

Report to Council



Date: March 13, 2023
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Amendment No. 13 to Solid Waste Management Bylaw No. 10106
Department: Utility Services

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from Utility Services, dated March 13, 2023, with regards to Amendment No. 13 to Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw No. 10106;

AND THAT Bylaw 12488, being Amendment No. 13 to the Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw No. 10106, be forwarded for reading consideration;

Purpose:

To seek Council's approval to amend the Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw to update the fee schedules for selected wastes.

Background:

The Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw No. 10106 was last updated in October 2021.

Utility Services and Financial Support staff use a financial model that incorporates actual historical revenue and costs, expected operating costs, and the 10-year capital plan to ensure that tipping fees and the associated revenues will sustainably fund future landfill expenses. These rates and assumptions are reviewed every one to two years.

The landfill tipping fee for garbage increased from \$102 per tonne to \$104 per tonne in January 2023 and staff recommend maintaining this rate for 2024. Asbestos disposal and drywall management costs were also reviewed and are not recommended to be adjusted at this time.

The proposed amendment adjusts the tipping fees for selected wastes, changes the pricing structure for compost sales, and sets the Curbside Collection User Fee for 2023 and 2024 to ensure a sustainably funded Solid Waste operation.

Discussion:

Staff have reviewed the costs associated with various wastes from 2022 and are recommending adjustments on selected waste tipping fees effective July 1, 2023 to allow time for the community to adjust. Most of these selected rates have not been adjusted in more than 7 years. A summary of the proposed rate changes can be found in Schedule A.

Proposed rate changes for July 1, 2023, include:

- Asphalt Shingles increasing from the current \$85 per tonne to \$150 per tonne. This increase is due to higher tipping fees at the end recycling locations and increased operating costs for the processing and hauling contractor.
- Clean wood increasing from \$10 per tonne to \$25 per tonne with a minimum charge increasing to \$6.00.
- Yard Waste increasing from \$40 per tonne to \$44 per tonne with the minimum charge increasing to \$6.00
- Contaminated soils increasing from \$8 to \$15 or \$25 per tonne depending on the level of contamination.

Compost sales rates will be revised effective immediately. The existing rate structure is dependent on the total volume purchased annually by an individual company. The proposed, much simpler, rate structure would be revised to be based on the volume purchased by transaction and location to reflect handling and transport costs. The sale of a new mulch product has also been added. This change will make purchasing compost simpler and more predictable for our customers.

The curbside collection fees (referenced as Solid Waste User Fee) have increased by 0.6% from 2019 to 2023. Utility Services is recommending that the garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection user fees remain at \$181.43 per household in 2023 and increase to \$192.32 in 2024. This 6% increase is to reflect expected increases in hauling and cart procurement costs and to offset the expected reduced revenue from RecycleBC surcharges due to elevated contamination levels.

Conclusion:

The Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw requires minor amendments in 2023 to ensure that it remains consistent with current solid waste management costs. The per-tonne tipping fee for selected wastes are recommended to increase on July 1, 2023, as per Schedule A. In addition, the compost sales rate would be adjusted immediately, and the Solid Waste User Fee would increase from \$181.43 to \$192.32 for tax year 2024.

Internal Circulation:

Financial Planning
Communications
Utility Planning

Considerations applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

The 2023 and 2024 Financial Plans will include the anticipated changes in revenues for the new fees and rate adjustments outlined in this report.

Communications Comments:

Regular customers impacted by the adjustments scheduled for July 2023 will be notified directly by Utility Services. Wholesale level purchasers of compost will also be notified of the rate adjustments and simplification by Utility Services staff.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Submitted by: S. Hoekstra, Manager, Landfill and Composting Operations

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, Infrastructure General Manager

Attachment 1 – Bylaw 12488 Schedule A – Proposed Amendments

cc: Divisional Director, Financial Services
Divisional Director, Corporate Strategic Services
City Clerk