

TOWN OF GIBSONS ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

On December 15, 2015, Council established a Zero Waste Select Committee. Fifteen community members were subsequently appointed to the committee: Heather Jeal; Chris Odgaard; Jody Schick; Angela Theilmann; Brian Sadler; Jeff Collins; Margrett George; Simon Hocking; Robert Corlett; Silas White (councillor; committee chair), Jeremy Valeriotte (councillor; committee vice-chair); Emanuel Machado (staff; non-voting); Buddy Boyd (contractor; non-voting); Barb Hetherington (contractor; non-voting); Erich Schwartz (resigned May 3). In June 2016, the Committee submitted a final report, which included the following recommendations.

Recommendations

SECTION A: *Zero Waste Hierarchy/Advocacy*

That the Town of Gibsons:

1. Promote a zero waste vision for Gibsons by adopting the Zero Waste Hierarchy as a policy guide, and updating the Town website to include: a zero waste section; updated garbage collection information; the Community Assets list compiled by the committee, which will need to be kept up-to-date with community input; and our “baseline” waste (audit) and diversion data to publicly track over time.
2. Implement the Zero Waste Hierarchy into our facilities, activities and operations by engaging all employees and reviewing waste in all departments including public garbage bin management, paper reduction, food waste in the workplace, major engineering projects, and bylaws, policies and plans guiding single-family, commercial and multifamily garbage collection, events, purchasing and developments (i.e. requirement for communal recycling and organics management in multifamily developments).
3. Pending access to staff support, promote the adoption of the Zero Waste Hierarchy to schools and businesses, offering educational support on how to follow it (including promotion of composting, food rescue and community gardens) and “certifying” zero waste businesses; and further, explore the possibilities of offering businesses an incentive to pursue certification.
4. Identify advocacy to and engagement with:
 - MMBC to ensure viable and innovative resource recovery in Gibsons, including expansion of accepted materials (i.e. plastics);
 - SCRD on its organics management plans, potential landfill bans, education, “Spring Clean Up” program

SECTION B: Education

That the Town of Gibsons:

5. Explore funding and collaboration opportunities through service delivery revenue, the SCRD and potential grants to support a community education program to promote waste reduction, especially composting, and community asset information.

SECTION C: (Zero) Waste Collection

That the Town of Gibsons:

6. Raise the garbage tag fee from \$3 to \$5 to harmonize with the minimum landfill drop-off fee.
7. Pay As You Throw OPTIONS (NONE require a change to current collection contract, except for sticker & clear bag enforcement in c):
 - a. Introduce mandatory 38 L (10 gallon) “small bins” with reduced garbage collection fees for residents, combined with increased fees for a tag system for the use of bigger (existing) bins.
or:
 - b. Introduce the *option* of a Town-standardized and -purchased 38 L (10 gallon) “small bin” for a reduced utility fee, while increasing fees for status quo bigger (existing) bin collection. (i.e. switching from current universal \$156 fee to \$100/small bin + \$200/big bin, applying revenue to bin purchase, education and possible compost kitchen catchers or subsidies on outdoor composters).
or:
 - c. Status quo on collection for two years (no PAYT yet), but launch education program, plan future PAYT program/multiple can sizes, dialogue with contractor about future changes, offer small bins for community recognition (no PAYT financial incentive yet), mandate clear garbage bags so contractor can see what is in them and ask contractor to sticker “bad” cans (“Reduce your waste”) and “good” (“Helping TOG achieve Zero Waste”).
8. Explore collaboration opportunities with the SCRD on a 2017 garbage collection RFP and a Pay As You Throw Program.
9. Monitor public buy-in and waste reduction via a report to Council in 2018 in order to determine future changes in service delivery (i.e. adjusting collection fees, requiring transparent bags, eliminating bags from small bins, moving to small bins *only*, moving to Every Other Week collection, banning organics and/or recyclables from collection, curbside organics collection, subsidizing composters, partnering with subscription organics collection programs, PAYT subsidies for families/low-income?).

On July 19, 2016, in response to the Committee's report, Council passed the following motions:

THAT staff explore funding and collaboration opportunities through service delivery revenue, the SCRD and potential grants that would support a community education program promoting waste reduction (especially composting), and community asset information.

THAT staff explore the viability of implementing a Pay As You Throw program to begin in 2017.

THAT staff explore collaboration opportunities with the SCRD on a 2017 garbage collection request for proposal and a Pay As You Throw program.