

District of Barriere
REPORT TO COUNCIL
Request for Decision

Date: August 12, 2024	File: 530.20/Rpts
To: Council	From: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer
Re: TNRD - Municipal Yard Waste Fee Waiver Event	
Recommendation: <i>That staff be directed to organize a free residential yard waste collection event with the TNRD in the fall of 2024 with a maximum budget of up to \$4,000 from General Surplus</i>	

Purpose

To introduce a new TNRD program available that waives the commercial collection tipping fees for municipal yard waste once per calendar year and discuss the District of Barriere’s possible participation in the program this year.

Background

The following notice of motion was made at a *May 16th, 2024 TNRD Board Meeting*:

15 NOTICE OF MOTION

15.1 Notice of Motion Presented by Chair Roden

WHEREAS the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and its member municipalities are committed to the principles of FireSmart and assisting our residents to take steps to safeguard their properties by clearing and trimming vegetation in order to mitigate fire risk; and

WHEREAS municipal/regional district waste collection agencies conduct, or have the ability to conduct, annual spring and/or fall “community yard waste clean-ups” to assist residents in safely disposing of large quantities of yard waste that might otherwise be improperly disposed of and/or pose a fire risk; and

WHEREAS individual residents are not charged for yard waste disposal, but municipal/regional district waste collection agencies are charged for disposing of these materials, which is in addition to labour and equipment costs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Thompson-Nicola Regional District work with each municipal/regional district waste collection agency that would like to offer its residents a “yard waste clean-up” to waive the disposal fees for such an event once in each calendar year, and work with the agencies to ensure that all affected Eco-Depots and Transfer Stations know when these events are taking place so that they can be staffed appropriately and that the material can be accepted/stored/disposed of properly.

The Motion was later passed.

Member municipalities may now choose to conduct annual spring or fall Community **Residential** Yard Waste Clean-up events and the TNRD will support municipalities by waiving the \$40/tonne disposal fee for these events once per calendar year.

Discussion

The TNRD defines “yard waste” as:

*organic materials originating from yard and garden management, maintenance or repair including but not limited to: grass, lawn and hedge clippings, flowers, weeds, pine needles, pinecones, leaves, shrubs, and shrub and tree branches (less than 8 inches in diameter), but **does not include**: tree stumps, branches greater than 8 inches in diameter, Noxious Weeds, Infested Vegetation, rocks, sand, soil, sod, or fruit or vegetable material.*

Residents (non-commercial, industrial or institutional) currently are able to dispose of their residential yard waste at the Louis Creek Eco Depot at no charge at any time of the year. However, institutional/commercial/industrial (ICI) yard waste is not free, and costs \$40/tonne at the Eco Depot. When a municipal government collects this material from residents, it is no longer considered ‘residential material’; it becomes ICI material and the fee therefore applies.

If approved to move forward, residents (residential properties only) will be asked to place all eligible yard-waste material into containers, compostable yard-waste bags, or neatly bundled and place them curbside for collection on the date(s) specified. Any material not placed in containers, compostable bags or bundled neatly, will not be collected. A maximum amount of material may be imposed as well.

Residents will be informed that any loose material that falls out of bundles or is blown out of containers, will not be collected and will be their responsibility to retrieve and remove from any boulevards, roadways, and/or neighbouring properties. In addition, it will be clearly communicated that any material placed curbside shown to contain *any* non-compliant material, will not be sorted curbside to remove the non-compliant material; the entire container/bundle/compostable bag will be refused for collection.

As this would be the first year for the District to provide this service, it is unknown as to how much residential participation to expect, or how much material each residence may place curbside. Depending on the participation and material level, involving a subcontractor may be necessary with the logistics being determined at the operational level. For a comparison, the Village of Ashcroft did a curbside yard waste collection this spring for 420 households and it generated 38 metric tonnes of yard waste which works out to ~ 90kg/household. To estimate Barriere we can take our private dwellings occupied by usual residence from the 2021 census of 760 x 90kg/HH = 68,400 kg or 68.4 tonnes. At \$40/t disposal rate the District would then save \$2,736 on disposal fees for the material.

Should Council wish to sign on for this program within this calendar year, staff will prepare to include the relevant information to distribute at this year’s DoB Fall Fair Information booth to kick off the event’s promotion.

Benefits or Impact

General

Staff personnel, municipal fleet and optional subcontractor scheduling for this event will be coordinated to maximize the benefit and convenience for residents while keeping the cost to provide the service as low as possible.

Finances

Promotional material (i.e. posters, press release, advertising, etc.) can be produced in-house with minimal material costs. Staff scheduling for the collection may result in additional solid-waste hours with some possible over-time (which management will strive to minimize). Extra fuel costs for community collection would also be an additional expense. Depending on the participation and material level, a subcontractor may need to be coordinated. It is expected that these costs could be kept under \$4,000.00.

Strategic Impact

A community-wide, yard waste specific event encourages and motivates residents to take advantage of convenience which will support the DoB's goals of FireSmart / Wildfire Risk Reduction while also encouraging community beautification.

Risk Assessment

Compliance: Adheres to TNRD Solid Waste disposal regulations

Risk Impact: Low

If Approved, Next Steps / Communication

- Schedule an agreed upon date(s) with TNRD staff
- Communicate and promote the free yard waste collection event to the general public as outlined in the District's Communication Policy

Recommendation:

That staff be directed to organize a free residential yard waste collection event with the TNRD in the fall of 2024 with a maximum budget of up to \$4,000 from General Surplus.

Alternative Option

1. Council could choose to not participate in the program at this time and consider it again for the spring of 2025.

Prepared by: T. Buchanan, Corporate Officer

Reviewed by: D. Drexler, Chief Administrative Officer