

Appendix A

Below is a questions and answer summary from the public consultation sessions and survey.

1. Q: Have you considered the privacy of residents when using a clear bag system?

A: Yes, privacy is the most common concern for all municipalities that implement a clear bag collection system. The use of privacy bags and including waste cans and containers in a clear bag collection system allows residents to keep their private items private.

2. Q: Is incineration a viable option for the City of Cornwall?

A: Incineration is an option that will be closely investigated when searching for alternative disposal options.

3. Q: Concern surrounding animal feces and whether they will be considered as garbage or be accepted within the green bin program?

A: There are organics processing options that are being investigated that would allow for animal waste to be included in the green bin program. The City will know more upon completion of the Biosolids, Organics and Septage Master Plan (BOSMP)

4. Q: Can small clear vegetable bags be used as waste bags within the garbage bin or clear bag?

A: Yes, these bags could be used to capture garbage waste and placed into a clear bag or bin to satisfy the requirements of a clear bag collection program. Most vegetable bags can also be recycled through our current blue box program as well.

5. Q: Will diapers still be able to be placed in clear bags?

A: Yes, diapers will still be able to be placed in clear bags. The use of 'diaper genies' will not be affected by a clear bag collection program at all.

6. Q: Will the "soft launch" be a city-wide initiative or will it commence in a piloted neighbourhood?

A: The soft launch would be a City-wide initiative. The clear bag collection system would begin at the same time for the entire city.

7. Q: How will medical waste exemptions be treated? Clear bag for these as well?

A: The City currently offers a medical waste exemption in which residents with medical issues that require additional waste capacity are able to dispose of additional bags with special orange tags. In a clear bag collection system, medical waste generators would be able to use opaque bags to conceal their medical waste and utilize an orange tag to inform the collections contractor that the opaque bag is medical waste. Residents can also choose to use waste containers or cans for medical waste.

8. Q: Is mandatory recycling what led to a potential clear bag collection?

A: Yes. A clear bag system is a mechanism which allows the City to enforce a mandatory recycling program without additional administrative costs and resources being allocated to develop and track certain exemptions. It also removes issues surrounding enforcement through blue box and green bin placement, which pose certain challenges during enforcement.

9. Q: Is Styrofoam able to be recycled by the City?

A: Unfortunately, no. The City does not possess the equipment required to recycle Styrofoam nor does our facility have the additional space to install equipment to recycle Styrofoam.

10. Q: What happens if garbage is rejected at the curb?

A: There will be a soft launch period where residents will still have their waste collected from the curb if it does not meet the requirements. A notice would be given to notify what was wrong during collection. After the soft launch phase, the waste will be left behind and will be subject to enforcement through the City's Solid Waste By-Law.

11. Q: Is there a target waste density at the landfill? Maximizing waste density would lead to more available volume.

A: Yes, there is a target compaction rate for the City's landfill site. There are specifications in the Landfill Operations Contract that stipulate the compaction equipment must be of certain size and run continuously to achieve a compaction rate of 0.777 tonnes/m³.

12. Q: Will the city be providing green bins free of charge? What sizes will these green bins come in?

A: Yes, the City has budgeted for the procurement and delivery of green bins to residential, multi-residential and IC&I addresses. The size and style of the bins has not yet been determined; however it will be determined through the BOSMP.

13. Q: Have other municipalities shown promise with the clear bag collection?

A: Yes, all municipalities experience a decrease to curbside waste and an increase to diversion when changing to a clear bag collection system.

14. Q: Can loose items be placed in a garbage bin or does all garbage have to be contained in clear bags?

A: Waste can be contained either loose in a garbage can, which is considered the best practice, or gold standard, as it eliminates additional plastic bags from being disposed of in the Landfill Site. Multiple residents has the impression that they would not be able to use their existing garbage cans, in which they currently place their waste loose into.

15. Q: If residents are required to use black bags with a tag for medical waste, does that not place a target on those with medical disabilities?

A: Residents can contain their opaque bags with medical waste into a garbage container to eliminate any issues with privacy. The only individuals who would visually see the opaque bags would be the collections staff.

16. Q: Will additional trucks be required to collect waste for the green bin collection?

A: The Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) transition for the blue box program was explained. A green bin collection will ultimately replace blue bin in terms of City's waste management responsibilities.

17. Q: Concern about biweekly collection of garbage or organics

A: It was explained that the waste management department will be suggesting to council that a weekly collection should occur (especially for green bin).

18. Q: Concerns were brought up surrounding the tidiness of the current collections and are worried that an organic collection could generate an unwanted mess at the curbside.

A: Collection contractors are responsible for cleaning/picking up any materials that fall out of bins during collection per the contract. If this issue occurs with any waste stream, please let us know and we will ensure that the contractor cleans up the area affected.

19. Q: Will the City offer a drop-off location for food waste?

A: The City will have a drop-off location at the Landfill Site where residents may drop off their excess organic waste.

20. Q: Who would be responsible for the replacement of damaged bins?

A: the collection contractor would be responsible for replacing any bins that were damaged during collection.

