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**CITY OF KELOWNA**

**MEMORANDUM**

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**Date:** Feb. 14, 2007

**File No.:** 5360-00

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Environment & Solid Waste Manager

**Subject:** **Plastics Recycling-Glass Removal and Yard Waste Collections;** Solid Waste Management Regulation Bylaw No. 9570 – proposed changes to Schedule “E” (Sanitary Landfill/Recycling Fees) and Schedule “B” (Garbage Collection Fees)

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receives the Environment & Solid Waste Manager's Report detailing proposed fee changes for plastics recycling and additional yard waste collections;

AND THAT staff be directed to bring forward the necessary amending bylaw for Council's consideration.

**Background:**

1) Plastics Recycling and Glass Removal:

The Regional Waste Reduction Office Report for Council (attach 1) indicates that the public survey has a strong desire for plastics recycling for inclusion of all plastics (#2-#7). As well Glass removal from the waste recycling stream is required to maintain the value of recycled paper.

The RDCO Engineering Committee has endorsed this change and City staff support the initiative.

An increased Fee for plastics addition and glass removal;

**Schedule E By-law 9570, Part 4; increase from \$59.28 to \$60.83 (\$1.55 increase).**

2) Yard waste Collection (add 2 per year)

City staff proposed this increased collection service level due to the continuous traffic conditions through spring and fall yard clean-up periods. Traffic counts are up 24% over the last 3 years to 234,292 vehicles (all vehicles). As well organics delivered to the landfill is up 50% to 32,285 tonnes. With additional material anticipated from Pine Beetle debris clean-up and from community growth this number will increase in 2007. The Regional Waste Reduction Office and the RDCO Engineering Committee support this initiative.

The fee for 2 additional yard waste pick-ups per/year;

**Schedule B by-law 9570 part 2.0(2.1) increase from \$45.35 to \$50.35 (\$5.00 increase)**

These combined initiatives meet the objectives of the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (2006). Recycling initiatives and cost review are ongoing to provide certainty and value for recycling programs and recycled materials.

Waste reduction goals for Kelowna as a result of the Solid Waste Management Plan are focusing on DLC (demolition and land clearing materials) and paper for 2007.

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Environment and Solid Waste Manager



Approved for inclusion:  
John Vos  
Director Works & Utilities

Attach: Regional Waste Reduction Office Report



## REPORT TO THE CITY OF KELOWNA COUNCIL

From: Carol Suhan, MBA  
Regional Waste Reduction Manager

Date: January 22, 2007

Re: Changes to Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Collection Program

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On December 11, 2006 the Regional District Board of Directors approved a recommendation to change the blue bag curbside recycling collection program to accept all #1-7 rigid plastic containers and to exclude glass containers commencing February 5, 2007. Examples of the plastic containers to now be collected in the blue bag recycling program are yoghurt, margarine and peanut butter containers, soap, bleach and shampoo bottles, and ice cream or kitty litter buckets. Shopping bags and shrink wrap will also be accepted.

Paper mills are reluctant to accept materials from co-mingled recycling programs like the RDCO's because glass shards become embedded in the paper fibre. The recycling processing plant has warned that it will refuse glass from the RDCO other than that collected at depots or separately. Because of this, glass containers (i.e., pickle and mayonnaise jars) will now be collected at the four recycling and four bottle depots located throughout the Central Okanagan.

The following provides a bit of background and explains why this decision was made.

- Most regional districts in British Columbia, including our neighbours of RDOS, RDNO, and RDKB, collect and market #1-7 household plastic containers in their curbside recycling collection programs. As a result, many residents have been asking for this service in our community for a number of years. Three surveys show that a majority of residents want to recycle more plastics even when told there could be an increase in costs up to \$4.00 per year (RDCO, 2003, 2006; City of Kelowna's Citizen's Survey, 2005).
- When similar changes were made to the RDKB, RDNO and RDSO's recycling programs several years ago, residents were pleased with the service as plastics comprise a significantly larger percentage of household waste than glass (10-15% plastics compared to 1-2% glass containers).
- Initially, officials were reluctant to remove glass containers from the blue bag program and require residents to drop them off at depots for recycling. However, research from other communities showed that it would cost approximately 30% more to collect glass separately (about \$4.50 per hhld/annum).
- The Regional District expects to collect about 2,000 tonnes of plastic and 150 tonnes of glass in 2007. Presently, glass has a negative market value but plastics sell for \$50-400/tonne.
- The cost increase to collect and process the plastics will be approximately \$1.55 per household per annum.

Note: NORD removed glass and added #1-7 plastics in its blue bag program in 2004. There were no problems with the change in the program, although glass volumes collected did initially drop. However, since that time glass collected at the depots has increased to two thirds of what was collected before at curbside and volumes of plastics collected have more than quadrupled.