

Report to Council

Report Title:	Clean Farms Closure of All Collection Sites		
Prepared By:	Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations		
Department:	Operations/Waste Management		
Date:	February 11, 2025		
Report Number:	WM2025-02	File Number:	C110P
Attachments:	Cleanfarms Winddown Memo Clean Farms Letter of Support		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number WM2025-02 - Clean Farms Closure of All Collection Sites, prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations and in doing so, approve sending a letter of support to Clean Farms for seeking continued funding opportunities.

Report:

Background:

Clean Farms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization that operates permanent collections programs for a variety of agricultural plastics across Canada. They work collaboratively to ensure that Canadian farmers can actively contribute to a healthy environment and a sustainable future. They seek to achieve the goal of zero plastic waste in Canadian agriculture. In 2021, Clean Farms submitted a Bruce County Pilot Project Proposal which received participation from 6 municipalities within Bruce County. The project was successful in diverting over 160,000 kilograms of bale and silage wrap from being burned, buried on private land or entering landfills within Bruce County. Brockton alone contributed over 33,000 kgs of waste to the program. While we are unable to accept the materials at the landfill, that's over 33 Tonnes of materials that have been recycled instead of being burned or buried on private property. This program has been growing exponentially in the 4 years since it's been implemented and continued to grow.

On March 5, 2024, council received a report containing a proposal from Clean Farms after losing out on funding, to continue collection and recycling at a cost to the program user. Council approved a user fee to cover the cost of the recycling.

January 29, 2025, Clean Farms notified staff that they were declined further funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). Without this critical funding, all collection sites will officially be closed in the very near future. See attached memo from Clean Farms.

Analysis:

Clean Farms is continuing to seek funding to continue their mission for “Building a Zero-Waste-Plastic Strategy for Agriculture”. While all collection sites are being closed and final cleanup is being coordinated, staff are recommending that council approve the letter of support (attached) for Clean Farms to use in seeking further funding opportunities.

The efforts of Clean Farms and staff over the years have resulted in literal tonnes of plastic waste being diverted from Brockton landfills.

Staff will continue to update council as other diversion opportunities arise.

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 Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life Yes
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- 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?
N/A

No budget implications associated with this report at this time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

Reviewed By:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer