

Purpose

This report is an update to the Implementation Plan – Waste Collection Policies report presented to City Council on July 12, 2016. The report provides additional support options to assist residents with the transition from weekly to every other week garbage and leaf & collection scheduled to commence in February 2021.

Background

In July 2016, Council approved the implementation plan for new waste collection policies.

In October 2016, the garbage bag limit was reduced from three to two bags and the unlimited weekly collection of leaf & yard trimmings, blue box recyclables, green cart organics and large furniture and appliances was maintained. To support this change, four support programs were created. This included, a children's disposal diaper exemption, a medical circumstances exemption, a cloth diaper rebate and a dog waste digester rebate.

In October 2019, the garbage bag limit was reduced from two to one bag and the unlimited weekly collection of leaf & yard trimmings, blue box recyclables, green cart organics and large furniture and appliances was maintained. One additional exemption support program was created for pet waste.

These special support programs undoubtedly contributed to the success of the 2016 and 2019 waste collection changes.

Staff is currently preparing for the last phase of the implementation plan. This will include a change from weekly to every other week garbage and leaf & yard collection with a limit of two garbage bags per household unit. Unlimited quantities of leaf & yard trimmings will be collected every other week. The unlimited co-collection of Blue Box recyclables, Green Cart organics and large furniture, appliances and electronics will continue on a weekly basis. These policies are aimed at encouraging participation and maximizing the use of existing waste diversion programs, especially the Green Cart organics program.

Even though the majority of waste will continue to be collected weekly, concerns relating to animals and odours are expected. For this reason, the 2016 Implementation plan allocated \$50,000 for the development of programming that would address storage concerns.

The majority of issues related to animals getting into garbage can be alleviated by proper storage of garbage in a secure location (out of the sun or heat), using the weekly green cart for food waste or by placing garbage bags in a secure animal resistant storage container (refer to Appendix A --- Approved Waste Storage Containers). Residents who prefer not to store garbage, especially diapers or seasonal residents that miss garbage collection can choose to deliver their waste directly to a landfill site. Residents worried

about missing their garbage collection day should download the Waste Wise app and sign up for the collection day reminders.

However, to assist with the next transition, staff has prepared the following additional support programs for the Committee's consideration:

1. Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Rent to Own
2. Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Subsidy
3. Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Rent to Own & Subsidy
4. Weekly Collection - Disposable Diapers
5. Weekly Collection - Seasonal Properties

Options and Analysis

Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Rent to Own

The City's approved animal resistant waste storage container is costly (approximately \$667 to \$1003, including taxes and delivery) and may pose financial challenges for some residents.

A rent-to-own program would alleviate the upfront costs and permit qualifying property owners to make monthly payments to recover the full cost of the container (container, delivery, inventory, staff time etc.) over a one year period.

Staff is suggesting that the program be terminated after three years.

All costs including staff time will be recovered over the term of a one year rental agreement. The up-front equipment costs and recoveries will be accounted for in the year of purchase. The uncommitted pieces of equipment may be inventoried as part of the year-end process.

Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Subsidy

Certain residents may prefer to directly purchase a City approved animal resistant container. In this case, a rebate in form of a geared to income subsidy could support this program. The subsidy concept was brought forward by the Solid Waste Advisory Panel.

The subsidy would be capped at \$45,000 per year for three years. For the duration of the program, an annual allocation of \$5,000 for additional temporary hours would be required for administration.

The program would be administered by way of application on a first come first serve basis. Only one subsidy would be granted to the property owner per approved household on the City's collection system.

This program would give greater consideration to applicants who have a greater financial need. The amount of each subsidy would be assessed as follows:

- Property owners with an annual family income below \$47,000 would receive a subsidy of 50% of the total cost.

- Property owners with an annual family income above \$47,000 would receive a subsidy of 25% of the total cost.

Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Rent to Own & Subsidy

This program combines the rent-to-own and subsidy programs. Approved applicants would receive a subsidy and the remainder of the cost would be fully recovered over a one year period.

Weekly Collection - Disposable Diapers

Disposable diapers are considered odorous and may cause concerns for certain residents. Most concerns can be addressed by ensuring the bag(s) of diapers are tightly closed in clear bags and stored safely. Another option would be to switch to cloth diapers and avoid the disposable diaper waste. However, if the resident is unable to store or deliver the diaper waste generated during the week without garbage collection to the landfill, a collection program for a fee could be developed.

The diaper exemption special support program applications would be updated to include a payment option to have the diaper waste collected on weeks without garbage collection. Resident will have the option of applying exclusively for the every other week diaper exemption or combining the exemption with the weekly collection for a fee per bag. The cost to collect one bag on the week without garbage collection is estimated at \$130 plus taxes for 26 weeks per year (2019 pricing). The fee would be paid upon approval and then annually upon reapplying for the program.

Weekly Collection - Seasonal Properties

Seasonal property owners may not always be in attendance at their seasonal properties during the week with garbage collection. They may have limited schedules when they are at their seasonal property. When they are in attendance, they have the option of delivering their garbage to the landfill site. However, some seasonal property owners may find that delivery is not the most convenient option for them.

A program could be developed for seasonal property owners who have limited attendance at a second residence. Residents who own a seasonal residential property that is eligible for roadside waste collection and is not their sole/primary residence would be eligible to apply for garbage collection during the week without garbage collection. The cost for one bag is estimated at \$130 plus taxes for 26 weeks per year (2019 pricing). The fee would be paid upon approval and then annually upon reapplying for the program.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Staff has developed additional support programs to address waste storage concerns associated with every other week garbage collection as detailed in the 2016 Implementation Plan.

Staff recommends that the Approved Animal Resistant Waste Storage Container – Rent to Own & Subsidy program be approved for a three year period. Staff also recommends that the full cost recovery weekly collection for diapers and seasonal properties programs be approved.

Resources Cited

City of Greater Sudbury, City Council, Manager's Report, Implementation Plan – Waste Collection Policies – Item R-3, July 12, 2016

Accessed online:

<https://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=agenda&action=navigator&lang=en&id=949&itemid=11403>