

---

**TO:** Solid Waste Management Select Committee      **MEETING:** September 6, 2018

**FROM:** Vivian Schau  
Zero Waste Coordinator      **FILE:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

**SUBJECT:** Bylaw 1591 Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service Rates and Regulation Amendment

---

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That “Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service Rates and Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 1591.10”, be introduced and read three times.
2. That “Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1591.10”, be adopted.

## SUMMARY

The Regional District of Nanaimo’s (RDN) residential garbage and recycling collection program is a compulsory service established under the Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 793 and is applicable to the entire region with the exception of the City of Nanaimo. Single family waste collection consist of food waste, recyclables and garbage; food waste is picked up weekly, and garbage and recycling are picked up on alternating weeks. The RDN contracts for this service with Waste Connections of Canada (Waste Connections). The curbside program is entirely funded by user fees.

Bylaw 1591 establishes the user rates for the service. The proposed bylaw amendment reflects the projected user fee incorporated in the 2018 financial plan.

## BACKGROUND

The RDN’s residential garbage and recycling collection program is a service set up under Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 793 and applies to the entire RDN with the exception of the City of Nanaimo. Waste Connections, currently under contract to the RDN until March 2020, provides waste and recycling collection services to approximately 28,700 households. The Waste Connections agreement provides for an annual fee adjustment based on the Statistics Canada Price Index (CPI) data.

### *Program Administration*

In 2013, the RDN partnered with Recycle BC (formerly Multi Material British Columbia) to become a collector of Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP). This partnership allows the RDN to benefit from a collection, education and administration rebate totalling \$39.15 per household per year (a 5% increase from the previous 2014 Recycle BC contract rates). The collection portion of the

rebate which amounts to approximately \$30 per household per year is applied to lower user fees district wide, while the education and administration component is retained to provide public education materials and summer outreach program to RDN residents and to administer the curbside program.

The RDN staff currently provide zero waste education to the public through a number of initiatives including the summer outreach program, the RDN “Zero Waste” and “Perspectives” newsletters, public information sessions and speaking engagements, mall displays, the Zero Waste School education program, waste diversion program brochures, the Recollect website, the RDN Get Involved webpage, social media and the Zero Waste tool kit.

The goal of the summer outreach program is to collect data and to drive correct recycling practices across the RDN by inspecting curbside containers, reinforcing positive recycling behaviour and educating residents on non-complaint materials. The program has been effective in minimizing contamination in the recycling stream as part of our contractual obligation with Recycle BC.

*Diversion Rates*

The average curbside material collected per RDN household per year for the past 10 years is shown in Table 1 below. The 2018 curbside collection program is projected to achieve an overall diversion average of 55% per household, consistent with previous years. This equates to approximately 3300 tonnes of food waste and 2700 tonnes of recycling diverted from the Regional Landfill and a reduction of reduced 3000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through diversion of food waste from disposal at the landfill.

**Table 1. Annual RDN curbside collection comparison – kg per household per year**

<b>kg/household/year</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018*</b>
<b>Garbage</b>	283	272	177	165	165	167	167	166	167	170
<b>Recycling</b>	123	121	109	112	109	103	100	104	95	96
<b>Food Waste</b>	5	23	106	108	107	106	107	107	112	115
<b>Diversion Rate</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>55%</b>

\* projected 2018 garbage, recycling and food waste collection for RDN single family dwellings

Since the introduction of the Recycle BC PPP program in 2014, there has been an increasing focus on reducing contamination as it reduces the commodity value of the recyclables and the ability to effectively recycle the collected materials/ meet the recycling requirements of local and foreign recycling end-markets. This correlates to the gradual decline in recycling volumes, likely the result of focused efforts to reduce the level of contamination in the curbside recycling. As shown in Figure 1 below, the RDN’s curbside program contamination average has continually declined since the inception of the Recycling BC PPP program and is now approaching the 3% target. The RDN average has consistently maintained lower levels as compared to the overall Recycle BC program average in the same time period.

