

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

STAFF REPORT

DATE: May 17, 2022

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Cindy Hartwick, A/Environmental Compliance Coordinator

SUBJECT: Backyard Composters

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Council approve offering residents a \$40 rebate for the purchase of a backyard composter; AND FURTHERMORE THAT 25 rebates per year be available.

BACKGROUND:

In accordance with O.Reg 101/94, section 11.2.a) the municipality shall offer the provision of home composters to residents by the municipality at cost or less. The municipality orders and stocks composters at the municipal office for sale for a cost of \$40 (taxes included) per unit. The units offered to the public are procured through a provincial program.

DISCUSSION:

The current method of supplying composters purchased by the Municipality at cost requires significant storage space in our limited facilities. It also requires staff to handle and move the bulky composters multiple times before they are sold. In addition, several are damaged, and parts are lost, making them unsellable.

Staff reviewed options for simplifying the process. In reviewing options used by surrounding municipalities, it was identified that other municipalities provided residents with a rebate program rather than stocking composters themselves. A rebate program would allow residents to purchase their own composter with the type and style that suited them best. It would eliminate the staff time required to move the composters around and free up room in our limited storage areas.

If the rebate program was offered to Mississippi Mills residents, we may see more residents compost, as they can choose their own composter and not have to purchase the cheapest one the municipality finds. We currently coordinate with other municipalities for the purchase of composters to help keep the cost down as we each only require a limited number of composters.

Based on other municipal programs it is recommended the following criteria for a rebate would apply:

- Must be a resident or rate payer of Mississippi Mills
- Must provide an original receipt indicating the purchase of a new backyard composter
- Taxes and/or delivery charges will not be rebated
- A limit of one rebate application per household
- Rebates apply only to residential applications
- Homemade composters do not qualify
- Limited rebates available, 25 units per year, revocable by the Municipality at any time

A rebate application would be required for each household purchase.

The following is a breakdown of the purchases and sales of composters over the last three years:

	2021	2020	2019
Composters Purchased	40	20	40
Purchase Price	\$59.61	\$40.43	\$45.22
Composters Sold	25	17	32
Cost to the Municipality to sell Composters	\$1384.40	\$128.60	\$528.80

OPTIONS:

Option 1 – Status Quo

Option 2 – Offer a rebate program for backyard composters

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In the budget there is account 1-411-0460-5480 Compost Program with a budget amount of \$1000.00. This could be used and would cover the cost of 25 rebates per year.

The 25 rebates could be revisited after 2 years to see if the number needs to be adjusted.

SUMMARY:

Based on staff research of selling vs rebate we are recommending switching from the sale of composters at the Municipal Office to offering a rebate program. It is believed that offering the rebate would simplify things for all staff. This program would come into effect once the current stock of composters is depleted.

Respectfully submitted by,

Reviewed by:

Cindy Hartwick,
A/Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Cory Smith,
A/Director of Roads and Public Works

Reviewed by

Ken Kelly
CAO

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Backyard Composter Rebate Form