Council in Q2 2026 and include the Roadmap for 2026-2030, What We Heard reports from both phases of engagement and a summary of research findings. However, as non-residential waste services are no longer funded through utility rates, any funding decisions on reducing waste in the ICI

sector must come through the tax levy. Waste Services will coordinate these proposed actions with the impacted departments and business areas.

Planned Communications
Communications regarding ICI public engagement will be targeted to the interest holders. The City will update its project page, edmonton.ca/NonResidentialWaste, with information as public engagement progresses.

For more information on ICI waste, please contact Denis Jubinville, Branch Manager at denis.jubinville@edmonton.ca.



CM/kd

c: Aileen Giesbrecht, City Clerk
Executive Leadership Team