

Council Report

Report Number: WM2021-007
Meeting Date: March 23, 2021
Title: Eligibility Review for Curbside Leaf and Yard Collection
Description: Review the eligible properties for curbside leaf and yard collection
Author and Title: David Kerr, Manager of Environmental Services

Recommendation(s):

That Report WM2021-007, **Eligibility Review for Curbside Leaf and Yard Collection**, be received;

That Council approve the Option 1 (Preferred) for a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of including high density multi-residential locations within the regular curbside collection of leaf and yard waste program that currently includes low density residential and mobile home parks only; and

That Staff report back to Council in Q3, 2022 on the results of the curbside collection pilot study with recommended options and associated costs.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Council Meeting of January 28, 2021, Council adopted the following resolution:

CW2021-005

That the deputation of C. Brian Lailey, regarding Fall Leaf Pick-up, be received;

That the issue of Fall Leaf Pick-up at condominium properties be forwarded to Staff for review and report back by the end of Q1, 2021.

This report addresses that direction.

The City's current By-Law 2016-144 (A By-law for Collection and Management of Waste and Recyclables within the City of Kawartha Lakes) hereinafter referred to as the "By-Law", states in section 3.06 b (a); Curbside collection for leaf and yard waste shall be provided to low density residential buildings and mobile home parks only. Mobile home parks are defined as year round residential communities. The By-Law excludes high density multi-residential as well as industrial, commercial, institutional, trailer park and resort locations from curbside leaf and yard collection.

For further clarity, the high density multi-residential classification includes lands zoned to permit an apartment building, condominium complex, townhouse complex, co-operative housing complex, accessory dwelling units, or other similar residential complex containing three (3) or more residential dwelling units.

Based on staff research, there is an estimated 300 high density multi-residential locations within the City. Although the resolution is specific to condominiums, which fall in the category of high density multi-residential, it is noted there are approximately 30 seasonal trailer parks within the City, which are not eligible under the By-Law for curbside collection.

It is important to note that under the By-Law, all residential locations are entitled to free drop-off at any landfills within the City, if quantities are less than 250 kg (approx. 25 bags).

Historically, Miller Waste Inc. ("Miller") completed curbside leaf and yard collection during three annual events (two in the fall and one in the spring). During these collection events, some locations have several hundred bags of material set out, which often takes 1-2 hours to collect and fills an entire collection truck. It was discovered through training that City staff provided to Miller, that some of these high volume stops were ineligible for collection as per the By-law. As a result, Miller discontinued curbside

collection from ineligible locations, in accordance with the By-Law for the 2020 curbside collection events. In response to this action, some of the owners of the high density multi-residential stops requested to be included in the leaf and yard curbside collection program.

The following section provides further rationale on the eligibility of high density multi-residential for inclusion in the three annual curbside collection events.

Rationale:

Staff have reached out to surrounding municipalities and determined that many providing curbside leaf and yard collection do collect from low and high density residential locations. These communities include County of Peterborough, City of Orillia and the City of Peterborough. Of interest, Simcoe reserves the right to limit the amount of quantities these locations are setting out.

Miller does not have a record of the amount of high density multi-residential stops that have been historically collected. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately determine the true impact of including these stops to this service. Both Staff and Miller agreed that in order to confirm the true impact of including high density multi-residential, a pilot program would be required to document the amount of leaf and yard waste generated from each high density multi-residential location. Quantities of leaf and yard waste will be documented by Miller to determine overall volumes and impact. The pilot would be well advertised and held over the course of 2021 and 2022. The pilot would include curbside collection for each of the three normally scheduled annual events for both years. There are different options, for Council's consideration, as to what is included in the pilot program as follows:

Option 1 (Preferred)

This option would include only high density multi-residential stops along with the regular collection from low density residential stops. Staff have created a list of the high density multi-residential locations and have provided that list to Miller. There are approximately 300 additional stops and Miller has some confidence in the volume impact of including this sector. As a result, they have provided an upset limit which is less than \$5,000 per year for the pilot. The data collected from the program would help to determine feasibility, and any costs associated with increasing the leaf and yard collection program to the high density multi-residential sector. This pilot program will address Council's direction. The proposed resolution is:

That Council approve the Preferred Option 1 for a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of including high density multi-residential locations within the regular curbside collection of leaf and yard waste program that currently includes low density residential and mobile home parks only.

Option 2

This option is the same as option 1 with the addition of Trailer Parks. As previously mentioned, trailer parks were not specifically included in the January 28th Council resolution. However, staff are aware that some trailer parks had historically received curbside leaf and yard collection and some of the owners have requested to be included in future events. There are approximately 30 Trailer Parks in the municipality. Miller has indicated that due to the large forested acreage of trailer parks, there is a potential that significant leaf and yard waste could be generated from this sector. However, unlike the multi residential sector, where Miller has some confidence in the expected volumes, the quantities generated from this sector are unknown. As a result, Miller was unable to provide an upset limit for including this sector in the program. Instead they have provided us with unit costs and will perform this work on time and materials. It is expected that the annual costs for this option will be below \$10,000 per year. However, this estimate cannot be confirmed until the pilot program has been completed. The proposed resolution is:

That Council approve Option 2 for a two-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of including high density residential locations and Trailer Parks within the regular curbside collection of leaf and yard waste program that currently includes low density residential and mobile home parks only.

Summary

The pilot program will include curbside leaf and yard collection until the end of 2022 and the data gathered through the pilot will be analyzed by staff and discussed with Miller in Q3 of 2022. A report will be brought back to council in Q3 in 2022, and future budgeting and servicing levels will be based on Council's decision at that time.

Of note, collection of leaf and yard from the additional locations will promote further diversion from the landfill and potentially add to larger volumes of compost available for members of the public. It also has the benefit of limiting the amount of vehicles coming into the landfills thereby reducing lineups at the landfills.

Other Alternatives Considered:

The other alternative would be for Council to adhere to the current By-law (2016-144) that only allows the curbside collection of leaf and yard materials from low density residential and mobile home parks. This would come at no cost increase to the City. However, there may be less diversion of leaf and yard waste from landfill, potentially increase in landfill lineups and those who have inadvertently received service in the past would experience a decrease in historical level of service.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The allowance of high density multi-residential locations and trailer parks to participate in the curbside leaf and yard collection aligns with the Strategic Priority of A Healthy Environment. This program promotes increased diversion of materials from landfill and enhances the City's composting program. These initiatives are part of the City's Integrated Waste Management Strategy.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

Under Option 1 identified in the Rationale section of this report, Miller Waste has provided an upset limit of under \$5,000 per year to include the high density multi-residential sector in the curbside leaf and yard program. Staff will monitor actual costs and will report to Council in Q3, 2022. The upset amount of \$5,000 for the pilot is based on Miller's experience and relative confidence in the expected quantities from the high density multi-residential sector. It is recommended to allocate the increased costs of the pilot to the waste operating budget.

Under Option 2, there is some uncertainty of the volumes of waste that could come from seasonal trailer parks. To assess the costs associated with those stops, Miller would dedicate one truck specifically for the collection of trailer parks. The truck will be weighed, so accurate tonnages, times per stop and costs can be determined. Miller was unable to provide an upset limit for this service and will charge time and materials based on unit costs provided. Although it is expected that including trailer parks will not exceed \$10,000 in additional cost could exceed this amount.

The total impact to cost of the program cannot be confirmed until a pilot is complete (if approved by Council). If a pilot is approved, Staff will report back to Council on results of the pilot and will provide a fulsome recommendation including budget estimates for Council's consideration on the program.

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