

What are your thoughts regarding the City of Lethbridge recycling/garbage collection/composting program?

Based on presentations to Council, the black/blue bin program is working well to achieve the goal of diverting recyclables from the landfill, and the City is achieving some targets. To keep costs down, residents have a role to play by keeping recyclable materials out of our garbage.

Protecting the environment, keeping our city sustainable, meeting GHG targets, and reducing the need to buy land to bury garbage require solutions that reduce waste (more on this coming at [jenschmidtrempe.ca](http://jenschmidtrempe.ca)). Council has approved \$10.6M for the green bin program starting in 2023. I believe the next Council should consider pausing the planned rollout to review the 2016 Waste Management Strategy and explore solutions for biodegradable waste that includes green bins, home composters, expanded yard waste sites, etc. – understanding the costs and benefits of each. The decision must be data-driven, effective, and not just a feel-good measure. I'm disappointed we didn't support local businesses offering curbside recycling when blue bins were implemented; perhaps this could be examined with green bins.

I have heard from some residents whose bins have moved from the alley to the street. These conversations have two common themes: the decision came without neighbourhood input, and the approach seems to be one size fits all. Part of the issue is that garbage trucks are too heavy for alleys. Fair enough. Ultimately though, City departments need to partner with residents to explore neighbourhood-generated options before deciding what is best for us. One size fits all doesn't fit everyone!