

Background on Proper Elm Disposal

Date	Reports, Resolutions and Additional Information
December 16, 2019	<p>The Landfill Infrastructure Replacement and Recovery Park Site Design Options report provided options for the design of Recovery Park (now named the Material Recovery Centre) including a prioritized list of materials to be accepted. The design option approved by City Council included space designated for elm wood collection.</p>
March 22, 2021	<p>City Council approved the Urban Forestry Management Plan in principle. The Urban Forestry Plan examines the current state of the urban forest and outlines a strategy to plan, grow, manage, and protect the trees and tree canopy. It identifies DED as one of the main risks to the overall canopy cover and resilience of the urban forest.</p>
August 9, 2021	<p>The Standing Policy Committee – Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services received correspondence on Landfill Fees for the Disposal of Elm Trees and resolved:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That the Administration report back to the appropriate committee regarding near-term options to reduce the burden of proper elm disposal and other forestry materials required for prevention of disease spread on citizens, including waiving landfill fees.</p>
October 4, 2021	<p>The Standing Policy Committee – Environment, Utilities and Corporate, Services received the Near-Term Options to Reduce the Burden of Proper Elm Disposal resolved that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That Administration report further on option 3D, including what types of Elm loads this would apply to and how it would be coordinated with further education efforts.</p> <p>Option 3D was outlined in the report as the elimination of the Special Handling Fee and a \$50 maximum fee per load of elm wood.</p>
December 20, 2021	<p>City Council received the Implementation of a \$50 Flat Fee for Elm Disposal at the Landfill and Enhanced Education report and resolved:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That the Administration proceed with the approach outlined in this report including: research and implementation of \$50 flat fee for landfill loads that are primarily elm wood; enhanced education to mitigate the spread of DED; and piloting a comprehensive behaviour change program targeting proper elm wood disposal.</p>
October 31, 2022	<p>City Council approved the Pathway to a Sustainable Urban Forest: Implementation of the Urban Forest Management Plan 2022-2031 in principle. It included the in-progress work on barriers to proper elm disposal as well as the Elm Inventory Capital project and proposed future work to diversify the urban forest and develop an invasive species management strategy.</p>

<p>February 22, 2023</p>	<p>City Council received the Additional Information on Elm Wood Disposal and Pilot Program Results report and resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That elm wood drop-off be included in Recovery Park; 2. That further information on the level of service, costs, and fee options for elm wood be brought forward in a future report on Recovery Park; 3. That business plan options for 2024-25 be prepared to sustain enhanced communication and education programs and develop additional programs to further reduce barriers to proper elm wood disposal.
<p>June 28, 2023</p>	<p>City Council approved the Material Recovery Centre (Recovery Park) – Program Update and Changes to Fee Structure Report.</p> <p>This report identified that elm wood would be collected in the Scale & Pay section of the Material Recovery Centre and that an additional city-wide pilot on reduced tipping fees would be undertaken.</p>
<p>October 2023</p>	<p>A Phase 2 of the Enhanced Education and Elm Disposal Pilot was developed in response to increases in cases of DED utilizing remaining funding from the initial pilot. This pilot free disposal at the landfill in October 2023, with the following goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate the cost barrier for the proper disposal of elm wood; • Increase awareness of DED and the importance of proper elm wood disposal; and • Reduce the amount of elm wood stored in backyards.
<p>November 28, 2023</p>	<p>Sustained enhanced communications and education was approved through the 2024/25 Business Plan and Budget, through the advertising budgets for Material Recovery Centre and Green Cart combined with existing advertising for DED awareness. The funding plan for ongoing enhanced elm disposal education leverages all three of these advertising budgets to raise awareness that proper disposal of elm wood is at the Material Recovery Centre, that the Green Cart program does not accept elm wood, and to continue to raise awareness of other behaviours to mitigate the spread of DED.</p> <p>In the 2024/25 Business Plan and Budget, City Council approved funding from the Waste Minimization Reserve to Project P.10086 Proper Disposal of Elm Wood. The 2024 approved budget for this project is \$75,000 and the 2025 approved budget is \$75,000, which allows for \$150,000 over a two-year span.</p>
<p>April 24, 2024</p>	<p>City Council received the Update on Elm Wood Disposal Initiatives and Next Steps report and resolved:</p> <p>That the 2024 elm wood disposal plan be approved as outlined in the report of the Environment and Utilities Division dated April 2, 2024.</p>

The plan consisted of waiving fees for residential loads with a cap of 1000kg per load to target available funding towards small amounts of elm wood stored by residents.

Two additional resolutions regarding this report were made at the [April 2, 2024 Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services](#).

That the Administration investigate options to advance best practices and regulatory updating with respect to composting chipped elm in advance of the establishment of a long-term organics processing solution.

That as part of the 2024 DED Strategy Administration convene a stakeholder group to further discuss the elm disposal process, ensure clear and consistent understanding of current processes, and further discuss any additional initiatives to help support effective disposal of elm material.

At the same April 24, 2024 meeting, City Council received the [Long Term Organics Processing Options](#) report and resolved:

That the Administration pursue Option 3 – Build a City-owned Organics Processing Facility.