New Garbage and Kitchen Scraps Collection Option Chosen

Date: Friday, February 17, 2012

VICTORIA, BC — The City of Victoria will start collecting separated kitchen scraps in addition to household garbage from homes beginning in January 2013. Last night, City Council selected Option B, bi-weekly collection of garbage and kitchen scraps, with backyard pick-up and curbside return.

The annual cost of Option B is estimated to be $183 per household, a $19 reduction from the current garbage-only collection program. There will be a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions with this collection option because organic kitchen scraps will be diverted from the landfill and fuel use by trucks will be reduced by up to 50%.

In December, Victoria residents were surveyed on three collection options and asked which one they preferred. 4,316 residents returned the collections option survey, representing 38% of the 11,488 surveys that were distributed. 3% of respondents did not support any of the options.

Option A – Alternating weekly pick-up (garbage one week and kitchen scraps the next), with backyard pick-up and bins left at the curb; estimated to cost $229 a year per household, with a moderate reduction in greenhouse gas emissions but no fuel reduction. 13% of respondents supported Option A.

Option B - Collection every two weeks of garbage and kitchen scraps, with backyard pick-up and bins left at the curb for return; estimated to cost $183 a year per household, with a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and up to 50% in fuel reduction. 35% of respondents supported Option B.

Option C – Collection every two weeks of garbage and kitchen scraps, with curbside pick-up and return; estimated to cost $161 a year per household, with a high reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and up to 50% in fuel reduction. 48% of respondents supported Option C.

Although Option C was the most preferred choice, many residents also indicated a desire to maintain backyard pick-up. Option B was selected as the option that best met the key principles highlighted by survey responses including cost savings, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and meeting the needs of seniors and people with mobility challenges.

This fall, all households currently receiving garbage service will be able to choose the size of their new wheeled “grey bin” for garbage. Those with less waste can pick a smaller grey bin and be charged less on their utility bill. Households will also receive a new standardized wheeled “green bin” for kitchen scraps and a small “kitchen catcher” will be provided to help transfer kitchen scraps to the “green bin.” There will be no additional costs for these bins.
The Garbage and Kitchen Scraps program will reduce the amount of material going to the landfill by 30%. Kitchen scraps include:

- Food leftovers and scraps including plate scrapings, fruit and vegetables, eggshells, meat, fish and poultry, bones, dairy products, bread, cereals, pasta, pizza, tea bags, coffee grinds and filters, nuts and shells, solidified fats and grease and houseplants.
- Soiled paper products including paper towels and tissues, soiled paper food packaging, and used paper cups and plates.

The City of Victoria will be ordering new trucks this spring to accommodate the new bins, and the change in service will occur in January 2013. More information about the new service will be available later this year.

To view answers to frequently asked questions from the surveys, visit: www.victoria.ca/greenbin
Residents can also email greenbin@victoria.ca or call 250.361.0448.

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