



# The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

## REGULAR COUNCIL REPORT

For the Regular Council meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022

**Re:** Waste Collection Feasibility Study on Options for Curbside Collection & Yard Waste Drop-Off Service

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### **RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. Direct staff to move to Phase 2 of the Waste Collection study, which includes stakeholder and community engagement
2. Direct staff to include a component in the 2022 Citizen survey focused on solid waste service in our community

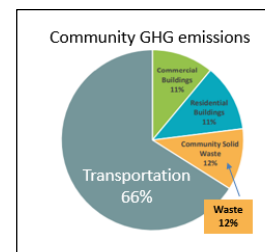
### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to present some high level findings from Phase 1 of a waste collection study conducted by Tetra Tech consultants that analyzed whether a curbside waste collection service and a yard waste drop-off facility would be feasible for the District to provide. This staff report is a high level overview, with the detailed information contained in the consultant's report (Appendix A).

### **BACKGROUND:**

This waste collection study was a priority in Council's Strategic Plan for 2021-2022, topic area: *Invest in Climate Action and A Healthy Environment* and contributes to the District's Climate Leadership Plan. The Climate Leadership Plan has an overarching goal to achieve 100% less GHG emissions by 2050 (relative to 2007), a goal to achieve 100% organics diversion from residential (and commercial) sources and an action to review opportunities to consolidate waste hauling services to reduce private company waste collection truck trips in the community.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is responsible for regional solid waste management planning for 13 member municipalities (including the District), and 3 electoral areas. The CRD develops partnerships with local governments to facilitate and deliver projects and services within its jurisdiction and has adopted a regional organics ban (i.e., yard and garden waste, food scraps). The CRD has a goal to reduce the waste per capita rate from 400 kilograms a year to 250 kg/capita by 2030 and helps to achieve this by providing biweekly collection of blue box recyclables for residents. Each municipality can help to contribute to the CRD's solid waste management strategies and diversion goals.



## **DISCUSSION:**

To act on the Climate Leadership Plan, contribute to diversion goals, and improve community safety, the District initiated a feasibility study with Tetra Tech consultants that examines considerations and implications related to:

- Operating a residential curbside waste collection program;
- Operating a yard waste drop-off facility service;
- Curbside waste collection and drop-off services offered by other local governments in the region

Due to the high-level nature of the feasibility study, Tetra Tech had to make the following assumptions that took into account:

- Goals of the District;
- Costs based on existing municipal waste collection programs in the region;
- A yard waste drop-off facility that is at the District's municipal yard (for simplicity).

### **Current Waste Collection Service in Central Saanich (Status Quo)**

Central Saanich residents currently establish a waste collection service directly with private haulers. Curbside pickup service is offered at different rates (prices), normally based on frequency of service: monthly, biweekly and weekly collection or on-demand. Kitchen scraps and/or yard and garden waste collection service is also offered by private haulers (Appendix A – Table 4-2).

Residents have a few options where they can drop off garbage and green waste. Locations include Hartland Landfill and there are some local private facilities that provide a service.

### **Local Government Waste Collection and Drop-Off programs in the Capital Regional District**

A comparison of municipal waste programs in the CRD is shown in Appendix B. Of the 13 local governments, six provide a municipal-led curbside collection for garbage and of those, half provide a service that is contracted out to a private hauler. Five of these same six municipalities also collect yard and garden material at the curbside for residents.

With respect to the availability of drop-off facilities for yard and garden waste in the region, seven municipalities offer this service.

### **Part A: Options for Curbside Collection Service**

To determine the feasibility of offering a Municipal waste collection service, three types of solid waste collection services were analysed: in-house delivery (with and without an electric truck<sup>1</sup>) and a contracted service model. The models equally included the following parameters:

- Biweekly collection of garbage and weekly collection of organics;<sup>2</sup>
- Organics collection included food scraps and grass clipping materials, only;

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<sup>1</sup> To take a significant step to reduce emissions from fleet

<sup>2</sup> Biweekly collection of garbage is most commonly implemented by local governments that offer municipally-led curbside collection to encourage better recycling/diversion of green waste by residents.

- Single-family households were provided with a 240 L garbage<sup>3</sup> and same sized organics bin;
- Both capital and operating costs were factored into the analysis.

