

Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options - Update

Presented To:	Operations Committee
Meeting Date:	April 20, 2026
Type:	Referred & Deferred Matters
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Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Infrastructure

Report Summary

This report provides a recommendation regarding the implementation of an annual flexible residential tipping fee and gate fee exemption as well as a program for low-density residential non-services households beginning in 2027. This report is an update to the Tipping Fee Holiday Options report. This item was deferred from the November 24, 2025, Operations Committee meeting.

Resolution

THAT the City of Greater Sudbury directs staff to replace the spring and fall residential tipping fee holidays and the existing weekly 50 kg residential tipping fee exemption with an annual flexible residential exemption and a program for low-density residential non-serviced households beginning in 2027 as detailed in Option 8 of the report entitled “Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options - Update” from the General Manager of Community Infrastructure presented at the Operations Committee meeting on March 23, 2026.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Climate Action Plans

This report refers to Asset Management and Service Excellence as well as Climate Change as outlined in the 2019-2027 Strategic Plan and to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan goal to achieve 90% solid waste diversion by 2050.

The recommendation to implement an annual flexible residential tipping and gate fee exemption and a program for low-density residential non-serviced households supports the City’s strategic objectives by promoting waste diversion, reducing operational strain at landfill sites, and promoting the use of existing roadside collection services. These outcomes demonstrate alignment with the City’s broader goals of delivering high-quality municipal services while protecting environmental and financial resources for the future.

The Community Energy and Emissions Plan identifies waste management as a key area for reducing community emissions. By promoting the use of existing roadside collection programs and reinforcing waste diversion through graduated tipping fees, the report supports the goal of minimizing landfill-related emissions and encouraging more sustainable waste practices.

Financial Implications

If approved, replacing the spring and fall residential tipping fee holidays and the existing weekly 50 kg residential tipping fee exemption with an annual flexible residential exemption and a program low-density residential non-serviced households will result in an expense of \$209,952 to be included in the 2027 budget as described in Option 8.

Background

As part of the 2024/2025 budget process, Council approved Resolution FA2023-75-A26 from the Finance and Administration Committee, initiating a pilot project to reduce the residential tipping fee holiday to a single week in the spring, allowing residents to dispose of waste at the landfill without paying the tipping fee and gate fee during that week. The objective was to enhance operational efficiency and optimize the allocation of municipal resources.

The pilot was implemented in both 2024 and 2025, during which the City offered one residential tipping fee holiday week in May, eliminating the fall event. Results of the pilot were presented to the Operations Committee on August 11, 2025, in a report titled “Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Pilot Project Update”. At that meeting, the Committee deferred the report and directed staff to explore alternative models for the program. These included options such as offering one or two free landfill trips per household annually and tracking usage by residential address rather than by license plate. These additional options were presented to the Committee on November 24, 2025, in a report titled “Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options”. At that meeting, the Committee deferred the report and directed staff to explore additional options including increasing the weekly residential tipping fee exemption from 50 kg to 100 kg and switching to annual exemption limited to 100 kg.

Analysis

The following section outlines eight options for the future of the residential tipping fee holiday program. Each option has been evaluated based on financial impact, operational efficiency, flexibility, reduction of potential unauthorized use, participation in roadside waste collection over individual landfill deliveries, and alignment with the City’s waste diversion goals and inclusivity and equitability.

A summary of the eight options is provided in Appendix “A” - Summary of Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options, for quick reference and comparison.

Appendix “B” – Option Evaluation provides a colour coded rating of each option for evaluation and comparison.

Option 1: Maintain a Single Annual Tipping Fee Holiday in the Spring – presented August 11, 2025, and updated November 24, 2025

This option outlines the formalization of a once-per-year residential tipping fee holiday held during one week in the spring. It was presented to the Operations Committee on August 11, 2025, and again on November 24, 2025, with updated financial impacts. Further details are provided in the reports “*Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Pilot Project*” and “*Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options*,” available through the link provided in the Resources Cited section of this report.

Option 2: Maintain the Annual Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays – presented November 24, 2025

This option outlines the provision of two residential tipping fee holidays per year held during one week in the spring and one week in the fall. It was presented to the Operations Committee on November 24, 2025, and is described in detail in the report “*Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options*,” available through the link provided in the Resources Cited section of this report.

Option 3: Eliminate the Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays and Provide One Free Residential Landfill Trip Annually presented November 24, 2025

This option outlines the replacement of the residential tipping fee holiday program with a single no-charge landfill tipping and gate fee per household each calendar year, with no weight limit, redeemable at any time. It was presented to the Operations Committee on November 24, 2025, and is described in detail in the report “*Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options*,” available through the link provided in the Resources Cited section of this report.

Option 4: Eliminate the Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays and Provide Two Free Residential Landfill Trip Annually - presented November 24, 2025

This option outlines the replacement of the residential tipping fee holiday program with two no-charge landfill tipping and gate fee per household each calendar year, with no weight limit, redeemable at any time. It was presented to the Operations Committee on November 24, 2025, and is described in detail in the report “Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options,” available through the link provided in the Resources Cited section of this report.

Option 5: Eliminate the Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays and Increase the Weekly Residential Tipping Fee Exemption from 50kg to 100kg per Week – new option March 23, 2026

Prior to 2014, the residential tipping fee exemption allowed each private motor vehicle to dispose up to 100 kg of waste per week at no charge. In 2013, Council approved reducing this exemption to 50 kg per week to encourage greater waste separation and diversion and to discourage unnecessary disposal of materials that could otherwise be diverted from landfill. The City’s Solid Waste Management Strategy (2015–2020) further recommended eliminating the exemption entirely. Greater Sudbury remains the only Ontario municipality that provides residents with both a weekly landfill exemption and full roadside garbage collection services.

Under the current residential roadside waste collection system, residents may place up to two garbage bags at the roadside every other week, with a maximum weight of 18 kg per bag (36 kg total). The existing 50 kg weekly landfill exemption is nearly triple the roadside capacity. To put this into perspective, the current weekly residential landfill exemption combined with the residential roadside collection allowance is equivalent to approximately 7.5 bags every other week. If the weekly residential exemption were increased to 100 kg per week, residents would be permitted to dispose of the equivalent of over 13 bags of household waste every other week. With the wide range of diversion programs currently available, including Blue Box recycling, green cart organics, household hazardous waste, and leaf and yard trimmings, furniture, appliances and electronics, mattresses and boxsprings, cloth items, tires and scrap metal, such disposal capacity far exceeds what is necessary for typical residential waste generation.

Raising the weekly exemption from 50 kg to 100 kg per week would reduce the incentive for residents to separate recyclable and compostable materials from garbage and potentially undermining the effectiveness and use of the existing roadside residential waste collection program. This outcome does not support the City’s long-term objective of extending landfill lifespan by reducing disposal volumes or providing efficient service delivery.

The estimated revenue loss to provide a weekly 100 kg residential exemption is approximately \$997,282 in 2027. When the projected costs of the spring and fall residential tipping fee holidays are removed, the net revenue loss attributable to providing a 100 kg weekly exemption is \$441,426 in 2027 (Table 1). However, the 2026/2027 budget did not include the cost of the fall tipping fee holiday. Therefore, the net annual expense to deliver this program in the 2027 budget is estimated to be \$673,189.

Table 1: Total Financial Impact to Increase the Weekly Residential Tipping Fee Exemption to 100 kg

Expenses and Service Changes	2027
Revenue Loss to Provide 100 kg Weekly Residential Tipping Fee Exemption	\$997,282
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Spring Tip Fee Holiday	\$(324,093)
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Fall Tip Fee Holiday	\$(231,763)
Total	\$441,426

Option 6: Eliminate the Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays and Replace the Weekly Residential Tipping Fee Exemption with an Annual Flexible Residential Exemption of 100 kg – new option March 23, 2026

Under this option, residents would receive a single annual combined gate fee exemption and tipping fee exemption for up to 100 kg of garbage, applied automatically during their first landfill visit within the calendar year. This approach can be fully tracked through the existing scale house software system, eliminating the administrative effort and costs associated with issuing and managing physical tickets. The exemption would replace both the spring and fall residential tipping fee holidays, as well as the current weekly 50 kg residential exemption.

