

# Staff Report

Presented By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer  
Meeting Date: January 5, 2026  
Subject: Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) 2026 Budget Approval  
Attachment(s): 2026 BASWR Budget

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## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the 2026 Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling Budget.

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## **Report Summary**

BASWR is a joint collaboration involving seven lower tier municipalities within Bruce County for waste / recycling collection and disposal. Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, BASWR's annual budget requires approval by each member municipality. The 2026 budget reflects changes due to the new Extended Producer Responsibility program for Blue Box materials starting January 1, 2026. Council is being asked to approve the BASWR 2026 budget.

## **Background/Analysis**

Bruce Area Solid Waste Recycling (BASWR) is a joint collaboration among the following seven municipalities: Township of Huron-Kinloss, Municipality of South Bruce Peninsula, Municipality of Kincardine, Municipality of South Bruce, Town of Saugeen Shores, Municipality of Brockton and Municipality of Arran-Elderslie. Formalized on August 19, 1999, BASWR's purpose is to provide garbage / recycling collection and disposal services for its member communities. It is managed by a Board consisting of representatives from each member municipality and maintains its own budget.

Because of its structure, BASWR does not operate independently from its member municipalities. Under the *Municipal Act, 2001*, each municipality must approve BASWR's budget. The process is as follows:

- The BASWR Board of Management approves the annual budget.
- Each member municipality then approves the BASWR budget as part of its own budget.

With the implementation of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regime for Blue Box materials effective January 1, 2026, BASWR's 2026 budget reflects changes from previous years. There is no longer a "cost per household" charged back to each municipality for the provision of

household recycling services. Household recycling services will now be paid for through an organization known as “Circular Materials”, a not-for-profit organization comprised of producers of recyclable materials whose objective it is to meet the requirements of the “Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations” established by the province. BASWR will now be compensated for the collection of household recycling through the “Circular Materials” program, and this has allowed the Town to implement in 2026, a reduction of \$19 per household to the Fixed Waste Management fee in Saugeen Shores.

Costs associated with the collection of industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) recycling is not provided under the new recycling initiative mentioned above. The Town has budgeted funds to provide an ICI drop-off location for recycling materials at the Saugeen Shores landfill.

The Board of Management approved the 2026 budget on December 3, 2025. The BASWR 2026 budget was included as an attachment to the Final 2026 Business Plan and Budget Staff Report on December 8, 2025. Council is being asked to approve the BASWR 2026 budget (attached).

### **Linkages**

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: CAO Business as Usual

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding**

Cost associated with this program are contained within the existing budget.

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