



City of Moose Jaw

COMMUNICATION # CC-2020-0314

TITLE: Bi-weekly Residential Waste Collection

TO: City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works and Utilities

DATE: November 26, 2020

PUBLIC: PUBLIC DOCUMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the City move to a full year bi-weekly residential waste collection schedule and include a free yard waste weekend in both June and July at an estimated cost of \$4,000.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City's weekly garbage collection currently operates four months of the year and requires additional labour and an extra garbage truck in the City fleet. The City provides bi-weekly collection for the other eight months of the year.

It should be noted that 25% of residential waste collected during the weekly schedule is comprised of recycling and other materials that can be diverted through several programs.

Moving collection to a full twelve (12) month bi-weekly schedule will foster greater recycling and diversion participation and a reduction in annual operating costs of \$88,925.

BACKGROUND

At the regular meeting of City Council on May 8, 2017, Council considered the Solid Waste Utility report (attachment i) and approved a new collection schedule of bi-weekly collection year-round with the following motion:

THAT the City waste collection schedule be changed to a ten-business day (biweekly) model.

The new schedule took effect on October 1, 2017. At the March 26, 2018 meeting of Executive Committee, City Council modified the waste collection schedule with the following motion:

THAT a weekly waste pickup schedule will apply to Moose Jaw residents for the months of June, July, August and September, effective June 2018."

At the September 10, 2018 meeting of Executive Committee, it considered the report Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 5156, Waste Management Bylaw (attachment ii). This report provided an option for homeowners to acquire a second waste bin and a second recycling bin at an additional equivalent monthly charge along with a fee for administration and delivery. The motions were as follows:

THAT the City allow a second waste bin if requested to residential properties receiving service at a cost of \$55 for delivery (or removal) and administration costs plus an additional charge of the applicable monthly bylaw collection rate per Schedule "H"

THAT the City allow a second recycling bin if requested to residential properties receiving service at a cost of \$27.50 for delivery (or removal) and administration costs plus an additional charge of the applicable monthly bylaw collection rate per Schedule "G".

DISCUSSION

The Department of Public Works & Utilities regularly reviews its business operations seeking efficiencies. The table below shows the average monthly residential waste disposal quantities per household by month:

2018 – 2020 Average Residential Waste Collected per Household (Kgs)											
Biweekly					Weekly				Biweekly		
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
43.9	31.1	40.2	50.4	63	88.5	78.5	66.3	43.6	56.1	46.4	38.1

The summer months show an increase in waste disposed for June, July, and August. This is partially attributed to the addition of yard waste, primarily composed of grass clippings. The City does not currently offer a residential composting collection program, nor a community bulk drop off location. A backyard composting bin and composting education is available to homeowners for \$25.00 (50% of cost subsidized by City).

The Solid Waste Utility has conducted waste composition studies in the winter and summer months to determine what is being disposed of in the residential stream. A category breakdown (attachment iii) is summarized as follows:

	Weekly Collection		Biweekly Collection	
	% Composition	Kilograms	% Composition	Kilograms
Recycling	12.6%	8.7	12.3%	5.7
SARCAN	1.7%	1.2	1.5%	0.7
Yard Waste	18.9%	13.1	3.4%	1.6
Other Compostable	30.3%	21.0	46.1%	21.3
Waste	25.9%	17.9	28.2%	13.0
Divertible	7.7%	5.3	6.6%	3.0
Metal (scrap)	2.6%	1.8	1.0%	0.5
HHW	0.5%	0.3	0.6%	0.3
Average Waste Disposed (Kgs)		69.4		46.0

This information can be further consolidated into four categories:

	Weekly Collection		Biweekly Collection	
	% Composition	Kilograms	% Composition	Kilograms
Recycling/Diversion Programs	25.1%	17.4	22.0%	10.2
Composting (Yard Waste)	18.9%	13.1	3.4%	1.6
Composting (Food waste)	30.3%	21.0	46.1%	21.3
Waste	25.9%	17.9	28.2%	13.0

If the month of May is considered as a high mark indicator, 63 kg is the capacity available in the green waste bins per household in a bi-weekly collection model. With 17.9 kilograms of waste in the summer, only 28.4% of this capacity is utilized. Of note, when collection reverts to a weekly schedule, there is an increase of 7.2 kilograms (17.4 kg total) of materials in the waste stream that could be recycled or sent to other diversion programs such as Sarcan, Household Hazardous Waste, or charitable donation groups. This is an unnecessary addition to the residential waste amounts during weekly collection in the summer months (attachment iv, graph #1). The residential recycling program is being underutilized and is functioning at 61.1% of capacity overall (attachment iv, graph #2). Recycling participation does increase when biweekly waste collection is in effect.

Weekly collection is a more expensive service model. It requires additional labour and an extra garbage truck in the City fleet. Switching to a full bi-weekly schedule will reduce annual operating costs by \$88,925. While there appears to be capacity in the residential waste stream to include yard waste, the cost to offer a free weekend of yard waste drop off at the landfill is approximately \$2,000 (dependent on usage). One or two weekends in June and July would cost up to \$8,000, still providing for significant operational savings. Further, for those that want additional waste service, the City has a current policy that allows for the provision of an extra waste bin. Currently, only 21 of 11,667 customers have subscribed to this service.

It should be noted that Bylaw No. 5156, Waste Management Bylaw, stipulates that all residential waste must be placed in plastic bags, in appropriate receptacles that prevent

access by animals, wind, or rain. These requirements would negate any nuisance concerns such as odour or animal infiltration.

The City, SARCAN and other organizations as responsible stewards of our environment offer many opportunities for residents to participate in diversion programs, however weekly waste collection has a negative impact on diversion participation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Moving to a full year bi-weekly collection schedule will reduce annual operating costs by \$88,963.

The cost to offer a free yard waste weekend is approximately \$2,000.

OPTIONS TO RECOMMENDATION

- THAT the City continue with the current schedule of weekly collection for four months and bi-weekly collection for eight months.
- THAT the City move to a full year bi-weekly residential waste collection schedule and include two free yard waste weekends in both June and July at an estimated cost of \$8,000.
- THAT the City move to a weekly residential waste collection schedule for June and July and bi-weekly residential waste collection schedule for the remaining ten months.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

The new full year bi-weekly schedule will be communicated by way of a press release from the Communications Manager as well as posted on the City's website and social medias.

A recycling information mail out with educational information is scheduled for delivery in Q1 of 2021.

STRATEGIC PLAN

We operate as one family and one community with the goal of making the community better and preparing it for the future.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Darrin Stephanson, Director of Public Works and Utilities will provide a brief overview of this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Solid Waste Utility Report
2. Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 5156, Waste Management Bylaw
3. City of Moose Jaw Residential Waste Composition Results
4. Attachment iv - Graphs

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Darrin Stephanson, Director of Public Works and Utilities
Reviewed by: Tracy Wittke, Assistant City Clerk
Approved by: Jim Puffalt, City Manager
Approved by: Fraser Tolmie, Mayor

To be completed by the Clerk's Department only.

Presented to Regular Council or Executive Committee on _____.

Resolution No. _____

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Biweekly Residential Waste Collection - CC-2020-0314.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Solid Waste Utility Report.pdf- Proposed Amendments to Bylaw No. 5156, Waste Management Bylaw.pdf- City of Moose Jaw Residential Waste Composition Results.pdf- Attachment iv - Graphs.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Nov 30, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Darrin Stephanson



Tracy Wittke

No Signature - Task assigned to Jim Puffalt was completed by workflow administrator Maureen Latta

Jim Puffalt



Fraser Tolmie