

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Administration

Date: June 13, 2025

Subject: Food Cyclor Program Survey Results

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular Council Meeting held on May 27, 2024, Council directed staff to move forward with Phase 2 of the Food Cyclor Program. Phase 2 of the program encompassed the deployment of 50 units, compromised of 30 FC-30s, denoting the smaller units, and 20 FC-100s, representing the larger units.

As a reminder from last year, the pilot program is supported financially by stacked funding from:

- FoodCyclor, 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 + distribution and shipping.

Staff engaged with the community through social media, radio and in person to promote the program. This was aimed to foster widespread participation and ensure the program's efficacy. After the engagement period staff distributed the machines in late spring to begin the 12-week program. Now that the pilot program is complete, Food Cycle Science has reported to the municipality on the results, including the potential waste that was diverted from the garbage stream. Below are some additional facts regarding the results of the pilot program.

REDUCTIONS & SAVINGS

Based on the average user from the pilot project running 2.56 cycles per week for the FC-30 and 3.35 cycles per week for the Eco 5 this would eliminate 254 kg of food waste per year per household. This translates to 12.7 Metric tonnes of waste per year per 50 machines.

Green House Gas Reduction

50 Food Cyclers in Mackenzie will divert 16.5 MT CO₂ equivalents per year, the equivalent of sequestering carbon from 16.6 acres of forest.

Area Reduction

If each participating household were to save the project average of 52 bags of garbage annually, it would lead to a reduction of 10,400 cubic feet of waste at the transfer station every year. This reduction is equivalent to eliminating 6.4 truckloads of waste transported to Prince George annually.

Financial Savings

With the 50 Food Cycler units reducing food waste by 254 kg per household annually this would translate into \$2,590.80 of savings annually for the District of Mackenzie in tipping fees.

Next Steps

Food Cycle Science is preparing a proposal for expanding the program further into the community with examples from what they have done in other municipalities. A report will be brought forward with further details for Council's consideration.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the endorsement of the Food Cycler Pilot Program represented a meaningful step forward in the District's commitment to sustainable waste management practices. The deployment of an additional 50 units marked a proactive approach towards reducing the environmental footprint and promoting community engagement.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

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:

Cat Smith, Executive Assistant/Legislative Clerk

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer