



Staff Report

Council Meeting Date: February 10, 2025

Subject: PWRDS-2025-02 Support for Cleanfarms Recycling Program

Report from: Scott McLeod, Public Works Manager

Attachments:

Recommendation

Be It Resolved that Council hereby approves Report PWRDS-2025-02 - Support for Cleanfarms Recycling Program; and

Directs staff to draft a letter of support for Cleanfarms Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture program and other agricultural plastic and packaging management initiatives; and

Further that a by-law be brought back to amend Schedule H of the 2025 Fees and Charges bylaw to reflect the change.

Background

The Cleanfarms' Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture is a government funded program that supports the recycling of twine, bale wrap, and silage plastic, diverting it from our landfills.

Arran-Elderslie has been participating in the Ontario Pilot Program along with other municipalities in Bruce County. The Arran Landfill site is a listed collection site on the program's website.

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) which provided 50/50 funding for eligible projects ending March 31, 2024.

In 2022, the pilot programs diverted 127,000 kg of agricultural plastic, twine and grain bags from landfills and 275,000 kg in 2023.

Since Arran-Elderslie joined the pilot program in 2021, the Arran landfill site has collected 70,370 kg of materials through the program.

Analysis

Over the past year, Clean Farms has been working to secure funding to continue the Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture, and a proposal was submitted to the Canadian Agricultural Strategic Priorities Program, which offers funding for eligible project until March 29, 2029.

Cleanfarms has notified us that their funding proposal has been declined, and they are faced with the necessary decision to wind down the Building a Zero-Plastic-Waste Strategy for Agriculture program. Our collection site will be closed for recycling purposes and any materials received will remain in our landfill as refuse.

Although this specific project is concluding, Cleanfarms will continue to seek out solutions for managing agricultural plastics and packaging and remain dedicated to finding practical and sustainable options to support agricultural communities in reducing plastic waste.

To assist with their continued efforts, Cleanfarms request letters of support from participating municipalities.

Staff recommend providing a letter of support to continue with this program. Due to the cancellation of the program, twine, bale wrap, and silage plastic that is brought to our landfill will be disposed of at the refuse tonnage rate as per Schedule H of our Fees and Charges Bylaw and Staff will be bringing forward and amendment to that effect.

Link to Strategic/Master Plan

6.5 Engaging People and Partnerships

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding/Link to Procurement Policy

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Approved by: Emily Dance, Chief Administrative Officer