



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Yard Waste Pilot Project Update

File #: 5210.00

Doc #:

From: David Pollock P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

Date: November 3, 2025

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Yard Waste Pilot Project be extended to November 30, 2025.
2. THAT staff be directed to collate the data from the Yard Waste Pilot Project, which ends on October 31, 2025, and report back to Council on potentially incorporating the excess yard waste collection into the Solid Waste and Organics Collection Contract on a permanent basis, including levels of service as well as associated costs.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the yard waste pilot project that commenced in October 2025 as well as discussing options for consideration as a component of the Solid Waste and Organics Collection and Disposal Contract.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

Emterra Environmental (Emterra) is the contractor responsible for the solid waste and organics collection and disposal services for residential dwellings and civic facilities throughout the City. The contract is for seven years with the option for three annual extensions.

The contract Levels of Service (LOS) were determined through dialogue with Council, specifically weekly organic collection and bi-weekly garbage collection with totes being supplied. There are approximately 3,600 addresses across the City that receive this service.

The totes are sourced out of the USA and there have been some delays around procurement and delivery. At the outset of the contract residents were given the option of requesting larger or smaller totes than the default 240 litre size. For organics, residents were also given the option of purchasing an additional tote. A number of residents exercised one or both of these options.

As of the date of this report there are 112 residences that are waiting for a larger 360 litre organics tote and 83 residences waiting for a larger 360 litre garbage tote. These bins are on order but delivery is not expected before the start of December. As an aside, 15 residences that initially asked for a larger 360 litre tote have since rescinded their request.

With the delay in the delivery of the larger totes it was not possible to accommodate all the tote exchange requests and with fall approaching a pilot project was initiated to collect the expected additional yard waste throughout October with the intent to gather data to guide future potential service delivery amendments.

The full data set is not available for all of October but Emterra has provided the following information:

- Yard waste, in excess of what can be accommodated in a tote has been collected from between 100 and 150 houses per day
- An average of four (4) to five (5) extra bags have been collected per house.
- The Wednesday and Friday collection routes have seen the largest per household amount of yard waste bags – these areas have the lowest house counts.

Emterra noted that the bag set-out in the first week of the pilot was lower than subsequent weeks as not all residents were aware of the program but with the increased participation over the remaining period to date the estimated weekly cost to collect the additional yard waste ranges from \$3,500 to \$5,000.

Emterra also noted that the existing collection vehicle was able to accommodate the additional yard waste volumes in October without the need to bring in a second vehicle. If this was required due to higher volumes then the costs would be expected to rise significantly.

As a result of the delay in the supply of the larger totes until December the pilot project could be extended through the month of November.

Upon completion of the pilot project, regardless of duration it would be possible to review the data and develop level of service options in the consideration of a permanent excess yard waste collection program. Issues for evaluation may include:

- Frequency of the program - spring and/or fall?
- Duration of the program - one week, twice a month, full month?
- Methodology – excess yard waste may be collected by separate truck?
- Costs – per bag (similar to excess garbage in previous contract), per participating residence, built into overall annual utility charge?

The cities of Coquitlam and Vernon are examples of municipalities that provide seasonal excess yard waste programs: Vernon has an one week program in the fall where residents may put out unlimited bags while Coquitlam has a program for excess yard waste collection that lasts six weeks in the spring and fall.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

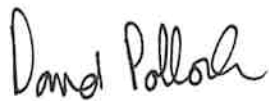
Based upon the data gathered thus far the estimated weekly cost of providing excess yard waste collection is expected to range between \$3,500 and \$5,000. The cost to extend the Yard Waste Pilot Project be extended to November 30, 2025 can be absorbed within the existing budget.

The implementation of a permanent excess yard waste program will increase the overall solid waste contract, the degree of which will be dependent upon the determined level of service. The annual program costs will be contingent upon the duration and extent of the program.

ALTERNATIVE:

1. That the Yard Waste Pilot Project ends at October 31, 2025.
2. That staff be directed to incorporate the excess yard waste collection into the Solid Waste and Organics Collection Contract on a permanent basis, including levels of service as well as associated costs.

Respectfully Submitted,



David Pollock P.Eng.
Director of Engineering, Parks & Environment

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendation.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer