

# Report to Council



**Date:** September 9, 2024  
**To:** Council  
**From:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Amendment to Kelowna-Vernon Biosolids Management Agreement  
**Department:** Utility Services

---

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives for information, the report from Utility Services dated September 9, 2024, with respect to the Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Joint Operating Agreement with the City of Vernon;

AND THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the revised updated Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Joint Operating Agreement between the Cities of Vernon and Kelowna dated April 4, 2024.

**Purpose:**

To amend the existing Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Joint Operating Agreement between Kelowna and Vernon.

**Background:**

The Regional Biosolids Composting Facility (RBCF) is owned by both the City of Kelowna and the City of Vernon and is operated by the City of Kelowna. The RBCF manages the biosolids produced by the Cities of Vernon and Kelowna’s wastewater treatment facilities, and using other feedstocks such as ground branches, hog fuel and white wood, creates a Class A compost marketed as OgoGrow™. The specifics of typical contractual details between the Municipalities are detailed in the current Joint Operating Agreement, dated November 1, 2011 (the Agreement). The Agreement outlines items such as funding allocation, commercial terms, mechanism for withdrawal from the agreement, insurance requirements and other obligations for the two cities.

**Discussion:**

At the request of the Joint Biosolids Advisory Committee (JBAC), staff reviewed the existing Agreement to ensure that it reflects current operations and processes, and to clarify Section 3, Withdrawal From Facility.

An initial review of the Agreement was performed by the JBAC, who requested that Vernon and Kelowna staff prepare an updated Agreement to reflect current site and operating conditions. These proposed amendments were reviewed at the April 2024 JBAC meeting, and the resulting comments from the JBAC members were incorporated into the final draft agreement found as Attachment 1 – Draft Regional Biosolids Composting Facility Joint Operating Agreement. The summary and rationale for each proposed change can be found in Attachment 2.

**Conclusion:**

Under the terms of the existing Agreement Kelowna and Vernon have been very successful in transforming biosolids into a valuable nutrient rich compost at a facility that acts as a model operation in the province. This successful partnership is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Minor edits to our operating agreement clarify our collective commitment to the long-term operation of this facility.

**Internal Circulation:**

City Clerks

**Considerations applicable to this report:**

***Financial/Budgetary Considerations:***

The agreement updates have no cost implications from the current agreement.

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

***Legal/Statutory Authority:***

***Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:***

***Existing Policy:***

***Consultation and Engagement:***

***Communications Comments:***

Submitted by: Scott Hoekstra, Landfill & Compost Operations Manager

Reviewed by: K. Van Vliet, Utility Services Department Manager

Approved for inclusion: M. Logan, General Manager, Infrastructure