



Waste & Recycling Program Public Open House

What were some of the program design options evaluated during the program review?

The Town researched and evaluated the cost and logistics of various program design options. These included:

- ***Weekly collection of Grey Carts*** – *Grey Carts for household waste are currently collected every second week.*

Our research indicated *weekly collection could potentially cost Ponoka households an extra \$3 to \$4 per month.*

NOTE: This option is unnecessary with the proposed addition of a full organic green cart compost program.

- *The addition of this new program would reduce volumes of waste placed in grey bins every second week.*
- *It would also move most smelly items from the grey bins to the green carts which would continue to be collected weekly from May through October.*



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- ***The Town could sell backyard composters to residents***

Our research indicated:

- *Diversion rates with this option would be lower than what could be achieved with Green Carts because anticipated participation rates would be lower*
 - *And kitchen waste in Green Carts can include a much broader array of items including meat products, meat and vegetable oil, pet waste including litter, food-soiled paper/ tissue/napkins and soiled cardboard.*
- ***Blue bins versus clear plastic bags for recycling –***
Based on the experience of other municipalities:
 - *Contamination rates increase with blue bins because they are large and opaque, so they are frequently used to ‘hide’ garbage that won’t fit in Grey Carts.*

This results in contaminated loads of recycling that have to be landfilled, resulting in lower waste diversion rates.
 - *In order for Ponoka to continue working toward increasing waste diversion rates from landfill, the Town would have to hire staff two to three times annually to manually check blue bins and tag contaminated bins with a note advising the household why their bin was not collected. This would result in additional cost to the curbside program.*



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- **Front alley vs. back alley garbage pick-up** – *The Town switched to front curb garbage pick-up in 2016 when it implemented the current Waste & Recycling Program for the following reasons:*
 - *Many back alleys in Ponoka have low-hanging overhead lines (about 7 – 8 feet high) that pose health and safety hazards due to the risk of the automated waste collection trucks (about 11-12 feet tall) striking the overhead lines or utility poles.*
 - *Other municipalities with gravel back alleys have found the heavy waste collection trucks tear up the alley surface, increasing alley maintenance costs by as much as 300 to 400 per cent.*

Our research showed *the Town would incur the following additional costs if we switched to back alley pick-up:*

- *We would have to manually raise all of the lines in the back alleys to a safe height for the trucks to pass under before a waste management contractor would agree to provide back alley collection due to the health and safety hazards posed by low-hanging lines. Manually raising the lines in all of Ponoka's back alleys would be a costly undertaking.*
- *Back alley maintenance costs would increase based on the experience of other municipalities.*



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➤ ***The cost and logistics of the Town providing its own curbside waste and recycling collection –***

*Based on the experience of other municipalities that have tried this model, **our research indicated** it would cost roughly twice as much for the Town to provide its own waste and recycling collection for the following reasons:*

- *The purchase, maintenance and replacement cost of at least two automated waste trucks which are high-maintenance items.*
- *The purchase, maintenance and replacement cost of providing waste and recycling bins for every household (these bins are currently owned by the contractor so the Town would have to purchase its own bins).*
- *The need to hire waste collection workers.*
- *Large waste management contractors achieve lower costs due to economies of scale.*

