

NO: R135

COUNCIL DATE: July 24, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 11, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering**

FILE: **5360-00**

SUBJECT: **Update on Surrey Cleanup and Waste Reduction Initiatives**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Endorse the proposed next steps with cleanup and waste reduction actions, as described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on various clean-up and waste reduction programs and seek Council's endorsement to proceed with the next steps to further enhance clean-up, as generally described in this report.

BACKGROUND

The Engineering Department undertakes various activities and offers publicly accessible programs to ensure City cleanliness. Some of these activities and programs also provide a secondary benefit by reducing waste sent to landfills. These programs include large item pick-up, litter collection, illegal dumping pick-up, and drop-off events. These programs are an important part of community enhancement and civic pride, which ensures a cleaner, safer, healthier, and vibrant community for residents and businesses. These programs are described in more detail in the attached Appendix "I".

DISCUSSION

Next Steps

The proposed next steps to further the City's efforts with clean-up and waste reduction include a comprehensive communication and education campaign, followed by neighbourhood action plans. Details are as follows:

1. Communication and Education Campaign

A public awareness and education campaign will be developed to change illegal dumping behaviour and raise awareness of the impacts of illegal dumping. The focus of the campaign will be to promote and educate residents on the various options to dispose of unwanted items. The campaign will utilize social media, newsletters, transit shelter advertisements, digital boards, direct mailouts, and radio promotion, all in multiple languages.

2. Neighbourhood Specific Actions

To ensure that illegal dumping is mitigated in neighbourhoods where it is prevalent, staff will pilot a litter pick-up and clean-blitz in town centres, followed by targeted enforcement in hot-spot locations using both Engineering and Bylaws staff. The pilot will start in Newton before moving into other Surrey communities. The effectiveness of the pilot will be assessed to determine if changes are required before shifting to other communities in Surrey.

CONCLUSION

The Engineering Department undertakes various activities and offers public programs to ensure City cleanliness. Some of these activities and programs also provides a secondary benefit by reducing waste sent to landfills. Staff have identified education and enforcement actions to further the City's efforts with City clean-up.

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General Manager, Engineering

RK/cc

Appendix "I" – Current City Clean-up Programs

Current City Clean-up Programs

Large Item Pick-up Program

The City provides a Large Item Pick-up (“LIPU”) service to single-family households and apartment buildings. The service is a convenient and free option for residents to dispose of their unwanted items throughout the year. The program requires eligible households to schedule a pick-up appointment either online or by phone and place the items at their curbside on the scheduled date for collection by the City’s waste contractor. Single-family households can schedule pick-up of up to six items per year, while those with a secondary suite can request eight items per year. Items in the LIPU service include mattresses, furniture, large appliances, electronics, tires, and other small household items.

The LIPU program is well received by Surrey residents with an average of 40,000 LIPU requests and collection of over 57,000 items from households annually. Table 1 illustrates the distribution of LIPU requests throughout the City and demonstrates that the service is utilized by each Surrey community, with Newton being the largest user of the service at 25% of the total LIPU requests.

Table 1: Large Item Community Participation

Community	Participation
Newton	25%
South Surrey	19%
Cloverdale	16%
Whalley	15%
Fleetwood	14%
Guildford	12%

Disposal Days Event

Disposal Days is a free and discounted drop-off event for residents to dispose of unwanted material at both the Central Surrey (east Newton) and North Surrey (Port Kells) Recycling and Waste Centres. The event helps keep neighbourhoods clean, reduces illegal dumping, and diverts waste from the landfill. The event accepts various categories of material such as mattresses, electronics, drywall, furniture, appliances, paint, textiles, books, and green waste.

In 2023, this event was very successful with over 9,000 visits, 80% higher than the previous event held in September 2022. Approximately, 1,558 total tonnes of waste and recyclables were delivered which is 95% higher than the previous event. Of the total waste delivered, approximately 32% was recycled. The drop-event was utilized by residents across the City, with Newton area residents making most use of the event with 24% of the total loads delivered. Table 2 provides breakdown of the use by Surrey communities.

Table 2: Disposal Day Community Participation

Community	Participation
Newton	24%
Cloverdale	18%
Fleetwood	16%
Guildford	16%
Whalley	16%
South Surrey	15%

Recycling and Waste Centres

The City, in partnership with Metro Vancouver, constructed the Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre located at 6711 – 154 Street (east Newton), which opened in September 2022. The facility provides residents and businesses a year-round, convenient, and centralized location to drop-off recycling and garbage. The location of the facility has also improved disposal options for the Newton and South Surrey area, as the only other facility was in Port Kells. The facility plays a pivotal role in reducing illegal dumping and diverting waste from the landfill, as it accepts mattresses, electronics, drywall, furniture, appliances, paints, textiles, books, and green waste. Approximately 1,200 – 2,300 residents visit the facility per month based on seasonality.

In addition, staff are collaborating with Metro Vancouver to rezone land at 9810 – 192 Street to permit expansion of the North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre to include a full-scale recycling depot, similar to the Central Surrey recycling area, increasing convenient disposal options for residents and businesses in Surrey. Construction is expected to be completed by late 2025.

Litter Control

The Engineering Department provides various proactive litter control services to ensure a neat and clean appearance of the City. Approximately 200 km of arterial streets and sidewalks are litter picked once per week via scheduled contracted service, plus a demand service is also available based on public requests and litter conditions along streets. In addition, an annual litter blitz is completed every May and all litter cans are cleaned once a week. Table 3 provides breakdown litter collection in each community.

Table 3: Litter Collection Kilometres per Community

Community	KM's
Whalley	56.1
Newton	37.9
Guildford	28.5
South Surrey	28.0
Fleetwood	18.3
Cloverdale	12.6

Illegal Dumping

In 2022, there was 7,574 dumped items, down by 4% from 2021 and indicating that implemented measures are making a difference with reducing illegal dumping. These items are collected based on requests submitted by the public or City staff. There are two dedicated crews collecting the dumped items on a daily basis throughout the City. The material collected by City crews is separated into various waste streams to maximize waste diversion and reduce the amount being sent to landfill. In addition, staff also install and utilize surveillance camera technology in hotspot locations to catch illegal dumping offenders which are then issued fines for the violation. Since the City has been using surveillance cameras, 33 tickets in the amount of \$1,000 each have been issued, with 48% being paid, 30% sent to collections, 18% cancelled, and 1% in progress. The cameras have been successful in catching illegal dumping offenders and deterring illegal dumping in these locations.