



**A leading voice for a healthy and environmentally sustainable community.**

Box 383 Lethbridge AB T1J 3E9

January 29, 2017

To: Mayor Spearman and Council

Re: Community Curbside Recycling

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The Southern Alberta Group for the Environment (SAGE) commends the City of Lethbridge for its leadership and commitment to better managing municipal solid waste: by setting strong waste diversion goals, by its dedicated support for diversion in the ICI and C&D sectors, and by its decision to implement community-wide curbside recycling.

We understand the complexity of the issues around waste diversion, but we also understand that there are long-term benefits to recycling and composting, including the surety of feedstock for future manufacturers, the conservation of non-renewable energy and mineral resources, the reduction of pollutants and greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, the protection of fresh water systems from leachate contamination, and the simple fact that it is becoming increasingly difficult to site landfills close to urban centers where we may dispose of our solid waste. As SAGE has consistently advocated: in the absence of strong motivations to reduce our consumption and repair/reuse products, we have a minimum obligation as a community to responsibly manage our waste.

SAGE would also like to acknowledge the skilled and committed team in Waste & Recycling Services for their efforts in providing a coherent waste management plan adopting best practices from many other municipalities. Perhaps more importantly, we appreciate their notable efforts in communicating the process, the outcomes and the benefits of the waste management plan in the broader community. Our understanding has greatly benefited by their clearly presented research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Braum Barber".

Braum Barber  
Executive Director