

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: June 19, 2023

Subject: Food Cycler Pilot Program

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council approves moving forward with the Food Cycler Pilot Program.

BACKGROUND:

The District of Mackenzie (District) currently provides curbside waste collection to all eligible residents. Residents can place the most commonly generated forms of household waste for collection in either general garbage collection or as part of the RDFFG recycling collection. The District currently does not provide a separate organic waste collection of compostable materials from the curbside. Community members may dispose of this waste through home composting or by disposing of materials as part of the general waste collection program.

Kitchen and food waste is a significant contributor to organic material waste, both with respect to volume and weight. Over recent years, a number of products have been made available to help to reduce or eliminate organic waste from kitchen and food waste and scraps.

One such product, the FoodCycler, is a Canadian-owned and operated company that has developed a countertop unit which takes a wide range of food and organic waste material and processes this through drying and macerating into raw compost. This compost can either be matured and used in potting plants, the garden or disposed of in general waste. The resultant compost is 80% - 90% less in volume and weight than the original material.

The use of products such as FoodCycler could eliminate much organic material from the waste stream (assuming reuse in gardens) or at minimum, dramatically reduce volume and weight, lowering impacts where the material does enter the waste stream.

Disposing of food-based waste may be a challenge for many households. While many households have backyard composters some challenges can arise like:

- Concerns over food waste attracting pests to yards and compost bins
- Lack of space for a compost bin/or inability to have a compost bin at home

- Challenges with composting in winter
- Concerns around food scraps retained in households before being taken to the compost heap

FoodCycler has the benefit of being a countertop, easy-to-use aid that rapidly manages food waste to overcome barriers to home composting. FoodCycler is also able to process a wider variety of foods that is not typically used in conventional composting i.e. (chicken bones, gravy, fat) in small quantities.

To enhance household's ability to manage household-generated organics waste, FoodCycler is leading a municipal pilot project. Through this pilot project, households in participating municipalities can purchase a FoodCycler unit for a much-reduced price in return for participating in a 12-week monitoring program. For 12 weeks, households will provide feedback on how they use the FoodCycler, and any challenges encountered. After the 12-week pilot program, households keep the FoodCycler without any further monitoring.

There is a 1-year standard manufacturer's warranty starting on the date of delivery of all FoodCycler units to the municipality. Food Cycle Science will repair or replace any defects during that time. Extended warranties may be purchased at additional cost.

After the pilot program is complete, FoodCycler will report to the municipality on the results, including the potential waste that was diverted from the garbage stream. The pilot program is supported financially by stacked funding from:

- FoodCycler, offering a \$200 - \$250 per unit discount,
- Impact Canada (Federal innovation funds) with a \$50 - \$100 grant per unit, and
- \$100 per unit Municipal subsidy.

FoodCycler Pilot Program in Mackenzie

In the Official Community Plan 1304, 2014 the District commits to reducing GHG's. The action relating to composting is:

- Encourage widespread adoption of composting and recycling, working with the Regional District.

Staff are recommending starting with the minimum pilot project amount of 100 units.

Cost Breakdown

FOOD CYCLER FC-30

UNIT COST	\$500
FOOD CYCLER DISCOUNT	\$200
IMPACT CANADA INVESTMENT	\$50
MUNICIPAL SUBSIDY	\$100
RESIDENT COST	\$150

FOOD CYCLER ECO 5

UNIT COST	\$800
FOOD CYCLER DISCOUNT	\$250
IMPACT CANADA INVESTMENT	\$150
MUNICIPAL SUBSIDY	\$100
RESIDENT COST	\$300

After the pilot program is complete, FoodCycler will report to the municipality on the results, including the potential waste that was diverted from the garbage stream. At this point staff would bring back a report to Council on the efficacy of the program and whether to pursue the program further.

Participating in the pilot program, whereby residents can purchase a FoodCycler countertop composter for kitchen and food waste, will provide a convenient and quick way to reduce and reuse organic waste. In addition, it will provide invaluable information to the District on potential ways to mitigate costs associated with waste collection.

Residents who purchase the FoodCycler product through this program must report back to the municipality to qualify for the grant. After the pilot program residents are able to keep the units and can purchase additional carbon filters through FoodCycler.

OPTIONS:

1. Direct staff to work with FoodCycle Science to implement a pilot program for food waste recycling for up to 100 residences in the District of Mackenzie.
2. Direct staff not to proceed with the pilot program.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

If Council proceeds with the pilot program, \$11,500 would be allocated from the Climate Action Reserve Fund. This includes \$1,500 shipping fee.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

Environmental Sustainability

- The way we operate has an impact on the environment. We are committed to integrating sustainability and Environmental, Social and Governance factors (ESG) into our decision making and business practices.

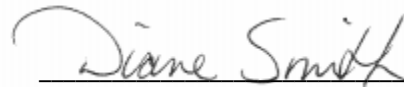
Respectfully Submitted,



Luke Thorne
Land and Environmental Coordinator



Kerri Borne
Chief Financial Officer



Approved for Submission to Council