



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 14.4.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**November 14, 2017**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council  
Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Tony Mancini, Chair, Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

**DATE:** November 2, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **Options to Reduce Textiles in the Landfill**

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**ORIGIN**

Motion approved at the November 2, 2017 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 3(a) of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee Terms of Reference:

3. The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee shall:
  - (a) advise the Council on matters respecting solid waste management, including the responsibility to receive reports and to keep the Council informed respecting all matters related to the solid waste management program in the municipality;

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:

1. Direct staff to issue a Request for an Expression of Interest to identify not-for profit and social enterprise organizations with whom HRM may partner through the use of the Halifax Recycles App in order to expand and enhance the diversion of textiles from the landfill; and
2. Direct staff to work with industry, charities, not for profits, social enterprises and other government agencies to increase the profile of textile recycling and promote consistent messaging for drop-off bins and the recycling of textiles.

## **BACKGROUND**

A motion was passed at the February 2, 2017 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee meeting:

“THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee request that staff commission a six-month study and issue a report to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee two months upon completion of the study regarding the collection of textiles that end up in the landfill, and the savings to the Municipality annually from keeping the textiles out of the landfill.”

Refer to the Background section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1) for further information.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Committee discussed with staff the September 20, 2017 staff report, including the importance of public education so that residents are aware that garments with holes or stains can be recycled, which would increase diversion.

Following discussion, the staff recommendation was approved, as outlined in the Recommendation section of this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Refer to the Financial Implications section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1).

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Refer to the Risk Consideration section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1).

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee are open to public attendance, a live webcast is provided of the meeting, and members of the public are invited to address the Committee for up to five minutes at the end of each meeting during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Standing Committee agendas, reports and minutes are posted on Halifax.ca.

Refer to the Community Engagement section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1) for further information.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Refer to the Community Engagement section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1).

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee did not identify any alternatives.

Refer to the Alternatives section of the September 20, 2017 staff report (Attachment 1) for further information.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated September 20, 2017.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, Office of the Municipal Clerk, 902-490-6517

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P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 12.1.1**  
**Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee**  
**November 2, 2017**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee

*Original signed*

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Bruce Zvaniga, Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** September 20, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Options to Reduce Textiles in the Landfill

**ORIGIN**

At the February 2, 2017 meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee (ESSC) it was moved by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Cleary:

“THAT the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee request that staff commission a six-month study and issue a report to the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee two months upon completion of the study regarding the collection of textiles that end up in the landfill, and the savings to the Municipality annually from keeping the textiles out of the landfill.”

Researching this topic has been identified in the 2017/18 Solid Waste Resources business plan.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter, Part XIII Solid Waste Management, Section 335 (a - j) refers to the authority to make bylaws respecting Solid Waste Management.

HRM Charter, Clause 79(1)(q) provides that “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for ... collecting, removing, managing and disposing of solid waste.”

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:

1. Direct staff to issue a Request for an Expression of Interest to identify not-for profit and social enterprise organizations with whom HRM may partner through the use of the Halifax Recycles App in order to expand and enhance the diversion of textiles from the landfill;
2. Direct staff to work with industry, charities, not for profits, social enterprises and other government agencies to increase the profile of textile recycling and promote consistent messaging for drop-off bins and the recycling of textiles.

## **BACKGROUND**

Halifax Regional Council has established “Healthy, Livable Communities” as one of six priority outcomes. This outcome is in part characterized by “HRM builds resiliency by providing leadership in energy management, sustainability and environmental risk management both as an organization and in the community, we serve.” This report discusses actions that contribute to that priority outcome.

Textiles recycling is an emerging theme in solid waste management systems globally. The category includes items such as clothing, footwear, upholstery, curtains, carpets, bedding, stuffed animals and towels. Textiles can be resold as is, repurposed as rags or recycled into new products – carpet padding and vehicle insulation for example. Markets for textiles are often overseas where bales of clothing are broken down and graded for resale or reuse.

It is estimated that only 19% of textile waste in Nova Scotia is recycled or reused, leaving 30,000 tonnes to be disposed in landfills. Textiles were identified as a potential addition to the list of materials banned from landfill disposal<sup>1</sup>. No action has been advanced on this initiative by Nova Scotia Environment. Characterization audits conducted at the Otter Lake Facility in 2016/17 show that nearly 8.6% of incoming residential waste is made up of textiles (approximately 3,800 tonnes). With the landfill tipping fee of \$125 per tonne (January 2018) at Otter Lake, textiles disposal costs the municipality over \$475,000 annually, not including collection.

Consumer demands are driving increased production of lower cost, lower quality garments. People are wearing items for shorter periods of time to keep up with current trends. The Textile Exchange<sup>2</sup> predicts this ‘fast fashion’ trend will result in a 62% increase in global textile waste by 2030. Assuming those trends are similar in Canada, with no program changes, this potentially equates to 6,200 tonnes for Halifax.

To address textile recycling in Nova Scotia a coalition of charitable and for-profit organizations ([www.AFTeRWear.ca](http://www.AFTeRWear.ca)) was formed in 2013. This group has made progress in coordinating efforts to promote textile recycling in the province. AfterWear maintains a website where locations of partner bins are posted, and include a list of items which can be donated. The site is also linked from the “what goes where” search in the Halifax Recycles app when residents search for textiles.

