

Elm Wood Disposal in Saskatoon

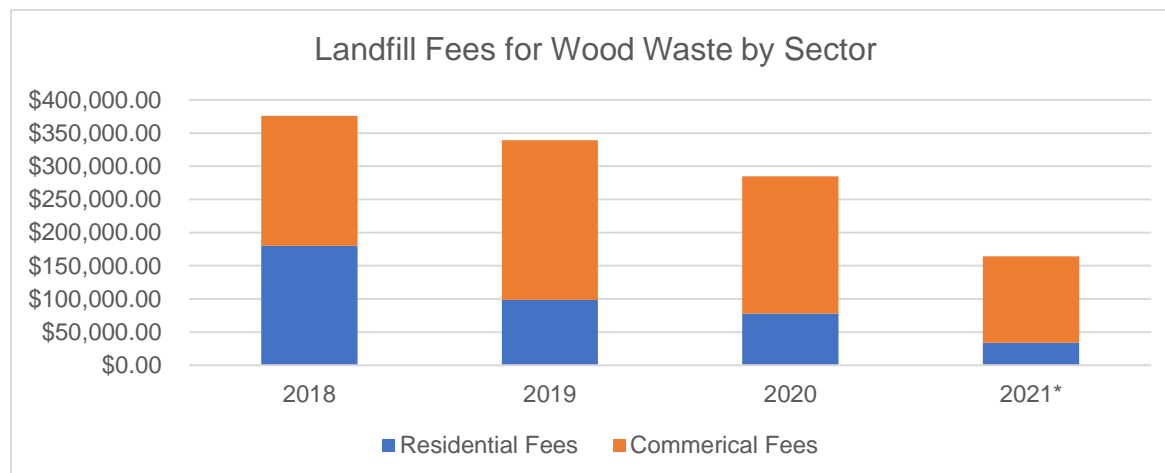
Elm Wood Received at the Landfill

The following table shows data for wood waste received at the landfill from 2018 until August 24, 2021. This data is from loads received at the landfill which were tracked in either the “Clean Wood Waste” or “Wood Chips” categories. The fees are based on the current entrance fee of a \$15 entrance fee and a tipping fee of \$105 per tonne, which applies to loads over 150 kg. For 2021, this also includes the loads that were charged a special handling fee that has been applied since May 2021 for stumps and logs greater than three feet long and greater than 10 inches in diameter. The special handling fee is \$130 per tonne.

Year	Number of Loads	Total Weight (kg)	Residential Fees	Commercial Fees	Total Landfill Fees
2018	6,065	2,929,740	\$180,241.75	\$195,585.90	\$375,827.65
2019	4,576	2,724,155	\$98,514.25	\$240,527.55	\$339,041.80
2020	4,146	2,262,195	\$77,562.25	\$207,371.90	\$284,934.15
2021*	2,151	1,197,470	\$33,834.95	\$130,095.70	\$163,930.65

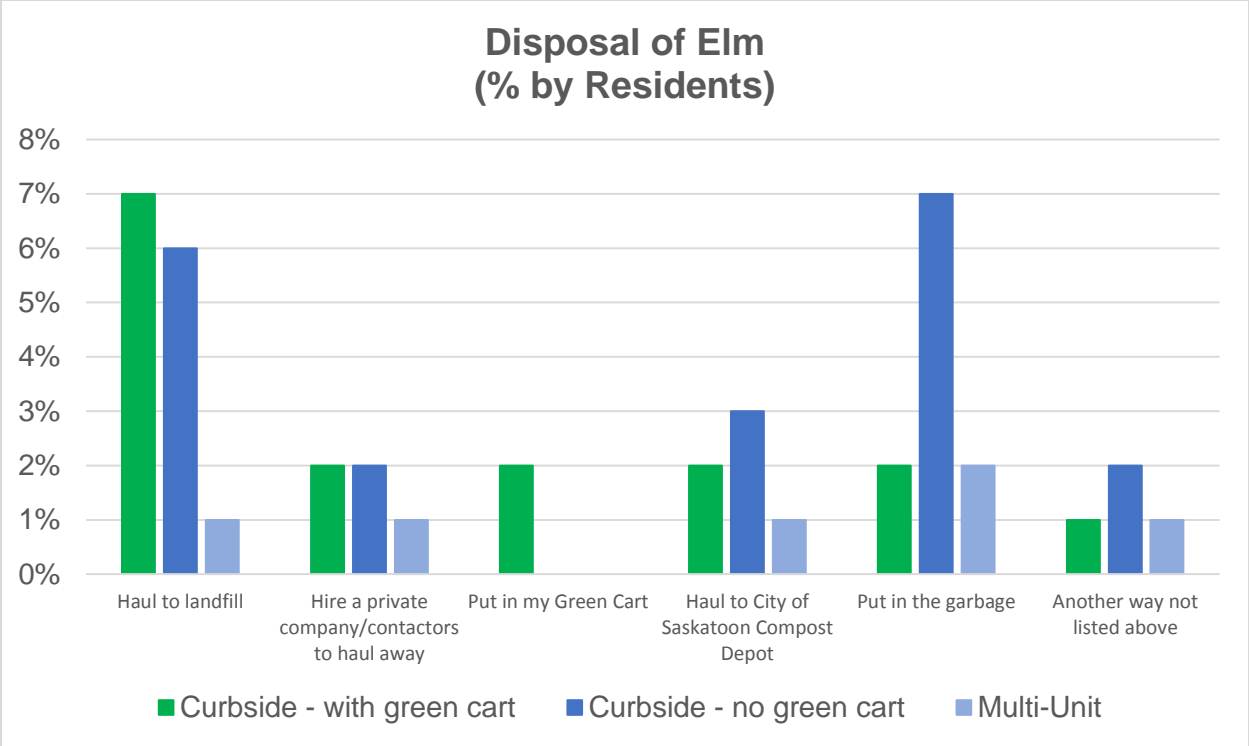
*2021 totals are calculated up to August 24, 2021

