

Implementation of Wheelie Bins Will Reduce Costs and Improve Service

The Municipality of Bluewater will be adopting automated co-collection bins, commonly known as Wheelie Bins, for solid waste and recycling collection in 2020. The Bluewater Recycling Association (BRA) will supply each household with one small waste bin and one large recyclables bin in the summer of 2020; larger waste containers will be available upon request, subject to an additional fee.

BRA is converting its fleet to automated collection trucks as an industry best practice relating to lower Workplace Safety & Insurance Board injury claims.

Without conversion to Wheelie Bin collection, the cost of solid waste collection services provided to the Municipality by BRA would increase by approximately \$381,000 per year, increasing the amount charged to the tax levy to almost \$600,000. The Municipality currently charges \$3.00 per garbage bag tag, resulting in revenues of \$173,000.00 which fails to recoup the full costs of waste collection programs, and no costs are recouped from those who dispose of waste through alternative means. By implementing an automated collection service, the Municipality will be moving toward a full cost recovery, ultimately benefiting residents since funds may then be re-allocated to other municipal programs.

Further, the number of manual collection trucks remaining in the BRA fleet is both limited and constantly decreasing, which, under the current manual collection system, could affect service to Bluewater residents when breakdowns inevitably occur.

The move to an automated Wheelie Bin service has many advantages to residents.

Under the new system, weekly collection will be available to residents of Bayfield, Dashwood, Hensall, Zurich and the Lakeshore (Hay West and Stanley West wards) while Hay East and Stanley East will continue to be serviced bi-weekly (with the exception of Dashwood). Previously, the Lakeshore had received a 'hybrid' collection schedule, with weekly collection only available during the summer months.

Wheelie Bins are easier to move for roadside collection; are resistant to tampering by animals; and increase the cleanliness of the community by limiting the amount of waste likely to spill out and be blown around.

Participation in the wheelie bin collection system should also decrease the amount of illegal garbage dumping and burning as all residents will have equal access to the system, paying for it automatically through the tax bill as a special charge.

Finally, adopting the Wheelie Bin service will allow Bluewater to return to a single collection day throughout the Municipality, saving costs associated with multi-day staffing of the landfill and the additional contracted costs.

BRA will be providing educational materials to residents related to bin size, placement at the roadside, and acceptable materials prior to implementation of the automated “wheelie bin” collection service.

More information on the rationale behind the conversion of Waste and Recycling collection to the automated Wheelie Bin system is available in the Staff Report made to Council by Manager of Public Works, Dave Kester; it may be accessed online at <https://bluewater.civicweb.net/document/16543/Automated%20Collection%20Service%20s.pdf?handle=46988C905DB540019EC79A53CAA75BE3>.

Additional information related to bin sizing can be found in the attached flyer from BRA introducing the new automated collection service.