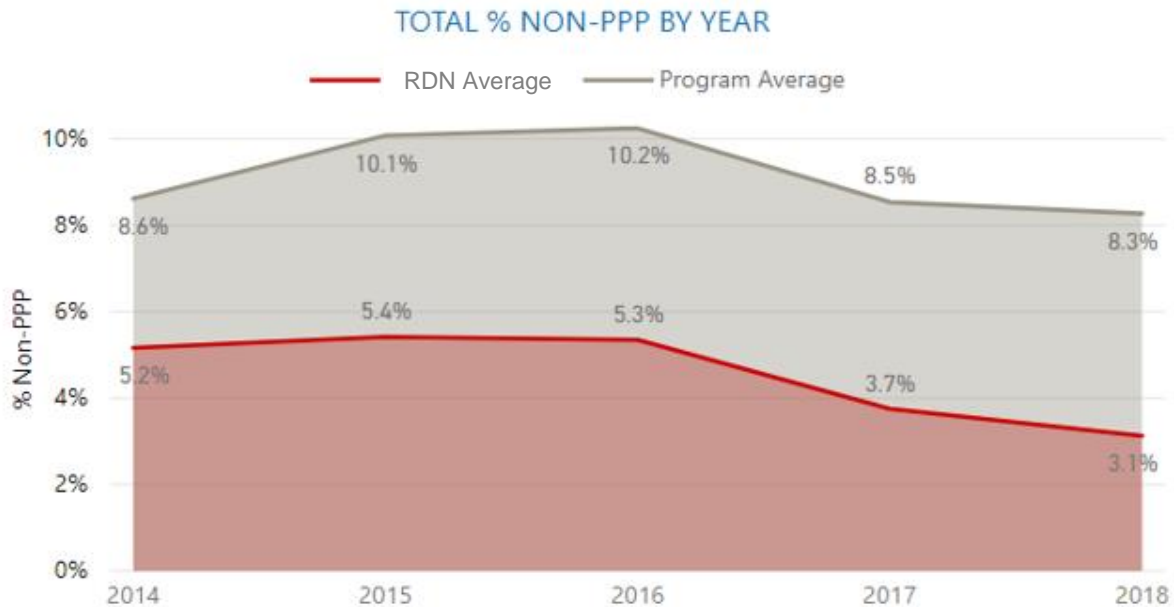


Figure 1 Recycle BC Contamination Scorecard - RDN Data May 2014 to April 2018

## ALTERNATIVES

1. Adopt “Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Service Rates and Regulations Amendment Bylaw No. 1591.10”.
2. Provide alternate direction.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed 2019 user fee increase of 6% is presented in the Table 2 below:

Table 2. Proposed 2019 User Fee

Service Level	2018		2019		% Change
	Full User Fee	Discounted Prompt Payment User Fee	Full User Fee	Discounted Prompt Payment User Fee*	
Full garbage/recycle/food waste service	\$ 144.69	\$ 130.22	\$ 154.03	\$ 138.63	6%
Recycling only <sup>1</sup>	\$ 26.78	\$ 24.10	\$ 27.58	\$ 24.83	3%

<sup>1</sup> Recycling only service means collection of Recyclable Materials only from those Residential Premises not receiving Garbage and Food Waste collection service as at the commencement of the 2010 collection contract. The recycling only accounts were grandfathered in prior to the introduction of the mandatory service.

\* Based on historical data, over 90% of residents take advantage of the prompt payment rate.

The increase is attributed to the following considerations:

- A projected 2% CPI increase with respect to inflationary provisions in the curbside collection contract;
- A 1% reserve fund increase in anticipation of program cost increases on renewal of the existing collection contract replacement in 2020; and
- A \$5 landfill tip fee increase (proposed for April 2019). Note that the base landfill tip fee of \$125/tonne for municipal solid waste has remained unchanged since January 2014.

The RDN curbside collection program is entirely funded by user fees; the cost apportionment is presented in Figure 2 below.

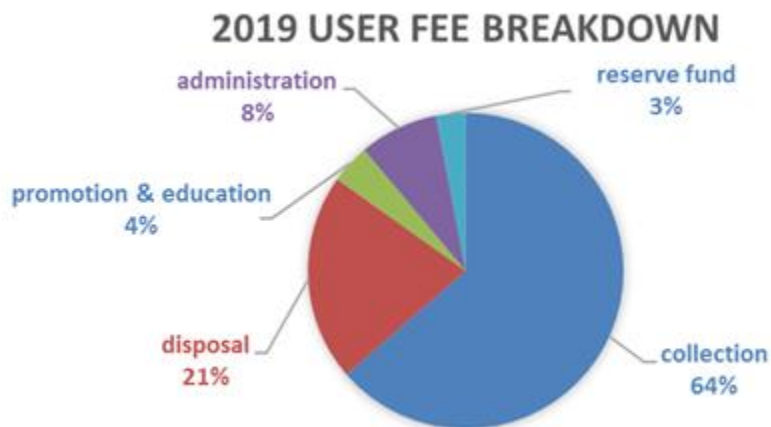


Figure 2 Proposed 2019 user fee distribution

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The residential curbside collection program is entirely funded by user fees to cover the costs associated with the contracted collection, disposal, program administration, education, and communications services. Consistent with the *focus on organizational excellence and services* as set out in the Strategic Plan, the proposed user fee increase maintains the economic viability of the service.

Additionally, the diverted recycling and food waste reduces greenhouse gas emissions and saves valuable landfill which is consistent with the *focus on the environment* by reducing the amount of material sent to the landfill.

---

Vivian Schau  
vschau@rdn.bc.ca  
August 13, 2018

Reviewed by:

- L. Gardner, Manager of Solid Waste Services
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional and Communities Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments

1. Bylaw No. 1591.10