

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 17, 2025
To: Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee
From: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Report Number: FIN25-017
Attachments: None

Title: Take-out Container Levy

Objective: To consider the request from the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee for City Council to direct staff to investigate the legislative regulations of a take-out container levy program for the City of Stratford.

Background: At the October 7, 2024 Energy and Environment Advisory Committee meeting the following motion was passed:

THAT the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee request Stratford City Council direct staff to investigate the legislative regulations of a take-out container levy program for the City of Stratford.

The purpose of this report is to consider this request.

Analysis: To action this recommendation, staff would need to undertake a review of legislative regulations surrounding a take-out container levy program. As part of this review, the City would need to consult legal counsel to understand whether the City has the authority to implement such a levy. To staff's knowledge no other municipality has implemented a program of this kind.

Following the review, if the levy could be implemented staff would need to develop the program, determine how it would be administered, along with an education campaign for consideration by Council. If it is determined the City cannot implement this levy then a report advising such would be presented for the information of Council.

Currently, the Infrastructure Services Department does not have the capacity to complete this investigation due to large scale ongoing provincial legislative changes, approved 2025 projects and day-to-day activities. If Council desires to consider this initiative further, request as part of the 2026 Budget Process that it be included as part of 2026 Work Plans for Infrastructure Services.

Options for consideration:

1. Direct Infrastructure Services Staff to undertake the review: THAT staff undertake a review of a take-out container levy program as part of its 2026 Work Plan and report back to the respective Council Sub-committee.
2. Direct the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to undertake research: THAT the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee are directed to undertake research to determine if an Ontario municipality has adopted a take-out container levy and what the programs include and report back to the Council Committee Coordinator.
3. File the request (meaning take no action): THAT the request from the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to direct staff to investigate the legislative regulations of a take-out container levy program for the City of Stratford be filed.

Financial Implications:

Not applicable:

There are no financial implications to be reported as a result of this report. Financial implications of implementing a take-out container levy have not been researched.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: This report does not align with one of the Strategic Priorities as the request is for a take-out container levy to be investigated.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Material and Products

Using materials from sustainable sources and promoting products which help people reduce consumption.

Zero Waste

Reducing consumption, reusing and recycling to achieve zero waste and zero pollution.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee provide direction on the request from the Energy and Environment Advisory Committee to research a take-out container levy program.

Prepared by:

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Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk

Recommended by:

Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure
Adam Betteridge, Interim Chief Administrative Officer