Implementing a single annual flexible residential exemption is anticipated to reduce operational pressures at landfill sites by smoothing out peak traffic volumes associated with the existing exemption programs and minimizing delays at the scale house.

This model effectively supports the City's waste diversion objectives by promoting increased use of roadside collection and diversion services, encouraging residents to prioritize recycling, organics separation, and other established diversion programs before choosing landfill disposal. It may also discourage unauthorized use of the landfill site by non-residents. However, adopting this option would exclude households that do not receive waste collection services and would adversely affect them by increasing the costs associated with proper waste disposal at the landfill, which remains their only disposal option.

Based on the number of unique residential vehicle visits, counting only one visit for every residential vehicle that visited the landfill during a one-year period (July 2024 to June 2025) including the residential tipping fee holiday, and 100 kg delivered by each vehicle, the estimated revenue loss to provide the exemption is \$394,660 in 2027. When the projected expense and revenue loss of the residential tipping fee holidays and the revenue loss from weekly exemption are removed, the estimated net revenue recovery is \$(936,704) in 2027 (Table 2). However, the 2026/2027 budget did not include the cost of the fall tipping fee holiday. Therefore, the net revenue recovery in the 2027 budget is estimated to be \$(704,941).

Table 2: Total Financial Impact to provide an Annual Flexible Residential Exemption

Expenses and Service Changes	2027
Revenue Loss to Provide Annual 100 kg Residential Tipping Fee Exemption	\$192,271
Revenue Loss for Gate Fee Associated with the Annual 100 kg Residential Tipping Fee Exemption Visits	\$202,390
Recover Revenue Loss for the Weekly Residential 50kg Exemption	\$(775,509)
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Spring Tip Fee Holiday	\$(324,093)
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Fall Tip Fee Holiday	\$(231,763)
Total	\$(936,704)

Option 7: Maintain the Annual Residential Spring Tipping Fee Holiday and Develop a Program for Low-Density Non-Serviced Households – new option March 23, 2026

A number of low-density residential properties do not receive waste collection due to their location on private or unmaintained roads, or their accessibility only by water. These households must transport all household waste directly to a municipal landfill site. It is estimated that approximately 2,500 low-density residential households fall into this non-serviced category.

Under this option, staff would develop a program allowing low-density residential non-serviced households to register for a weekly residential gate-fee and 50 kg tipping fee exemption. For all other residents, the existing 50 kg weekly exemption would be discontinued. This targeted approach acknowledges the unique circumstances of low-density residential properties without waste collection services while maintaining the

annual spring residential tipping-fee holiday for all residents.

This model best supports industry best practices and the City’s waste-diversion objectives by focusing exemptions on households with no collection alternative, rather than broadly incentivizing landfill disposal. Because participation is limited to a defined group of eligible low-density residential households who are already using the landfill sites, it is not expected to add operational pressure at landfill sites or increase wait times. This approach is a balanced, service-equity measure that preserves capacity and better prioritizes diversion.

For financial planning purposes, staff have assumed that half of the 2,500 identified households are seasonal dwellings occupied for only six months of the year. Based on this occupancy pattern, the estimated gate fee and tipping fee revenue loss associated with providing a weekly exemption for non-serviced low-density residential properties is approximately \$950,625 in 2027. An additional annual expense of \$30,189 (2027) in part-time hours would be required to administer the program. When the projected costs of the fall residential tipping fee holiday and the weekly residential 50 kg exemption is removed, the net revenue recovery attributable to providing a weekly 50 kg tipping fee and gate fee exemption for non-serviced households is \$(26,468) in 2027 (Table 3). However, the 2026/2027 budget did not include the cost of the fall tipping fee holiday. Therefore, the annual expense to deliver this program in the 2027 budget is estimated to be \$205,306.

