



STAFF REPORT

Title: Council Query - Organic Collection

Meeting Date: August 8, 2023

Executive Summary:

During the 2022 operating year, green carts were delivered to every eligible house within the City of Cold Lake, and the green cart curbside pickup program fully commenced in April 2023.

At the June 27, 2023 regular meeting, the Council raised a query about the possibility of weekly organic pickup due to some taxpayers filling up their carts quickly. Administration proposes deferring discussions on this matter to the Corporate Priorities Committee of Council or future budget deliberations. This will allow the City to determine its waste management program's vision and desired levels of service, enabling the evaluation and preparation of viable options for organic curbside collections for consideration by Council.

Background:

Current Service:

The City of Cold Lake currently offers the following Organic Waste Diversion Programs:

- Residential every two-week organic collection in the summer, alternating with recyclables. Organics are collected using automated green carts with an automated cart system truck, where applicable.
- The Waste Management Facility (Landfill/Transfer Station) accepts organic materials throughout the year.
- Christmas Tree Pickup through curbside pick-up takes place in the 1st week of January every year.
- Special Organic Roundup events occurs every spring and fall, allowing up to 10 bags of organics and up to 5 bundles of branches for collection within a 2-week period.

Current Fees:

1. Monthly Curbside Fee: \$1.50 for residential
2. Drop Off Fee at Landfill: \$0.00 for residential and \$10.00 for commercial loads.



Collection Tonnage:

Below is the summary of organics waste received (in tonnes) at the Waste Management Facility through the residential streams including curbside and drop off in the last 5 years.

Residential Service	2019 (tonnes)	2020 (tonnes)	2021 (tonnes)	2022 (tonnes)	2023 (tonnes)
Curbside	145.12	188.08	175.14	165.31	262.58
Drop Off	255.62	401.66	266.23	194.74	144.8

Current Customer Calls Summary:

- A total of 20 calls were received from April to July.

The City of Cold Lake completed an Integrated Waste Management Study in 2016, which serves as the basis for all waste management initiatives, including landfill expansion. The report is attached for reference purposes.

The report recommends against introducing weekly organic collection in isolation, as it is one of several tools in the Integrated Waste Management system. It is highly recommended that Council engage in discussions to develop goals for waste management diversion, which will help tailor the services being provided. For instance, if the City establishes a goal of 60% or 80% diversion, a more robust weekly collection of organics and recycling program may be required, potentially accompanied by reducing the weekly waste collection to biweekly. Other alternatives, such as providing bigger or smaller bins, should also be considered, but all decisions should align with overarching guiding goals rather than just addressing the concerns of specific residents having difficulty disposing of organics.

Alternatives:

The Council may consider the following Alternatives:

1. The Council may accept this report as information only.
2. The Council may defer the issue to a future meeting of the Corporate Priorities Committee OR 2024 budget deliberations.
3. The Council may recommend and authorize the City of Cold Lake to amend the organics program to allow for weekly organics collection.



Recommended Action:

Administration recommends that Council refer this report to Council's Corporate Priorities Committee for review and recommendation.

Budget Implications (Yes or No):

Yes

Submitted by:

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