

REPORT TO: Council
REPORT FROM: Community Planning & Infrastructure
PRESENTED: May 23, 2017
SUBJECT: Solid Waste Utility Bylaw Updates

FOR: COW
FILE:

Recommendation:

That Council approve the following resolution:

THAT Council receive the update from Community Planning & Infrastructure dated May 23, 2017 on the draft Solid Waste Utility Bylaw amendment for discussion and provide staff with feedback prior to public engagement.

1. Objective:

The purpose of this report is to present the proposed key elements of the amendments to the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw, regarding diversion strategies for multi-family residential properties and Industrial-Commercial-Institutional (ICI) properties, for discussion and direction on the main components prior to the start of public engagement.

2. Background:

At the Regular Council meeting on October 18, 2016, Council approved the District of Squamish Zero Waste Strategy. The following priorities are laid out in the Zero Waste Strategy:

- Priority #1 – Implement an Organics Disposal Ban
- Priority #2 – Ensure recycling and organics diversion programs and services are available and convenient for everyone at home, at work and on the go
- Priority #3 – Institute Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Guidelines
- Priority #4 – Promote Waste Minimization

The development and implementation of an organics and recyclable disposal ban (via amending the Solid Waste Bylaw) is considered a priority due the large amount of organic and recyclable material currently ending up in our landfill that could be diverted. In May 2016, waste audits were conducted of garbage from ICI entities, multi-family homes and single-family homes. On average, it was found that 35% of garbage consisted of organic material and an additional 30% was other recyclables (metal, glass, paper, electronic waste and plastic), thereby highlighting the large opportunity to reduce the recyclable material (including organics) that is ending up in the Squamish landfill.

In the Zero Waste Strategy, the proposed 2020 target is to achieve a garbage disposal rate of 350 kg per person, which corresponds to a waste diversion rate of 75%. In 2015, the District had a disposal rate of 643 kg per person, and in 2016 it was 673 kg per person. To achieve a 350 kg per capita diversion rate, the immediate focus of the strategy is to target and optimize the existing diversion programs and services. This includes improving diversion of organics and

recycling across all residents and businesses within Squamish. Currently, the Solid Waste Utility bylaw only requires three stream recycling by those participating in the residential curbside collection services.

3. Project Information:

This project presents an opportunity to update and improve the tools through which the District regulates solid waste management throughout the community. It will provide clear guidelines and requirements for all residents and businesses.

The proposed draft bylaw is preliminary and in early stages. The following describes the key changes of the bylaw, which would apply to all residents and ICI properties generating solid waste within the District of Squamish.

Three-Stream Separation (MFH & ICI properties):

- Multi-stream separation of Residual Waste (aka garbage), organics and recyclables is required prior to disposal. It is the owner or occupier of premise's responsibility to ensure that generated solid waste streams are appropriately separated prior to pick up by the waste hauler.

Education (MFH & ICI properties):

- Provide written information to new residents, tenants, employees and contractors, and at least annually to all existing residents, tenants, employees and contractors, on how to separate and deposit residual waste, organics and recyclables into appropriate receptacles.
- Post signage with information on separating the three streams on the premises and in the waste room of buildings.

Clear Bags (MFH, Single-Family homes and ICI properties):

- Cutting open dark bags for inspection poses health and safety risks to staff.
- Residual waste must be placed in clear, non-coloured, transparent plastic bags.
- One optional dark privacy bag can be included with disposal. There will be size restrictions around the privacy bag.

(NOTE: The District would need to determine whether or not the District would sell / distribute these bags, or this would be done through the waste hauler or allow individuals to source their own bags. Staff would work with local stores to stock bags that meet the requirement.)

Enforcement:

The goal of the bylaw amendment is to see a change in behaviour that will result in lower Residual Waste into the landfill. Once education is underway, an enforcement strategy that will incorporate inspections, continued education, fines and additional waste fees will be developed.

Additional Notes:

Waste Room Size: District Staff from the Engineering, Planning and Building departments will work together to develop requirements for waste room sizing, location and access that will assist with achieving the waste diversion goals. These will be proposed as amendments to Development Permit Area Guidelines in the OCP, the Zoning Bylaw, and possibly other

regulations. There will be public engagement on proposed amendments, including information available on the District website. Following adoption of proposed amendments, clear and thorough information on waste guidelines will be available on the District website.

Proposed Transition Phases of Bylaw:

Transition phases:	Timeline
Council Discussion around draft changes to Solid Waste Utility Bylaw	May 23 rd
Outreach & support program to help ICI and MFH/Property managers plan for operational changes.	End of May – End of Sept
Waste room size requirements integrated into DOS tools	June
DOS staff present draft bylaw to Council - If not adopted, returns to Council in Sept.	July
Education period: - Bylaw infractions reported; - Property owners required to remedy them	1 year from adoption
Enforcement through fine mechanism and increased Mixed Waste rate begins	1 year from the end of education period

4. Implications:

a) **Budget:**

In the 2017 Solid Waste Utility budget, there is \$20,000 for the outreach and education associated with the amendment of the bylaw. In 2018, \$30,000 should be budgeted in the Solid Waste Utility budget for continued outreach, training and engagement. This includes workshops and training sessions for property managers, businesses and residents, as well as waste audits to verify compliance and issue the infractions (but no enforcement through fines or increased tipping fee).

b) **Organizational Impact:**

The major focus of the Sustainability Coordinator from May 2017 onwards will be to ensure that the bylaw amendment is developed with public and District staff engagement and rolled-out smoothly.

