



Automated Curbside Waste Collection – Additional Questions and Answers

We continue to receive questions regarding the new automated curbside waste collection system going into effect September 3rd. Rather than answer individually, we felt it would be beneficial to answer in a new post that everyone could see.

Why are we doing this?

Approximately 1/3 of Edson's household waste has been found to be compostable. By diverting this from the landfill, Edson could reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 21 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per month. Along with these important environmental aspects, the substantial costs associated with reduced landfill capacity and replacement of our aging garbage collection equipment were going to be a financial burden had the Town decided to continue providing waste collection services in house. Economies of scale allow private waste collection providers to achieve efficiencies the Town cannot accomplish on its own. Additionally, the Town would have had to invest significant resources to allow for the provision of organics collection and disposal, as well as for the potential of curbside recycling. Thus, the decision to contract the waste collection service to a third party was made, allowing the Town to provide a more environmentally conscious program in a cost-effective manner.

Is there a conflict of interest?

There has been a number of comments regarding Councillor Chouinard's role with GFL Environmental. Councillor Chouinard has declared a conflict of interest and excused himself from the room during any discussion, both in open Council and in-camera session, for anything to do with waste collection for the Town of Edson. This is a standard practice for any Councillor that has a business related to the matter being discussed where there could potentially be a pecuniary interest. All of our meetings are now live streamed and are available to view on our YouTube Channel or through our website at www.edson.ca/council.

Why a cost increase?

The Town of Edson works diligently to ensure best value for our residents through a strict Purchasing Policy and RFP/Tender processes. Initially the contract was awarded to a private company at a price that would have allowed for the existing waste collection rates to be maintained. Unfortunately, in this case, the lowest bidding company was not able to uphold the consistency and quality of service that we expect on behalf of our residents. As such, the contract with this company was severed and the next best bidder was engaged to provide the service.

As the GFL proposal comes at a higher cost than the original contract, there is expected to be an increase in waste collection fees charged to users of the program of approximately \$4.50/month. Despite this increase, the Town of Edson proposed waste collection rates fall below the regional average for communities receiving similar services. A full breakdown of the contract differences and the waste collection fee averages can be found in the agenda for the August 14th Committee of the Whole

meeting. This can be easily accessed by going to www.edson.ca/council, and selecting the meeting. You can also find the information in the comment section.

What about the snow/parking issues?

While there is sure to be bumps along the way, we are confident the program will be successful in Edson. GFL Environmental has extensive experience in delivering this type of program in communities across Alberta and throughout Canada. Some of the same issues impact our current program and they are successfully dealt with as problems arise. While there will be some adjustment required as we adapt to the new pick up method, we are confident that for the vast majority of households, any inconveniences will be minor. Unfortunately, things like extreme weather are beyond our control and do regularly impact service delivery. In these circumstances we will work through them as quickly and safely as possible and commit to communicate with our residents on any required service delays or adjustments. We will monitor the program closely to observe any friction points, and in turn, work out any kinks along the way.