

Report to Council



Date: December 10, 2018
File: 1846-01
To: City Manager
From: Kevin Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager
Subject: Christmas Tree Recycling at Glenmore Landfill

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Utility Services Manager dated December 10, 2018 with respect to Complimentary Christmas Tree Recycling at the Glenmore Landfill;

AND THAT Council approves no charge Christmas tree recycling at the Glenmore Landfill from December 27, 2018 through January 27, 2019 as outlined in the December 10, 2018 report from the Utility Services Manager.

Purpose:

To provide for free Christmas Tree recycling at the Glenmore Landfill

Background:

Prior to January 1, 2018 small loads (less than 250 kg) of yard waste, including Christmas trees, could be dropped off at the Glenmore landfill for free. To discourage long lines at the landfill and provide broader equity in managing the costs of yard waste composting, the Solid Waste Bylaw was amended in October 2017 and free disposal of small loads of yard waste was removed.

Customer feedback after the change included questioning why the City would encourage Christmas trees to be dropped off at certain locations for free, but not accept them for free at the landfill where ultimately all of the trees end up being composted.

Beginning December 26, 2018 until January 31, 2019 residents of Kelowna can drop off their Christmas tree for no charge at the following locations:

- Ben Lee Park Parking lot
- Cook Road Boat Launch

It is proposed that the City add the Glenmore Landfill as a free drop off location for Christmas Trees under the following conditions:

- Up to three Christmas trees per vehicle.
- Loads must contain only Christmas Trees. If the trees are mixed in with other yard waste then the entire load (including the Christmas trees) will be charged the fee for yard waste.
- Free drop-off only in effect from December 27, 2018 through and including January 31, 2019.

This will have some impact on queues at the landfill, which should be manageable given that January is generally a slower traffic season. However, staff will continue to encourage Kelowna residents to use the other free drop-off sites. In February, staff will evaluate the program to determine if it should be repeated and / or modified for future years.

Internal Circulation:
Communications

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

There may be a small reduction in yard waste disposal revenues in comparison to January 2018. However, we are unable to quantify the amount at this time. Loads under 250 kg (550 pounds) are currently charged a \$5 flat fee. If we received 1,000 trees in single loads the lost revenue would be \$5,000.

Communications Comments:

Press release will be issued to notify the public and the Glenmore landfill site will be added to the list of locations for free Christmas tree disposal.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:
Existing Policy:
Personnel Implications:
External Agency/Public Comments:
Alternate Recommendation:

Submitted by:

K. Van Vliet, Utility Services Manager

Approved for inclusion:



J. Creron, Deputy City Manager

cc: Community Communications Manager