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**Subject:** 2019 Battery Collection

**Report to:** Waste Management Planning Steering Committee

**Report date:** Monday, June 24, 2019

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## **Recommendations**

That an annual one-week curbside battery collection program **BE REFERRED** to the 2020 budget process for consideration.

## **Key Facts**

- The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval through the budget process to provide a one-week curbside battery collection program in 2020.
- Niagara Region collected 7,142 kilograms of batteries during the one-week period from April 22 to 26, 2019 and has collected 45,802 kilograms in total since the original pilot program in 2012.
- Staff is estimating a net cost between \$1,816 and \$6,887 to continue to operate the curbside battery collection program for 2020, based on continued stewardship funding and the average annual volumes collected.
- The four year average (2016-2019) for curbside battery collection is 7,043 kg.
- The batteries collected are recycled at a local battery recycling company, Raw Materials Company (RMC), located in Port Colborne.

## **Financial Considerations**

The gross cost to implement the curbside battery collection program in 2019 was \$13,878, inclusive of collection and promotion costs. Staff are expecting to receive industry funding of \$12,990 from the batteries collected through the curbside battery collection program, resulting in a net cost to operate the program of \$888. The program in previous years resulted in a net revenue. The net cost of the 2019 curbside battery collection program was a result of increased Contractor costs associated with collection.

Emterra Environmental Inc. (Emterra), Canadian Waste Management Inc. (CWM) and RMC have agreed to continue to provide service in 2020. Emterra and CWM have agreed to continue the collection structure and maintain their costs for 2020. RMC will continue to accept batteries with no changes to the existing cost structure and agreement. Based on the current funding model and costs, net costs for 2020 are estimated to be between \$1,816 based on 8,045 kg (2018-2019 average) and \$6,887 based on 4,168 kg (2016 lowest volume generating year).

There are minimal cost implications to providing this service to the approximately 151,669 eligible households across the Niagara region. If the curbside battery program was discontinued, it would result in a small financial savings.

## **Analysis**

For the last seven (7) years, Niagara Region has provided a one-week battery collection program, which has provided Niagara residents with a convenient option to properly recycle their used batteries. Residents of single-family homes and low density residential properties with up to six units are eligible to place their used batteries at the curb on their regular collection day, next to their Grey/Blue Box in a clear, sealed bag. Approximately 151,669 households were eligible to participate in 2019. The results of 2019 collection, which occurred the week of April 22 to 26, are as follows:

- 7,142 kilograms of batteries were collected for recycling.
- 2.4% participation rate, calculated by sampling batteries set out for curbside collection on 31 routes throughout the week.
- Volume collected per eligible household was 0.05 kg, compared to 0.05 kg in 2017 and 0.06 kg in 2018.
- One (1) complaint of scavenged batteries was reported to the Waste Info-Line during the week of April 22 to 29, 2019.

Appendix A provides a summary of 2019 battery collection program results.

Staff is recommending continuing a region-wide curbside battery collection program in 2020 for the following reasons:

- A total of 45,802 kilograms of batteries have been recycled through the curbside battery program since the pilot in 2012.
- The batteries are sent to a local battery recycler, where 100% of batteries are recycled.
- The program is operated with minimal net cost.
- Residents are now familiar with Niagara Region's curbside battery collection program and have come to expect the curbside battery collection on an annual basis.
- Curbside battery collection is a convenient service for residents that may not be able to or want to bring batteries to an alternate recycling location, and may otherwise improperly discard them in the garbage.

At this time, there are no known upcoming changes with regards to the future battery funding for 2020. On April 12, 2018, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (previously Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change) announced the full wind up of the Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste (MHSW) program for December 31, 2020. The details of the transition are not known at this time. Funding for curbside

battery collection will be considered with pending regulations under the Waste-Free Ontario Act. If funding changes, staff will advise Council accordingly.