## **Textile Recycling in Halifax**

### **Donation Bins**

Donation bins are typically set-up outside of thrift stores, in parking lots as well as other public spaces and are emptied on a regular basis. These bins provide convenient 24/7 access for residents to donate, however they can be subject to illegal dumping, theft and vandalism. There are some organizations who also offer collection from the donor’s doorstep or coupons for discounts in thrift stores as an incentive to donate. Examples of donation bin models in the Halifax region include:

The Salvation Army (registered not for profit charity) collects and resells textiles within their own thrift stores. Donation bins are located exclusively at the stores. ‘Rejected’ items which cannot be resold are sent to their distribution centre in Dieppe, NB to be baled and sold to textile recycling markets. Salvation Army has indicated the supply of donated textiles in Nova Scotia currently does not meet the demand they have in store. This has resulted in the redistribution of garments from the Ontario marketplace to Halifax.

Diabetes Canada and Big Brothers/Big Sisters (registered not for profit charity) provide drop-off bins in a range of public spaces (i.e. grocery store parking lots) and offer free home pick-up services. The material they collect is sold to Value Village, a private sector for-profit business, that

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<sup>1</sup> Nova Scotia Environment, What We Heard Public Consultation Document. 2015.

<sup>2</sup> <http://textileexchange.org>

pays a per kilogram rate to the charity. Value Village then sorts and sells the textile as products in their stores. Unsellable items, not exclusive to textiles, are recycled as often as possible before disposal in landfill is considered.

Within Halifax, bins branded with Red Cross, Make A Wish and Canadian Breast Cancer are operated by for-profit businesses. These for-profit businesses are able to use the name and brand of the charities on their bins under agreements for which they provide either a percentage of profits or a specified rate. The collected materials are typically baled for textile markets (overseas) vs being sold locally.

#### Other Initiatives

Local churches and other not-for-profit organizations (i.e. SPCA, Beacon House and Parker Street Furniture Bank) operate thrift stores or collect textiles for those in need. Animal shelters often accept donations of towels for use as bedding.

Return to retail textile recycling programs are becoming more common. Clothing retailers such as H&M and American Eagle have in-store textile recycling programs which accept all brands of clothing.

#### **Jurisdictional Scan of Textile Recycling Initiatives**

##### Curbside Collection

In April 2016, Colchester County, NS began curbside collection of clean and dry textiles. These materials are co-mingled (placed in the same bag) with the paper stream. The Colchester recycling facility has an annual capacity of 12,000 tonnes. Two additional staff were hired to sort the co-mingled material, which is then marketed by the municipality. Approximately 60 tonnes of material have been collected from 31,657 households since April 2016 (average of 0.06 kg per household, per collection day). This figure includes the Municipality of East Hants, who send recyclables, including textiles, to Colchester for processing.

The Town of Aurora, ON is currently conducting a pilot project for curbside collection of textiles (one collection day per month)<sup>3</sup>. The initial phase saw 23 tonnes of material collected from 2,000 homes (average of 3.8 kg per home, per collection). Phase 2 runs from February to December 2017 offering once a month collection to all 17,000 households by a private contractor (Textile Waste Diversion), separate from their regular waste collection contract. In consideration of the administration and promotion of the curbside program, the contractor pays the town \$0.11 for each kilogram of textiles collected.

In addition to collection, Textile Waste Diversion owns and maintains four bins, branded with the town logo at community centres and a library. Along with installing additional bins, door-to-door collection of textiles is expected to spread to other areas in the York Region, though on a quarterly basis, in Fall of 2017. It has been found that monthly collection was too frequent.

##### Municipal/Non-Profit Partnership

The City of Markham, Ontario has a population of 353,000. Like Halifax, Markham has a clear bag for garbage program along with curbside collection of organics and recycling. In 2016, Markham applied to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Green Municipal Fund and were approved for a \$67,000 matching funds grant to design and implement a textiles diversion pilot program. Focus groups were also conducted to gauge public perception and interest in textiles recycling.

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<sup>3</sup> Textile Collection Project. (2017). [www.aurora.ca/clothingrecycling](http://www.aurora.ca/clothingrecycling)

Through a partnership with the Salvation Army, the SMART Bin program<sup>4</sup> involved placing city branded containers at nine fire stations, and five community centres. Bins are equipped with fullness sensors, solar lights and security cameras. The Salvation Army collects and recycles all the material at no cost to the city. Items are sorted and sold through their thrift store network.

Markham has further developed a partnership with Diabetes Canada to place donation bins in over 60 multi-unit residential buildings, adding a further level of convenience for diversion of textiles. Municipal staff work with the charities to help establish donation bins at appropriate private and public locations and promote those organizations who offer free home pick-up service for textiles and household goods<sup>5</sup>.

Between February 2016 and June 2017, over 1,850 tonnes of textiles had been collected in the Markham program. In April, 2017 the city became the first municipality in North America to implement a ban on textiles and no longer collects clear garbage bags that contain textiles.

## **DISCUSSION**

Halifax residents are generally very receptive to programs that divert material away from landfill disposal. Program enhancements further our position as leaders in waste-resource management, an achievement residents are proud of. Textiles recycling is an opportunity to advance the program one step further. There are several methods to introduce and promote textile recycling within the municipality.

### **Curbside Collection Model**

Curbside collection is the most convenient option for residents to recycle, which generally leads to a greater capture rate. The introduction of curbside textile recycling would likely see a high volume when the program is first implemented, however, would likely decrease over time to a consistent level. One benefit of regular curbside collection is residents do not need to store their textiles for an extended period. This may also increase diversion. One negative effect with municipally run curbside collection would be the capture of material that previously would have been donated to a charity. Curbside collection could achieve a higher volume of material being diverted, however, charitable organizations could lose material (money) if residents use the more convenient curbside service offered by HRM.

