



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: April 13, 2026

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## Bylaw 1801 Recyclable Materials Management Schedule "A" Amendment

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### DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

Bylaw #1801 sets out how recyclable materials are managed in the Town of Claresholm and lists the types of recyclable materials accepted by the Town. Schedule "A" of the bylaw outlines related fees.

At the March 31, 2026 meeting of the Audit and Finance Committee, Administration presented a Recycling Rates Information Brief that reviewed the recycling program.

As noted in the information brief, with the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for residential recycling, Administration has now had an opportunity to complete a comprehensive review of the Town's recycling operations and associated costs.

The review identified that residential recycling fees had previously been subsidizing commercial recycling. Now that residential customers no longer pay for recycling under the EPR program, the Town is experiencing a deficit in its recycling cost-recovery model.

### DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:

The following information below was presented to the Audit and Finance Committee for their review and discussion and has been updated with the most current agreement rates and energy surcharge. At the meeting administration recommended bringing the commercial recycling rates in line with the actual cost of the contract to ensure cost recovery of the service by the users. The recycling collection is fully contracted, and the Town has limited ability to influence operational costs. To ensure financial sustainability and eliminate ongoing deficits, customer rates should be adjusted to reflect full cost recovery.

#### **Contractor 2026 rates:**

- \$41.00 per lift
- Energy surcharge: currently \$4.60 per lift (variable based on fuel prices)

#### **Actual monthly costs per customer:**

- Bi-weekly commercial: \$98.80/month
- Weekly commercial: \$197.60/month
- Commercial curbside tote: \$15.56/month

#### **Current Town rates and losses:**

- Bi-weekly commercial: \$55.19 (loss of \$43.61)
- Weekly commercial: \$162.81 (loss of \$34.79)
- Commercial curbside tote: \$11.37 (loss of \$4.19)

**Customer recycling pickup counts:**

- 39 weekly commercial
- 26 bi- weekly commercial
- 72 commercial curbside

**Estimated loss calculations:**

- Bi- weekly:  $26 * 43.61 = \$1,133.86$  monthly
- Weekly:  $39 * 34.79 = \$1,356.81$  monthly
- Curbside:  $72 * 4.19 = \$301.68$  monthly

Total monthly deficit: \$2,792.35

Total estimated annual deficit: \$33,508 based on current rates.

The Town is currently subsidizing recycling collection by just over \$33,000 per year across these customer groups. Because the Town's costs are fixed through the e360 contract and will increase annually through to 2029, this deficit will continue to grow unless rates are adjusted to full cost recovery.

The Town contracts e360 Environmental to provide recycling collection services and the commercial customers are charged a flat monthly rate, while the Town is billed per lift.

The Audit and Finance Committee directed Administration to bring the proposed updated commercial recycling rates for cost recovery of the e360 contract to Council for their consideration.

Amending the commercial recycling fees will help ensure Claresholm's recycling program reflects current recycling costs. The changes support a more sustainable and practical approach to recycling while maintaining clear communication with the community.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ to give 1<sup>st</sup> reading to the proposed amendment to Schedule "A" of Bylaw #1801 Recyclable Materials Management Bylaw, based on the recycling rate information presented.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1.) Bylaw #1801 Recyclable Materials Management Bylaw, Schedule "A" Amended

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:**

- 1.)

**PREPARED BY:** Jennifer Place, Director of Corporate Services

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**APPROVED BY:** Abe Tinney, CAO

**DATE:** April 9, 2026

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