Staff will continue to promote the need to properly recycle batteries at Niagara Region locations as well as other publically available battery drop-off locations on the Niagara Region's website and future publications.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

The alternate reviewed was to discontinue curbside battery collection program or increase the service frequency. Staff believes it is important to provide consistent and convenient service for residents to recycle batteries through combined programs such as curbside collection and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) depots and therefore does not recommend discontinuing the established program. Given the uncertainty of volumes, additional staff resources required to operate the program and the general good availability of other recycling locations for batteries in Niagara, staff recommend continuing the frequency at one week per year pending 2020 operating budget approval. Staff also recommends continuing the curbside battery collection program during earth week, April 20 to 24, 2020. Continuing the curbside battery collection program during Earth Week is consistent with other municipal comparators such as the Region of Peel (April 15-26, 2019) and the Region of Durham (April 22-26, 2019).

### **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

The curbside battery program provides a convenient way for residents to recycle batteries and supports the Niagara Region's goal of achieving a 65% diversion target by 2020. Continuation of the program, which promotes environmental stewardship and maintaining high level of customer service, aligns with Council strategic priority of achieving results under Doing Business Differently as well as improving customer service under Advancing Organizational Excellence.

### **Other Pertinent Reports**

- WMPSC-C 27-2018 Curbside Battery Collection Program

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**Submitted by:**

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*This report was prepared in consultation with Jennifer Wilson, Supervisor, Collection and Diversion Operations, and reviewed by Allison Tyldesley, Associate Director, Collection and Diversion Operations and Lydia Torbicki, Acting Director, Waste Management Services.*

**Appendices**

Appendix 1	Summary of 2019 Curbside Battery Collection	Page 5 - 6
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## Appendix A –2019 Curbside Battery Collection Summary

### Weight Collected:

Date	Weight (kg)
April 22	1005
April 23	1081
April 24	1720
April 25	1844
April 26	1492
Total	7142

### Funding Summary:

- Funding is provided for Phase 1 batteries (single-use alkaline) only
- Based on 2018 totals, approximately 89% of the batteries collected are Phase 1
- Funding expected for 2019 is \$12,990 based on 7,142 kg collected
- Source of funding: Stewardship Ontario, Raw Materials Company

### Promotional Summary:

- Niagara Region website - banner on Waste Management landing page to a dedicated curbside battery page
- Niagara Region Collection Guide – mailed to single-family homes
- Niagara Region GreenScene – mailed to all single-family homes
- Newsprint advertising (in-kind)
- Region road signs placed at the Recycling Centre on Montrose Rd. in Niagara Falls, and at the Seniors Services location the Woodlands of Sunset on Pelham Rd. in Welland
- Digital sign advertising at Thorold Stone Rd. and Dorchester Rd. in Niagara Falls
- City of St Catharines posted curbside battery collection information on their front lawn sign at the Geneva St. offices across from Fairview Mall
- City of St. Catharines posted digital advertisements at the Aquatic Centre on Niagara St. and available public digital screens at their buildings
- Social media ads (example below) – ran from April 2 – April 21

Examples of Social Media ads:

 **Niagara Region** April 21 at 9:00 AM · 🌐

This week from April 22 to 26, place batteries in a sealed plastic bag beside your Blue or Grey Box by 7 a.m. on the morning of your regular collection day for curbside battery collection.

Recycle your alkaline, 6 volt, 9 volt, button cell batteries and rechargeable battery packs.


Visit [niagararegion.ca/waste](http://niagararegion.ca/waste) for more information.



The poster features a row of six batteries in green, yellow, and red. To the right, the text reads 'Curbside Battery Collection' in large white letters. Below that, 'ONE WEEK ONLY: April 22-26, 2019' is written in green and white, followed by 'on your regular collection day' in white. At the bottom, the Niagara Region logo and the URL 'niagararegion.ca/waste' are displayed on a green background.

8 5 Comments 23 Shares

Like Comment Share

 **Niagara Region** @NiagaraRegion Apr 21

This week only in #Niagara! April 22 to 26 is Curbside Battery Collection on your regular collection day. Place beside your Blue or Grey Box by 7 a.m. Learn more: [niagararegion.ca/waste](http://niagararegion.ca/waste) [pic.twitter.com/3rQGewr07n](https://pic.twitter.com/3rQGewr07n)

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