

THE OPT-IN GREEN BIN SERVICE

Dear Colleagues,

In order to implement a faster, more cost-effective and friendlier roll out for green bins I am suggesting that the city offer an opt-in, paid green bin service for those who wish to participate. The many advantages are outlined below.

SPEED

The proposed green bin program is anticipated to take effect in 2021 while an opt-in program could potentially be in operation this year. Participants would receive a green bin plus weekly service from Tuesday to Friday on the same day every week.

NO UNUSED BINS

There are approximately 125,000 homes to which the curbside green bin service could apply but it is expected that 40% to 50% of the people will not participate. Since bins cost \$40-\$70 each, the immediate savings of an opt-in program will be about \$3 million because we won't have to cover the cost of bins that will never be used.

LOWER TAXES

The operating cost for the Mandatory Green Bin program is expected to be about an extra \$5 million per year which will be added to the tax levy. By having a paid service, there is no additional tax burden.

REVENUE GENERATION

Though cost recovery is the goal, the program may generate a surplus that can be used to fund additional green projects.

ORGANIC GROWTH

The opt-in program is voluntary and should grow as people see their neighbours participating and desire to try it themselves. This is superior to coercion.

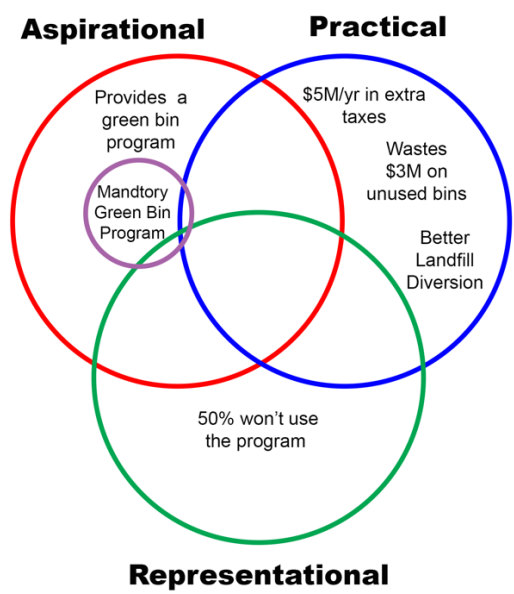
NO REDUNCANCY

Some residents don't need green bins because they use digesters to deal with organic waste.

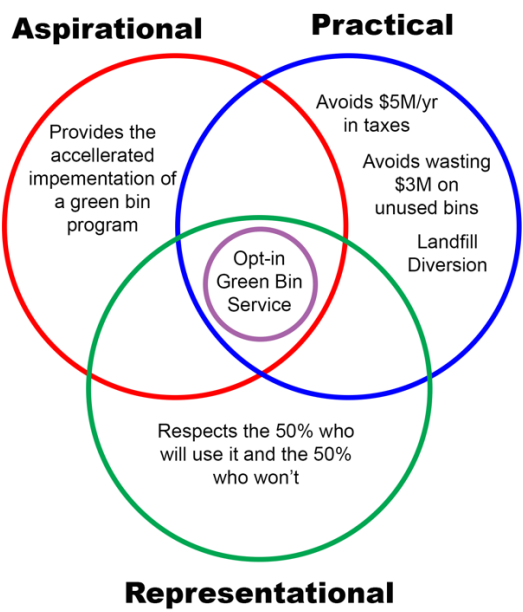
BALANCED

The program is a better balance of political considerations.

Mandatory Green Bin Program



Opt-in Green Bin Service



Despite being voluntary, the service will still have to be provided for all parts of the city so there will need to be a minimum opt-in threshold and a cost recovery strategy that allows for lower prices as more residents participate.

Committed residents have told me they would be willing to pay \$150 per year (\$3/week) for the service and If the minimum participation is 15% or 18,000 households, that would raise \$2.7 million dollars which should enough to operate the program. As participation approaches the 60% mark, prices could be reduced to around \$65.

For these reasons, I request that you support the following motion:

That staff prepare the financial and technical details necessary to implement an opt-in green bin program.

Sincerely,

Michael van Holst