When materials are collected curbside they can be collected in a separate bag (single stream) or they can be collected with another material such as paper (comingled). Collecting textiles in a single stream reduces sorting requirements however it also requires an additional sort and bag for residents. Single stream collection provides the opportunity to deliver materials to a facility other than the HRM Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) which is currently at capacity. Under HRM's current collection contract, the cost of a separate truck (i.e. leaf and yard) is between \$750 to \$1,300 per day per collection area. Providing once a month collection for all households in the municipality could cost \$540,000 per year (\$45,000 per collection).

Comingled collection would require the use of HRM's MRF and would require additional staff and potential upgrades to the facility. Further investigation of viable markets would have to be undertaken to ensure there is an end market. It is difficult to determine what the sales revenue would be and how this could offset collections and processing costs. If textiles are comingled and collected with other materials placed curbside there would be a processing fee at the MRF (currently \$112 per tonne).

A preliminary online scan shows market values between \$100 and \$600 per tonne for un-sorted textiles (but does not include shipping). As with any commodity this price is subject to fluctuation and market demands. If the average value of \$350/tonne could be achieved, the breakeven annual tonnage with

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<sup>4</sup> Markham Recycles Textiles. (2017).

[www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/RecyclingWaste/CollectionServices/sa-textilerecycling/textilerecycling/](http://www.markham.ca/wps/portal/Markham/Residents/RecyclingWaste/CollectionServices/sa-textilerecycling/textilerecycling/)

<sup>5</sup> Markham Textile Recycling Program Strategy – Next Steps. November 7, 2016

separate collection for HRM would be approximately 1150 tonnes per year which represents 30% of the estimated annual tonnage of textiles that are landfilled.

If curbside collection and/or processing at the MRF is considered, the optimal time to introduce this would be in 2019 when both the collections and MRF operating contracts are due for renewal and the expansion of the MRF has been completed. The introduction of comingled textiles will decrease the available capacity of the expanded MRF. Staff are currently working with several Nova Scotian regions to explore the potential of selling the increased MRF capacity to support regional partnerships to reduce overall system costs for both HRM and partner municipalities.

### **Halifax Recycles App – A Unique Municipal Partnership Model**

The municipality can play a heightened role in supporting charitable, not for profit and social enterprise organizations by promoting the recyclability of textiles in addition to donations for resale. There is potential through partnering with AFTeRwear to expand the awareness that garments with holes or stains can be recycled. Consistency with this message could increase diversion. Through discussion with industry there appears to be a public perception that only quality, wearable garments can be donated. This leads to lower recovery rates of recyclable textiles in the donation bin model. This is supported by a Halifax Textiles Survey (Attachment 1) conducted in September 2017. Of the 1,780 respondents, 71% agreed with the statement 'Items that are worn out or stained should not be donated'. Such items can in fact be recycled and diverted from landfill. Halifax Solid Waste can work with industry, social enterprises and other government agencies in promoting a consistent message for textile recycling across the Region and possibly the province.

Halifax could also work with and leverage programs run by existing organizations. Charities and other social development enterprises can benefit from increased revenues and profile through a partnership. These organizations also maintain the responsibility of bins, and use their long-standing expertise in establishing appropriate reuse and recycling markets for the material. This method also reduces risks to Halifax and potential costs to taxpayers.

The Halifax Recycles app has the ability to facilitate at home collection through a scheduling function. If implemented, residents could forward a request for collection to an organization through the app. Alternately, notifications could be set within the app to notify residents in certain areas of upcoming textile collection dates, or to simply provide contact information for organizations who provide at home collection. The benefits associated with offering at home collection is reduced instances of dumping at bins and ultimately greater convenience for residents. While items such as small appliances, toys, books and furniture have not been the focus for this report, enhancing opportunities for at home collection of textiles could have a side effect of increasing capture rates of quality resalable household items as well. These items are already accepted by most organizations. Informal discussions indicate there is interest from the charitable sector to explore this opportunity. According to the Halifax Recycles app vendor, the use of the app integration model would be the first in North America.

To give all organizations equal opportunity to participate in this program, an Expression of Interest (EOI) would be required. The scope of the EOI would include (but not be limited to) compliant privacy protocols in handling personal information, reporting of material capture rates (quantitative or qualitative data) and a charitable or social development aspect to the operation. It is possible to partner with more than one organization, provided each meets the criteria established.

Residents who do not have access to the app or website can call 311 for information on textiles recycling. Contact centre agents currently handle calls of this nature, directing residents to the nearest drop-off bins or home pick-up service. Any change in partnerships with outside organizations should not impact call volumes, however Solid Waste staff would ensure contact centre agents continue to have the most current information on options for recycling textiles.

HRM could also issue an EOI for a single stream collection service for textiles in the Region similar to Aurora. This would have the same benefits as the municipal collection model, but potentially at a cost

savings. The risk in this option is possible exclusion of charities (and a loss of revenue) and it also requires staff administration, similar to current collection contracts.

### **Additional Bins**

Municipal staff will continue to facilitate partnerships with private entities (i.e. apartment property management companies) to increase availability of bins in waste rooms and promote textile recycling.