21. Q: Who is responsible for replacing bins that are damaged due to snowplows.

A: If the bins are damaged by snow clearing initiatives that are outside the control of the residents, i.e. the containers were not placed to the curb at times that violate the Solid Waste By-Law, the City would replace or repair the bins.

22. Q: Clear bags are more expensive, especially when bought in small quantities. Will there be any subsidies provided?

A: There will not be any subsidies available. Our research has shown that the bags are similarly priced. The current supply and demand in Cornwall is not reflective of the future cost and availability of clear bags since the City has not been directed by Council to proceed with the clear bag program, which includes coordinating with retailers to ensure there are adequate size and quantity options available.

23. Q: Concerns with having to purchase both clear and opaque bags.

A: Opaque bags do not need to be bags that are purchased. Any opaque bag within the size limits would work. Examples are grocery bags, albeit becoming less available. Other options include skipping the clear bags all together and using waste cans or containers with loose waste.

24. Q: Will the limit for multi-residential buildings remain should Council direct Administration to proceed with the proposed clear bag program?

A: Administration is proposing that the City reconsider the current bag limit. Many other municipalities have either increased or eliminated their bag limit when implementing a clear bag collection system. This is because the bag limits are in place to encourage recycling and diversion. With a clear bag system, the City is able to enforce mandatory recycling and would not rely on a bag limit to encourage recycling or participation in the organics collection.

25. Q: Who will be enforce the program?

A: The collection contractor would be responsible for quickly visually inspecting waste. The Waste Management Department would be responsible for the enforcement and communicating with property owners and tenants.

26. Q: Will black bags be accepted at the landfill?

A: Most municipalities who operate a similar clear bag collection also implement a similar system at their landfill sites or transfer station facilities. Administration proposes that the Clear Bag Program be extended to the Landfill Site as well.

27. Q: What size of green bin will be available? Is it possible for kitchen sized bins?

A: The BOSMP will define what materials are accepted in the green bin. Unfortunately, these results have not been finalized. The City will be looking at multiple options when procuring green bins for residential, multi-residential and IC&I sectors.

28. Q: Concern about bringing green bins to the road (question raised by a few senior residents)

A: Although it can be challenging, the green bins will be equipped with wheels that makes the transportation of the bins to curbside much easier for residents.

29. Q: Why don't we get large rolling carts for all waste streams like BC, each address having large green, black and blue rolling carts?

A: The procurement cost is a significant factor. Purchasing such bins without a clear bag or mandatory recycling program would not result in additional diversion.

30. Q: Do I have to use bags or can I continue to place loose items within my garbage can?

A: The best practice, or 'gold standard' is to use a garbage can without clear bags at all.

31. Q: Inquiry about the end product of the green bin, quality of composting (will it be processed by the city or sent away)

A: The end product of our organic waste has yet to be determined. The BOSMP will identify the best processing method for the City which will identify the final end product quality and usage. Some options are agricultural application, horticultural applications and even RNG generation.

32. Q: How many privacy bags will be permitted?

A: Upon Council approval, the By-Law will be amended to reflect the size/quantity of privacy bags.

33. Q: How will the enforcement be rolled out? Will the city have staff hired on as inspectors?

A: City staff will not be inspecting curbside collection. The quick visual assessments will be conducted by the contractor and that significant training will go into it to ensure even enforcement across the city.

34. Discussion surrounding multi-residential and IC&I enforcement

A: Multi-residential will be challenging, however it will be up to the owners of the buildings to ensure their tenants are aware of the regulations and comply. The Waste Management Department will be working with the building owners to ensure communication and information is clear and readily available.

35. Q: Concern surrounding parks (illegal dumping).

A: Other municipalities have experienced a temporary spike in illegal dumping. The City is looking to amend the current by-laws for littering to create a mechanism to penalize the person responsible. Waste Management Staff open illegally dumped bags to search for identifying items within the waste which makes this type of enforcement possible.

36. Q: Have digestors been considered for the City?

A: Yes, anaerobic digestion is one of the options being considered for organic processing in the BOSMP.

37. Q Why can't we recycling bulky plastic recycling at curbside?

A: Unfortunately, the City does not offer a curbside bulky rigid plastic collection. Bulky rigid plastic must be brought to the landfill, where a specific bin is located, to divert this material.

38. How will the program's success be monitored?

A: The program's success will be monitored through scale records at the landfill site that will show the direct impact of a clear bag program.

39. Q: Does the landfill accept waste from out of town?

A: The City is approved to accept waste from the City of Cornwall and residential waste from the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne. The City cannot accept waste from anywhere else.

40. Is there consideration to denying IC&I access to the landfill?

A: Eliminating IC&I waste from the disposal has been considered in the past, however it is not currently being considered. Many municipalities implement this when their landfills reach capacity, however Cornwall's residential sector is heavily subsidized by IC&I tipping fees for waste management services. The City has implemented higher tipping fees and a surcharge system for IC&I users to ensure diversion is maximized and that full cost recovery of disposal is achieved.