Results showed household costs for the three service options were found to be similar (~\$320/annually) and they all required an addition of staffing and resources. The in-house model which included an electric truck (Appendix A – Table 9-4) could reduce approximately 45 tonnes GHG emissions per year (see section 9.1.4).

### **Part B: Option for a Yard Waste Drop-Off Facility**

For the analysis that examined the feasibility of implementing a drop-off facility, the following parameters were included in the model:

- Public Works site was the chosen location for the purpose of modeling, as it was considered an accessible site for residents;
- Two yard waste containment design options (roll-off bins and drop-off bunkers);
- One full-time employee, as a resource to monitor green waste loads and for public safety;
- Construction of an access road to link Keating Cross road to the south portion of the yard;
- Green waste amount deposited by residents: 650 tonnes/year.

Results from the analysis showed an estimated annual cost per household in the range of \$75-\$88/year (Appendix A – Table 12.5). The study noted that other funding mechanisms could be considered such as a user pay system, as implemented by some local governments.

### **BENEFITS OF A MUNICIPAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

Some key benefits of the Municipal waste collection services studied include:

- Better diversion of waste and the ability to track<sup>4</sup> the amounts of residential garbage and green waste collected and diverted from landfill;
- Addressing the duplication of travel patterns by hauling trucks in the community and associated noise and pollution generated and community safety concerns;
- A slight reduction in transportation-related greenhouse gas emission (anticipated to be half of current waste collection system) and possibly up to 300 tonnes of solid waste-related emissions reduced per year;
- A reduction in yard waste burning and associated release of carbon particulate into the air;
- The opportunity to introduce a waste reduction education and communication program at the District.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR A MUNICIPAL WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

Some other factors that should be considered by the District should a municipal waste collection service be considered include:

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<sup>3</sup> This size is commonly used by local governments that provide biweekly garbage collection (to support an average-sized family)

<sup>4</sup> Currently, the amount of waste disposed at the landfill and diversion rates are estimated based on CRD data and population within the District.

- Additional staffing needed to administrate and operate program including the need for additional resources;
- Communication needs - public education and outreach on waste diversion practices;
- Increase in customer service requests;
- Economic impact – current haulers.

## **NEXT STEPS**

To help inform the community of this project, a Let's Talk project webpage has been created providing some initial background information. Should Council wish to proceed with the next steps, Phase 2 involves community and stakeholder engagement about solid waste service in our community (see Appendix C). Suggested next steps are outlined below:

- Undertake Phase 2 of study:
  - Community and stakeholder engagement. Outreach would include the private waste collection industry, residents and other jurisdictions;
  - Citizen survey – include a component focused on solid waste service in our community;
  - Bring back a “What-We-Heard” Report to Council;
  - Formulate options for further investigation.
- Undertake Phase 3 of study:
  - Depending on the direction from Council undertake a detailed analysis on preferred options.

## **IMPLICATIONS:**

### **Strategic**

The implementation of this feasibility waste collection study aligns with a priority of Council's 2021-2022 Strategic Plan (Invest in Climate Action and A Healthy Environment) and an action under the District's Climate Leadership Plan.

### **Financial/ Resource**

The initiation of Phase 2: public consultation, may require consultant services to assist the District with public consultation and further option details. Funding surplus for this project is currently planned in 2023 for this next phase.

### **Communications**

If Phase 2 is initiated, staff with assistance from a consultant team will develop a more detailed public consultation plan.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Direct staff to move to Phase 2 of the Waste Collection study, which includes stakeholder and community engagement.
2. Direct staff to include a component in the 2022 Citizen survey focused on solid waste service in our community.

**ALTERNATIVE:**

That the current (status quo) waste collection service in the community be continued.

**CONCLUSION:**

A feasibility study was conducted as part of a first step of a waste collection study that examined options for curbside waste collection and yard waste drop-off in the District. This initiative was an action outlined in the District's Climate Leadership Plan that could support community emissions reduction goals and address public safety concerns.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Appendix A: District of Central Saanich Waste Collection System Assessment (Revision 1), Tetra Tech Consultants

Appendix B: Regional Scan of Local Government Waste Collection Systems (Source CRD)

Appendix C: Waste Collection Study Engagement Plan