

NO: R199

COUNCIL DATE: October 21, 2024

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **October 16, 2024**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering** FILE: **5360-00**

SUBJECT: **2024 Waste Drop-Off Event and Other Cleanup Initiatives Updates**

RECOMMENDATION

The Engineering Department recommends that Council receive this report for information.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the residential waste drop-off event and other clean-up activities undertaken by the Engineering Department in 2024.

BACKGROUND

The Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, located at 6711 – 154 Street, opened in September 2022, and provides residents and businesses a convenient, centralized location to drop-off recycling and garbage. The City also transitioned to utilizing the Central Surrey and North Surrey Waste Centres to provide free public waste and recycling drop-off, replacing the former Pop-Up Junk Drop events held at the Operations Centre. Holding this event at these facilities provides residents with a convenient means of disposing of unwanted materials at no cost to the resident and with improved efficiency and convenience. Additionally, these events are essential for community enhancement and civic pride, as they promote proper, cost-effective waste disposal options and help ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier, more vibrant environment.

DISCUSSION

From 2016 – 2019, the Engineering Department hosted an annual pop-up junk event to allow residents to bring unwanted items and large items to the Operations Centre over a two-day event.

The event was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID, and with the opening of Metro Vancouver's Central Surrey Waste Centre in 2022, staff converted the Pop-Up Junk event to a two-week long Disposal Days event, where residents would bring unwanted material to both Metro Vancouver's North and Central Waste Centres. The Disposal Days event was very successful, at times the demand from residents exceeded Metro Vancouver's on-site circulation and administrative processing capacity.

In 2024, the Engineering Department piloted a five-month free waste drop-off event from May 1 to September 25, 2024 at the Central Surrey and North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centres. The event was expanded from the 2023 Disposal Days event in response to feedback received from residents and allowed more time to drop off unwanted items, similar to the Pop-Up Junk events. The event included free drop-off of up to 100 kg of material at both Centres for various waste such as mattresses, green waste, drywall and furniture, in addition to the always-free appliances, electronics, paint, textiles, oil, and books.

The results of the 2024 waste drop-off pilot and comparison statistics to the previous events are provided in Table 1 below:

Table 1 – Result of 2024 Waste Drop-off Event

Measure	2024 Pilot Waste Drop-Off Event	2023 Disposal Days Event	2019 Pop Up Junk Drop Events	% Change from 2019 to 2024 Event
No. of Loads	21,000	8,637	7,150	195% Increase
Tonnage Delivered	3,304	1,151	1,200	175% Increase
Event Cost	\$395,000	\$225,000	\$625,000	37% Decrease

The pilot drop-off event with expanded dates was very successful, resulting in higher participation, an increase in tonnage delivered and lower costs than the previous similar events. The event received very positive feedback from participating residents, many of whom expressed their appreciation to the City for providing a convenient and cost-effective outlet to dispose of materials. Most participating residents advised that they would attend the event again, found the 100kg limit satisfactory, and noted that all items that they needed to dispose of were accepted. A detailed breakdown of attendance by Surrey community is provided in Appendix “I” attached to this report.

The event was promoted through various sources including social media, transit shelter advertisements, digital boards, direct mailouts and radio and television media. Additionally, in 2024, staff utilized multicultural outlets, primarily in the Punjabi language, to engage and educate the Punjabi and South Asian community. These outlets included REDFM, Sher-E-Punjab, Connect FM radio stations and Channel Punjabi, Prime Asia TV television stations. This resulted in great feedback and dialogue with the community.

The event costs were also within the 2024 budget allocation.

Impacts on Illegal Dumping

The Engineering Department established a goal of reducing City-wide illegal dumping incidents by 20% by 2026. While recognizing that eliminating illegal dumping is challenging, it is essential to continuously review City policies aimed at reducing it, to ensure that effective operational strategies are in place to minimize its impact on our community. Accordingly, the change to the waste drop-off event format seems to be making a positive difference. To date, illegal dumping has decreased by 13% from the same period in 2021.

Additional 2024 Engineering Cleanup Program Results

In 2024, the Engineering Department hosted a series of successful cleanup initiatives to improve City cleanliness and raise awareness of the various programs offered to residents by the City. These initiatives included cleanup blitzes and large item pick-ups. The results of these initiatives are provided in Appendix “II” attached to this report.

CONCLUSION

The Engineering Department piloted a five-month-long free waste drop-off event from May 1 to September 25, 2024, at the Central Surrey and North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centres. The pilot event with the expanded dates was very successful, resulting in higher participation, increase in tonnage delivered, lower costs than the previous similar events, and positive feedback from participating residents. Therefore, it is anticipated that future expanded waste drop-off events will continue to benefit the City and its residents.

Scott Neuman, P.Eng.
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Appendix “I” – Waste Drop-Off Event Participation Summary by Community
Appendix “II” - Results of Additional 2024 Engineering Cleanup Programs

[https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/eng.administration/gm administration/corporate reports/2024/oct 21/2024 surrey cleanup and waste reduction initiatives updates/2024 waste drop-off event and other cleanup initiatives results \(10162024\) final.docx](https://surreybc.sharepoint.com/sites/eng.administration/gm%20administration/corporate%20reports/2024/oct%2021/2024%20surrey%20cleanup%20and%20waste%20reduction%20initiatives%20updates/2024%20waste%20drop-off%20event%20and%20other%20cleanup%20initiatives%20results%20(10162024)%20final.docx)

APPENDIX "I"

Waste Drop-Off Event Participation Summary by Community

The table below provides breakdown of the use by Surrey communities. The drop-event was utilized by residents across the city, with Newton area residents making most use of the event with highest total loads delivered.

Community	Participation %
Newton	23%
Cloverdale	20%
Fleetwood	19%
Whalley	14%
Guildford	13%
South Surrey	11%

Results of Additional 2024 Engineering Cleanup Programs

Cleanup Blitzes

The Cleanup Blitz initiative was launched in 2023, aimed to build community pride by keeping the city clean and beautiful. In May and August 2024, City staff were mobilized to complete two-week-long clean-up blitzes in Surrey neighborhoods. The key focus was on removing litter, illegally dumped items and graffiti in each community. The cleanup blitzes were successful and yielded good cleanup results. The highlights of the work completed during the two blitzes include:

- May 2024 Blitz: 1,833 illegal dumped items collected, 1,598 bags of litter collected and removed graffiti at 211 locations
- August 2024 Blitz: 1,217 illegally dumped items collected, 682 bags of litter collected and removed graffiti at 85 locations

Large Item Pickup

The City provides the Large Item Pickup (“LIPU”) service to single-family households and apartment buildings. The LIPU service is a convenient and free disposal option for residents to get rid of their unwanted items throughout the year. 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.

- City receives an average of 40,000 LIPU requests and collects over 60,000 items annually.
- In 2024, participation has increased by 10% from previous years, indicating residents are utilizing this option to dispose of unwanted items and public awareness is resonating well

The table below illustrates the distribution of LIPU requests throughout the City.

Community	Participation
Newton	25%
South Surrey	18%
Cloverdale	16%
Whalley	15%
Fleetwood	14%
Guildford	11%

Enforcement and Fines

In addition, staff continues to utilize surveillance camera technology in hotspot locations to catch illegal dumping offenders, who are then issued fines for the violation. Since the City has been using surveillance cameras, 40 tickets in the amount of \$1,000 have been issued with 45% being paid, 33% sent to collections, 17% cancelled and 5% in progress. The cameras have been successful in catching illegal dumping offenders and deterring illegal dumping in these locations.