

The Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities and Corporate Services, at its meeting held on September 10, 2018, resolved in part:

3. That the Administration report on the options to extend the organics collection period in the winter and what implications this could have on the cost and service.

Option for Extended Organics Collection Period in Winter

The Administration has reviewed the option to extend the organics collection period in winter (hereinafter referred to as reduced organics collection frequency) and has identified the potential implications on cost and service.

The table below is intended to compare the operational cost savings and reduced number of FTEs required for a monthly collection frequency as compared to bi-weekly collection in winter.

Table 1: Option for Reduced Organics Collection Frequency in Winter

	Collection Frequency Summer	Collection Frequency Winter	Utility Charge Comparative Cost \$/hh/mo*	Capital Costs	Estimated Increase (new FTEs)	Mill Rate Reduction (if utility funded)	Mill Rate Impact (if not utility funded)	Estimated Implement Time (months)
1	Organics: Bi-Weekly Waste: Bi-Weekly	Organics: Bi-Weekly Waste: Bi-Weekly	\$20	\$13.6 M	22.8	3.5%	4.4%-5.4%	18
1A	Organics: Bi-Weekly Waste: Bi-Weekly	Organics: Monthly Waste: Bi-Weekly	\$19.73	\$13.6 M	20.4	3.5%	4.3%-5.3%	18

* Comparative costs (in 2018 dollars, based on program assumptions) for organics and waste collection with a medium sized waste cart. Monthly recycling utility charges (\$5.65/hh/month) are in addition to the amount shown.

Collection Frequency

Option 1A identifies the estimated savings associated with a reduced organics collection frequency in the winter. For this option, organics collection would be on a monthly basis (every-four-weeks) from November through March inclusive and bi-weekly from April through October inclusive. Garbage collection would be bi-weekly year-round.

Operational Savings

Total annual savings are estimated at \$230,000 as a result of reduced fuel consumption, reduced truck maintenance, and a reduced number of staff required for collections during the winter months. It is important to note that the total number of trucks required in the fleet would remain the same in order to provide bi-weekly collections in the summer months. An overall savings of \$230,000 per year would translate to a savings of \$0.27 per household per month or approximately \$3 per household per year if waste services were funded as a utility charge.

Capital Costs

Option 1A is not anticipated to result in any capital savings since the same amount of funding would be required to procure and deploy green carts and black carts, procure new side-loader trucks, and to develop the program regardless of winter collection frequency.

FTEs

Option 1A is anticipated to result in a reduction of 2.4 FTEs or the equivalent of six seasonal operator positions from November through March. A total of 20.4 FTEs would still be required to provide a new organics program and waste utility. These positions would be comprised of collection truck operators, containers staff, Supervisory staff, Administrative staff, Environmental Protection Officers and Business Administration.

Mill Rate Reduction

If organics and waste services are funded as a utility, there would be no change to the anticipated mill rate reduction as a result of reduced collection frequency in the winter.

Mill Rate Impact

If organics and waste services are funded by property taxes, Option 1A is anticipated to result in a lower mill rate impact than Option 1. With an estimated annual savings of \$230,000 as a result of monthly organics collection in the winter, the estimated mill rate impact would be between 4.3% and 5.3% instead of 4.4% to 5.4% for bi-weekly collection.

Implementation Time

Option 1A is anticipated to require the same implementation time as Option 1. The procurement timeframe for carts and trucks and the program implementation timeframe would be the same regardless of the winter collection frequency.

Other Considerations for Reduced Organics Collection Frequency in Winter

- A medium sized (240 L) green cart is anticipated to provide sufficient capacity for monthly collections from November through March for the majority of Saskatoon households.
- Monthly collections are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by approximately 160 tonnes CO₂ equivalents as a result of fewer trucks operating in the winter months. These GHG savings, however, could be negated by an increase in the amount of organic material sent to the landfill as a result of residents choosing to put their organics in the black carts that would be collected more frequently.
- Odours and nuisance concerns with monthly storage of organic material is anticipated to be minimal in the winter months. Unexpected warm temperatures in the winter months could cause materials to thaw and could result in odour issues as well as increased likelihood of material freezing to the bin.
- With a monthly collection frequency, a missed collection could result in a two-month interval between collections if residents are unable to place their green cart out for collection on their scheduled day.
- While some current green cart subscribers indicate that they utilize their green carts to store food waste throughout the winter, some residents may be less likely to participate in the organics program if collections are provided on a monthly basis as opposed to a bi-weekly basis.