



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF COURTENAY

STAFF REPORT

To: Council
From: Chief Administrative Officer
Subject: Solid Waste Collection Service – Excess Yard Waste

File No.: 05360-02
Date: April 12, 2023

PURPOSE:

To present an interim solution for the collection of additional yard waste beyond the 360 litre per residential dwelling unit limit by amending the current Collection Service agreement to include the option to purchase additional yard waste tags.

CAO RECOMMENDATIONS:

That based on the April 12, 2023 staff report “Solid Waste Collection Service – Excess Yard Waste”, that Council approve Option 1 and direct staff to update the current collection agreement with Halton Recycling Ltd. dba Emterra Environmental to include terms for the purchase of additional yard waste tags in excess of 360 litres per residential dwelling unit, and; THAT Council give first, second and third readings to “City of Courtenay Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 3098” to allow excess yard waste tags to be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 per tag, and THAT Council give first, second and third readings to “City of Courtenay Refuse Materials Collection, Removal and Regulation Bylaw No. 3099” to limit extra paper yard waste bags to two per collection.

Geoff Garbutt, M.Pl., MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer

BACKGROUND:

In anticipation of the City’s automated collection service beginning January 2024, and with consideration for the past collection service failures and inequity in service cost, the service delivery model was updated starting January 1, 2023 to limit the volume of organic material collected weekly. The 360-litre limit also reflects the maximum size of the collection cart that can be accommodated by the trucks in the upcoming automated service. In response to public requests for more flexibility, Council has requested that staff explore options allowing for additional yard waste collection beyond the 360-litre limit based on the purchase of yard waste tags for the remainder of 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Yard waste volumes within the City fluctuate throughout the year. Spring and fall present the highest volumes of yard debris collection, whereas winter and summer months typically have lower volumes of yard waste. The need for larger volumes of the collection is principally driven by the presence of mature trees

and hedges and, adjacency to greenways or boulevard trees. Concerns being expressed to staff by residents are predominantly regarding high volumes of debris caused by deciduous boulevard trees in spring and fall, and by those required to have six or more trees as stipulated by the Tree Bylaw, and as confirmed on the Tree Bylaw Map.

To quantify and assess the need for additional collection among City residents, a tracking system for yard waste tag sales will be established. Staff will record the location and zone of properties where tickets will be used, in addition to the overall quantity purchased throughout the year. This information can be shared with the contractor so they can assess the potential need for additional staffing for organics collection within a particular zone or area. To mitigate service shortfalls impacted by variations in yard waste volumes Emterra Environmental has requested that in addition to the permitted 360 litres per residential dwelling unit, that tag use be limited to two extra bags weekly or an additional 240 litres.

Staff engaged in a cost analysis to set the price per yard waste tag by looking at the estimated cost of the tipping fee, administrative cost, and negotiated cost of the service provision. With these considerations, the cost per tag should be set at a rate of \$5.00 per ticket. To ensure full cost recovery, the price of the garbage ticket has been amended to the \$5.00 rate. While the tipping fee for garbage may be greater than the tipping fee for yard waste, the allowable amount per excess garbage tag is 50 litres, whereas the suggested allowance for excess yard waste bags is 120 litres.

The administration of a yard waste ticket (tag) system maintains service equitability by allocating the cost of excess yard waste to the areas producing the materials. The data gathered will allow staff to gain a better understanding of the areas in the City that require a higher volume of yard waste to be collected, if seasonal demands are present, and whether the need is driven by private or public property. It will also enable staff to evaluate the most appropriate solutions to explore for the 2024 automated collection system.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

To ensure service equitability while establishing cost, the following criteria have been considered: tipping fee, administrative cost, and overall cost of service provision from the contractor.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS:

Tracking of tag purchases and the subsequent analysis of collected data will require additional staff time from both Financial Services and Public Works Services.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES REFERENCE:

We focus on organizational & governance excellence

- Support and encourage initiatives to improve efficiencies
- Communicate appropriately with our community in all decisions we make
- Responsibly provide services at levels which the people we serve are willing to pay

