

Document 1 – Overview of Other Policy Options Considered

Policy	Description	Estimated Impact on Diversion	Benefits	Challenges	Why it was not recommended
Firm Garbage Limits	Limits the number of garbage items that can be placed out for collection. No waste above the set limit would be collected.	Up to 11% garbage tonnage reduction per capita by year 5; up to 5% increase in waste diversion rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Builds upon the City's existing policy by reducing the six item limit; and, Enforcing a firm garbage limit could be seen as a "stepping stone" that may help residents accept the transition to a Full or Partial Pay-As-You-Throw program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents exceeding the limit would need to keep waste until the next garbage day, bring it to the landfill for disposal, or make alternative arrangements; and, May be seen as unfair by some households, especially those in larger/multi-generational households, completing large household cleanups, or moving. 	The consultant's estimates suggest that a Firm Garbage Limit policy would have a lower impact on Ottawa's diversion rate and lower ability to reduce waste than a Partial Pay-As-You-Throw program or Clear Bag Garbage Program.
Material Bans on Recycling and Organic	Prohibits material that could be diverted through the curbside recycling and green bin programs from being disposed of as garbage.	When paired with a Partial Pay-As-You-Throw program or Firm Garbage Limit, the diversion rate could increase by an addition 1%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would support the City in complying with the Province's priority to phase out food and organic waste from landfill by 2030; and, Supports increasing capture rates of recyclable material 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of recycling and organics bans is difficult without a clear bag garbage program. 	Difficult to enforce in absence of a clear bag garbage program. Staff recommend focusing on educating residents about proper sorting of recycling and organic waste to align with the City's Solid Waste Management By-law requirement of sorting waste.
Clear Bag Garbage Program with Recycling and Organics Ban	Requires households to use transparent bags for curbside garbage collection. Garbage bags with excessive recycling and/or organic waste would not be collected.	Up to 33% garbage tonnage reduction per capita by year 5; up to 10% increase in waste diversion rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can enforce recycling and organics ban as collection staff can identify improperly disposed of waste in the garbage stream; Increased worker safety as staff can identify and avoid hazardous items (sharp glass, needles, tin edges, etc.); and, May not require a bag limit if enforcement to ensure proper sorting is followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Privacy concerns are cited as the most pressing issue with a clear bag policy. As a result, many municipalities permit the use of an opaque privacy bag to conceal waste items at the homeowners' discretion; Added time for waste collection staff at point of collection to inspect bags and level of knowledge on material accepted in the garbage stream; and, 	Estimated impact on diversion was dependent upon the enforcement of a recycling and organic waste ban. Concerns were raised by stakeholders about the ability to enforce a ban given the number of households receiving collection each day and the number of households that use garbage bins (concealing the clear bag). Many respondents, especially in rural areas, stated they

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all retailers carry adequate supplies of clear bags. 	require their bins to reduce concerns with pests and wildlife.