

Record of Recommendation

TO: Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee (SWTAC)
FROM: Travis Kendel, SWTAC Chair
DATE: May 18, 2021
SUBJECT: Recycle BC Partnership

Executive Summary:

On May 18, 2022 the SWTAC met to discuss community considerations and feedback solicited from the RDCO Board and Municipal Councils regarding the Recycle BC Partnership decision.

The SWTAC also discussed operational challenges pertaining to all Recycle BC Partnership options; and prepared a joint recommendation and accompanying justification regarding the Recycle BC Partnership for consideration by Central Okanagan communities.

The unanimous recommendation is:

That Recycle BC be requested to directly undertake curbside recycling services in the Central Okanagan commencing on April 30, 2026.



Travis Kendel
SWTAC Chair

Summary of Recommendation, Justification, Challenges:

Recommendation:

That Recycle BC be requested to directly undertake curbside recycling services in the Central Okanagan commencing on April 30, 2026.

Alternative option considered and not recommended:

That the Central Okanagan continue to undertake curbside recycling services on behalf of Recycle BC.

Justification (Strengths):

The recommendation:

- removes all financial risk and allows the SWTAC, RDCO, and member municipalities to refocus on regional waste reduction initiatives such as expansion of the organics system and single use plastics.
- will likely improve services through the inclusion of curbside glass collection at no cost to residents.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to expand curbside diversion activities to include materials currently not accepted at curbside.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to expand recycling within multifamily residences.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to minimize waste and wildlife interactions.
- will likely reduce landfill bound waste through contamination reduction if a multi-stream approach is implemented by Recycle BC.
- will result, as a minimum, in the collection of the same material, at the same frequency as is collected now.
- aligns with feedback from other municipalities, which suggests with overall net positive outcomes with direct Recycle BC service.
- uploads responsibility of curbside recycling completely to the provincial established Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR) program and removes the need for local government subsidization and risk.
- enables current recycling carts to be repurposed and reused to support other curbside collection programs.
- will educate residents on the role of Recycle BC in the management of paper and packaging.

The alternative option (considered and not recommended):

- allows for continuation of the status quo, which satisfies requirements for base recycling services.
- reduces the need for residents to sort paper and cardboard separately from other recyclables.
- is consistent with existing educational resources and marketing materials.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to expand curbside diversion activities to include materials currently not accepted at curbside.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to expand recycling within multifamily residences.
- does not conflict with future initiatives or programs to minimize waste and wildlife interactions.
- uses a curbside cart, which has a lid to reduce potential for weather and animal interactions with recyclables.
- continues to make best use of infrastructure already purchased and deployed (carts).
- does not require a substantial shift in a major municipal service.
- allows the RDCO and member municipalities to continue to support residents through resolution of service concerns and inquiries.

Challenges (Weaknesses):

The recommendation:

- will likely result in local governments receiving customer complaints/inquiries for a period following service transition.
- has potential for short-term contractual risks if Recycle BC refuses to extend the current contract.
- will likely result in additional one-time expense to collect and repurpose existing recycling carts.
- will require continued efforts to minimize contamination until the contract concludes.
- will result in a loss of economies of scale for local governments that do not choose direct service, likely resulting in cost escalation for future curbside services if the regional decision is not unanimous.
- may result in additional litter or animal attraction if curbside containers are poorly managed.
- will enable Recycle BC, at its sole discretion, to determine curbside recycling details for packaging and paper products. This could include changes to collection routes or days.

The alternative option (considered and not recommended):

- maintains financial, operational, and contractual risks.
- allows for glass to be included, but only at a cost premium to ratepayers.
- will likely not result in future improved waste reduction and diversion.
- does not align with the direction or feedback obtained from other local governments in British Columbia.
- requires substantial resources from the RDCO and member municipalities and reduces overall waste reduction progress.

Other Considerations:

In addition to the discussion surrounding topics raised by the consultation process, the justification of recommendation, and the consideration of challenges, the SWTAC also felt it was important to include further clarification around the 'Letter of Acknowledgement' which must accompany a request from a local government for Direct Service by Recycle BC.

Specifically, Recycle BC requires that the following be agreed to, in writing when requesting Direct Service:

1. Recycle BC will, at its own sole discretion, determine applicable packaging and paper curbside service details as outlined within the Recycle BC Direct Service Transition Process document dated June 22, 2018.
2. The existing inventory of collection containers will be left in the possession of residents at no cost, at the discretion of Recycle BC;
3. Recycle BC will be provided with all reasonable assistance and cooperation during the transition period as outlined within the Recycle BC Direct Service Transition Process document dated June 22, 2018.
4. After the transition period, Recycle BC will be provided with quarterly updates on households added or removed in the local government's jurisdiction, including but not limited to households added or removed from the local government's curbside garbage service, new occupancy permits and demolitions; and
5. Reasonable notice will be provided to Recycle BC on changes to the local government's curbside garbage service and all reasonable efforts will be made to collaborate with Recycle BC on the joint establishment of collection schedules and routes.

- END OF RECORD OF RECOMMENDATION -