

## **Frequently Asked Questions – Proposed Solid Waste Management Plan**

### **Where can I get a copy of the plan to review?**

The plan is available on the City of Brandon website at [www.brandon.ca](http://www.brandon.ca) (Solid Waste Management Plan icon located near the bottom of the page) or to receive a printed copy you can call 729-2290 (there will be a printing charge).

### **When will the new system be implemented if it is approved?**

The new collection system will be implemented in the spring / summer of 2008. It will take a period of time to change over the system and this will be done area by area. Residents will be provided notification on when their area will be changed over to the new system. The fee changes will come into effect on January 1, 2008, if City Council approves the proposed fee schedule as part of the annual budget process. The existing recycling depots will not be changed over to organics depots until the collection system change over is complete.

### **Why is a new plan being proposed at this time?**

There are a number of different issues that have all been identified that resulted in the need for an overall plan review:

- The existing garbage trucks were due to be replaced in 2007, but were delayed in order to allow for the overall system review.
- A majority of the garbage containers need to be replaced due to a large percentage reaching the end of their lifecycle and starting to fail in use (bottoms dropping out, lifting clip failures, cracking fiberglass, etc.)
- The current landfill license is up for renewal and there are new monitoring and segregation requirements that need to be satisfied in order to have the license renewed.
- The current recycling diversion rate in Brandon is approximately 14% where in other communities in Manitoba they are averaging 27%. In provinces such as Nova Scotia and Ontario, they are over 50%. There has been a movement over the last decade for senior levels of government to mandate diversion levels to municipalities and while this is not currently an issue for Brandon, we may see a change in this over the next decade. We need to have a system that encourages diversion.

### **Will I need to pay for the new garbage cans?**

If you currently have a black front street container or share a backyard bin, then you will be provided the new containers free of charge.

### **Will I be able to keep my old front street container?**

If you want to keep this container, then you will be able to do so. If you no longer want it, then we will remove it free of charge. We will make surplus containers available to other residents that may want them. It is important to note that **once the system is changed over in your area, we will no longer pickup these containers** and they will be exclusively for the use and handling by the resident.

### **Why are we not selling the front street containers?**

Everyone else that is using this type of system in Canada is converting to the new style of system. To ship these into the states, it would cost us more in freight costs than what the containers would be sold for because like Canada most communities are changing to the new system style.

### **What is going to happen with the backlane containers?**

These containers will be sold for scrap metal.

### **With the new system, will I now have to place my garbage on the front street if I am currently on backlane pickup?**

Each area will be evaluated based current collection location and access. In virtually all areas, those with lane pick up will continue in this regard. Current front street pick up will see no change.

The department will evaluate the following in consideration of location for pick up;

- Lot access front or lane
- Barriers in moving containers, example - elevation/grade changes in front and back (including stairs).
- Parking requirements within the area, example – areas with parking predominantly front street will require lane pick up.

**How will I know where to place the container?**

At the time of change over you will be notified where specifically you need to place the containers (front or back).

**How many and how big are these containers?**

Each residence will be provided three containers; one 95 gallon for garbage, one 95 gallon for recycling and one 5 gallon for kitchen waste (that can be taken to the depots).

**Do I have to take all three containers and what if I want something smaller?**

You will not have to take all three containers and there are a number of different sizes available depending on your individual requirements. The two large containers have microchips imbedded in them that will allow us to track container sizes by individual residence. If someone chooses to have either smaller containers or no recycling container, then we will be able to adjust this if the house is sold.

**These containers are smaller than what I currently have, so how what am I suppose to do if I currently fill the one I have?**

In fact when you combine the containers you will have under the proposed system, it will be 195 gallons worth of container as compared to the 120 gallons front street containers and the approximately 150 gallons / residence in the back lane containers. If you choose to recycle you will have a lot more capacity.

We are also proposing to implement a bulk item pickup program where for a small fee a large item will be picked up at your residence throughout the entire year. As part of the system change over we are also proposing to remove the residential tipping fee (for loads under 900 kgs) so that you can bring garbage and large items directly to the landfill, free of charge.

**How will I know which container is for what (garbage or recycling)?**

Each container will have a different color lid.

**Will I still have to buy blue bags?**

No, under this system all recyclables, including glass will be placed **loose** (no bags allowed) in the recycling container.

**Can I use the recycling bin for garbage?**

No, if there is garbage or bags in the recycling bin then it will not be picked up.

**Will I be required to take container into my yard?**

Under the current program residents with individual containers are responsible for those containers. Under current by-law, timelines for placement of containers are defined, and require the container be placed out, and removed by set times.

Container placement and removal guidelines will be reviewed and redefined under an updated by-law. This consideration will include options for leaving containers in the back lanes in specific areas.

In consideration of leaving containers (for lane pick up only) at point of collection.

**Pro**

- Easy for resident

**Con**

- Graffiti
- Vandalism/Theft (currently low rates with containers removed to residential property)
- Potential dumping/tipping of containers in lanes (mess)
- Illegal dumping (commercial/other resident use of neighboring containers)

**How will I know where to place the containers?**

At the time of implementation, each resident will have the opportunity to have an individual from the City come out and assist them in arranging for a location, assist in working through sizing containers for specific uses and in working through how best to have the container placed for pick up. More information regarding this will be available prior to implementation.

**What if I have a question that was not answered here?**

Please contact the Sanitation Department through 729-2290 and leave a message including your name and number. Someone will get back to you directly in order to answer any additional questions you might have.