Time will be required from additional departments at the District, including: Planning, Building, Communications and Bylaw Enforcement to ensure that the bylaw amendments are manageable, will achieve the goals set out in the Zero Waste Strategy and that the public are engaged and aware of the amendments.

c) **Policy:**

Official Community Plan

22 - 8 The District will continue to support and encourage waste reduction and recycling throughout the municipality.

22 - 9 The District will consider opportunities to reduce municipally generated waste and promote recycling activities throughout the corporation.

24 - 24 The District supports organic waste recycling that helps to reduce the amount of organic waste products entering the solid waste system.

24 - 25 The District encourages and supports recycling of selected waste products to reduce the amount of waste being disposed in the landfill.

24 - 25 The District continues to support the curb-side recycling program with an effort to reduce the amount of recyclable materials deposited in the landfill.

British Columbia Ministry of Environment

The Ministry has set an average provincial waste disposal target of 350 kg per capita, along with 75% of British Columbia's population to be covered by an organics disposal ban by 2020. The Province has identified organics diversion as one of the largest opportunities to achieve a significant reduction in the amount of waste disposed (by weight).

Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan

The SLRD Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan, which was submitted to the Ministry of Environment in June 2016, has adopted Zero Waste as the guiding principal in the Solid Waste Management Plan developed for the region. The plan includes the following two targets:

1. *The SLRD achieve an average municipal solid waste disposal rate of 350 kilograms per capita by 2020.*
2. *That 75% of SLRD's population is actively engaged in organic waste diversion.*

d) **Environment:**

Advancing the District Zero Waste Strategy by implementing the requirement of three stream separation will help increase waste diversion within the community, which has the added benefit of extending the lifespan of the Squamish Landfill.

e) **Council Priority and Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Future-Focused Environmental Stewardship

"Community-wide energy reduction, waste reduction, and water conservation will be a major focus".

Environment:

"District policies support zero waste" (8.2.9)

This project is aligned with the following Guiding Principles:

- Forward-Thinking and Responsive Corporation
- Future-Focused Environmental Stewardship

f) **Citizen Engagement**

In developing the Zero Waste Strategy, staff engaged key stakeholders including community members, commercial businesses, Squamish First Nation, and large generators. Targeted stakeholder engagement and interviews focused on organics bans and recycling programs as well as on construction and demolition debris recycling. During these sessions, stakeholders

acknowledged the need for stream separation, however, few were willing to take the necessary steps without a regulation being in place.

Squamish First Nation will be included in our education outreach as their garbage goes to the Squamish Landfill. If on-site surcharges are implemented, Squamish First Nation won't be affected. However, if the District increases the Mixed Waste rate at the Squamish Landfill, then Squamish First Nation will be affected.

Staff will liaise with the District's Communications and Bylaw Enforcement teams to develop a public engagement strategy based on the IAP2 participation spectrum. Engagement with community and stakeholder groups at the IAP2 level of "Consult" includes web based info sharing, focus groups with stakeholders, surveys, and information boards with feedback forms at hubs such as the Farmer's Market, Chamber of Commerce and Municipal Hall. Organizations such as the Downtown BIA and Chamber of Commerce will be engaged to help disseminate the information. If a topic warrants deeper engagement, staff can respond accordingly at any time during the process.

An initial letter will go out to businesses, property management companies, strata councils and other key stakeholders to provide notification of the Council discussion and advise that the District will be seeking feedback on the draft bylaw.

During the transition period in 2017, support will be offered by the District in the form of workshops, train the trainer, as well as information sessions held on-site at strata properties.

g) **Implementation**

Upon direction from Council, staff will further refine the proposed draft bylaws as required and schedule public engagement. Staff will then present the results of the public engagement to Council along with the amended Solid Waste Utility Bylaw.

5. **Attachments:**

N/A

6. **Alternatives to Staff Recommendation:**

THAT Council provide additional feedback for further refinement of the key elements of the Solid Waste Utility Bylaw amendment, and that a revised version of the report be brought back to Council prior to scheduling public engagement.

7. **Staff Review**

Prepared By:

Shannon White, Sustainability Coordinator

Reviewed By:

Chris Wyckham, Director of Engineering

Gary Buxton, General Manager of Community Planning & Infrastructure

Robin Arthurs, General Manager of Corporate Services, Recreation & Culture

CAO Recommendation:

That the recommendation of the Engineering Department be approved.