The following table helps provide an overview of the amount of fees that have been collected each year and whether the fees were collected from residential or commercial customers. The past three full years have seen a decline of overall fees collected for wood waste, with a clear decrease of fees for residential wood waste and comparatively stable commercial fees.



Residential Behaviour

The City’s Residential Waste and Recycling Survey is completed every two years and assesses knowledge and behaviour. The 2019 survey identified that the majority of residents do not have elm wood waste. The results below show the self-reported methods of disposal by service type – green cart subscribers, curbside residents with no green cart subscription, and multi-unit residential. This result suggests that those with elm wood waste are not consistently disposing of elm wood properly.



Elm Wood at the Compost Depots & in Subscription Green Carts

The City-run compost depots turn away vehicles or requires separation of materials each year due to loads containing elm. While direction is given to take elm containing loads to the landfill, there is no monitoring in place to ensure the correct actions are taken.

The following table shows the total loads that were refused at compost depots due to elm wood.

Year	Loads Containing Elm
2017	669
2018	589
2019	245
2020	821
2021	322*
*as of August 20, 2021	

There is currently no tracking in place for elm wood in the subscription green cart program. Inspections do occur when the load arrives at the compost depot and elm that is found is removed and placed into a roll-off bin on site.

Elm Wood Storage on Private Property

Following the 2021 positive case of DED found in Leif Erickson Park, Urban Biological Services crews performed an inspection of all properties in the adjacent area within a 2 km radius around the positive tree. During this process crews found and removed 12.4 tonnes of wood from 160 locations encompassing both residential yards and public property. This figure does not include stored elm wood encountered in routine DED monitoring throughout the season. The response to the 2020 DED case in the Montgomery neighbourhood identified over 13 tonnes of improperly stored elm wood.

Elm Wood Illegally Dumped

Illegal dumping of elm wood is not a significant issue. In total, there were 15 occurrences of illegal dumping of elm material within Saskatoon over the last decade. Generally, most illegal dumping occurrences occur in the back lane behind residential properties. There were two reported occurrences at the East compost depot and two occurrences at the West compost depot.

Illegal Dumping Elm (City)	
Year	# Occurrences
2010	2
2013	1
2017	1
2018	3
2020	4
2021	4
total	15

The Environmental Protection Officers (EPOs) address illegally dumped elm as "waste" as per the Waste Bylaw. The EPOs inform individuals or residents to dispose of the elm material according to the legislative requirements set out by the Ministry of Environment. Urban Biological Services Elm inspectors are brought in to address additional elm related concerns beyond the scope of the Waste Bylaw.

Elm Wood Composting Pilot

In January 2020, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment authorized the Saskatoon Compost Depot to store, use and transport elm wood chips for composting. This was limited to elm wood disposal by Parks staff. The Administration created an operating procedure to meet the terms and conditions of this authorization. The pilot was suspended following the September 2020 DED case because of the proximity of the case to the West Compost Depot. Approximately 50 tonnes of elm wood was composted through the pilot. The authorization expired on March 31, 2021. Currently, all elm wood waste generated by Parks is disposed of at the Saskatoon landfill and no steps have been taken to submit another application to the Minister of Environment.