



Staff Report to Council

Report From: Don Giberson, Infrastructure & Development General Manager

Meeting Date: September 29 2025

Report: ID- 11-2025
Curbside Garbage and Recycling Fees

Recommendation

That South Huron Council receives Staff Report ID-11-2025 for Curbside Garbage and Recycling Fees.

Report Overview

Purpose of Report	For Information
Council Priority Alignment	Infrastructure Investment/Asset Management Plan Planning For and Managing Sustainable Growth
Consultations	Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk Alyssa Keller, Environmental Services Manager
Attachment(s) to Report	None.

Report Highlights

- The change in funding for residential recycling services to producer responsibility has resulted in a significant reduction in recycling costs. Although the curbside garbage and recycling service is user pay, the program has been subsidized by the landfill tipping fee revenue. This has created a

deficit in prior years; and garbage collected curbside has not been contributing to the landfill site post closure/ perpetual care costs.

- Staff are recommending that the garbage and recycling fees be combined into one waste management fee, but the total cost would remain unchanged. Garbage collected curbside would contribute to the post closure / perpetual care cost and the landfill tipping fee subsidy would be eliminated.

Context and Background

Further to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 7, 2025 Council directed staff to bring back information regarding Curbside Garbage and Recycling fees as part of the 2026 budget discussions.

Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA) has been providing curbside garbage and recycling services to the Municipality on a contract basis since 1990. Initially BRA provided bluebox recycling service, with garbage co-collection added in 2001. In 2012 the curbside collection of garbage and recycling was modernized with the implementation of the automated collection or “wheelie bins” program.

Curbside garbage and recycling collection program is 100% user pay and receives no funding from the tax levy. The curbside garbage and recycling program is combined with Landfill Site Operations in a Solid Waste Management Operating Budget. Landfill Site revenue (i.e.. landfill tipping fees) has historically subsidized the curbside garbage and recycling collection program. Garbage collected curbside has not contributed to the post closure / perpetual care costs since the charge was implemented in 2015. Prior to 2024 this resulted in the Solid Waste Management Operating Budget being in a deficit.

In April 2024 the Province changed the funding for residential recycling services to “Producer Responsibility” and this resulted in a significant reduction in our recycling costs. However, there is still some uncertainty with the transition to Producer Responsibility that may affect future garbage co-collection costs; and there are still issues of cross-subsidization and replenishing the Solid Waste / Landfill Reserve.

Starting in 2026, the producers are only obligated to provide biweekly collection. As such, they could request a change to reduce the frequency, however the producers are required to give one-year advance notice. As of this date they have not given notice. If the frequency of collection of recyclables changed to bi-weekly, garbage co-collection would also change to bi-weekly. If the Municipality wanted to maintain weekly collection for garbage, this could be done at an increased cost.

Other changes in 2026 include a new common list of materials that has not been announced yet. The producers have obligations to offer public space service and provide one bin per 1000 residents. Lastly, current ineligible stops like ICI properties will not be able to be collected on the same truck collecting residential recyclables. Longer term BRA has been contracted by the producers to provide curbside collection of recyclables until the end of 2032. If BRA does not continue the

collection of recyclables after 2032, curbside garbage co-collection would be eliminated and the cost of curbside garbage collection would increase considerably.

Discussion and Staff Recommendation(s)

The change in funding to “Producer Responsibility” for residential recycling services has reduced our recycling expense. However, the issue of the Solid Waste / Landfill Reserve prior year deficits still needs to be addressed.

The issue of landfill tipping fees subsidizing the curbside co-collection program also needs to be addressed and a decision made regarding the curbside co-collection program making a contribution to the post closure / perpetual care costs.

Staff recommend that curbside recycling and garbage fee be consolidated into one “Solid Waste Management” fee, with no increase in the total solid waste management fee.

Essentially, keep the status quo regarding the total cost of solid waste management services until the financial and service level impacts of the “producer responsibility” regulation is known. Moving forward the curbside co-collection program would pay the full landfill tipping fee, including the post closure/perpetual care costs.

Staff also recommend that the current Solid Waste Operating Budget surplus as a result of the change in funding to “Producer Responsibility” for residential recycling services be used to repay the prior year deficits created in the Waste Management Reserve. Contributing the budget surplus to the Solid Waste / Landfill Reserves will provide the necessary funding for the next Stage of Landfill Expansion.

In the future, excess funds could be considered to fund a new green bin program.

Impact Analysis

Financial Impact:

Based on the recommendations, there would not be any net changes in expenditures or revenue for the curbside garbage and recycling programs. Contributing the operating budget surplus to Solid Waste / Landfill Reserves would replenish the Reserves, so that funds are available for future projects.

There are no legal, operational or community impacts as a result of the recommendation in this report.

Linkages

- [July 7, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting Presentation](#)
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Respectfully submitted,

Don Giberson, Infrastructure & Development General Manager

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	ID11-2025 - Garbage and Recycling Fees.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Sep 25, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Alex Wolfe - Sep 24, 2025 - 3:36 PM

Julia Warwick - Sep 25, 2025 - 3:12 PM

Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Sep 25, 2025 - 3:56 PM