An internal review of municipal properties can be undertaken to identify potential locations to house additional donation bins. Consideration must be given to site suitability, accessibility, operations (i.e. snow clearing) and a process to determine which organizations can occupy which space. A Diabetes Canada bin is currently available at the Otter Lake Facility. It should be noted that in the Textiles Survey 85.7% of respondents most often used the drop-off option, while only 12.5% use home pick-up. Over 80% agree convenient options for donating are available. Only 11% of respondents indicated there were no convenient options for donation drop off. Over 80% of respondents indicated they only donate material 1 to 3 times per year. This indicates to staff that infrastructure is available and accessible for residents, however, an increased level of education is needed to promote textile recycling and current home collection options provided by charities.

### **Justification for Recommendation**

Mobilizing this functionality through the Halifax Recycles app provides a quick, convenient roll-out of a program enhancement. This offers the most cost effective and lowest risk opportunity of those identified. Partnering with multiple organizations gives equal opportunity to increase funding, which in turn furthers social development opportunities related to each organization's mandate. This recommendation also links Council's Priority Area of Social Development and Service Delivery through an innovative solution.

### **Next Steps**

Since this approach is unique, a review of its effectiveness compared to other models would be beneficial. The next steps in the process could include a funding application to FCM to conduct research on enhancements such as provision of bins in multi-unit buildings or increasing efficiencies for at home collection. Staff will review the successes / challenges / opportunities of the recommended initiative and report back to ESSC prior to advancing a proposal on recommending bin sites on HRM property.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Many of the Halifax Recycles app functionalities are available at no cost. Advanced functionalities could be implemented with an anticipated cost of no more than \$5,000. Implementing advanced functionalities is dependant on the outcome of the EOI. This cost as well as the education and promotional expenses will be funded through Solid Waste's approved communications and education budget within R333 (C&E Program HRM).

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Charitable and not for profit enterprises were engaged during this review. Implementation of education or enhanced program offering would be accompanied with a full communications plan to ensure community awareness.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the discussion section of this report, increasing the profile and accessibility of textiles recycling programs could increase the amount of material diverted from landfill.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

ESSC could recommend that municipal curbside collection of textiles (single stream or comingled) be implemented. Securing markets, contracts, and implementation would likely be achievable in 2019 when existing operation contracts have expired.

ESSC could recommend that staff initiate a program to increase the number of bins within HRM but more specifically on HRM property. Based on survey results, residents believe there this an adequate availability of bins.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

A – Textile Survey Results, September 2017

B – Options Analysis

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Shannon Betts, Solid Waste Policy Analyst, 902.490.7153

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Attachment A

# Textiles Survey Summary - September 2017

## Summary

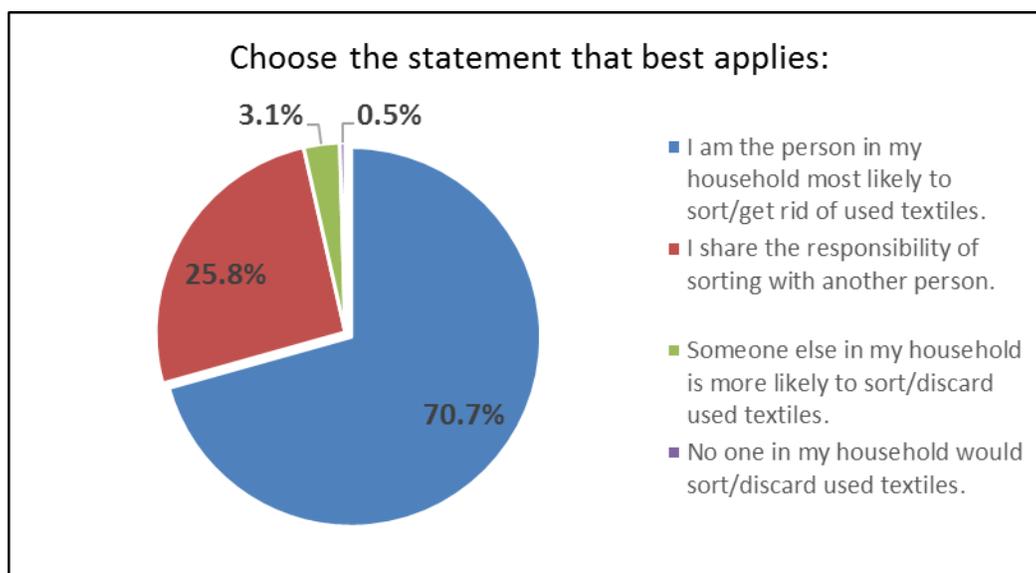
Halifax Solid Waste staff conducted an online survey between September 5 and September 12. The purpose of the survey was to gain insight on public perceptions of charity drop-off bins, how bins are used and what types of materials residents donate versus put in the garbage. Questions were adapted from a focus group conducted by the City of Markham in May 2014.

The survey was promoted through notifications on the Halifax Recycles app as well as Facebook and Twitter posts. An iPad Air was offered as a prize, with a random draw taking place from those who chose to enter their email address. Over 1,780 responses were received.

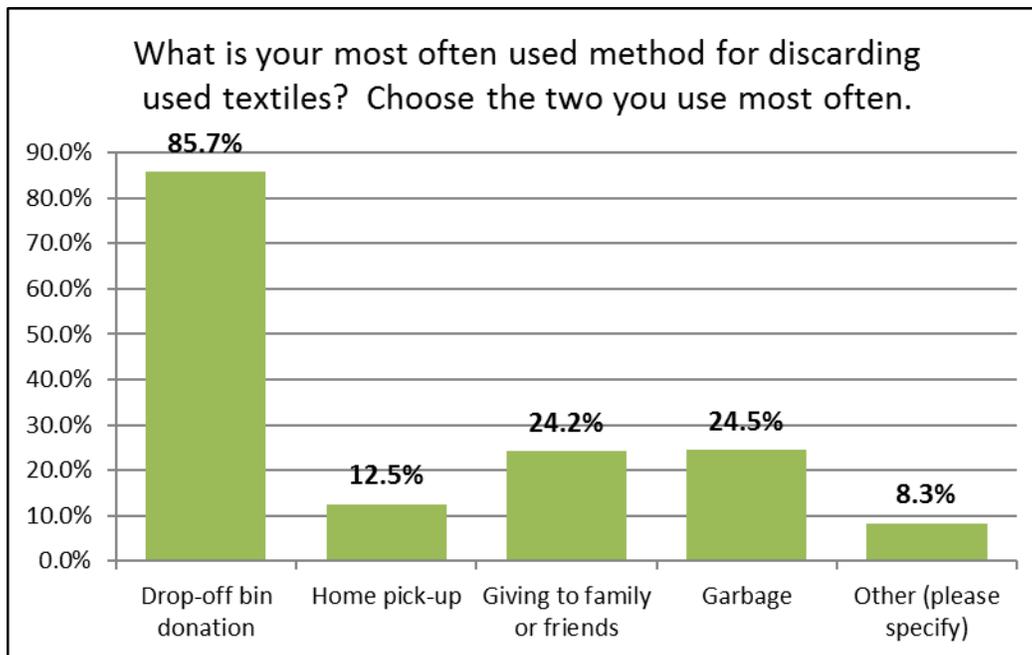
The survey responses show that the respondents are very supportive of programs to reuse and recycle textiles. They want to support charitable organizations with good, reusable clothing, but do not want to burden them with textiles perceived to be 'not good enough'. Many were unsure of what the charitable organization's role is in collecting and processing textiles not suitable for resale (thrift store), but they would like to have options to keep material out of the garbage. While some residents indicated they would like to see the municipality provide curbside collection, others prefer it be left with the organizations currently offering the service.

## Survey Questions

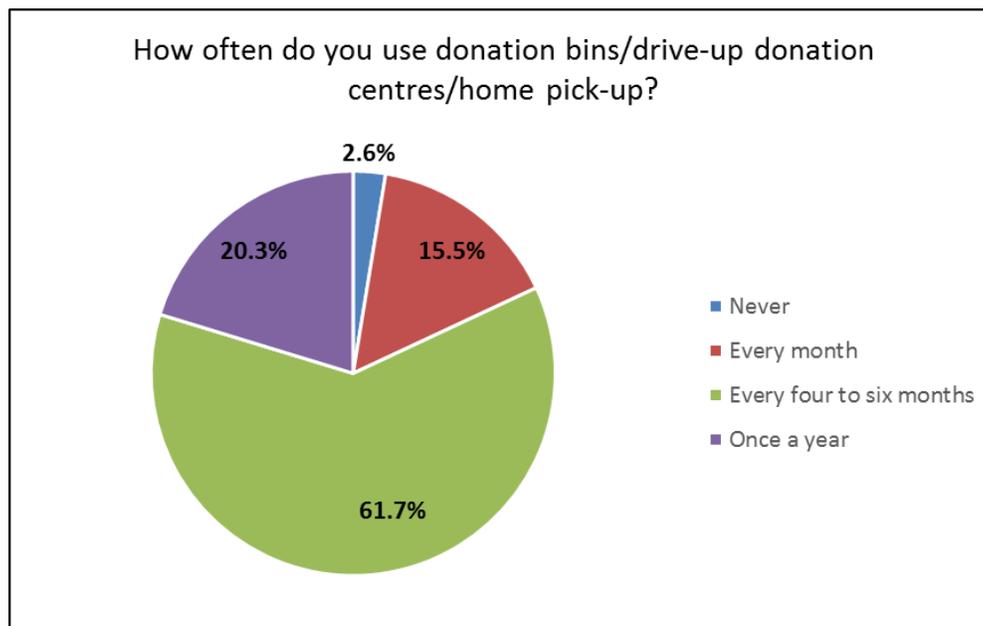
Question 1 – Choose the statement that best applies:



Question 2 – What is your most often used method for discarding used textiles?  
Choose the two you use most often.



Question 3 – How often do you use donation bins / drive-up donation centres / home pick-up?

