

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2020
FROM:	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR - ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER
SUBJECT	MUNICIPAL WASTE & RESOURCE MATERIALS COLLECTION BY-LAW AMENDMENT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services & City Engineer, the draft amending by-law attached as Appendix A **BE INTRODUCED** at the Municipal Council meeting to be held on September 29, 2020 to amend the Municipal Waste & Resource Collection By-law (WM-12) to identify additional requirements for certain materials placed in the garbage to increase health and safety for the public and sanitation operators and address the elimination of the separate week for collection of Christmas trees.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER

Relevant reports that can be found at www.london.ca under City Hall (Meetings) include:

- 2020-2023 City of London Multi-Year Budget Business Case #26 – Eliminate Curbside Christmas Tree Collection
- Results of Pilot Project for Curbside Collection and Diversion of Christmas Trees And Recommended Next Steps (March 7, 2017 meeting of the Civic Works Committee (CWC), Item #6)
- Municipal Waste & Resource Materials Collection By-Law Amendments (November 29, 2016 meeting of the CWC, Item # 8)
- Options for Collection and Diversion of Christmas trees (May 10, 2016 meeting of the CWC, Item #5)

STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023

Municipal Council has recognized the importance of solid waste management in its 2019-2023 - Strategic Plan for the City of London as follows:

Building a Sustainable City

London has a strong and healthy environment (Increase waste reduction, diversion and resource recovery)

Leading in Public Service

Londoners experience exceptional and valued customer service (Increase community and resident satisfaction of their service experience with the City; Increase efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery)

The City of London is a leader in public services as an employer, a steward of public funds and an innovator of service (Maintain a safe and healthy workplace; Maintain London's finances in a transparent and well-planned manner to balance equity and affordability over the long term)

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Civic Works Committee (CWC) and Council with amendments to the Municipal Waste & Resource Collection By-law (WM-12) to:

- identify additional handling requirements for certain materials placed in the garbage to increase health and safety for the public and sanitation operators, and
- eliminate the designated collection week for Christmas trees.

CONTEXT

Preventing the spread of COVID-19 and Addressing Other Health and Safety Items

As part of the City's efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to keep sanitation operators and the public safe, citizens have been asked since April 2020 to take additional precautions when preparing their garbage. Londoners have been asked to place items such as tissues, paper towelling, used gloves and masks in a plastic bag before being placed into another garbage bag or garbage can. This helps to protect collection staff and reduces neighbourhood litter which could be handled without proper safety precautions.

During health and safety discussions between management and union members regarding the pandemic, a few other items were also noted as causing concerns and potential impacts that could be resolved with similar bagging practices. Items such as sawdust, cigarette ash, fireplace ash and vacuum dust are sometimes placed loose into garbage cans. This can result in light materials being dumped into the hopper (i.e., the large dumping area inside the garbage packer) and becoming airborne. The concerns are these very fine items can cause irritation to eyes, nose and mouth.

It is important to note that many Londoners already bag the items listed above. Asking all Londoners to bag these items and introduce it as part of a by-law amendment will increase the number bagging materials.

Elimination of Curbside Collection of Christmas Trees

As part of the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget deliberations, Municipal Council approved the elimination of the dedicated curbside collection week of Christmas trees in January of each year. In addition, Christmas trees would be identified as a non-collectible item in the Municipal Waste & Resource Materials Collection By-law. This means that Christmas trees would not be collected with other waste at the curb; rather they would continue to be treated as an item of value and diverted from the landfill. Londoners would be able to bring their Christmas trees to one of the four EnviroDepots. Or trees could be held until the Green Week collection service starts in the spring.

The savings associated with removing the dedicated collection week is approximately \$40,000 annually. The service is available to London households that have curbside collection, which is about 65% (or 120,000) of households. It is estimated that about 10,000 to 20,000 (8% to 15%) households use the curbside service. The average quantity of Christmas trees received for composting and chipping in January is about 120 to 140 tonnes each year.

DISCUSSION

Increase Health & Safety for Collection Staff and the Public

The following two categories of health and safety changes have been identified:

- to address concerns regarding COVID-19 including litter concerns, the following items should be placed inside a bag before they are placed in a large bag or garbage can: masks, gloves, wipes, napkins, tissues and paper towel; and
- to address extremely light particles from becoming airborne when garbage is placed inside a garbage packer; the following items should be placed inside a bag and not placed loose in a garbage container: sawdust, cigarette ash, fireplace ash and vacuum dust.

The above changes will result in:

- safer operations for sanitation operators;
- improved handling of certain items inside the home which may contribute to better practices for reducing the spread of infectious disease;
- safer public and private space as fewer items may become litter and be picked up by Londoners without proper safety precautions; and
- reduced litter, in general, as this helps focus Londoners on proper handling procedures.

To enact these changes and make them enforceable, requires an amendment to the Municipal Waste & Resource Collection By-law (WM-12):

- Add personal protective and hygiene products including, surgical and non-surgical masks, gloves, wipes, tissues, napkins, paper towel that may result in the spread of infectious disease, not placed inside a sealed and leak-free bag; sawdust, cigarette ash, fireplace ash and vacuum dust, not placed inside a sealed bag; as non-collectible waste; and
- Add details to Section 8.3 - Collector may not collect - municipal waste and/or resource materials.

The implementation of these changes will be done based on education and awareness as the first priority. The communications campaign will include:

- Newspaper and/or radio ads
- City website information
- Printed materials
- Social media
- Stickers left on garbage containers and/or Notice left in the mailbox (or other visible location)

Should compliance not be possible with education and awareness, other enforcement measure are available under the by-law such as removing the non-compliant items and charging a service fee (i.e., City collects at expense of owner).

