

To: Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2018-09-05

From: Stacey Barker, Deputy Director of Regional Programs

File No: 5360-27-001

Subject: FVRD Regional Solid Waste Removal Bylaw No. 1495, 2018

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Fraser Valley Regional District Board give three readings and adoption to the bylaw cited as "*Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Solid Waste Removal Bylaw No. 1495, 2018*".

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Support Environmental Stewardship

Support Healthy & Sustainable Community

PRIORITIES

Priority #1 Waste Management

SUMMARY OF ISSUE

Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) Bylaw No. 1478 to create a Service Area for Regional Solid Waste Management received three readings by the Board on May 23, 2018. Since then, the bylaw has also received statutory consent from municipal and electoral area stakeholders and is expected to be granted approval by the Inspector of Municipalities prior to the Board's next meeting on September 25, 2018.

Subject to approval from the Inspector of Municipalities, the accompanying regulatory Bylaw No. 1495 regarding the adoption of regional sorting requirements for recyclable and organic material will be submitted to the Board at its September 25, 2018 meeting for its consideration.

BACKGROUND

To reduce the amount of solid waste being landfilled and to conserve reusable resources, the FVRD is putting forth new regional sorting requirements for all residents, businesses, and institutions, whereby organic and recyclable material will be separated from the residual waste stream. The implementation of new sorting requirements will help the region realize the first milestone of the FVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan and will represent a significant accomplishment along the path toward Zero Waste.

Sorting requirements will only apply to solid waste generated by the residential sector (both single and multi-family) and by the industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sector. It will not apply to demolition, land-clearing or construction (DLC) sector, nor will it apply to waste generated through agricultural production. It also does not include waste that is excluded from the scope of the FVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan (hazardous, agricultural, biomedical, or liquid waste).

The proposed regulatory bylaw specifies the requirements for the separation of basic recyclable and organic material from the residual waste stream. It does not limit the application of existing provincial regulation or local government bylaws.

The new Service Area enacted under Bylaw No. 1478, 2018 is the foundational mechanism which will allow for the establishment of the corresponding regulatory bylaw (Bylaw No. 1495, 2018). This Service Area does not mean that the FVRD will provide a collection service; rather, it sets the policy or requirements for which owners or occupiers of property must comply.

Consultation on the proposed source separation bylaw was concluded in 2017 and the FVRD has been working closely with municipal solid waste representatives, the Waste Management Association of BC, Lidstone & Company, and the Ministry of Environment, to finalize the new policy that is before the Board for their consideration.

DISCUSSION

The requirements included within the *Fraser Valley Regional District Regional Solid Waste Removal Bylaw No. 1495, 2018* (attached) will not take effect until April 1, 2020, which will provide the FVRD with ample time to promote the new requirements and to provide the public with significant lead time to amend their waste management practices, if required. This time period is consistent with feedback received during public consultation.

The FVRD will initiate public promotion of the new requirement starting in January 2019. Promotion of the new requirements will follow the same pattern as was conducted by the FVRD through its pre-consultation and consultation phases. This will include engaging directly with representative business organizations, specific sector groups, professional associations, and interest groups.

The FVRD will also continue working with the waste management industry sector through the existing working group. As they are the key service providers, we will be working in partnership with them to supply notice and educational information about the sorting requirements to all their clients. The FVRD will also gather feedback on all educational and promotional materials created to ensure the greatest success.

The FVRD is not expecting compliance with the bylaw will occur overnight. Fostering successful sorting behaviour and having it become a cultural norm in our communities will take time. Educational efforts, awareness, and waste generator communications will ramp up over the next 18 months. Adequate time will be given for residents and businesses to implement effective plans for separating food waste and recyclables from the garbage.

When enforcement does begin after the bylaw takes effect in April 2020, it will be the goal of the FVRD to bring Waste Generators into compliance first through education, before any punitive fines would be considered. Initial enforcement will focus on large generators of food waste like supermarkets and major restaurants and hotels. We recognize there may be unique challenges for some businesses, and we will work together with the waste management industry to find solutions. Many businesses that are

early adopters have already implemented practical solutions and they will be encouraged to share their success through our social media channels to serve as examples and inspiration for others.

Education and awareness efforts will centre around the FVRD's Waste Wise initiative and associated website. The FVRD will provide a variety of educational materials including brochures, bin labels, helpful hints, industry specific guides, and notices to assist property owners. We will also supply this material to haulers who can provide it to their customers. The FVRD will work closely with all municipal solid waste representatives to ensure that public awareness efforts occur in concert with any solid waste communication initiatives already occurring in their municipality. An update regarding the communications plan and materials will be brought forward to the Board as the campaign progresses.

To ensure that the material that is separated by the waste generator is kept separated and processed properly, the FVRD will be working over the next year to develop a solid waste management facility Code of Practice. Initiating a Code of Practice, rather than facility permitting or licencing, will be more practical and affordable for the FVRD to administer, will not limit private industry from making long-term investments, will not be cumbersome nor limit the movement of waste. This Code of Practice will be developed in consultation with local facility owners and within the waste management industry working group.

COST

The FVRD will administer the Source Separation requirements through its Regional Solid Waste Budget. Costs for education and enforcement will be kept within the existing funding limits. This budget is not funded through taxation, but through a user-pay system called a Tonnage Levy on all waste disposed. Although the FVRD is not proposing to raise this budget, funding from the Levy will decrease as Source Separation becomes more successful. Less waste equals less Levy.

The expected Tonnage Levy shortfall was presented as an informational item to the Board last fall during budget discussions, but no decisions were made at that time. The issue will be brought to Board in January during current budget discussions for a decision on how to move forward. In the meantime, various options and implications to each community will be discussed with municipal and electoral area staff representatives to solicit feedback which will be presented to the Board during budget discussions.

CONCLUSION

Regional sorting requirements for recyclable and organic material for all residents, businesses and institutions is consistent with strategies outlined in the FVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan and will assist the region in achieving its diversion goals. This new policy will:

- Avoid wasting beneficial resources which can be turning into new products
- Save valuable space in our landfills
- Reduce our impact on climate change through reduced landfill methane production
- Generate local industry programs and jobs
- Provide the opportunity for composted organics to enrich our local soils

COMMENTS BY:

Barclay Pitkethly, Director of Regional Programs

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported.

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported