



Engineering & Public Works
Staff Report to Council

File: 11-5360-01

DATE: January 8, 2018
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Barry Azevedo, Manager of Environmental Services
SUBJECT: Residential Disposal Options for Fallen Branches from Ice Storm

RECOMMENDATIONS: Council consider and resolve:

1. That residents be provided with free drop-off of yard waste at the landfill from January 9, 2018, until February 4, 2018
2. That engineering staff work with communication staff to use social media to promote availability of larger wood debris for firewood, woodcraft and art uses; and
3. That the number of weekly curbside compostable collection containers and yard waste bundles be limited to a combined total of 10.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide cost-effective options to assist residents in the clean-up of fallen branches and trees as a result of a severe ice storm.

BACKGROUND:

A severe ice storm hit Mission on December 29, 2017. The weight of the ice on trees resulted in many branches breaking and trees toppling both on private property and on public property. Mayor and Council asked staff to look at options to assist residents across the District in cleaning up and disposing of the excess of branches and tree sections.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS:

Seven options for assisting residents with the disposal of fallen branches and tree sections were considered. These options are provided below. The first three options are all recommended by staff for implementation.

Recommended Options

- 1) Staff recommend free drop-off of yard waste by residents at the Minnie's Pit landfill for composting from January 9, 2018, until February 4, 2018. Limiting the date to a reasonable amount of time provides a balance of service to residents, particularly those with urgent need to dispose of fallen branches and trees while not exposing the District to excessive unbudgeted costs. The free drop-off option is in addition to the ongoing weekly curbside compostables collection in the curbside collection area.
- 2) Staff recommend that engineering and communication staff work together to use social media to promote availability of larger wood debris for firewood, woodcraft and art uses.
- 3) Staff recommend ongoing weekly curbside compostables collection but with a weekly limit of a combined total of 10 containers and bundles of compostable waste. The number of containers collected weekly at the curbside has historically been unlimited. However, due to the amount of

yard waste generated by the ice storm event, which is beyond the quantity envisioned in the curbside collection contract, a weekly limit of 10 containers and bundles is recommended by staff as a fair limit for the contractor. This is the same limit that Abbotsford has had in place since approximately 2013. A higher limit, or no limit, would require negotiation with the curbside collection contractor and would result in higher curbside collection costs.

Other Options Considered

- 4) Curbside chipping of yard waste and hauling to the landfill for re-use or composting – not recommended due to cost and logistics.
- 5) Free drop-off of yard waste by residents at the landfill for incineration in an air-curtain burner – not recommended due to MOE regulatory requirements and environmental considerations.
- 6) Free drop-off at one or more locations in the District for collection/chipping and hauling to the landfill for re-use, composting, or incineration in an air-curtain burner – not recommended due to costs and logistics.
- 7) Issuance of special occasion burning permits under the Burning Bylaw by the Mission Fire and Rescue Service Department – not recommended due to not meeting intention of bylaw, and uncertainty with respect to meeting FVRD and BCMOE expectations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Regardless of any additional services provided by the District, the ice storm will increase solid waste operation costs as a result of the greater amount of residential curbside yard waste that will be collected and composted over the next several months. There will be three sources of yard waste from the ice storm: 1) urban curbside, 2) urban drop-off, and 3) rural drop-off. All three streams are received and processed at the landfill composting facility. The composting facility contractor is paid a contracted per tonne rate for each tonne of compostable waste processed. However, only an increase in the urban curbside tonnage would normally result in a net cost to the District, since drop-off (urban and rural) would normally pay a tipping fee which would cover the processing rate. Since Option 1 is recommending removing the tipping fee for a period of time for the drop-off material, it would represent an increase in the net cost of the program. The increase net cost due to Option 1 is difficult to estimate. Using several assumptions, Option 1 is estimated to have a net cost between \$50,000 and \$150,000. This is in addition to the increased cost estimated between \$40,000 and \$80,000 for processing the additional curbside tonnages. These costs are unbudgeted and would need to be paid from the refuse reserve fund. A budget amendment is not proposed at this time due to the uncertainty of the final cost estimates. If the waste management program goes over budget the shortfall will need to be funded from the refuse reserve fund. Options 2 and 3 do not have any cost impacts.



I have reviewed the financial implications
Scott Ross, Manager of Accounting Services

COMMUNICATION:

Engineering staff will work with communications staff to advise residents through the District website and social media of the options.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The December 29, 2017 ice storm resulted in significant breakage of branches and trees across Mission. Seven options were identified for assisting residents in disposing of this excessive yard waste. Three options are recommended for implementation: 1) free drop off of yard waste at the landfill from January 9, 2018, to February 4, 2018; 2) use of social media for promoting re-use or firewood use for larger woody materials; and 3) limiting the number of weekly curbside compostable containers to ten so as to avoid collection contractor rate increases. Only Option 1 has a significant financial cost, estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$150,000.

SIGN-OFFS:



Barry Azevedo, Manager of Environmental Services



Reviewed by:
Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering & Public Works

Comment from Chief Administrative Officer:
Reviewed.