



For Immediate Release

December 18, 2018

2019 Waste and Recycling Initiatives

Changes to the City's recycling schedule are coming January 15, 2019. These changes are coming as a result of the recent curbside recycling survey and initiatives of the City's Environmental Committee. Nearly 1400 individuals completed the survey earlier this year.

“Starting January 15, 2019 recycling and garbage pickup will be on the same day regardless of the area in which you live. Some, but not all areas, have been on a same day pickup for some time and this will avoid confusion and missed recycling pickups during stat holidays when there were scheduling changes to accommodate the holiday,” said Mayor Bob Maloney. Garbage pickup for residents will not change and everyone can now put out their recycling on the same day as their garbage. “We ask that residents place their bags approximately one metre away from their black garbage bin for ease of pick up for both services,” said the Mayor. These services will take place Tuesday – Friday every week with minor changes around Christmas time,” said the Mayor.

Another 2019 initiative is the launching of a waste and recycling “Recycle Coach” App adapted for Yorkton.

“With this App you can view your schedule and use a search tool to find out how to properly dispose of items, including batteries, electronics, concrete, and mattresses. It can also be a communication tool for information on Environmental Services programs and events,” said Environmental Committee Chair Corvyn Neufeld.

Another change to the recycling program is that the Prairie Harvest Employment Program (PHEP) will be getting a new truck and trailer to manage recycling pickup, replacing the buses now in use. Currently PHEP picks up and presorts the materials which are then taken to SaskAbilities for final sorting and baling, before being shipped out for processing. This program provides employment for 40 at-risk youth through Prairie Harvest and seven individuals through SaskAbilities.

“Many people asked about the possibility of the City using blue bins rather than our blue bag system,” said the Mayor. “We could do this, but a blue bin system would be more expensive to all residents and eliminate the employment opportunities we currently offer to Prairie Harvest. In addition, other cities have found that recycling put into transparent bags vs the cart, leads to less contamination with garbage and non-recyclables. Blue bags are themselves also recyclable,” he said.

The City is also creating and publishing new materials with up to date information on waste and recycling programs. These will include a sorting guide to make it easier to sort recycling and garbage materials. “One of the issues with recycling is proper sorting, said the Mayor. “Often the materials coming for recycling are contaminated with things like pizza boxes and food waste. The oil from the pizza boxes and other organics means the whole bag of materials may be contaminated, and then it just becomes garbage, which is not what we want,” he said.

“Along with these changes, the city plans to make some capital investments at the RecylAbilities center” said the Mayor.

Members of the Environmental Committee include: Corvyn Neufeld (Chair), Mayor Bob Maloney, Doug Kitsch, Sandra Bilan, Stefan Bymak, Darcy Zaharia, Jason Bot, Tom Courville, and Stephen Rosowsky.

If you have questions or concerns relevant to recycling contact the environmental Services Department at 306-828-2470.

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