VICTORIA, BC — A new program to remove organics from the garbage headed to Hartland Landfill will be introduced to all single family dwellings in the Capital City in January 2013.

“Getting green waste out of the garbage is necessary to achieving our waste diversion and greenhouse gas targets,” noted Mayor Dean Fortin. “Now we will look to our residents to determine their preference for what level of service they want and are willing to pay for.”

At today’s Governance and Priorities Committee Council directed staff to consult the community on three options for the future of garbage collection in Victoria, all which include the collection of kitchen scraps. Kitchen scraps includes fruit and vegetable scraps, meat/ fish, and soiled paper products and makes up approximately 30% of the waste currently going into the household garbage.

This fall, households will be consulted on three garbage and organics collection options that vary by frequency of collection, location of totes, and subsequent costs. The program will remain a user-pay system and the model to be implemented will be determined by user preference.

Changes to the garbage collection system were being considered in conjunction with the need to replace aging garbage trucks, and will also help reduce risk of worker injury, reduce carbon emissions and advance waste diversion.

All households will receive standardized totes and will have the option to reduce the standard size for further costs savings.

Public consultation including a household survey and open houses will occur this fall and the final model will be determined in February, allowing trucks and totes to be ordered and the change in service will occur in January 2013.

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