

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: November 8, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Blake McIntosh, Director Civic Operations

SUBJECT: Solid Waste Services – Curbside Collection Options

ATTACHMENT(S): Waste Composition 2018 Graph

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Council APPROVES Administration to procure professional services to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan specific to the City of Prince George.
2. That Council DIRECTS Administration to coordinate a presentation by Regional District of Fraser Fort George staff to Mayor and Council to further expand on requirements for diverting recyclables/compostables.

PURPOSE:

At the January 30, 2023 Council Budget Meeting, Council directed Administration to return a report to Council outlining options and impacts of a change to a bi-weekly schedule for solid waste pick up including compost service options within the municipality. This report is intended to provide Council with an overall picture and associated steps to potentially implement a change to the current weekly collection schedule.

BACKGROUND:

The Solid Waste Services Division provides an automated residential garbage collection service to approximately 26,000 customers who reside within the garbage collection boundaries identified in the City of Prince George Garbage Collection Regulation Bylaw No 7661. The city is divided into 5 collection zones with each zone being collected once per week Monday through Friday. Garbage is not collected on statutory holidays. A user-pay system provides homeowners the opportunity to choose from three (3) different sized containers, depending on their capacity needs and amounts of garbage set out curbside for weekly collection. The following chart breaks down those figures:

Cart Size	Capacity	Cost per Year	Numbers of Carts in Service
Small	135 litres or approx. 1.5 bags	\$161.00	5,597 or 21.58 %
Medium	250 litres or approx. 3.0 bags	\$212.00	15,051 or 58.03%
Large	360 litres or approx. 4.0 bags	\$258.00	5,288 or 20.39%

In 2022, Solid Waste Services landfilled 16,083,341 kgs of refuse.

As per British Columbia's Recycling Regulation, the businesses that supply packaging and paper to residents are responsible for financing the collection and recycling of these materials. Recycle BC works on behalf of these businesses to manage the recycling program in British Columbia. In September of 2014, a curbside recycling program was initiated in Prince George by Recycle BC. The local service provider in Prince George is Emterra Environmental. Recyclables are collected bi-weekly by Emterra using a manual curbside blue box collection process. Recycle collection zones follow the garbage collection calendar, however only half of each colour zone is collected weekly.

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George operates the Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill and the associated waste diversion programs. Currently the centralized composting operations at the landfill are limited to yard and garden waste only. Food waste is currently not part of the composting operation. Yard and garden trimmings are deposited at local transfer stations by residents and delivered to the Foothills Landfill operation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Reducing waste has been identified by Council as one of its environmental leadership and climate action goals.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A change to bi-weekly curbside collection and associated budget implications requires additional planning and investment by the City and Regional District. This would ensure a change in schedule includes infrastructure necessary to process divertible materials is in place.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

Bi-weekly garbage collection is quickly becoming industry standard in most jurisdictions because of successful curbside collection programs for recyclables and compostables. Waste diversion strategies greatly reduce waste streams to the point that weekly garbage collection is no longer necessary. The first step in moving towards bi-weekly garbage collection is the development of a Solid Waste Management Plan designed specifically for the City of Prince George that would create a waste reduction roadmap with specific target initiatives;

- Identifying targeted deliverables, producing communication plans for waste reduction and illegal dumping, education about recycling and other waste diversion strategies.
- Identifying community based social marketing programs to establish community support for the division's initiatives.
- Pursue grants to assist with solid waste/management initiatives and/or technologies to support the division.
- Develop business cases for both the implementation of a seasonal yard & garden waste collection system, as well as taking over the collection of curbside recyclables.
- Conduct waste composition studies of municipal solid waste and recommend material bans and bylaw changes.

As outlined, diversion of recyclables and compostables is a key deliverable to move towards a bi-weekly curbside collection model. Successful diversion will require collaboration with our partners at the Regional District of Fraser Fort George. To fully realize bi-weekly curbside collection and associated processing of divertible household materials, significant capital investment and site expansion is required at the Foothills Landfill site.

Administration is seeking Council approval to procure professional services to assist with the formulation of a City of Prince George Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan would help inform the requirements for implementing a bi-weekly collection model. Ideally, this process would begin in 2024. Once created, Administration would return a report for Council information and Solid Waste Management Plan approval.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Blake McIntosh, Director Civic Operations

PREPARED BY: Sean Lebrun, Manager of Parks and Solid Waste

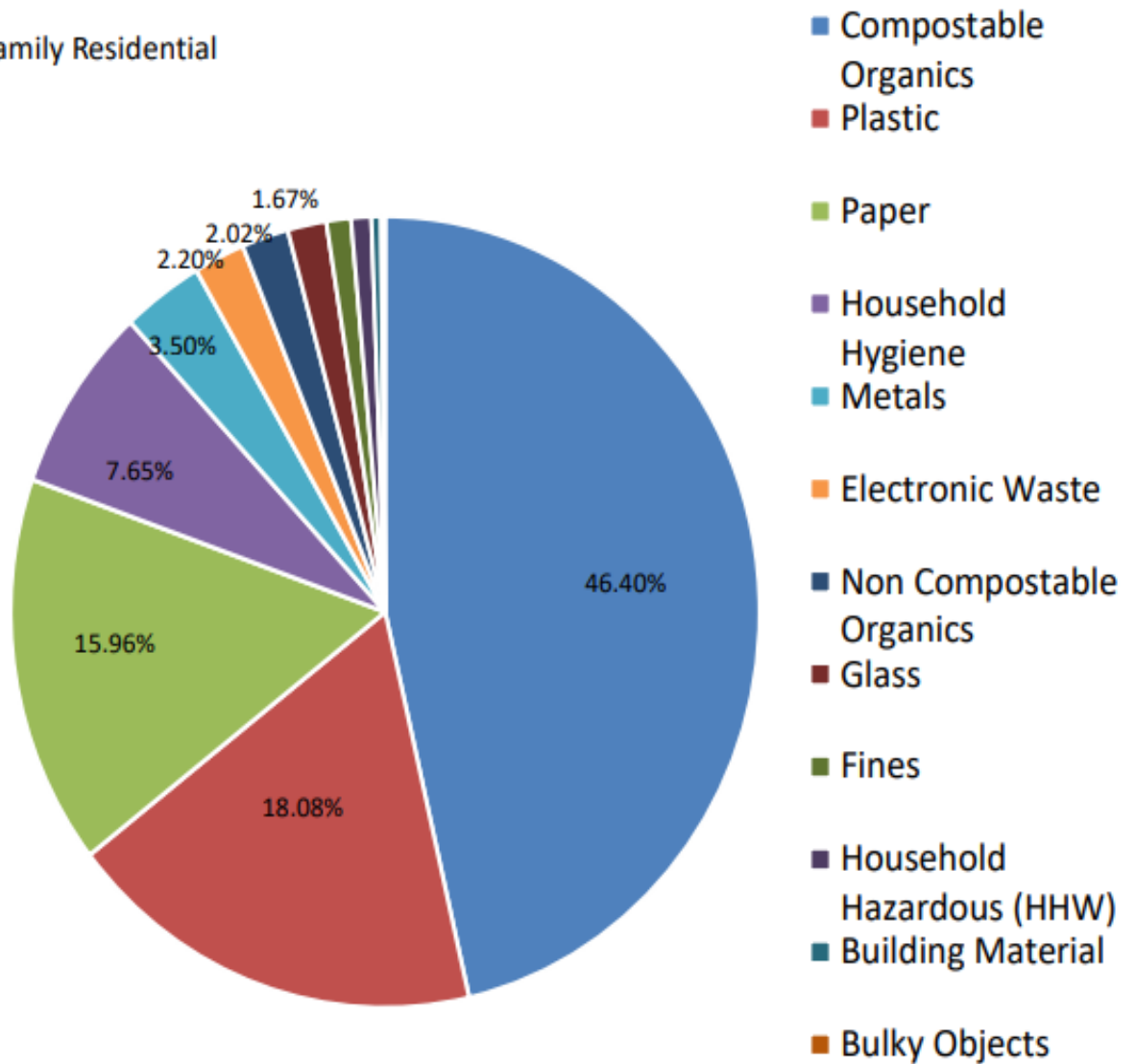
APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2023/11/20

Waste Composition (2018)

Single Family Residential



- 46.40% Compostable Organics = 51% Yard/Garden Waste & 49% Food Waste