

Town of Drayton Valley

CHANGES TO WASTE COLLECTION

Beginning March 1, 2019, residents will notice a \$19.00 charge on their monthly utility bill for waste collection. A user based utility approach is being implemented in order to eliminate cross subsidization of this service through tax dollars and to reflect the true costs of the service.

By pulling this out of the tax base and treating the service as a public utility, Town Council has been able to increase recycling to weekly pick up and has been able to approve an Interim Budget for 2019 that includes a 2% reduction in taxes.

The reasons for changing this service to a public utility are fivefold:

- At present our landfill has a life expectancy of 12 years; with that in mind, the Town is looking for ways to extend the life of the landfill and also plan for the community's future needs. This will include the development of another cell at the landfill as well as closure costs on the current cell. Legislated by the Provincial Government, post closure costs are additional fees for the mandatory maintenance and monitoring of the cell for a minimum of 25 years after the cell has been closed. By properly managing our assets, the Town can better plan for the future.
- As of March 1, 2019, recycling collection will be increased to weekly pickup. Increasing opportunities for recycling is another way residents can help reduce the amount of waste, thereby helping to extend the life of the landfill and create a more sustainable community.
- Pulling this service out and treating it as a public utility means that residents are paying for the true cost of the service which breaks down as follows:
 - \$6.90 is for recycling collection
 - \$7.39 is for garbage collection
 - \$4.71 is for tipping fees at the landfill (the cost to cross the scales)
- Prior to March 1, 2019, businesses also paid for waste collection as part of their taxes; however, businesses are required to make private arrangements for commercial waste pickup. This meant that our businesses were not only privately paying for waste collection but were also subsidizing waste collection services for our residents. This new approach will ensure that our local businesses will no longer pay for a service they do not receive.
- By pulling this service out of the tax base, Town Council has approved an Interim Budget for 2019 that includes a 2% reduction in taxes. This has freed up additional funds to pay for or enhance other services such as snow removal and hiring additional summer staff.

Pulling
Together

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.

CHANGES TO CURBSIDE COLLECTION

The Town is taking a new approach to curbside collection of waste and recycling as of March 1, 2019

ENHANCED SERVICES

Beginning in March 2019, recycling and waste will be collected every week, providing residents with greater opportunities to participate in recycling services.



COST RECOVERY & USER PAY

Waste management will be managed as a public utility which will be self funded. Each resident will pay for the cost of curbside collection **WITHOUT SUBSIDY FROM PROPERTY TAXES**, freeing up funds for other investments such as roads, snow removal, policing, and fire services.



A cost recovery approach to curbside collection enables an **INCREASE IN SERVICE** and improvement to **SUSTAINABLE ASSET MANAGEMENT**

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Separating waste management costs and revenues from the Operating Budget enables the Town to plan for future growth and anticipate capital investments required for the landfill management and operation.



SUSTAINABILITY

Council has prioritized encouraging and promoting waste diversion opportunities for residents, which reduces waste in the landfill and extending its life.



The Public Utility Fee for Waste Management is applied to each residential unit with curbside collection and will be added to water and sewer utility accounts. Beginning March 1, 2019, the fee is \$19.00/month/unit.

**Contact the Town of Drayton Valley at 780-514-2200
or utilities@draytonvalley.ca**