

## Report to Council

**Report Title:** FoodCycler Pilot Program Participation

**Prepared By:** Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

**Department:** Administration

**Date:** February 14, 2023

**Report Number:** CAO2023-03 **File Number:** C11AD

**Attachments:** MIC Report on FoodCycler  
Foodcycler Unit Comparison

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### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2023-03 - FoodCycler Pilot Program Participation, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes, and in doing so acknowledges the Municipality of Brockton's participation in the pilot program through the Municipal Innovation Council and agrees to Option \_\_\_\_ as outlined to advance this initiative.

### Report:

#### Background:

In July 13, 2021, Food Cycle Science presented a delegation to Brockton Council on their composting product known as FoodCycler, a solution to divert food waste from landfills. The program provides units for residents to convert food waste into nutrient rich, useable soil. Council requested that a report come forward detailing more information on the pilot project as there was interest in how it could be supported.

On September 18, 2021 staff brought forward Report PW2021-19 regarding the unsolicited proposal brought forward to the Municipality including a proposed study involving 100 Brockton households over a period of 12 weeks. It was noted that approximately 7 other Ontario municipalities participated in the pilot project and saw success. Data would be gathered from the project and provided to Brockton in order to develop a future organic waste diversion program, as well as submitting information to Impact Canada. The 2021 proposal would cost residents \$150 plus HST per FoodCycler unit. Residents would pay the fee to Brockton directly as the Municipality would be the retailer and program administrator during the pilot project. The Municipality would have been responsible for selling 100 units. Filters for these units last between 3-6 months depending on use.

In comparison, it was noted that the Municipality sells backyard digesters known as Green Cones costing approximately \$105 each. Brockton typically sells 6-10 units per year.

The 2021 proposal had an upfront net cost of \$29,945 plus HST which did not include the purchase of additional filters and accessories for the units. The total cost to the Municipality would have been \$12,995.

Brockton Council defeated the motion to participate in the pilot project as the cost was unbudgeted for 2021.

The Municipal Innovation Council has committed to prioritizing waste management solutions. On February 1, 2023 the Municipal Innovation Council discussed a proposal presented by Food Cycle Science for all MIC member municipalities to participate in a pilot project where MIC has 2022 remaining funds to purchase 420 FoodCycler units throughout the County of Bruce over the 2023 year. The program would last 12 weeks and participants can purchase a FoodCycler Unit at a discounted rate from each Municipality. Residents are required to report their usage and answer a related survey. This initiative has been supported by the MIC with remaining funds from the 2022 budget in the amount of \$26,000 being allocated to the project, and \$30,000 of funding is being sought through the Nuclear Innovation Institute or Bruce Powers' Environmental and Sustainability Fund. The funding would provide a total of 420 units, or 60 unit each for the member municipalities.

### **Analysis:**

Discussions with Food Cycle Science have indicated that based on previous pilot projects in other Canadian municipalities, the MIC pilot project has the opportunity to divert approximately 125-150 metric tonnes of organic waste from various landfills per year with 420 units.

This opportunity with Foodcycler provides the MIC member municipalities with several benefits as outlined in the attached report:

- Opportunity to trial a food waste diversion solution at a cost well below market prices using federal funding intended for food waste reduction in our country
- Reduced residential waste generation thus increasing diversion rates
- Reduced costs associated with waste management (collection, transfer, disposal, and landfill operations)
- The reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from transportation and decomposition of food waste in landfills
- Extend the life of landfill sites across the municipalities
- Opportunity to support Canadian innovation and clean tech
- Opportunity to provide residents with an innovative solution that reduces waste and fights climate change, at an affordable price
- Obtaining data that could be used to develop a future organic waste diversion program

Food Cycle Science recommends a pilot size of 1.5-2% of the population to factor in anticipated demand and the desired sample size to adequately gauge and report on the program's effectiveness within a community. Municipalities has the option 'top up' their initial 60 units provided through the MIC if they wish. Most municipalities are interested in topping up their units. The purpose of this report is to determine Council's interest in topping up with additional units (90 units for \$9,000).

## Cost to Residents:

Residents have a choice between two (2) different sized units at discounted prices.

### 1) Foodcycler FC-30

- Recommended for households of 2 people
- Cost to resident: \$150 (Retail Price: \$500)

### 2) Foodcycler Maestro

- Recommended for households over 2 people
- Cost to resident: \$300 (Retail Price: \$750)

The funded pilot program is based on a cost subsidy model where Food Cycle Science provides an initial discount, as well as investments being provided by Impact Canada, the MIC also provides a subsidy and residents pay the remaining contribution.

The Municipality of Brockton would be responsible for acting as a retailer for the 60 units, and promoting the program to residents throughout 2023. We expect there will be interest from residents. With a wider spread of promotion across the County the uptake of the initial 60 units may go quickly. Council has two options to proceed with related to this program:

**Option 1:** Distribute the 60 Food Cycle units with no additional cost to Brockton.

**Option 2:** Purchase 90 additional units for distribution in the pilot program for a cost of \$9,000.

We seek Council's direction on the preferred option.

## Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

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| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision                       | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community              | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life                               | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development                          | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance                          | Yes |

## Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

The cost for the first 60 units is covered through MIC contribution of \$26,000 through the MIC's 2022 budget and leveraged funding. The proposal of an additional 90 units to meet the ideal pilot size across the County would come at an additional cost of \$9,000 for Brockton, which has not been included in the final 2023 Budget. Should Council wish to proceed with the additional units, the \$9,000 would be funded by the Working Capital Reserve.

**Reviewed By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Trish Serratore', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

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**Respectfully Submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Watson', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer