



The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich

SPECIAL (OPEN) COUNCIL REPORT

For the Special (Open) Council meeting on Monday, March 20, 2023

Re: WASTE COLLECTION – INITIAL CONSULTATION RESULTS

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the District use the initial consultation results and the upcoming detailed analysis of options to inform a future report to Council; and with Council's direction, undertake further consultation and stakeholder engagement in late 2023.

PURPOSE:

To update Council on the Waste Collection study and share the results of the Waste Collection portion of the Community Satisfaction Survey.

BACKGROUND:

A waste collection study was initiated in 2021; it was a priority in Council's Strategic Plan for 2021-2022, and an action of the District's Climate Leadership Plan.

Council passed the following motions

- November 14, 2020 COTW (Strategic Planning)
That a solid waste, food and garden pickup service be considered at the December 5, 2020 strategic planning session.
- December 7, 2020
*The following Initiatives, which have cost implications, be referred to the budget process:
Waste Collection Study
That the Waste Collection Study include the implications of all options including:*
 - *A resident survey*
 - *collection by companies on certain days, establishing zones, etc.*
 - *a yard waste pickup service, and*
 - *a yard waste drop off facility.*

In 2021 the District initiated a feasibility study with consultants, Tetra Tech, that examined high-level 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

At the December 12, 2022 Regular Council meeting, staff and Tetra Tech presented the study findings to Council; staff also presented an engagement plan (Appendix A) for the project; subsequently, Council passed a motion to:

- 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. That during any future engagement sessions with public, have the total and percentage property tax lift be considered clearly as part of the decision processes.*

The engagement plan presented at the December 12th, 2022 Council meeting included:

- informing the public of the project via the District Let's Talk site, website, and social media (complete and ongoing),
- including questions in the Community Satisfaction Survey (complete),
- engaging with waste haulers (underway),
- sending direct mail (May 2023 Community Focus newsletter),
- holding an open house and survey in Spring 2023 and informing the public via the media (to come), and
- reporting back to Council and public in the fall of 2023.

DISCUSSION:

Tetra Tech's feasibility study was a high-level study to see whether moving ahead with further study was warranted and not a detailed service delivery assessment and recommendation. Being high-level, the study had made assumptions (pick up frequency, some costs) to simplify the process, and may have missed some services provided by the local waste collection and haulers (yard waste pick up, details on drop off).

Deloitte has completed the Waste Collection portion of the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey, with results summarized in the What We Heard Report (Appendix C). In the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey, participants were given the ability to participate in the Waste Collection survey. In summary, participants were in support of a municipal waste collection service if costs were competitive.

Additional correspondence as part of the 2023 Financial Plan feedback, and feedback from stakeholder engagement has been received. Some of the communications had incorrectly assumed that the District had decided to make waste collection a municipal service and had voiced that they are not in support of a municipal service waste collection service. These have been included in Appendix C.

The District is continuing with planning for additional public engagement with the May 2023 Community Focus newsletter, an open house and a survey. In preparation for the open house and additional survey, the District will consult with the waste haulers to ensure that the services currently provided in the District are reflected in the open house material and survey.

IMPLICATIONS:

Communications

Continuing with the engagement plan will refine the options analysis with further engagement with stakeholders prior to going out to an open house and survey. Timing of the open house and survey is key so that a report can be brought back to Council in the fall 2023.

OPTIONS:

Option 1

That the District use the initial consultation results and the upcoming detailed analysis of options to inform a future report to Council; and with Council's direction, undertake further consultation and stakeholder engagement in late 2023.

Option2

That staff be provided alternate direction.

CONCLUSION:

Waste collection is currently not a District of Central Saanich municipal service, but was highlighted in the 2021-22 Council Strategic Plan as an area for potential focus. Initial study has indicated that the community may be open to a waste collection service if pricing was comparable, although, additional feedback received by the District supports the status quo.

Given the variability with the high-level initial study and no details on what type of collection service, current pricing for service delivery is not suitable for making definitive decision. To refine costs and determine the community’s expected level of service, additional work is underway. Staff will present a future report to Council; and with Council’s direction, undertake further consultation and stakeholder engagement in late 2023.

Report written by:	Britt Burnham, Manager of Community Services
Respectfully submitted by:	Dale Puskas, Director of Engineering
Concurrence by:	Christine Culham, Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix A: Engagement Plan

Appendix B: Deloitte Waste Collection Citizen Satisfaction Survey Results

Appendix C: What We Heard Report