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**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: MULTI-FAMILY FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. THAT Council receive the findings of the multi-family pilot food scraps collection project.
2. THAT Council authorize staff to implement a full scale multi-family food scraps collection, as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

**REPORT**

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2011 June 14, received and adopted the attached report providing information on the findings of the multi-family food scraps collection pilot project and seeking Council's consideration in implementing a full-scale multi-family food scraps collection program.

The 6-month multi-family food scraps collection pilot project was well received by the participating residents. Based on the positive outcome of the pilot project, the implementation of a full scale multi-family food scraps collection program is recommended. The service would be extended to multi-family complexes that currently are served by the City's waste collection program. The necessary totes and truck required to commence the full scale collection of food scraps from multi-family properties is available within the existing Engineering assets. The net operating cost of the expanded service is estimated to be approximately \$200,000 per year at full participation level. The additional diversion of food waste from the multi-family sector will lead the City closer towards meeting the regional goal of 70% waste diversion by 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston  
Chair

Councillor S. Dhaliwal  
Vice Chair

Councillor A. Kang  
Member

Copied to:	City Manager Director Engineering
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2011 June 07

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**FILE:** 36600 06

**SUBJECT:** MULTI-FAMILY FOOD SCRAPS COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Committee with the findings of the multi-family food scraps collection pilot project and request Council's consideration in implementing a full-scale multi-family food scraps collection program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT the Committee recommend Council to:
  - a) receive the findings of the multi-family pilot food scraps collection project; and,
  - b) authorize staff to implement a full scale multi-family food scraps collection as outlined in Section 3.0 of this report.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

In 2010 October, Council approved a report from the Environment Committee for staff to proceed with a multi-family food scraps collection pilot project. In 2011 March, staff provided a progress report to the Environment Committee on the pilot project. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee and Council on the findings of the 6-month pilot project and to seek Council approval to proceed with the full-scale multi-family food scraps collection program based on the successful outcome of the pilot project.

**2.0 MULTI-FAMILY FOOD SCRAPS PILOT PROJECT**

Waste composition studies show that compostable organics make up 31% of waste disposed by residents regionally. The City started the single family organics collection in 2010 and is making progress in the waste diversion. Diverting more of these organics through a multi-family collection program will bring the City one step closer towards achieving the regional goal of 70% waste diversion.

## 2.1 Background

In late 2010, the City initiated the multi-family food scraps pilot project to investigate the feasibility of a future full-scale multi-family food scraps collection program. The pilot project included six multi-family complexes ranging from medium density townhouses to high-rise towers with a mix of strata, rental and co-operative properties. The City provided toters, weekly collection services, education and communication resources and staff support in the form of presentations to building residents and managers. Under the pilot project, participating multi-family homes added food scraps and food-soiled paper to designated communal yard trimmings toters centrally located within the complexes.

## 2.2 Waste Data

Data collected from the pilot project between the period of 2010 December and 2011 May is summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1- Results of Multi-Family Food Scraps Pilot Program**

Complex Name	Number of Units	Property Type	Weight Collected (kg)	Weight/Unit (kg)
Halston Hills	90	Co-op mixed townhome/condo	1735.25	19.28
Wiltshire Village	31	Townhomes	2049.62	66.12
Edmonds Place	51	Strata low-rise condo	1163.00	22.80
Imperial Court	32	Rental low-rise apartment	335.94	10.50
Ledgestone #1	83	Strata mixed townhome/condo	1176.44	14.17
Belgravia	155	Strata Tower	1281.01	8.26
Total Food Scraps Collected			7741.28	

### 2.2.1 Waste Audit

A waste audit was conducted to evaluate the composition of the food waste collected and to identify contamination issues if present. The findings of the audit showed that the composition of food scraps varied between complexes. The information gained from the waste audit, in conjunction with published studies, indicates that volumes of food scraps generated cannot be relied on exclusively to conclude if the complex is 'successful' in a food scraps program. Although a high participation rate is often corresponded to high diversion volumes, the differences in the quantity of food waste generated by different complexes may also be attributed to demographics and different dietary eating patterns. Therefore, a lower food waste weight complex should not necessarily be considered a low participating complex.