We proactively plan and invest in our natural and built environment

- Make progress on the objectives of the BC Climate Action Charter

▲ ■ Support actions to address Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

- **AREA OF CONTROL:** The policy, works and programming matters that fall within Council's jurisdictional authority to act
- ▲ **AREA OF INFLUENCE:** Matters that fall within shared or agreed jurisdiction between Council and another government or party
- **AREA OF CONCERN:** Matters of interest that are outside Council's jurisdictional authority to act

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN REFERENCE:

- MI 17** Support the continued extension of garbage, yard waste, recycling and kitchen organics service to all Courtenay properties and work with the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board to increase the diversion targets to 90% of residential, industrial, commercial and institutional Waste, including %100 of organic waste, by 2050.
- MI 18** Explore zero-waste approaches in waste management, including prioritizing upstream approaches that avoid, reduce, and reuse waste in all applications of local government jurisdiction. This includes, but is not limited to:
- d. materials restrictions and bans from the landfill where alternatives exist and diversion options are viable.
 - f. obtaining accurate data of waste streams for monitoring, education and planning purposes

REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY REFERENCE:

Objective 5-E: Reduce regional solid waste and improve landfill performance.

Policy 5E-1 include references to waste reduction and waste diversion programs

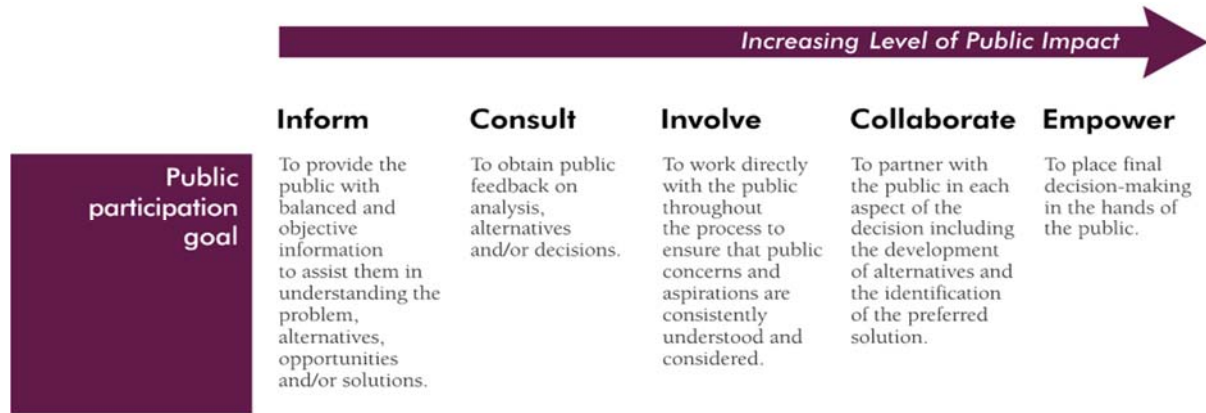
Objective 8-C: Reduce GHG emissions in the solid waste sector.

Policy 8C-1 Develop a valley-wide solid waste management strategy that reduces garbage landfilled through recycling and composting to achieve 75% diversion rate by 2035.

CITIZEN/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:

Staff would inform the public based on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation:

http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/imported/IAP2%20Spectrum_vertical.pdf



OPTIONS: RESOLUTIONS TO BE MADE SEPARATELY

OPTION 1: THAT Council direct Staff to update the current collection agreement with Halton Recycling Ltd. dba Emterra Environmental to include terms for the purchase of additional yard waste tags in excess of 360 litres per residential dwelling unit.

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to "City of Courtenay Fees and Charges A mendment Bylaw No. 3098" to allow excess yard waste tags to be purchased at a cost of \$5.00 per tag.

THAT Council give first, second and third readings to "City of Courtenay Refuse Materials Collection, Removal and Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 3099" to limit extra paper yard waste bags to two per collection.
(Recommended)

OPTION 2: THAT Council provides alternate direction.

OPTION 3: THAT Council receives this report for information.

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