



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☒	Decision Request ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Committee of the Whole

Submitted by: _____
Todd Richard, Director of Public Works

Date: September 10, 2024

Subject: West Hants Regional Municipality Solid Waste Bylaw

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act, Section 23 authorizes Council to make policies for municipal purposes.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

It is recommended that:

Committee of the Whole recommends to Council to approve the new West Hants Regional Municipality Solid Waste Bylaw, as presented.

BACKGROUND

Property ☐	Public Opinion ☐	Environment ☒	Social ☐	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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Prior to consolidation, The Town of Windsor and The Municipality of the District of West Hants each had their own Bylaws. Both sets of Bylaws were outdated and needed many updates.

Shortly after consolidation, the Waste Services Coordinator was requested to review the Town of Windsor and the Municipality of the District of West Hants Bylaws to prepare a consolidated Bylaw that pertains to West Hants Regional Municipality (WHRM) as a whole. As the Solid

Waste Collection Contract comes up for renewal, with a start date of April 1, 2025, now is the ideal time to merge the two Bylaws into one.

Research began by filtering through each Bylaw to determine what information is still relevant today and what should be removed or updated. Additional information was gathered from other Municipal Bylaws and advice and input was received from Region 6, WHRM Bylaw Officers as well as GFL. This proposed Solid Waste Bylaw has several amendments to better reflect West Hants Regional Municipality as one unit, as opposed to differentiating between communities.

DISCUSSION

As a Municipality, we create a Solid Waste Bylaw based on provincial rules and the services we provide for curbside waste collection. The proposed Solid Waste Bylaw has been updated to provide a consistent and equal level of service throughout the Municipality and to better reflect its growing population and infrastructure. Additional information has been added to allow our Bylaw Officers and Administration to do their job more efficiently, effectively and with more clarity.

Enforcement is achieved through a combination of compliance monitoring and traditional investigations along with an equal balance of community outreach and education. An effort was made with this Bylaw to provide clarity to both residents (to know what behaviors and actions are permitted) and to the municipality, allowing Administrators to know what capacity they have to enforce order in WHRM.

To achieve clarity and to better reflect the municipality's growing population and infrastructure, as well as committing to the province's goal of growing the circular economy, the following changes were made to the consolidated Solid Waste Bylaw:

- Apartment and multi unit buildings – advising of the limits for collection
- Collection limits will be the same for all WHRM – 10 recycling bags and 5 garbage bags – reducing the number of bags by one (1) in West Hants/Hantsport and increasing the number of bags in Windsor by one (1).
- Removing the use of one black bag in Windsor – still allowing one (1) small solid coloured privacy bag no larger than 22 in x 24 in and can be placed in the clear bag.
- Special collections - no more special monthly Leaf & Yard Waste Collection for Windsor. They will have the same collection as everyone else, 26 collections per year, collected bi-weekly, with 3 bags and a bundle of brush per organic collection day.
- Eligible premises – clarifying what premises are eligible for curbside collection.
- Additional definitions for more clarity.

Attached is an excerpt from Nova Scotia's Landfill Waste Audit 2023, showing that over half of what's in Nova Scotia's landfills could have been recycled or composted. The full document can

be found here - <https://divertns.ca/landfillaudit>. Tables, specific to the GFL West Hants Landfill can be found on page 61 & 68 of the document.

The Province of Nova Scotia is committed to growing the circular economy (an economy with no wasted energy or materials) by reducing the provincial solid waste disposal rate to 300 kg per person per year by 2030. Right now, the solid waste disposal rate is about 400 kg per person per year, so that will reduce waste by 25%. In 2022-23, WHRM was 471 kg and in 2021-22 was 430 kg; a collaborative effort of enforcement and education will be needed to achieve the disposal rate of 300 kg per person.

NEXT STEPS

Following an approval, updates will be made to the website as well as the 2025 Solid Waste Calendar reflecting the changes noted above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Following adoption of the Bylaw, staff could experience more frequent phone calls; a major change in collection can result in an increase in residents calling with questions.
- Updating Collection calendars – if not approved before creating the new calendars, which are typically sent to the printer in November and mailed to residents in early December.
- Ads for Newspaper.

Cost associated with updating the Bylaw are within the 2024-25 operating budget and, depending on the timing of approval, any additional costs will be included in the 2025-26 operating budget.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no alternative recommendations.

ATTACHMENTS

A copy of the Proposed Bylaw is attached.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

Not Applicable.

Report Prepared by:  _____
Jenny LaPierre, Waste Services Coordinator

Report Reviewed by: _____
(Name and Title)

Report Approved by: _____
(Name and Title)