

Re: Checkout Bag Bylaw
May 27, 2020 City Council Meeting
Submitted by: Shanon Zachidniak, Co-Chair

EnviroCollective supports Councillor Bob Hawkins' Checkout Bag Bylaw motion and would like to encourage council to vote in favour of this motion. There are several good reasons to support this motion. First, city council has committed to becoming a more sustainable city and this bylaw represents a fairly simple way of making progress toward that goal. Second, city residents and businesses have expressed strong support of regulations on single-use plastics in surveys conducted in October 2019 (1). Third, while the city has a target of diverting 65% of residential waste by 2020, Regina's waste diversion rate has hovered at around 19% for the past 5 years (2). Fourth, aside from diverting waste from the landfill, a checkout bag bylaw could also lead to decreased litter from plastic bags, which would not only be aesthetically pleasing but would also have the positive environmental impact of reducing the likelihood of wildlife ingesting plastic bags. Lastly, there are many examples of other jurisdictions that have regulated single-use plastics, which means that council and city administration can rely on best practices in the implementation of this motion. In conclusion, we hope you will consider the points and clear evidence we have presented in support of this motion.

Sources

- 1) "Single Use Plastic"—Residents and Business. Public Works and Infrastructure Committee Agenda. p. 75-97. May 19, 2020
- 2) Waste Plan Regina: 2019 Update. Retrieved from: Regina.ca/waste