

## Report to Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Food Cyler Program 2024		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations		
<b>Department:</b>	Public Works/Materials Management		
<b>Date:</b>	May 21, 2024		
<b>Report Number:</b>	PW2024-11	<b>File Number:</b>	C11PW
<b>Attachments:</b>	Food Cyler Municipal Solutions Presentation Food Cyler Pilot Program – Partnership Agreement		

### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number 2024-11 - Food Cyler Program 2024, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so directs staff to proceed with option number \_\_\_\_.

### Report:

#### Background:

“The FoodCycler FC-30 and Eco 5 devices can process 2.5 L and 5 L (respectively) of food waste per cycle and converts it into a nutrient-rich by-product that can be used to enrich your soil. Power consumption per cycle is ~0.8 kWh (FC-30) / ~1.3 kWh (Eco 5) and takes less than 8 hours to complete (overnight).” - Food Cyler Presentation.

On July 13, 2021, Ms. Christina Zardo, Manager of Municipal Solutions for the Food Cycle Science Corporation, came forward as a delegation and presented the Food Cyler as a residential on-site food waste diversion appliance.

At the September 28, 2021 council meeting, council received a staff report that brought forward a recommendation to proceed with participation in the Food Cyler Program. The motion was defeated.

At the February 14, 2023 council meeting, council received a staff report #CAO2023-04, recommending one of two options outlined below:

**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.

Council amended the motion in the staff report to be received for information only. As per the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting, council directed staff “not to participate in the FoodCycler program at all”.

At the May 7, 2024 council meeting, Councillor Kunke provided notice of a motion that would see further discussion on the Food Cycler at the May 21, 2024 meeting. This report is in anticipation of Council’s discussion.

**Analysis:**

Staff contacted the current curbside waste collector and inquired about the cost of adding a green bin service to the standard weekly pickup. It was noted that adding this service will effectively double the cost of the waste collection contract, making this a fiscally irresponsible solution at this time. The contractor noted that his staff monitor the waste collection through Brockton’s use of clear bags, for green material and find very little mixed in with the regular garbage. It was noted that with a large rural population and responsible residents they may already be dealing with a majority of the green waste without throwing it into the landfill. This has not been identified as a significant issue in the past.

Staff reached out to Food Cycle Science Corporation to inquire if the pilot project would still be available to Brockton if council were to proceed with hosting a Food Cycler program. It was noted that council was aware of the program and would not need another presentation at this time. Food Cycle Science sent a new proposal and updated presentation for council’s review and consideration. Those items are attached to this report.

Previously, the proposals submitted by Food Cycler would have seen the municipal contribution funded by the Municipal Innovation Council (“MIC”). Brockton Council passed a resolution at the January 23, 2024 meeting, that provided notice of the intent to end the financial commitment to the MIC. Participation in this program would result in a municipal contribution being required as our membership with MIC has ended.

The partnership agreement with Food Cycle Science provides the opportunity for Brockton to participate in Impact Canada’s Food Reduction Waste Challenge as outlined in the attachment:

Food Cycle Science is a finalist of Impact Canada's Food Waste Reduction Challenge, which is a three-stage initiative from the Government of Canada through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to support business model solutions that prevent or divert food waste at any point from farm to plate. FoodCycler has been chosen as a finalist for our project titled: “Residential On-Site Food Waste Diversion for Northern, Rural, and Remote Communities”.

The challenge objectives and assessment criteria are for solutions that:

1. Can measurably reduce food waste – in dollars and metric tonnes;
2. Are innovative and disruptive to the status quo – the old way of doing business is out;
3. Are ready to scale up – it is time to deploy high-impact and wide-reaching solutions across the Canadian food supply chain;
4. Have a strong business case – there is a demand for your solution;

5. Make a difference to our communities – creating jobs and increasing access to safe, nutritious, and high-quality food is a priority; and,

6. Improve our environment – reducing food waste means shrinking our GHG footprint and conserving natural resources.

As a finalist, Food Cycle Science is the recipient of a \$400,000 grant that is being 100% redistributed to our Canadian municipal partners in support of their Food Cycler initiatives and pilot programs. Based on several factors, Food Cycler believes the Municipality of Brockton would be an ideal “Implementation Partner” for this stage of the challenge and we are proposing a study involving 100 households in the Municipality of Brockton, wherein Food Cycle Science will contribute a portion of this grant money towards offsetting the costs of your program.

The partnership agreement further details the costs to residents and Brockton:

#### Total Invoiced Amount

	Price	Quantity	Total
FoodCycler FC-30 Municipal Rate	\$250	50	\$12,500
FoodCycler Eco 5 Municipal Rate	\$400	50	\$20,000
Shipping Estimate			\$1,400
<b>Total Invoice Amount</b>			<b>\$33,900</b>

*Plus applicable taxes.*

#### Net Municipal Cost:

	Price	Quantity	Total
<b>Total Invoice Amount</b>			\$33,900
Less Resident Resale: FC-30	\$150	50	<b>-\$7,500</b>
Less Resident Resale: Eco 5	\$300	50	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Net Municipal Cost</b>			<b>\$11,400</b>

*Plus applicable taxes.*

Staff note that funding subsidies from Impact Canada only run until December 31, 2023 or until fully allocated as detailed in the agreement. Should council consider this project in the future, there may not be funding available.

Staff also note that if this project proceeds, it will require an investment of **\$33,900 + HST** to purchase the units and the responsibility of selling the units to recoup part of the cost will fall on staff. Food Cycle Science Corporation takes no responsibility to sell these units.

With a net municipal cost of \$11,400, staff are providing the following options for Council’s considerations.

**Option 1:** Council receives the report for information purposes and staff will not proceed with the Food Cycler Pilot Project.

**Option 2:** Approve the addition of \$11,400 to the 2024 municipal budget and further authorize a by-law coming forward to sign the agreement with Food Cycle Science Corporation and proceed with implementing the Food Cycler pilot project in Brockton.

## Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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

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

## Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?  
N/A

The cost of this program is an unbudgeted expense and would require an initial contribution of \$33,900 + HST. Some of the costs may take time to recoup, depending on how fast the units sell. If all units sell, the municipality's contribution is \$11,400 + HST and staff time to run the program.

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## Respectfully Submitted by:



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

## Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer