

# Solid Waste Bylaw Discussion

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# Agenda

- Background
- Public consultation and feedback
- Changes between the current and proposed bylaw
- Outreach and engagement
- Timeline
- Discussion

# Background

At the Committee of Whole on May 23, 2017, the proposed revisions to the Solid Waste Bylaw were presented, key elements included:

- All properties shall provide and separate their waste into multi-streams
- Staff, tenants, etc. are educated about how to separate
- Garbage is placed in a transparent plastic bag, with an allowance for dark privacy bags

## Why:

- Protect our infrastructure, the Squamish Landfill
- Assist in community well being through: reduced GHG's created at the Landfill and better management of our resources (recyclables and organics)

# Public Consultation

- Three presentation and Q&A sessions for all businesses and institutions;
- Three presentations and Q&A sessions for property management companies;
- In-person meeting with the Food Recovery group (Helping Hands, the Food Bank, Vancouver Coastal Health Environmental Health Officer);
- Farmer's Market booth; and
- Online Survey.

# What we heard...

## **Multi-Family Residents & Property Managers**

- Residents are looking forward to the change and having the option to compost and recycle on-site.
- Expressed concern about:
  - Limited space in homes and buildings for separating
  - Not knowing what goes where
  - Increased costs
  - Time needed to implement and for the contract changes to go through the AGM process

# What we heard...

## Businesses

- Recognize the environmental benefits and that it will improve customer engagement and satisfaction.
- Happy with the support tools that the District will be offering to help with implementation and the transition.
- Expressed concern about:
  - The 5% threshold for contamination is unrealistic and too low (especially for restaurants)
  - Increased costs
  - Limited space for multiple bins inside the business and in their waste rooms
  - Training staff about what goes where

# What we heard...

## On the topic of Clear Bags

- It was recognized that clear bags encourage sustainable behavior and increase diversion of recyclables and organics, especially when discussed in person with staff or the consultants.
- Overall businesses didn't raise many issues with the clear bags, as many are already using them. Residents with curbside collection raised the majority of concerns regarding clear bags.
- The top challenges and concerns raised included:
  - Believe the cost of clear bags will be higher
  - Don't wish to purchase clear plastic bags as they re-use plastic bags
  - Plastic shouldn't be encouraged to be put in the landfill
  - Don't know where to obtain clear bags
  - Don't want people to see what is being thrown out
  - The proposed size of the privacy bag (a grocery store bag) is too small
  - Don't see any challenges
  - Need to use up dark/opaque bags

# Clear Bags: A Summary

- Has been found to have a high success rate in increasing diversion, including in communities with a tote-based system.
- All of PEI, most of NS and many counties in ON have mandated the use of clear bags for garbage.
- Allows assessment and enforcement of diversion of recyclables and organics
- Will work with Retailers to ensure a variety of stock is available at different prices and sizes
- Will be phased in over 1 year, to ensure the supply is available and for dark bags to be used up.



# Changes after Consultation

- **Mixed Waste Threshold.** Several businesses expressed concern that 5% contamination threshold was too low and would be extremely difficult to achieve. Therefore, the threshold has been increased to 20% and will be reduced over time until it reaches 5%.
- **Clear Bags.** Concern was raised by residents over the implementation of clear bags for garbage. It is for this reason that there would be a grace period (1 year) that will allow residents to use up their existing bags, for retailers to ensure they have the stock and for communications to promote it.
- **Privacy Bag Size.** Concern was expressed around the size and quantity of the dark privacy bag allowance. Therefore, any sized non-transparent bags may be used as a privacy bag (including pet waste bags). And no more than 10% of the garbage can be in a privacy bag.
- **Progressive Enforcement.** At the May COW meeting, Council expressed concern that the enforcement period started too late. Therefore, a progressive enforcement process is proposed that would allow enforcement after varying levels of notification and education.

# Additional Change *(not in Report to Council)*

Current Wording, Section 4.3(l):

- Collection Containers may be unlocked between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and must be unlocked and set out for collection before 8:00 a.m. and be available until 5:00 p.m., on the day scheduled for the collection by or on behalf of the District.

Proposed Wording:

- On the day scheduled for the collection by or on behalf of the District, Collection Containers:
  - **Must not be set out earlier than 5:00 a.m.,**
  - Must be unlocked and set out before 8:00 a.m. and be available until 5:00 p.m.,
  - May be unlocked between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

# Major Changes to Current Bylaw

- Stream Separation.
- Mixed Waste Threshold.
- Clear Bags.
- Mattresses.
- Definitions.
- Extended Scope.
  - ICI
  - MFH
  - Events and Temporary Users

# Outreach & Engagement

Work with the consultants and the DOS Communications team to:

## ***After the Bylaw is Adopted:***

- Provide workshops to stakeholders on implementation, ex. how to set-up a kitchen or waste room, training staff, etc.
- Develop 'Solutions Guides' and training materials to support implementation and continued training
- Develop signage that can be customized and downloaded from the DOS website
- Develop social media content to ensure there is continual notification of the changes
- Train Squamish CAN to deliver the workshops and training, for local replication
- Work with Helping Hands & Food Bank to ensure food rescue is encouraged through the implementation of the bylaw

# Progressive Enforcement

- Focus on education and working with businesses and residents
- Broader community engagement and education
- Bylaw infractions reported and property owners required to remedy them
- Follow-up warnings, notices and then penalties applied to those out of compliance but who have been working closely with staff.
- Mixed Waste Rate will be increased 1 year from Bylaw adoption.

# Enforcement Tools

- **Increased Mixed Waste Rate at the landfill.**
  - Current Mixed Waste rate is \$320/tonne
  - Staff regularly see customers who would rather pay the mixed waste rate than separate
  - Partially effective method of enforcement because:
    - Is either passed on after the fact to the business by the waste hauler or it is absorbed by the waste hauler and passed on through a general rate, without the business or residential complex seeing what they are paying and why.
    - Apartment complexes and businesses are serviced in one truck, thereby mixing their loads. The Mixed Waste rate could be passed on to all customers, even if one or more are separating.
    - Effective when it is a single business dropping off a load directly at the landfill.
  - Suggested timing for the rate increase is 1 year after the adoption of the bylaw
- **A one-time fine/penalty.**
  - Issued through spot checks and audits, done by the Sustainability Coordinator.
  - When done in combination with the education follow-up, this has been found to be an effective method of enforcement and can be done infrequently.
  - Initial focus for issuing penalties would be on those who have had training, received a warning and had the opportunity to change.

# Timeline

Phases	Timeline
Council Discussion around draft changes to Solid Waste Utility Bylaw	May 23rd
Stakeholder and public engagement around proposed bylaw amendments while the bylaw is being drafted	June
Waste room size requirements integrated into DOS tools	July – September
DOS staff present draft bylaw to Council	July
Outreach & support program to residents and businesses	Begins immediately after adoption – and runs for 1 full year, at a minimum.
Progressive Enforcement begins	Mixed Waste Rate will be increased 1 year from Bylaw adoption.



# Discussion



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# Recommendation

For Council to review and discuss the new Solid Waste Bylaw, prior to the three readings.