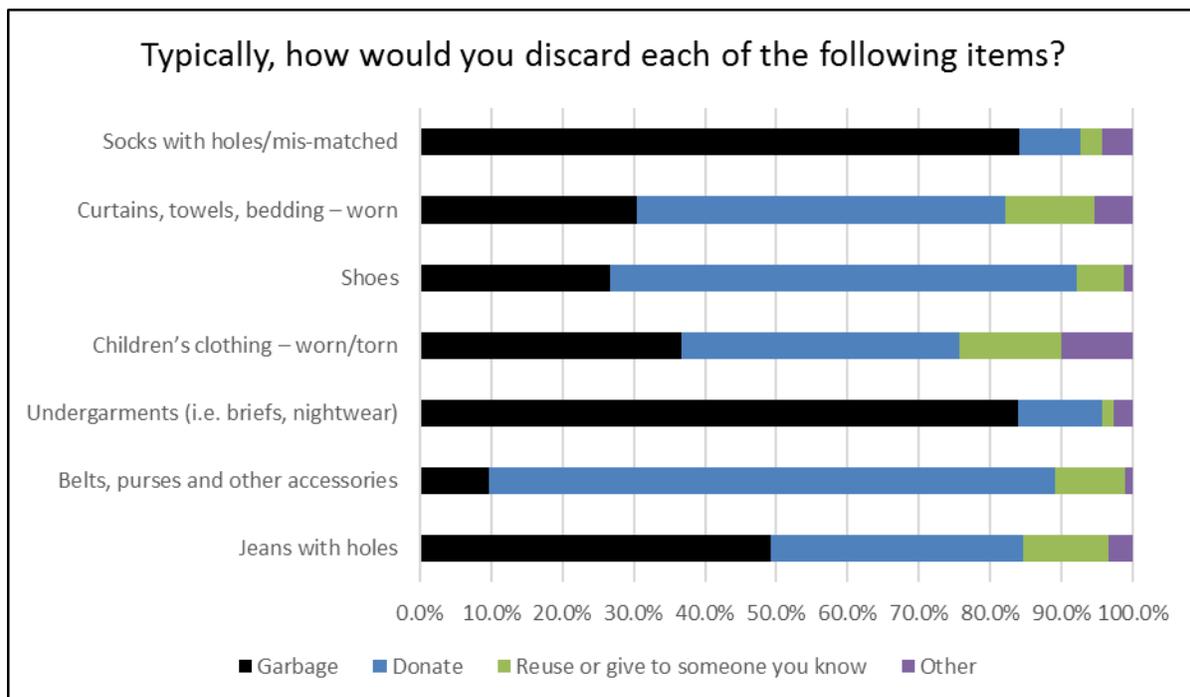


Question 4 – Typically, how would you discard each of the following items?

	Garbage %	Donate %	Reuse or give to someone you know %	Other %
Jeans with holes	49.3	35.5	11.9	3.4
Belts, purses and other accessories	9.7	79.5	9.7	1.1
Undergarments (i.e. briefs, nightwear)	84.0	11.8	1.5	2.7
Children’s clothing – worn/torn	36.7	38.9	14.4	10.0
Shoes	26.7	65.5	6.7	1.2
Curtains, towels, bedding – worn	30.5	51.7	12.6	5.3
Socks with holes/mismatched	84.2	8.5	3.0	4.3

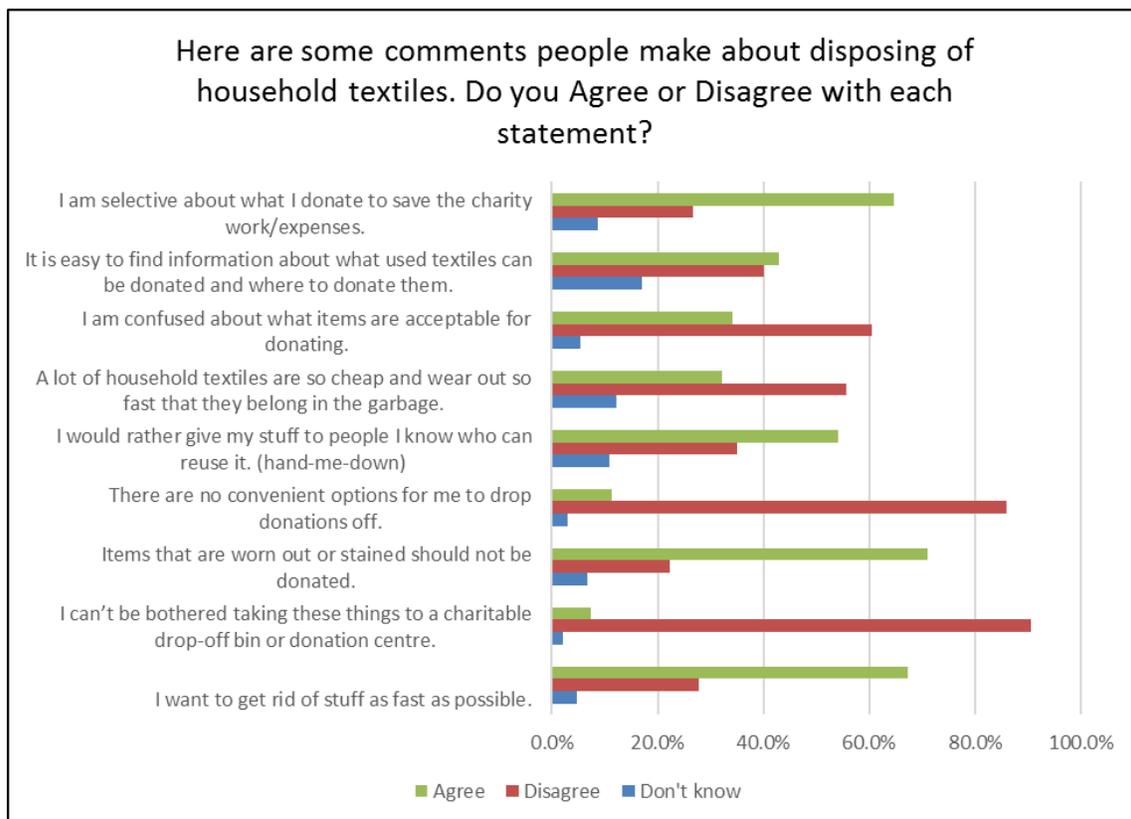
Common responses in the ‘Other’ selection included:

