

# Business Case Summary

## Bi-Weekly Waste Collection

Stage: Planning Review 1  
2022 - Operating

Business Case Name	Bi-Weekly Waste Collection	Business Case Number	CP_CE1506
Department	Sustainability & Transit	Owner	Caitlin Van Gaal
Total Project Cost	500,000		
Start Date	2022-01-01		
Completion Date	2022-12-31		

### Description

Administration is proposing three changes to the waste collection system to be implemented in 2022 with the signing of the new waste contract. The proposed changes are:

- every other week garbage collection
- every other week recycling collection
- every other week organics collection during the winter months (summer weekly collection to continue)

These changes are being proposed to align with the Edmonton Region municipalities and more specifically the town of Stony Plain. These changes will also help to address the City's landfill diversion rates, which have stagnated over the past 5+ years when compared to other communities in the region who have every other week garbage collection. Every other week garbage collection has proven to be an effective strategy to increase diversion rates, lower overall waste volumes and reduce GHG emissions. This proposed collection frequency encourages greater recycling and organics participation rates by restricting the volume of garbage allowed to be placed at the curb.

The City's current waste contract expires in March of 2022. We are proposing that shortly after the new contract start the City transitions to every other week garbage and recycling collection. Both landfill waste and recycling are inert waste that can last for two weeks with minimal odour issues. Material that may rot and create odour will be placed in the green organics cart and collected weekly during the summer months. We are also proposing every other week organics collection during the winter months to help capture the organic waste that was typically disposed of during the weekly garbage collection. Roughly 50% of all waste sent to landfill is organic waste in Spruce Grove. By decreasing the collection of garbage and increasing the collection of organics it will encourage residents to properly sort their waste.

To accompany this transition, a more detailed look into the Utility billing rate should be completed. A review of how this change in collection frequency impacts the user rates should be completed and accurately communicated to the public.

A business case was submitted for this in 2021, under the reference code CP\_CE1506. Annual ongoing costs of \$50,000/year.

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### Business Need

Sending organics to landfill accounts for 2.4% of the Community's overall GHG emissions. This does not take into consideration the emissions as a result of the trucks driving around the City every week.

Spruce Grove has had an organics program for the past roughly 15 years, over that time the usage of the green organics cart for anything more than yard waste has been extremely low. Especially when compared to other communities in the region. Municipalities in the Edmonton region who have every other week garbage collection are seeing diversion rates of 60%, Spruce Grove's diversion rate has been between 35% and 40% for the past 5+ years.

There is a clear behavioural change linked to collection frequency. In the absence of a change to collection frequency, residents do not voluntarily change their behaviour to properly sort their waste. By changing the frequency, residents no longer have the option to throw all waste in one bin, they are required to sort their waste. This will lower the City's overall impact on the environment.

The concept of every other week garbage collection was initially presented to Council in 2018. On October 22, 2018 Council made a motion to "maintain weekly curbside garbage collection in spring 2019 with the tendering of the new contract and consider a transition to bi-weekly collection within the life of the contract". Changing the collection frequency in 2022 will align with the signing of the new contract. During 2018 the City also conducted a public survey where 82% of residents stated that diverting waste from landfill was somewhat to very important.

Moving recycling to every other week is an idea that some municipalities are beginning to adopt. Collecting every second week lowers the amount to times the truck needs to drive around collecting material. This reduces the GHG emissions and wear and tear on the roads.

Increasing organics collection to every other week during the winter months allows residents more flexibility with their waste disposal. By encouraging residents to divert from the landfill as a result of the black garbage cart being collected less frequently, there needs to be some way to capture the organic material. The City is already receiving request to increase winter collection frequencies.

### Options

Keep collection frequency the same, continue to see low diversion rates and not see progress towards the City's GHG reduction targets.

### Risk Analysis

Residents complaints as this may be viewed as a reduction in service. Some residents who have developed habits of using the black garbage cart as the only way to dispose of waste may struggle to learn how to properly sort their waste. The City has a waste app in place to help residents properly sort their waste.

### Dependencies

This will help support the Climate Change Action Plan target and goals of overall community GHG reduction. This will also help support the mandate of the EMRB Waste Collaborative and the Edmonton Region Waste Advisory Committee.

### Impact If Not Implemented

The City will continue to see low diversion rates and not see progress towards the City's GHG reduction targets. The City will be out of alignment with the Edmonton region, which is a key focus of the Tri-Region and the EMRB Waste Collaborative.

### Strategic Portfolios

Investing in Our Growth and Prosperity

Investing In Our Service Supports

Investing in Our Interconnectivity

### Outcomes & Benefits

Outcome/Benefit	Success Measures
Increase in waste diversion from landfill	Evident through regular waste audits
Reduction in GHG emissions	Evident through regular GHG inventories and audits
Alignment with the greater Edmonton Region	Same collection services across all municipalities

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### Stakeholder & Impact

Stakeholder	Impact
Residents	High - Lower collection frequency, potential for cost reduction
Waste Hauler and Disposal	Medium - Better use of all collection streams resulting in more diversion
Staff	High - Increase in phone calls/complaints as the City transitions collection schedule

### Staffing Resources

Department	Position Type	Name of Position	Effort Required
75 - Sustainability & Transit	Existing		High >200 hours
74 - Public Works	Existing		High >200 hours
12 - Corporate Communications	Existing		High >200 hours
52 - Finance	Existing		Medium 51-200 hours

### Key Milestones

Key Milestone	Target Date
Tender new waste contract with pricing for proposed collection changes	2022-03-31
Complete review of Utility rate with the new contracted services rate for the proposed changes	2022-06-30
Transition collection schedule to every other week garbage and recycling	2022-09-05
Transition to every other week winter organics collection	2022-11-14

### Operating Budget Details

GL Account	Position	AA Code	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2024 Budget
Expenses					
Waste					
Professional Fees		CP_CE1506	35,000	35,000	35,000
Materials & Supplies		CP_CE1506	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total Waste			50,000	50,000	50,000
Total Expenses			50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Net Total</b>			<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>Total FTE Request: 0.0</b>					