### **2.2.2 Survey of Participating Complexes**

In 2011 May, a survey was sent out to residents of the six complexes soliciting feedback on the program and a total of 62 responses were received. In reviewing the responses, it was noted that a large percentage of participants supported the pilot project. In addition, 94.6% of respondents noticed a reduction in the amount of garbage produced in their home.

### **2.2.3 Findings**

Key findings of the pilot project include:

- the rate of participation and volume of food scraps from complexes increased over time and several complexes required additional bins to adequately service the units;
- residents showed a high level of interest in the project and this was demonstrated by the large turnouts at onsite meetings;
- there was less contamination observed in the food scraps bins than initially anticipated;
- language was found to be a potential barrier for participation and additional translation of the communication material proved to be a successful strategy in minimizing this barrier;
- there were no odour or pest complaints received from residents;
- bear resistant carts initially provided to select complexes were found to be difficult for residents to open and were subsequently replaced by standard toters;
- many residents embraced the 'wrap your scraps' philosophy (see photos below); and
- overall the addition of food scraps recycling service has been well received by the residents and the associated diverted food scraps tonnage confirms the success of the pilot project.



**Figure 1- Residents wrapped their scraps with a variety of fiber options: newspaper, paper bags, pizza boxes (left to right)**

### **3.0 PROPOSED FULL-SCALE MULTI-FAMILY FOOD SCRAPS PROGRAM**

The City's garbage collection program currently provides services to approximately 30,000 multi-family units in the City. Of all the multi-family complexes served by the City, 90% of them also subscribe to the recycling service. In addition, green waste collected from multi-family complexes has increased over the years and the number of complexes signing up with the green waste program continues to increase. Based on the success of the multi-family pilot food scraps project and the positive public responses, the addition of food scraps collection service is a natural progression of service offered by the City to the multi-family sector.

Subject to Council approval of implementing a full scale multi-family food scraps collection program, staff would develop an implementation program that will include the following components:

- a) Continue with the food scraps collection program for the six multi-family complexes included in the pilot project.
- b) Send information letters to all multi-family properties serviced by the City requesting their subscription to the new service.
- c) Assess individual properties to determine access, number of toters required to service the site and placement of toters.
- d) Meet with strata councils and residents to provide details on the program. Educational materials with multi-language translations would also be provided.

The initial preparation work would take place in the summer months and the collection service would commence by this fall. The City has a sufficient inventory of green 245L totter bins to accommodate the new service and will utilize an existing spare vehicle for the collection service. Sufficient funds are available in the operating budget to cover the cost of the new service for this year. It is estimated that future annual operating budget required for the full scale program is in the order of \$200,000 including labour and vehicle operating charges. The additional budget required would be included in the 2012 annual budget discussion subject to Council approval of this report.

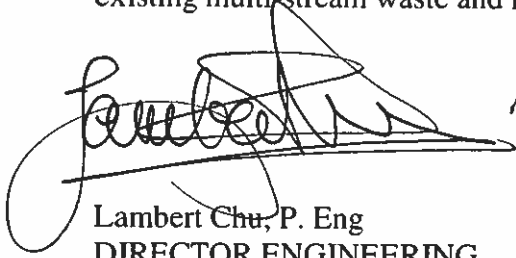
As a part of the outreach campaign, staff will also send letters to multi-family properties serviced by private haulers as well as haulers themselves encouraging them to divert food scraps from the multi-family waste stream.

### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

The 6-month multi-family food scraps collection pilot project was well received by the participating residents. Based on the positive outcome of the pilot project, staff recommend the implementation of a full scale multi-family food scraps collection program for the multi-family sector. The service would be extended to multi-family complexes that currently are served by the City's waste collection program. The necessary toters and truck required to commence the full scale collection of food scraps from multi-family properties is available within the existing Engineering assets. The net operating cost of the expanded service is estimated to be

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From: Director Engineering  
Re: Multi-Family Food Scraps Collection Pilot Project  
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approximately \$200,000 per year at full participation level. The additional diversion of food waste from the multi-family sector will lead the City closer towards meeting the regional goal of 70% waste diversion by 2015. The proposed expanded service is a natural progression of the existing multi-stream waste and recycling program established by the City.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lambert Chu', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lambert Chu, P. Eng  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

KC/DD:br

Copied to: City Manager