- donating to churches, group homes or animal shelters
- deliver to Salvation Army or Value Village
- sell online or consignment
- keep stored in a bag because they aren’t sure what to do



**Question 5 – Here are some comments people make about disposing of household textiles. Do you Agree or Disagree with each statement?**

	Don't know	Disagree	Agree
I want to get rid of stuff as fast as possible.	4.9%	27.8%	67.4%
I can't be bothered taking these things to a charitable drop-off bin or donation centre.	2.1%	90.5%	7.3%
Items that are worn out or stained should not be donated.	6.7%	22.3%	71.0%
There are no convenient options for me to drop donations off.	2.9%	85.9%	11.2%
I would rather give my stuff to people I know who can reuse it. (hand-me-down)	10.9%	35.0%	54.0%
A lot of household textiles are so cheap and wear out so fast that they belong in the garbage.	12.1%	55.7%	32.2%
I am confused about what items are acceptable for donating.	5.5%	60.4%	34.1%
It is easy to find information about what used textiles can be donated and where to donate them.	17.1%	40.0%	42.9%
I am selective about what I donate to save the charity work/expenses.	8.7%	26.7%	64.6%



Question 6 – Do you have any additional comments about textile recycling to share with us?

Over 570 respondents left comments on the survey. The most common theme included desire for more education on what could be donated/recycled, followed by support for expanding efforts to divert material and ideas for reusing textiles. Many expressed interest in finding out what happens to materials once they leave the bins. Below is a sample of the comments received.

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I've HEARD that soiled/torn/damaged textiles can be donated. However, I feel rude like I'm putting my trash in the donation bin. It would help me to NOT put these things in the garbage if I knew what happened, after donation...

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I have no issues with changing my method of discarding used clothing etc to the garbage/recycling collection as long as it is not going to be yet another different colour bag and cost me more money

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Some worn items while they can't be reused in their original intent can be recycled or reused by being cutup to make dishclothes or cleaning rags or something of that sort. It would be neat to see a city program that can take items with some holes / worn and salvage the usable portions to make something new.

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Be much easier if roadside collection existed or a simple option/guideline for donation: disposal of closed, shoes, bags and other textile.

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it's my understanding that clothes that are worn out should get "donated" for recycling, but it feels weird to mix them in with "good" donations that could be resold. I'm never quite sure what I should be doing with them, which occasionally makes me err on the side of directing something to garbage instead of donation. Also there are sometimes things that I would want to direct to recycling even though the item is in good shape (ex. a personalized t-shirt) but I don't know how to make that happen. The other issue I have is clothing that I want to dispose of because it is dirty (ex. a towel that a cat has slept on) - can I recycle it that way? If I feel like I would have to wash something first, I am likely to put the it in the garbage - but is that the right thing? I would prefer to have a clearer line between clothing donations and responsible clothing disposal.

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It would be great if there were a way of recycling textiles that were no longer suitable for donation due to wear-and-tear. I try to cut this stuff up for rags but sometimes you end up with far more than you need.

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I believe this is a good option for charities that need the funds; I do not need HRM to offer this service.

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Ensure the items go to a reputable charitable organization

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I would like to be able to recycle worn out textiles (holes, ripped, beyond repair) but do not know if it is possible here. Donate many gently used things to thrift stores but most don't want damaged textiles. More information needs to be made available as to what can be recycled and how to recycle it.

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Not sure the value of HRM taking on this role. There is already an abundance of places you can donate. HRM curb site may entice people to just put good textile items at the curb rather than donate them.

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I tend to hang onto textiles because I feel awful throwing them away, especially ripped/stained items. Not good at upcycling/recycling textiles. Not sure what to do with the piles of useless clothes in my house.

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I don't like the donation bins as many times they are overflowing items on the ground blowing around or get wet. Items not picked up often enough. Lots of places to call like the diabetes or big brother. Once you get on their list they will call you every few months. The city could encourage this type of donation.

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I find it hard to know what/where to donate textiles. I think it is a fantastic and necessary option and hope that more work can be done in this area.

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The condition of the item determines donation or garbage. I donate anything that I think still has a useful life. A simple donation system would be very welcome.

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Recently, Phoenix House left a flyer and a bag in my mailbox (I'm around the Creighton street area) and said they'd be back in a few days to pick up clothes to be sold. While I wasn't able to take part, my partner and I were ecstatic because we don't have a car and often have bags of clothing we want to donate. If there was a home pickup every few months, we would absolutely participate.

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I would love to know that I could bring all of my textiles somewhere - even old undergarments or kids clothes that are not in good enough shape to donate or re-purpose

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I am pleased with the organizations that have come forward over the last decade or so to whom one can donate ... rather than throwing in the garbage. Very recycling conscious!

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I would love to have donation boxes specifically for textiles that can not be worn again due to stains or tears. I know the fabric itself can be broken down, used as rags or some such, but as far as know there are no places to donate them to.

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Once a month or bi-monthly curbside pick up for worn/stained items that cannot be donated would be great!

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Several charities rely on clothing donation bins for financial support. I think it is important to continue to allow these bins to operate and/or help facilitate the collection.

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I currently donate whatever I think could be useful but I don't want the charity tasked with getting rid of "junk". I would love it if there were textile recycling available - our landfills are overloaded with worn out jeans! Textiles can be used in many creative ways if they get to the right people.

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I wish there was an easier way for me to donate. I have to go the city to drop things of. These bins in different locations are not the best. I have things piled high and rained on. I would not use these.

