

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



December 16, 2024

### **CVRD Board approves three-stream curbside collection utility fees**

**DUNCAN, BC** – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is preparing to implement the three-stream curbside collection service to eligible households in all Electoral Areas in 2025.

On December 11, the CVRD Board approved an annual curbside collection utility fee of \$345 per household. This rate is consistent with the range of costs shared with residents during the 2023 public consultation on the service options for implementation. The new fee rate is scheduled to be in effect as of January 2025.

The new curbside service will consist of:

- weekly collection of organics (food and yard waste),
- alternating, bi-weekly collection of garbage and recyclables, and
- monthly collection of glass, such as glass bottles and jars.

Curbside totes, bins and trucks are currently being manufactured and will be delivered to the CVRD in early 2025. Residents can anticipate receiving their new curbside totes and glass bins in April and May, with their first curbside collection of the new materials beginning in June.

Utility fees are determined by the annual cost of delivering the curbside collection service after taking into account cost reductions such as funding from Recycle BC and grants. In 2025, the utility fee will cover the following costs:

- **One-time rollout costs**, including the distribution of bear-resistant organics totes, glass collection bins, food scrap bins (a.k.a. kitchen catchers) and educational packages to 14,200 eligible households across all nine CVRD Electoral Areas, as well as bear-resistant garbage totes to 8,420 new garbage customers in Areas A, B, C and H;
- **Loan repayments** of the five-year borrowing used to purchase bear-resistant totes, glass bins, food scrap bins and collection trucks
- **Waste processing and disposal costs** of collected garbage, organics, recyclables and glass;
- **Regular operating costs**, such as truck fuel, tires and maintenance, wages for collection staff, and outreach and educational materials, which include support for a WildSafeBC coordinator to help ensure that wildlife attractants, such as organics and garbage, are managed in a bear-smart manner; and
- **An annual contribution to capital reserve** that will help fund the future replacement of totes and trucks and mitigate any future cost increases.

The decision to use a flat fee for 2025 (i.e. the launch year of the new service) was based on a few key factors:

- The CVRD will gradually replace the aging garbage totes in Areas D, E, F, G, and I over the coming years. These totes will be purchased using an annual budget allotment,

ensuring that the cost of all bear-resistant garbage totes is shared equally among all CVRD customers.

- There are additional one-time costs to rolling out the 8,420 garbage totes to Areas A, B, C and H that will not be present when replacing garbage totes in Areas D, E, F, G and I, such as household distribution costs and interest on the loan used to purchase totes for the rollout. These costs are significant and will be shared equally by all customers.
- From January through May of 2025, households receiving CVRD garbage pickup (Electoral Areas D, E, F, G and I) will continue to receive collection while preparations are made to roll out the three-stream service to all Electoral Areas. The CVRD selected the single fee structure as this cost is roughly equivalent to the additional expense of implementing the new bear-resistant garbage totes for areas A, B, C and H in 2025.

To prepare for curbside pick up, residents will receive a letter in early 2025 outlining the service details, including key timelines and collection schedule changes. With the new service roll-out, all residents will return to a Monday to Friday collection schedule.

To learn more about the three-stream service, visit [www.planyourcowichan.ca/curbside-collection](http://www.planyourcowichan.ca/curbside-collection) and subscribe for project updates. Questions about the program should be directed to the CVRD by phone at 250-746-2540 and email at [curbside@cprd.bc.ca](mailto:curbside@cprd.bc.ca).

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