

Changes to Waste Collection in Drayton Valley

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHY AM I BEING CHARGED \$19.00 FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION, AREN'T MY TAX DOLLARS PAYING FOR THIS SERVICE?

Traditionally waste collection was paid for through your property taxes. As of March 1, 2019, waste collection will be treated as a public utility, meaning, you will see a \$19.00 charge on your utility bill for waste collection services. Your tax dollars will no longer be used to pay for waste collection.

CAN I OPT OUT OF THIS SERVICE AND TAKE MY OWN WASTE TO THE LANDFILL?

At this time no, all residents will be charged the \$19.00/month regardless if they choose to utilize the service or not.

DO OTHER MUNICIPALITIES CHARGE FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND HOW DOES DRAYTON VALLEY COMPARE?

Many municipalities across the province charge for curbside collection. Here's how Drayton Valley stacks up to some of our surrounding communities:

Edmonton: monthly fee \$47.08 (2019)
Leduc: monthly fee \$22.50 (2019)
Rocky Mountain House: bi-monthly rate: \$50.54 (2019)
Edson: monthly fee \$17.00 (2019)
Whitecourt: monthly \$27.70 (2018)
Fort Saskatchewan: monthly fee \$27.72 (2019)
Hinton: monthly fee: \$31.14 (2019)
Westlock: monthly fee: \$26.10 (2019)

WILL THE 2% REDUCTION IN MY TAXES MAKE UP FOR THE COST OF WASTE COLLECTION?

As property taxes vary from household to household (as it's based off of the assessed value of your home) it's difficult to estimate what the savings will be per household, however, in most cases the 2% reduction will not amount to the totally yearly cost of waste collection of \$228.00.

WHY AREN'T MY TAXES BEING LOWERED BY \$228.00 TO COMPENSATE FOR THE YEARLY COST OF WASTE COLLECTION?

Going forward, waste collection will be treated as a public utility, much like water and sewer charges. These fees reflect the true cost of the service and ensure that our local businesses are not subsidizing a service they do not utilize.

WILL THE NEW CHARGES MEAN AN INCREASE IN SERVICE LEVELS AS WELL?

In February 2019, Can Pak Environmental was taken over by Environmental 360 Solutions Inc. We have met with the new provider and conveyed our concerns and have been reassured that going forward we should see an improvement to service and customer satisfaction.

WILL WE BE GETTING BINS FOR RECYCLING?

Due to the additional costs associated with providing separate bins for recycling we decided to keep the blue bags for now but may consider bins in the future.

WHAT DO MY TAXES PAY FOR?

In 2018 Town Council approved a 0% tax increase meaning that the average home valued at \$275,081 paid an average of \$2,562.90 in taxes.

Of that, 29% goes to the Alberta School Foundation Fund, 2.4% goes to Brazeau Seniors Foundation and 68.6% goes to the Town of Drayton Valley.

The Town uses that portion of your taxes to pay for fire services, policing and enforcement, snow clearing, recreational facilities such as the Omniplex and the Pool, maintaining our roads, underground infrastructure as well as our parks and trails.

I AM A SINGLE OR DOUBLE OCCUPANT HOUSEHOLD, I DO NOT PRODUCE AS MUCH WASTE AS A FAMILY OF 4 OR MORE, WHY AM I PAYING THE SAME?

Right now all residents will be charge \$19.00 per month for waste collection. Moving forward Town Council may consider other options such as different sized bins.

I AM A SENIOR ON A FIXED INCOME, IS THERE A DISCOUNT?

At this time there is no discount available.

I LIVE IN A TRAILER COURT IN TOWN AND MY GARBAGE IS PAID FOR THROUGH MY LOT RENT, DOES THIS MEAN MY LOT RENT WILL INCREASE?

Residents in mobile home parks who do not receive a utility bill for water and sewer services will be issued a separate utility bill for waste collection services.

Residents in mobile home parks who already receive utility bills for water and sewer services will see the additional charge on their monthly utility bill.

Utility bills will be sent to the property owner on title for taxes.