
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 7, 2004
File No.: 3900-20
To: City Manager
From: Environment & Solid Waste Manager
Subject: **Mixed Paper & Plastics Recycling:
By-law # 7173, Solid Waste Management By-law**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council have staff amend By-law # 7173 to ban “mixed waste paper” from the landfill;

AND THAT staff set-up recycle containers at Regional landfills and recycle depots for collection of household plastic containers and plastic film (#3 through #7 plastics).

DISCUSSION:

1) Mixed Waste Paper Ban

Mixed Waste Paper as defined in the by-law includes miscellaneous paper that can be classified as fibre and is recyclable. The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan recommends that all fibre paper products (cardboard, newsprint and mixed waste paper) be banned in the Westside and Glenmore Landfills. In 1996 cardboard and newsprint were banned at the landfills but paper was not.

In 2002 the Waste Profile for City of Kelowna and Surrounding Region study showed approximately 20 percent of the waste disposed in the Westside and Glenmore Landfills is paper, cardboard and other easily recycled mixed waste paper. Enforcement initiated in the 90s in the GVRD and the CRD has resulted in significant reductions – up to 60 percent - of paper disposal in their landfills.

Over the past year, the Waste Reduction office (WRO) conducted extensive research to determine the public’s attitudes about expanding the landfill ban to include paper, including:

- Two focus group meetings with waste and recycling haulers and processors.
- Two focus group meetings with representatives from business and multi-family property managers, including large developers like Stober Construction, McIntosh Properties and Argus Properties.
- 280-business telephone survey (confidence rating: +/-5%, 95%).

More than 80 percent of respondents who participated in the various surveys and focus group meetings fully supported the initiative.

WRO is planning public relations and advertising campaigns in the fall to inform businesses of the change in regulations and to implement more wastewise@work waste audit programs to motivate businesses to set up effective recycling programs. Enforcement may follow in the late fall or early in the new year.

2) Plastics Recycling

Recently more residents have been requesting the City and RDCO collect household plastic containers in the curbside-recycling program. There have been several letters to the editor and a small public demonstration concerning increased plastics recycling. The City of Kelowna's 2004 Citizen's Survey found that 65 percent of respondents would be willing to pay an additional \$4 per year to include more plastic containers in curbside recycling program.

Staff has investigated options and costs of different collection mechanisms that could be implemented under the current residential recycling contract and found costs would increase \$160,000 annually. (Other options, such as a two-stream system, cannot be investigated until the next contract is tendered.)

The cost for bin placement and collection at the depots is estimated to be \$24,000 per year. (Costs will vary with volumes of recyclables collected.) This comparably low cost will not significantly impact the recycling budget.

The recommendations for Council's consideration will assist with saving airspace at area landfills and will also address public concerns regarding additional plastics recycling.

Mark Watt,
Environment & Solid Waste Manager

John Vos, Director Works & Utilities

cc: City Clerk
Landfill Supervisor
Regional Waste Reduction Office