



To: RDCO Local Government Partners
From: Travis Kendel, RDCO - Development and Engineering Services
Date: May 29, 2025
Subject: Curbside Food Waste Program Update - Revised

Purpose: To provide member municipalities with an update on costing for a curbside food waste program and to request formal participation in the curbside food waste program from all municipal councils by July 31, 2025

Resolution for consideration:

THAT City of West Kelowna Council supports City of West Kelowna's participation in the Regional District of Central Okanagan's Curbside Food Waste Program.

Background

In the Central Okanagan, 64,500 households receive curbside collection of waste and recyclables by Environmental 360 Solutions (E360s) through municipal and RDCO contracts. The RDCO administers these contracts and does not directly manage curbside collection operations. Garbage is sent to the Glenmore Regional Landfill for disposal, yard waste is composted into GlenGrow, and recycling is handled by Recycle BC's contractor.

Based on recent (2021 & 2024) Waste Characterization Studies, over 40% of residential waste from single family homes is compostable (food waste, soiled papers). Extensive public consultation in 2023 and 2024 showed strong support for a curbside food waste program (73%) with the top three concerns identified being costs for the program, wildlife and reduced frequency of garbage collection. 49% of residents were willing to pay up to \$66/year for a curbside food waste program.

The Food Waste Feasibility Study (2021) identified the best option to manage food waste is to include it with current curbside yard waste carts for composting. In 2023, the Regional Board directed staff to initiate next steps to implement this recommended option within a food and yard waste collection program.

Proposed Service

The service under consideration is a co-mingled food and yard waste program using existing yard waste carts. Organics would be collected weekly and garbage would switch to bi-weekly collection (every other week) and transported to a single transfer station within the Kelowna area where it will be consolidated into larger transport trucks to be sent to a final processor for composting.

Although consideration was given to multi-family service, it is recommended that the food waste initiative start with homes serviced by the existing curbside program. This provides a higher

level of service based on existing infrastructure and is expected to support community adoption as it does not require significant change for existing customers.

Key Concerns Recap and Costing Update

There were three primary concerns with a curbside food waste program identified by both residents during engagement and members of municipal councils. Those concerns are outlined below:

Key Concern	Service Recommendation
Bi-weekly (every other week) Garbage Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In advance of a food waste collection program, increase public awareness of the cart upsize process. • With the launch of a food waste collection program, reduce garbage collection to once every two weeks and deploy an extensive communications and education program.
Wildlife (Bears, Rodents, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Wildsafe BC program and explore a year-round coordinator. • Expand on attractant management education programming • RDCO to provide bear resistant devices for existing and new curbside carts, available for purchase.
Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain a 3rd party consultant to review costing and update estimated household annual expense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ April 2025: Consultant estimated cost to be \$63/household/year. ○ City of Kelowna program participation is key to enabling regional economies of scale. Without City of Kelowna participation, program costs are estimated to increase beyond \$150/HH/year.

Timeline Towards a Curbside Food Waste Program

Below is a full timeline the Regional District has taken towards implementing a curbside food waste program.

Date	Milestone
April 8, 2021	2021 Waste Characterization study data presented to RDCO Governance and Services Committee identifying about half of curbside waste was identified as compostable organics.
February 2, 2023	<p>The findings of the Food Waste Feasibility study were presented to the Regional Board on February 2, 2023. At that meeting, the Board resolved:</p> <p><i>AND THAT</i> Staff initiate next steps to implement a regional curbside co-mingled food and yard waste collection program as outlined in the report from the Director of Engineering Services;</p> <p><i>AND FURTHER THAT</i> the Board be presented with the consultation and engagement strategy for approval prior to engagement with residents and municipal Councils.</p>

April 8, 2023	Consultation and Engagement framework presented to the Board, and at that meeting the Board resolved: <i>AND THAT the Board supports the Food Waste Collection Consultation and Engagement Framework dated April 20, 2023.</i>
August 2023	Regional Board updated 2023-2026 strategic priorities include implementation of a curbside organics collection program (Food Waste Program)
February 22, 2024	Phase 1 of public engagement - region wide survey results were presented to the Regional Board. In a statistically valid survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 73% of residents support a curbside food waste program • 83% would participate if such a program was implemented
Summer 2024	Phase 2 of public engagement took place, including Council presentations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4200 residents filled out the survey on Yoursay.rdco.com • 76% are in favour of a food waste collection program • 49% are willing to pay at least \$66/year to support a curbside food waste program • The top concerns identified include scheduling (every other week garbage collection), wildlife and costs for the program
November 28, 2024	Results of engagement provided to Board, along with service recommendations to resolve concerns. Staff highlighted concerns that only half of the community appeared to support the expected program costs. At that meeting, the Regional Board resolved the following: <i>AND THAT the Board directs staff to formally request participation in the Curbside Food Waste Program from all municipal councils, seeking confirmation by July 31, 2025 of their support and participation.</i>
April 2025	Consultant provides updated costing for the proposed Food Waste program to aid in Council consideration of formal participation. Cost estimated to be \$63 per household.
May & June 2025	RDCO staff present to all municipal councils to seek formal participation in the Curbside Food Waste Program.
Before July 31, 2025	Report back to the RDCO Board on the outcome of formal participation requests.

Next Steps:

Seek formal participation from all municipal councils and present the outcome to the Regional Board by July 31, 2025.

Should the Regional Board direct staff to implement the curbside food waste program, next steps will also include securing partner funding contributions and advance into procurement of land, contractors, and capital.

cc:

Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee