

September 9, 2009/For Immediate Release

Waste Management Enhancements

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – At their regular meeting on September 8, 2009, Airdrie City Council approved a plan to improve the City’s waste management by adding an unmanned satellite recycling depot on the west side of Airdrie and an enhancement of the current recycling depot on the east side; both of which will focus on maximizing diversion from landfills.

“Residents of Airdrie will benefit from these new initiatives by having access to waste management facilities that have a high impact on waste reduction,” says Kathleen Muretti, Environmental Services Team Leader at the City of Airdrie. “Maximizing diversion from landfills will put the focus on creating less garbage, not on finding better ways to pick up more garbage,” adds Muretti.

The framework for the next 5 years for how the City of Airdrie is going to manage residential waste services includes expanding the compost pad at the existing transfer site and seeking proposals for a private partner to provide a full organics treatment operation. The proposed compost pad expansion will compost leaves and grass, the full organics expansion will allow the City to accept all organics (food waste) which accounts for 21 per cent of residential garbage.

Residential recycling only accounts for 20 per cent of waste, where 52 per cent of residential waste is organics (grass, leaves and food waste), so focusing on these will give a higher diversion rate meaning less garbage going to the landfills.

Airdrie residents, compared to the rest of the Province, are already well above the average for recycling. Per capita, Airdrie residents created an average of 198 kg of garbage per person, per year. The typical Albertan produces an average of 289 kg per person, per year. However, with a new focus on maximizing diversion through organics and food waste, we can bring that number down even lower.

It was determined that curbside recycling is not the best option for the City at this time as curbside recycling would not increase diversion, it would not allow the City to focus on the more impactful area of organics and because residents already have numerous private curbside choices.

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For more information please contact:

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