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It is so easy to find a donation location. I'm 40 minutes away from civilization (stores etc) but there are churches everywhere. At least twice a month I go into the city and there are at least 4 donation bins between residence and Dartmouth crossing. Should really be no need to use our tax resources for this.

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Better information and education is badly needed.

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Support reuse and recycling but not by HRM.

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I have read that Value Village and Salvation Army will take damaged textiles for recycling, it would be great to have information from the city that confirms this or a city textile recycling program.

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I've only recently been told "everything does" when it comes to donating at value village. BUT I live 45mins away and local doesn't donation bins only accept limited items. Having another option - preferably at curbside - would be ideal.

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I would love to have regular curbside textile recycling!!

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I make an effort to buy used. Would love to see a campaign to encourage this in others. Cheap and fast fashion is so damaging to the environment.

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I notice furniture, lamps, books/records/CDs, and many other types of items when I go to the donation box but am not sure if these things are acceptable. Sometimes it is quite a mess there and I feel sorry for those whose job it is to do the pick up. Where do these extra items go after they are picked up?

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I also give worn or holey towels and sheets to animal hospitals. They use them to line the cages for the animals.

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Curbside donation bag pick up would be great!

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There used to be bins in my area specifically for textile recycling. Now they have been replaced with charity bins seeking good for resale only

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Very confusing what I can donate - I heard that they do not want "garbage" IE in-useable clothing

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I like that they do recycle textiles at places like value village and therefore sort my items into those to be recycled and those that can be put up for sale.

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It's easy to donate wearable or reusable items but I don't know what to do with textiles that are too worn out. Fabric recyclers aren't well known but u would feel so much better about recycling them.

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I only donate clothing if the are in good shape, its respect to other people. You would not like to wear raggedy and stained clothing.

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I think textile recycling is a great idea and would like Curbside pick up as opposed to having to drive it to a donation center

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Attachment B – Options Analysis

<b>Options Analysis</b>			
HRM Operates – Higher Risk options			
Scenario	Associated costs	Pros	Cons
<p>Municipal single stream collection</p> <p>Processing/marketing via HRM's MRF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$540,000 per year for collection</li> <li>• Marketing and shipping costs (varied)</li> <li>• Processing fees of \$112 per tonne. Fees may vary as this was not contemplated in current contract.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential revenue source</li> <li>• Consistent collection day for residents</li> <li>• Quicker disposal of small volumes (no need to store small amounts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue from marketing may not off-set collection and shipping cost</li> <li>• Lost opportunity for regional partnerships with areas that include textiles in blue bag</li> <li>• Lost revenue for charities; municipality would be in competition</li> <li>• Curbside volume is unpredictable which could make collection unviable over time</li> <li>• Delayed implementation pending MRF contract renewals in 2019</li> </ul>
<p>Municipal co-mingled collection (collected with paper)</p> <p>Processing/marketing via HRM's MRF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unknown impact to collection costs with shift of material from garbage to recycling stream</li> <li>• Processing fees of \$112 per tonne to sort. Fees may vary as this was not contemplated in current contract.</li> <li>• Marketing and shipping costs (varied)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential revenue source</li> <li>• Consistent collection day for residents</li> <li>• Quicker disposal of small volumes (no need to store small amounts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revenue from marketing may not off-set collection and shipping cost</li> <li>• Lost revenue for charities; municipality would be in competition</li> <li>• Lost opportunity for regional partnerships at MRF</li> <li>• Delayed implementation pending contract renewals in 2019</li> <li>• Shift of textiles from garbage to recycling may have an impact on unit pricing for curbside collection</li> </ul>

<p>Municipal single stream collection</p> <p>Processing/marketing via third party vendor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$540,000 per year for collection</li> <li>• Processor may charge a tipping fee or pay HRM a fee per tonne</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional revenue for the organization selected to collect and process</li> <li>• Consistent collection day for residents</li> <li>• Frees capacity at MRF for regional partnerships</li> <li>• Quicker disposal of small volumes (no need to store small amounts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of revenue for other charities / not for profits if only one organization is awarded a contract</li> <li>• Curbside volume is unpredictable which could make a regular collection schedule unviable</li> <li>• Risk of third party rejecting loads due to marketability</li> <li>• HRM would own the material and be responsible to find end markets</li> </ul>
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HRM Facilitates/Assists – Lower Risk options

Scenario	Associated costs	Pros	Cons
<p>Single stream collection and processing provided by third party vendor (RFP process)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could result in lower/nil per collection rate (i.e. Aurora, ON)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional revenue for the organization selected</li> <li>• Consistent collection day for residents</li> <li>• Capacity at MRF can be used of current bluebag material and enhancing regional partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of revenue for other charities / not for profits if only one organization is awarded a contract</li> <li>• May not have collections for all HRM's collection zones (i.e. focus on urban/suburban)</li> <li>• Curbside volume is unpredictable which could make collection unviable over time</li> </ul>

<p>Municipal partnership with textile collection organizations to provide on demand at home pick-up through Halifax Recycles app.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to \$5,000 licencing fee for app module</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leverages existing resources and programs</li><li>• Residents can choose which organization to support</li><li>• On demand service assures volumes and trucks are only on the routes when and where they are needed</li><li>• Can be implemented in a relatively short timeframe, dependant on scoping of EOI.</li><li>• Additional materials could be collected</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Residents may need to store small amounts until a suitable volume is collected for a service provider</li></ul>
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