Table 3: Total Financial Impact for Non-Serviced Households Program

Expenses and Service Changes	2027
Revenue Loss to Exempt Non-Serviced Households from Landfill Gate Fee	\$487,500
Revenue Loss to Provide Weekly 50 kg Exemption to Non-Serviced Households	\$463,125
Expense for Part Time Hours to Administer Program	\$30,179
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Fall Tip Fee Holiday	\$(231,763)
Recover Expense of Weekly 50 kg Residential Exemption	\$(775,508)
Total	\$(26,468)

Option 8: Eliminate the Spring and Fall Residential Tipping Fee Holidays and Replace the Weekly Residential Tipping Fee Exemption with an Annual Flexible Residential Exemption of 100 kg for and Develop a Program for Low-Density Non-Serviced Households – new option March 23, 2026

This option is a combination of Option 6 and 7. This program consists of:

- Eliminating the spring and fall tipping fee holidays.
- Eliminating the existing weekly 50 kg residential exemption program.
- Providing a single annual combined gate fee exemption and tipping fee exemption for up to 100 kg of garbage, applied automatically during the first landfill visit within the calendar year.
- Developing a program to allow low-density residential non-serviced households to register for a weekly residential gate fee and 50 kg tipping fee exemption. This program would be available by registration only and the exemption would be provided by way of an annual rebate based on actual landfill use of the registered vehicle for the household in the previous year.

While this option has a moderate financial impact, it offers the highest level of inclusivity while better supporting waste diversion objectives, increased use of roadside collection services, operational efficiency, flexibility for residents, and potential to reduce unauthorized use by non-residents. For these reasons, staff recommend Option 8 for implementation in 2027.

If this option is selected, as recommended by staff for implementation in 2027, the projected annual expense for 2027 is estimated to be \$290,952. The anticipated financial implications associated with this option are outlined in Table 4.

Table 4: Total Financial Impact to provide an Annual Flexible Residential Exemption and develop a program

for Non-Serviced Households

Expenses and Service Changes	2027
Revenue Loss to Provide Annual 100 kg Residential Tipping Fee Exemption	\$192,271
Revenue Loss for Gate Fee Associated with the Annual 100 kg Residential Tipping Fee Exemption Visits	\$202,390
Revenue Loss to Exempt Non-Serviced Households from Landfill Gate Fee	\$487,500
Revenue Loss to Provide Weekly 50 kg Exemption to Non-Serviced Households	\$463,125
Expense Part-Time Hours	\$45,268
Remove the Revenue loss for the Weekly Residential 50kg Exemption	\$(775,509)
Recover Expense and Revenue Loss of Spring Tip Fee Holiday	\$(324,093)
Total	\$290,952

Conclusion

Based on the Committee's direction to further explore alternatives that improve operational efficiency, enhance cost effectiveness, and better support the City's long-term waste diversion objectives, staff have reassessed the options originally presented. While staff initially supported Option 1, which offered a simplified and familiar model, the additional analysis prompted by Committee has demonstrated that other effective solutions are available.

Option 8, eliminating the spring and fall residential tipping fee holidays and replacing the existing weekly 50 kg residential exemption with a single annual flexible residential exemption as well as a program for low-density non-serviced households provides the most comprehensive and equitable solution. This model best meets the objectives established by Committee and most effectively aligns with the City's Strategic Plan and the Community Energy and Emissions Plan. Unlike Option 1, which continues to concentrate landfill traffic and does not meaningfully improve diversion behaviour, Option 8 distributes landfill use more evenly throughout the year, reduces peak congestion, eliminates the administrative burden of physical tickets, and promotes greater use of the City's existing roadside and diversion programs.

Importantly, Option 8 also ensures that low-density households without access to roadside waste collection receive appropriate and fair consideration through a tailored exemption program. This targeted approach supports service equity without incentivizing broader landfill disposal. Although this option has a moderate financial impact, the combination of operational improvements, enhanced diversion outcomes, and equitable service delivery positions it as the most balanced and forward-looking alternative.

For these reasons, staff recommend Option 8 for implementation effective January 1, 2027.

Resources Cited

December 19, 2023 City of Greater Sudbury Finance and Administration Committee resolutions number FA2023-75-A26 available at:

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/FileStream.ashx?DocumentId=52123>

Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Pilot Project Update report presented to the Operations Committee on August 11, 2025, available at:

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=c7321a02-ba0e-403f-a3d2-c9b3bcc3ea81&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=16&Tab=attachments>

Residential Tipping Fee Holiday Options report presented to the Operations Committee on November 24, 2025, available at:

<https://pub-greatersudbury.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=49bc216e-3070-41e9-b9ca-b19d60dc2310&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=20&Tab=attachments>