STAFF REPORT

REPORT TO: TOM HICKEY, DIRECTOR, ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS

FROM: GARY FRANSSEN, MANAGER, SANITATION, RECYCLING & CEMETERIES

RE: RESIDENTIAL KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTION

STAFF'S RECOMMENDATION:

That Council support phasing in City-wide residential kitchen waste collection.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2007-October, Council supported the City's participation in a Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) kitchen waste curb side collection field test for approximately 700 houses in the Departure Bay area. The field test term expired 2008-October and at that time staff indicated that a report evaluating the program and presenting implementation options will be submitted for Council to consider. Kitchen waste collection has continued to be provided to residences in the field test area.

On the field test route each residence was provided with educational materials and two collection containers - one for use in the kitchen and a second, larger wheeled cart, to deliver their kitchen waste to the curb for collection. Kitchen waste is collected every week and on alternate weeks either one container of garbage is collected or recycling is picked-up.

The kitchen waste curb side collection program has been well accepted by the residents involved. 80% of survey respondents were very positive on the program and only 2% were strongly negative. When asked if food waste collection should be made available region wide, 99% of Nanaimo respondents said yes. Of note, nearly 70% of these households continued to do backyard composting to some extent.

BACKGROUND:

Over the field test term, the diversion of household waste that would otherwise go to landfill was 50% (93.01 tonnes). Adding kitchen waste services to the existing garbage and recycling service for this area resulted in an overall diversion from the landfill that approached 70%. The added diversion provided by kitchen waste collection and composting increases the life of the landfill and reduces greenhouse gas generation.

When the City's garbage service is compared to the field test the statistics below show how effective the kitchen waste curb-side program is.

	2008 Garbage Service	Kitchen Waste Program
Garbage to Landfill – (per month)	26.7 Kg	11.4 Kg
Curbside Recycling (per month)	12.5 KG	14 Kg
Waste Diversion from Landfill	32%	70%

Where do we go from here?

Based on the evaluation of the field test staff recommend a phased in implementation of a City wide residential kitchen waste collection program. The cost and service implications are:

- By utilizing split-packer or two-stream styled collection vehicles to provide kitchen waste service, there is no increase to staff or fleet necessary. The City fleet does not include split-packer refuse collection equipment but there are four refuse collection vehicles that have past their scheduled replacement date. Replacement of these older units was delayed with the possibility that different styled refuse vehicles would be necessary if Council wished to pursue kitchen waste service. Split-packer styled vehicles can be used to service garbage only routes when needed or for servicing kitchen waste routes where they would be used to collect two separate types of material.

  The difference in cost between purchasing a standard and a split-packer style refuse collection vehicle is in the range of 10% or approximately $20,000 to $25,000. The cost estimate for the split packer is $265,000.

  In December of 2008, Council authorized the purchase of the City's first split packer collection vehicle and delivery is expected in early 2010. The funds for the purchase of the split packers is available in the Vehicle and Equipment Replacement Fund.

- It is anticipated that there will be some reduction of disposal costs because of the diversion of kitchen waste to a composting facility. Presently the City pays $105 per tonne for material taken to landfill and $85 per tonne for material taken to the composting facility. However, RDN landfill tipping fees can be impacted by this service change and the RDN has not completed a contract with the composting facility so cost savings cannot be estimated at this time.

- A composting facility with sufficient capacity within a reasonable delivery range from the land fill is critical to the program. This is currently being pursued by the RDN through contract negotiations with the company that now has a composting facility at Duke Point. Because this is a private composting facility, future pricing is uncertain.

- The provision of an efficient and cost effective drop point for both kitchen and garbage waste collected by the City fleet. The RDN has committed to the City that this will be done.

- The purchase of 25,000 kitchen waste bins for household use at approximately $25 per unit which will be billed to each household. Replacement kitchen waste bins will be available for purchase by homeowners through the City. A region wide purchase has the potential for better economies of scale and improved access to grant monies to offset the overall bin purchase cost. Staff are working with RDN staff accordingly.

- Based on the feedback received from the field test, an education program at start-up is important for a successful implementation. The cost estimate for education and promotion is estimated to be $35,000.

- The start-up cost associated with kitchen waste bin delivery is estimated at $10,000.

- Preparation of appropriate Garbage and Recycling Bylaw for Council approval.

The phasing in of the kitchen waste collection program will be contingent on:

- the ordering and delivery of split packers.
- the capacity of the RDN composting facility contractor.

The current user fee for the City's garbage and recycling service is $105.25 per year per residence. This fee covers garbage, kitchen waste and recycling collection costs, RDN landfill tipping fees and other related costs. A onetime fee of approximately $28 to $30 will be charged per residence to fund start up costs and purchase kitchen waste bins.

If Council does not support the expansion of kitchen waste service city-wide, staff will discontinue the service on the existing kitchen waste collection route.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Franssen, Manager Sanitation, Recycling & Cemeteries Engineering & Public Works	Tom Hickey Director Engineering & Public Works	Andy Laidlaw General Manager Community Services

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