Elimination of Curbside Collection of Christmas Trees

To enact the removal of the of the additional collection week in January for Christmas trees and to remove Christmas trees as a collectible item with garbage, requires a couple of amendments to the Municipal Waste & Resource Collection By-law (WM-12):

- Add Christmas trees as non-collectible waste;
- Delete the additional collection week in January and delete 3 by-law sections:
 - Section 4.9 – Placement for collection – Christmas trees – times – restrictions in its entirety,
 - Section 4.10 – Placement for collection – Christmas trees – late – City not responsible in its entirety,
 - Section 5.15 – Placement of Christmas trees at collection point – times – restrictions in its entirety, and
- Add details to Section 8.3 - Collector may not collect - municipal waste and/or resource materials

The implementation of this change will be done based on education and awareness as the first priority. The communications campaign will include:

- Newspaper and/or radio ads
- City website information
- Printed materials
- Social media
- Notice left in the mailbox (or other visible location)

Should compliance not be possible with education and awareness, other enforcement measure are available under the by-law such as removing the non-complaint items and charging a service fee (i.e., City collects at expense of owner).

How will Residents handle Christmas trees?

Residents currently bring home Christmas trees on the top of their vehicles, in the back of pickup trucks, inside larger vehicles, or in trailers. To recycle Christmas trees the following options are available:

- Delivery to one of four EnviroDepots during open hours. Two depots (Oxford St and Clarke Rd) reduce their operating hours for the winter to two days per week. Three additional operating days following Christmas are offered for tree drop-off and extra holiday garbage and recyclables. The other EnviroDepots (Clarke Rd North and W12A) are open six days per week all year.
- Hold onto the Christmas tree in the back or side yard of homes until the curbside Green Weeks are available in late March or early April. This option also provides winter habitat for birds.

The by-law attached as Appendix A facilitates all proposed changes in this report.

PREPARED BY:	PREPARED BY:
ANNE BOYD, B.A., B.E.Sc. MANAGER, WASTE DIVERSION	MICHAEL LOSEE, B.SC. DIVISION MANAGER, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT
PREPARED AND SUBMITTED BY:	RECOMMENDED BY:
JAY STANFORD, M.A., M.P.A. DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT, FLEET & SOLID WASTE	KELLY SCHERR, P.ENG., MBA, FEC MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES & CITY ENGINEER

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Appendix A

Bill No.
2020

By-law No.

A by-law to amend the By-law No. WM-12 being "A by-law to provide for the Collection of Municipal Waste and Resource Materials in the City of London".

WHEREAS section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, provides that a municipal power shall be exercised by by-law;

AND WHEREAS section 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under this or any other Act;

AND WHEREAS subsection 10 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, provides that a municipality may provide any service or thing that the municipality considers necessary or desirable for the public, and may pass by-laws respecting the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality, and the health, safety and well-being of persons;

AND WHEREAS the Municipal Council wishes to amend By-law No. WM-12, being "A by-law to provide for the Collection of Municipal Waste and Resource Materials in the City of London" to identify additional requirements for certain materials placed in the garbage to increase health and safety for the public and sanitation operators, for the removal of a separate collection week for Christmas trees, and to identify Christmas trees as a non-collectable item in the By-law.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the City of London enacts as follows:

1. By-law WM-12 is hereby further amended in Section 1.1 – Definitions by deleting the definition of Non-collectable Waste and by replacing it with the following new definition:

Non-collectable waste - defined

- "non-collectable waste" shall include but not be limited to grass clippings, washers, dryers, refrigerators, stoves, dehumidifiers, freezers and air conditioners, televisions, monitors, computers, computer peripherals, printers, copying and multi-function copying devices, telephones, answering machines, cellular devices, pagers, image devices, audio and video devices; explosives, flammable or volatile substances, liquid or gaseous wastes, caustic substances and acids, poisons, pesticides, herbicides, radioactive materials, septic tank pumpings, industrial process sludge, biohazardous waste, infected materials including dressings and bandages not placed inside a sealed and leak-free bag; personal protective and hygiene products including, surgical and non-surgical masks, gloves, wipes, tissues, napkins, paper towel that may result in the spread of infectious disease, not placed inside a sealed and leak-free bag; sawdust, cigarette ash, fireplace ash and vacuum dust, not placed inside a sealed bag; hay, straw, manure and excreta from farm premises; live animals or birds, carcasses or parts thereof of any animal or bird save for food preparation and consumption wastes; stock of any wholesaler or retailer, trade

waste; tree trunks and stumps; Christmas trees; trucks, automobiles or any other vehicle, vehicle parts; tires; construction materials; scrap metals, propane tanks; sharps not packaged and labelled in rigid containers; organic material which has not been drained of all liquids; and other materials as designated by the City Engineer from time to time.

2. By-law WM-12 is hereby further amended by deleting Section 4.9 – Placement for collection – Christmas trees – times – restrictions in its entirety.
3. By-law WM-12 is hereby further amended by deleting Section 4.10 – Placement for collection – Christmas trees – late – City not responsible in its entirety.
4. By-law WM-12 is hereby further amended by deleting Section 5.15 – Placement of Christmas trees at collection point – times – restrictions in its entirety.
5. By-law WM-12 is hereby amended by adding Section 8.3 (m) and (n);
 - (m) surgical and non-surgical masks, gloves, wipes, tissues, napkins, paper towel that that is not placed inside a sealed and leak-free bag;
 - (n) sawdust, cigarette ash, fireplace ash and vacuum dust, not placed inside a sealed bag;
6. This by-law shall come into force and effect on the day it is passed.

Passed in Open Council on September 29, 2020.

Ed Holder
Mayor

Catharine Saunders
City Clerk

First Reading – September 29, 2020
Second Reading – September 29, 2020
Third Reading – September 29, 2020