



# **Waste Strategies Engagement Summary**

## **Summary**

The City is seeking your input on the implementation of new waste strategies to reach the goal of diverting 65 per cent of household waste from landfill by 2025 – The City has been stuck at approximately 60 per cent waste diversion for the last six years, and new service levels, policies or programs are needed to reach 65 per cent.

The City is consulting on the three remaining proposed waste strategies that received positive or neutral community support and are still viable options based on the current regulatory framework. Significant engagement on these options has been ongoing since 2019.

## **Background**

The City of Kingston launched the Waste Strategies engagement in 2019, with the objective of engaging the community on how the City could reach the goal of diverting 65 per cent of waste from landfill by 2025. The strategies, as approved for discussion by Council were as follows;

1. Increase the cost of garbage bag tags to encourage greater participation in the diversion programs.
2. Eliminate the existing one 'free' bag per week and explore full user pay options including a policy/program consideration for low income individuals.



3. Prohibit the disposal of recyclables and organics in the garbage stream and enforce the use of clear bags for garbage.
4. Reduce the frequency of garbage collection from weekly to bi-weekly for most eligible properties. This option may allow for bi-weekly collection for yard waste.
5. Limit the number of additional 'tagged' garbage bags permitted for collection.
6. Reduce the number of "two bags of garbage" weeks from three per year to two per year.
7. Increase the size of the blue and grey boxes.
8. Mandatory use of green bins at multi-residential properties, or proof of third-party contractor for organics collection.
9. Eliminate fees and charges for schools to participate in the green bin organics program.
1. 10. Provide two size options for green bins: 45 litre or 80 litre.

Following various regulatory changes, Council decisions and the results from the earlier phases of the engagement ([view the feedback documents](#)) a brief overview of why certain strategies are not included in the final options can be found below;

Option 2 – Poor community support, residents viewed this option as penalizing large families.

Option 5/6 – Poor community support, residents did not believe that these changes would result in significant increases in diversion.



Option 7 – No longer possible. The Kingston Area Recycling Centre was refurbished in 2020 to maintain the four stream recycling operation, as directed by Council. A two stream retrofit was required to allow for larger recycling boxes. Small bins are used to address safety concerns with collection staff hand sorting at the curb.

Option 8 – Poor support amongst Multi-Residential owner/managers. Provincial Policy statements already exist, requiring buildings with six or more units to provide residents with a source separated organics diversion program. The City will continue to offer an opt-in green bin program to apartments and condominiums.

Option 9 – Implemented. Fees for Schools opting into the City of Kingston green bin program were waived in June 2019. Any school in the geographic area of Kingston (not the school board boundaries) can opt into the program.

Option 10 – Implemented. Any residents replacing a damaged or stolen green bin, or picking up their first green bin is offered the choice between a 45 litre or 80 litre green bin.

## **Proposed Options**

The following proposed options use the remaining waste strategies that received positive or neutral community support and are still viable options based on the current regulatory framework.

### **Option 1: Bi-weekly collection of clear bag waste**

By introducing both bi-weekly waste collection and clear bag garbage collection, the likelihood of reaching 65 per cent waste diversion from landfill is most likely. Blue box,



grey box, and green bin collection frequency would remain unchanged. All garbage set out for collection will need to be placed in clear bags.

### **Opportunities**

The introduction of bi-weekly waste collection will allow the introduction of yard waste collection on alternating weeks from garbage. This will allow for the removal of yard waste from the green bin program which can lead to cost savings in processing green bin wastes.

The introduction of clear bag waste collection allows for the removal of waste disposal limits. The City will collect any and all waste that does not include materials banned from disposal (recycling, organics, construction waste, etc.) as set out by the Solid Waste By-law. This has the potential to reduce disposal fees and administration fees associated with the garbage bag tag program.

### **Challenges**

Medical exemption programs for individuals that produce excess waste due to a medical condition will require alternative disposal options to maintain privacy and dignity.

Additionally, privacy concerns for most residential properties will need to be addressed, as there will be wastes in need of disposal that could be embarrassing or private in nature.

Diapers and pet wastes are currently required to be placed in the garbage and limiting waste collection to every other week may cause concerns with odours, and the attraction of vermin.



### **Additional Required Policies**

- Landfill ban for recyclables and organics materials in the city waste By-law.
- Removal of waste set out limits for garbage and green bins.

### **Option 2: Bi-weekly waste collection and increase bag tag fees.**

Bi-weekly waste collection has proven effective in other municipalities in Ontario to reduce waste disposal volumes and boost participation in recycling and green bin programs. Disposal of materials that could produce odours or attract vermin are generally acceptable in the green bin program, which is collected more frequently, driving its use. Waste limits will remain the same (one bag/week or two bags per collection) as they are currently set.

Disposal costs continue to climb, and the current \$2 fee for each additional bag of garbage does not cover the costs associated with their disposal. Additionally, low fees do not provide a significant barrier to waste disposal for recyclable and organic materials. As such an increase in the bag tag fees charged for additional waste will be required.

### **Opportunities**

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## **Challenges**

Diapers and pet wastes are currently required to be placed in the garbage and limiting waste collection to every other week may cause concerns with odours, and the attraction of vermin. Diaper exemption programs have been used in other municipalities to address some of this concern.

## **Option 3: Weekly clear bag waste collection**

Clear bag waste collection is a proven method to increase participation and volumes of materials in waste diversion programs. As collection staff are able to see the materials in the garbage bag, they are able to enforce waste disposal bans, and educate residents on what is and is not acceptable in the garbage.

## **Opportunities**

The introduction of weekly clear bag waste collection allows for the removal of waste disposal limits. The City will collect any and all waste that does not include materials banned from disposal (recycling, organics, construction waste, etc.) as set out by the [Solid Waste By-law](#). This has the potential to reduce disposal fees and administration fees associated with the garbage bag tag program.

## **Challenges**

Medical exemption programs for individuals that produce excess waste due to a medical condition will require alternative disposal options to maintain privacy and dignity. Additionally, privacy concerns for most residential properties will need to be addressed, as there will be wastes in need of disposal that could be embarrassing or private in nature.



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