

To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer
From: Dan Locke, Director of Public Works
Re: Waste Contract update

AIM

To provide a waste collection services update and obtain direction from Council for Public Works staff to continue to provide Garbage Collection Services as well adding Organics Collection Services to the City's waste collection services portfolio.

BACKGROUND

In the June 20, 2024 Council report, Woodstock City Council was informed that Blue Box Recycling would no longer be a municipal responsibility and, as such, the City would no longer be collecting recycling as of January 1, 2026. In the same report, staff committed to reporting back with options for non-eligible sources (i.e. non-residential) recycling collection. However, non-eligible source recycling collection is still being explored by the County so staff will report back on the non-eligible source recycling more information is available.

Garbage and Organics Collection

The County issued an RFP in 2024 for Waste Services which included the options for Garbage and Organics Collections. The City has the option to match the upset limit that is identified within the preferred bid received that meets the criteria of the RFP. City Staff were provided with the 6 collection scenarios that formed the basis for the bidders to respond to the RFP with pricing for each scenario. City staff are confident that, given the pricing the County received, the City can provide the service within the upset limit that has been identified. At the January 8th, 2025 County Council meeting, the lowest cost option was approved, which is identified as scenario 5 (rotating 6-day collection cycle of garbage and organics county-wide) with an upset limit of \$1,951,814 for 2026 for the City of Woodstock to perform this service.

Scenario 5 - Rotating 6-day Collection Cycle of Garbage and Organics

This scenario would have a rotating 6-day cycle within the 5-day work week. This would effectively eliminate the need for double collection days due to statutory holidays. This would then also be a more manageable program to resource as the City would require fewer trucks. This option allows for co-collection of garbage and organics. There will be an impact for residents as the collection day will change each week. It is important to note that there will also be a separate collection day for curbside recycling collection by the new service provider. This means that residents will likely have two separate waste stream set-out days with at least one changing weekly.

City and County staff will work together to develop a comprehensive promotion and education campaign as well as communication through the “What’s ON Woodstock” magazine and the Wasteline app to assist residents with program details and scheduling.

Impacts to the Public Works Operations

The introduction of organics collection coinciding with the loss of recycling collection allows for the staff and equipment resources to be preserved. Waste and organics can be co-collected in the same vehicle, whereas waste and recycling collection occurred in separate vehicles. However, there will need to be additional co-collection vehicles on the road each day to complete the daily routes as both garbage and organics are collected at each stop. Staff believe there will be efficiencies but there are uncertainties that make estimating difficult. The number of residents that use an organics collection program is one of many factors.

The New Organics Collection Program

Organics collection would be proposed to commence in early 2026, with a date yet to be determined. This would be a weekly collection program using green bin wheeled carts. County staff will issue a green bin procurement tender this year. Distribution of the green bin to residents is the primary necessity to establish a start date and commencement of service. A communication and education program will be developed in 2025 to inform residents of details on this new program.

COMMENTS

It is Staff’s opinion that the City should be the collector for this service. Ideally with co-collection of garbage and organics in the same waste collection vehicle, this effectively reduces the amount of waste collection vehicles that travel each road in Woodstock. The County has indicated that both Garbage and Organics can be dropped off at Salford. This is the preferred scenario as this will keep the load on the truck relatively balanced versus dropping off garbage at one location and organics at a different location, placing the load to one side of the box of the truck and presenting a possible safety concern.

It is worth noting that having additional operational programs such as the organics collection increases our overall complement of staff, which gives Public Works a larger pool of staff resources to draw from for winter control events and other major weather-related or special events. This is a valuable and beneficial resource to our community.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Woodstock City Council approves the continuation of curbside waste collection services and the introduction of residential curbside organics collection services effective early 2026 at a cost equal to or lower than the cost included in the recent County waste collection services tender and that County Council be advised, and further,

THAT City Staff be directed to work with County Staff to update and revise the waste management agreement with the County of Oxford.

Authored by: Dan Locke, C.E.T., Director of Public Works

Approved by: David Creery, P.Eng., MBA, Chief Administrative Officer