

March 10, 2011

Council endorses changes to garbage collection

City Council endorsed the 80-litre limit for weekly garbage collection at its Mar. 8 meeting and decided to retain the current waste limit without issuing special circumstance passes to extend the life of the community's landfill.

The 80-litre limit comes into effect on Apr. 4, and until then, collection of up to 128 litres (maximum weight 20kg) will be permitted.

After Apr. 4, additional trash will be collected provided it is marked with a \$2 "extra container" tag. Maximum weight for individual containers remains 20 kg.

Council also endorsed including smaller-scale multi-family properties (i.e. three or four units) in the City's waste collection program on a voluntary basis. Implementation details will be incorporated in an upcoming bylaw amendment. Once the bylaw is amended, staff will contact the property owners who expressed interest to ensure they are aware of the change.

The City's solid waste collection regulations were introduced Jan. 1 and are complemented with expanded unlimited weekly recycling collection, unlimited weekly yard waste collection for eight months of the year, a year round yard waste drop-off centre and the collection of 80-litres of garbage.

In response to initial public feedback, the City invited people who felt they were unable to meet the 80-litre limit to contact the City to share their circumstances. The response indicated that less than two per cent of households receiving the City's residential waste collection service were concerned over the lower limit.

Based on this input, City staff provided a report to Council outlining the implications of amending the 80-litre limit to 128 litres and the implications of permitting exceptions to the 80-litre limit for households that meet specific criteria. The report indicated that increasing the weekly limit to 128 litres would mean an increased fee of \$9.50 per household, costing the entire community approximately \$100,000.

"We appreciate the feedback we received and believe we've reached a balance for meeting the service needs of the majority of households," says Mayor Charlie Cornfield. "Maintaining the 80-litre limit encourages Campbell River to make best use of the unlimited weekly recycling collection that prevents these re-usable materials from ending up in the landfill," he adds. "We'd also like to remind people that it's perfectly okay to use larger cans as long as it's clear that the contents meet the 80-litre, 20-kilogram limit."

The City will communicate more public information about the new regulations, including how residents can continue to use their existing larger cans (provided the garbage within is less than 80 litres and 20 kg). The City is also working with the Comox-Strathcona Waste Management services to provide the public with information on ways to reduce waste.

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