

CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

Solid Waste Collection Service Levels

Motion:

That Council approve the residential solid waste collection service levels outlined in Appendix 3 as attached to the Council report dated May 4, 2016, with the new waste collection program to commence in the spring of 2018.

Purpose:

This report provides information on a new proposed service level for the collection of residential solid waste, including the addition of a separate organics stream, change in collection frequency and change in collection method. The presentation will focus on the analysis and regional comparison of the recommended service level, implementation options and cost impacts.

Background:

The curbside waste program currently includes the manual collection of garbage and recycling on a weekly basis. No volume restrictions exist and all customers pay a flat rate.

Pilot Project

Infrastructure Management has piloted 3-stream automated collection from April 2014 to the present. Performance of the pilot was reviewed in 2015. A service level review and cost analysis was conducted in 2016. Details are available in Appendix 1.

Approximately 1,000 households participated in this pilot program. Customer feedback and review of the pilot provided several key lessons, including:

- Residents would use an organics collection service, increasing the diversion rate.
- Carts would be accepted if concerns about size, storage, and placement are addressed.
- More communication and information is necessary to help residents adapt to the carts and make best use of the organics service.

Regional Comparison

To meet provincial and regional diversion targets while mitigating landfill cost increases, most communities in the Capital Region have an organics collection program. To mitigate increasing collection costs, automated pick-up and reduced garbage collection frequency have become a common practice. A service level summary for regional comparators is available in Appendix 2.

New Service Level

Overall, the new service level aims at improving the City's diversion rate through collection of separated organics and resident education programs. Service level recommendations have been made based on pilot project feedback, best practices research and program consistency within the region.

Proposed service level changes are:

- Add the collection of a separate organics stream (weekly in summer, bi-weekly in winter).
- Reduce collection frequency for garbage (bi-weekly, year-round).
- Provide carts compatible with automated pick-up for garbage and organics.

A service level chart is available in Appendix 3.

Implementation Timelines

Administrative, legal and logistical work must be completed ahead of cart delivery. Contract templates and bylaws must be updated. Communication and community education plans need to be developed and put into action. Vendors must be procured and staff must be recruited.

Contractor procurement will begin upon approval of a service level. The launch date of a new service will depend on when resources are made available to complete other related work.

Option 1: Spring 2018

- Additional resources would be built-in to the 2017 budget and be funded from utility rates.
- A draft bylaw and communications framework would be developed using existing resources in 2016 and fully developed in 2017.
- An 18-month time frame would be available for communications and logistics planning to ensure a smooth program launch.
- Potential rate increases would be divided over two years to avoid spikes.
- Contract would include an additional year of conventional waste collection. Minor adjustments to the existing pilot program area may also be necessary.
- Provision of alternate options for disposal of organic waste may be necessary for residents wanting to divert their household/food-waste organics.

Option 2: Spring 2017

- Additional, unbudgeted resources would be required to be approved immediately in 2016 to complete work including bylaw development and initiating the communications process.
- Diversion of organic waste would begin earlier.

Plans/Standards/Legislation:

Community Sustainability Plan (2014)

Principal C –Stewardship of the Environment, Principal D – Using our Resources Wisely
Priority E – Urban Resources

- Diverting organic waste allows for value-added use the material and reduces adverse long-term impacts on landfills.
- Use of carts deters pests, reduces spillage from bags, and improves collection efficiency.

Too Good to Waste

Alberta Environment, October 2007

Alberta Capital Region Integrated Waste Management Plan

Capital Region Waste Minimization Advisory Committee, April 2013

Alberta Urban Municipalities Association “Working Together Toward Zero Waste” Initiative

Waste Sort, Survey and Equipment Evaluation

City of Fort Saskatchewan (Advanced Enviro Engineering Ltd.), July 2015

Waste Collection Service Level Review, Cost Analysis and Program Implementation Study

City of Fort Saskatchewan (Tetra Tech EBA Inc.), April 2016

Financial Implications:

Administration recently reviewed cost estimates provided by the consultant. Revised costs do not consider adjustments to the current solid waste collection contract. Contractor procurement is scheduled for fall 2016.

Capital

Cart purchasing (14,800 carts)
2017: \$950,000

Operating

One-Time Costs (Cart delivery, bylaw review, workstation)
2017: \$25,000
2018: \$50,000
Total: \$75,000

On-Going Costs (Staffing, supplies & materials, marketing, transfer to reserve)
2017: \$200,000
2018: \$285,000
Total: \$485,000

A 2018 new service launch would require new resources to be included in the 2017 budget, to be funded from utility rates. A 2018 launch would also enable utility rates to be gradually adjusted over the two year implementation period.

A 2017 new service launch would require additional unbudgeted resources in 2016. These costs would lead to an operational budget shortfall.

The overall financial impact on solid waste rates is estimated to be up to \$5 per month per household.

Internal Impacts:

Additional staffing resources are required in order to implement these changes. Resources will provide overall solid waste collection program leadership and coordination, administrative support, customer support, and education. Communication with residents will be enhanced using interactive and face to face communications delivered with the support of summer students.

The program implementation time is estimated to be 8 - 10 months. This means that resources must be in place 10 - 12 months prior to the program launch date, to accommodate advance work.

Alternatives:

1. That Council approve the recommended residential solid waste collection service levels, with new waste services starting in the spring of 2018.
2. That Council approve the recommended residential solid waste collection service levels, with new waste services starting in the spring of 2017. An additional Council motion will be required: *"That Council amend the 2016 budget to include new 2017 costs associated to the Solid Waste Collection Program, i.e. \$950,000 in capital and \$225,000 in operating."*
3. That Council direct Administration to maintain existing solid waste collection service levels.

Recommendation:

That Council approve the residential solid waste collection service levels outlined in Appendix 3 as attached to the Council report dated May 4, 2016, with the new waste collection program to commence in the spring of 2018.

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – “Waste Collection Service Levels Review” – Tetra Tech EBA Inc., April 2016

Appendix 2 – Regional Comparison

Appendix 3 – Recommended Residential Service Levels Summary

File No.:

Prepared by:	Bradley McDonald Manger, Utility Services	Date: May 4, 2016
Approved by:	Troy Fleming General Manager Infrastructure & Community Services	Date: May 5, 2016
Reviewed by:	Kelly Kloss City Manager	Date: May 5, 2016
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: May 10, 2016