



## The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

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### Staff Report

**Report Title: Cleanfarms Partnership Agreement**

**Date: Apr. 3, 2024**

**Report Number: PW-2024-04-14**

**Department: Public Works**

**File Number: C11 PW 24**

**Prepared By: John Yungblut, Director of Public Works**

**Attachments: Cleanfarms Agreement, Cleanfarms Equipment Waiver**

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#### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives Report PW2024-04-14 prepared by John Yungblut, Director of Public Works;

AND agrees to enter into a partnership agreement with Cleanfarms to collect and recycle bale wrap at the Huron Landfill;

AND FURTHER authorizes the Director of Public Works to sign all necessary documentation.

#### **Background:**

In 2021, Cleanfarms initiated the Agricultural Plastics Recovery Project in Bruce County that recycled various agricultural plastic waste including bale wrap, silage wrap, bunker covers and twine. Seven landfills participated in the project in Bruce County, including the Huron Landfill.

On Feb. 16, 2024, Township staff were informed that the federal funding was set to expired by March 31, 2024 and Cleanfarms has been unable to secure another funding source to support the program. We were told at that time that we would have to cease accepting agricultural plastics through this program effective March 19<sup>th</sup>. The only material that could be recycled after this date is bale wrap, however, the municipality would have to enter into a partnership agreement with Cleanfarm that requires the municipality to bale the material before it can be transported to the recycling facility.

#### **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

Township staff see the value in the program and would like to see it continue in whatever manner possible. Through the partnership agreement, Cleanfarms will supply a hydraulic baling machine, so the Township only needs to supply the labour to make the bales and a machine to operate the hydraulic press. Unfortunately, the silage wrap, bunker covers and twine that we were collecting, cannot be collected through this program because the type of plastic they are made from. We hope that these can be included in the future if a new funding source can be secured.

Under this agreement, the Township will own the baling machine, so we will be responsible for any maintenance and repairs.

While this program is better than no program at all, in the opinion of Township staff, the long-term goal should be a province wide program that is funded by the producers of the agricultural plastics in Ontario. Staff have been encouraged with news that PEI initiated a regulated extended producer responsibility program for agricultural plastics in 2022 and Quebec initiated a similar program in October 2023. We see these programs as the only sustainable means of recycling these products over the long term.

**Financial Impacts:**

The cost of operating and maintaining the baling machine will be included in the Operating Budget.

**Performance Measurement:**

Quantity of waste diverted from the landfill.

**Strategic Area:**

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|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability         |

**Strategic Goal: Protect, promote and restore our natural environment**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

John Yungblut, Director of Public Works

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer