

# Staff Report



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| To                        | General Committee                                                                        |
| Subject                   | Waste Management By-law – Update to Align with Waste Collection Changes                  |
| Date                      | August 13, 2025                                                                          |
| Ward                      | All                                                                                      |
| From                      | S. Mack, P.Eng., Associate Director of Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability |
| Executive Member Approval | B. Araniyasundaran, P. Eng., General Manager of Infrastructure and Growth Management     |
| CAO Approval              | M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer                                                  |
| Staff Report #            | WMES01-25                                                                                |

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## Recommendation(s):

1. That Waste Management By-law 2024-044 (as amended), being a by-law to regulate the collection and/or disposal of garbage, organics, recycling and other waste materials and for operating and maintaining Waste Management Facilities, be repealed and replaced with the proposed Waste Management By-law attached as Appendix “A” of Staff Report WMES01-25.
  2. That staff in the Legislative and Court Services Department, Enforcement Services Branch apply for set fines from the Ministry of the Attorney General, ranging from \$100.00 to \$1,000.00 as may be appropriate.
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## Executive Summary:

**This Staff Report proposes amendments to Waste Management By-law 2024-044 (as amended) to align the by-law with a series of changes to the City’s waste management system, commencing September 8, 2025.** The amendments reflect the transition to automated and semi-automated waste collection and new service levels presented to City Council via Staff Report WMES02-24 (General Committee, September 25, 2024).

## Key Findings:

**The proposed changes to the Waste Management By-law are necessary as the City’s waste system transitions to collection of curbside waste in carts (i.e. automated and semi-automated waste collection).** The updated by-law defines a number of terms related to the new method of waste collection, outlines allocation of carts and collection frequency for various property types (such as properties with two (2) to five (5) residential

units) (Schedule “E”), and provides guidelines for setting out the carts to the curb. Waste service levels for a property will be determined based on property information outlined in Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) data, the City’s Second Suite Registration, and property characteristics.

**Section 4.3 outlines the City’s new automated cart program from servicing Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) properties.** As outlined in Staff Report WMES02-24, the City historically provided a very high level of waste collection service for businesses – far beyond what would be provided by other Ontario big cities. Under the updated by-law, registered IC&I properties will be provided one (1) set of carts (now including organics). The new program for business properties is intended for small businesses with quantities of waste that can be managed in a curbside truck travelling on a curbside route with adequate and appropriate frontage on the street for proper cart placement. Commercial properties with many units that can’t facilitate sharing of the one (1) set of City carts (such as large commercial strip malls/plazas) or industrial processes generating large amounts of garbage, recycling (most often cardboard), and organics, will be required to continue or obtain private, on-property collection utilizing dumpsters.

**Section 4.4 outlines specific guidelines for provision of waste collection in the Business Improvement Area (BIA).** Property owners in the BIA will now be required to register for waste collection services. Registration will assist staff in better planning for servicing, arrange cart delivery, and allow for property-specific consultation. The by-law mandates that waste stored outdoors within the BIA as part of the municipal program must be in an approved location and set out at collection points approved by the City. Given the complexity of waste collection within the BIA (the most difficult area of the City to service), changes within this updated by-law will form the basis of a new program for the BIA and allow flexibility for staff to implement new collection methods (i.e. pilot programs) on a case-by-case basis as the program evolves.

**The by-law provides some flexibility for provision of additional waste services for properties providing charitable social services to those experiencing homelessness or poverty, referred to as the “Special Properties Supportive Waste Services Program” (Sections 3.1.16 to 3.1.18).** Historically, additional waste services were provided ad hoc to properties in the City providing meal programs and transitional housing – more garbage was set out at the curb and generally collected by the City’s contractor. The updated by-law will provide a formalized framework and guidance for staff to assess need and deliver additional waste services to a well-defined “Special Property” on a case-by-case basis.

**Also noted within this by-law (Section 2.1.8) is a new program intended to support those not able to manage carts due to a temporary or permanent physical disability.** The Assisted Waste Collection Program was discussed at the Seniors & Accessibility Advisory Committee on May 26, 2025. As automated cart collection is advanced this fall, staff will be preparing an application process for a special program where the waste contractor provides additional assistance with getting carts off the curb and stored on-property. Given the additional costs for this program to the City, there will be some specific requirements such as sign-off from a physician, confirmation that no other family member, neighbour or care provider can provide assistance, and property inspection.

## Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications for The Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

## Alternatives:

The following alternative is available for consideration by General Committee:

Alternative #1 – General Committee could authorize the revision of only partial sections of the proposed updated Waste Management By-law.

This alternative is not recommended as the proposed updated Waste Management By-law has been prepared to holistically align with the new collection contract, changes to the City's waste management system and related policies, and provincial changes. A significant portion of the changes within the By-law are directly tied to implementation of automated cart collection starting on September 8, 2025, designed to align with direction received from City Council on September 25, 2024.

## Strategic Plan Alignment:

|                            |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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| Affordable Place to Live   |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Community Safety           |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Thriving Community         |   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Infrastructure Investments | x | Active enforcement of waste management practices and diversion of food and organic waste contributes to advancing climate action plans noted in the Infrastructure Investments portion of the Strategic Plan.                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Responsible Governance     | x | With the change to automated waste collection, new service levels seek to focus on core services and align with best practices and municipal comparators. Service levels are intended to provide balanced service levels that help control both short- and long-term costs associated with waste collection and, by preserving the City's landfill capacity, garbage disposal/processing. |

## Consultation and Engagement:

**The City has initiated an extensive communication and engagement plan over the past two years to support changes to curbside waste collection.** This has included:

- Consultation with industry experts and municipalities who have already transitioned to carts (City of Toronto, City of Guelph, County of Simcoe, etc.);
- Meetings with various internal and external stakeholders including the Downtown Barrie BIA, Seniors & Accessibility Advisory Committee, Enforcement Services, Taxation and Revenue, Invest Barrie, Road Operations, Marketing and Communications, Development Services, Building Services, and

- multi-residential property owners/managers;
- Several direct and indirect mail communications to owners of various property types (including residential, IC&I and those within the BIA) outlining the new program throughout its phases;
- E-mail notification in March to over 700 businesses currently registered for waste collection services with information about the new waste program and cart limits;
- Tax inserts regarding carts in both residential and commercial tax bills in January and May;
- Site visits with property owners in the BIA to discuss automated collection and registration for the new program;
- Attendance at various events throughout the City including Ward Town Halls, community events (i.e. Open Air Dunlop, the Airshow, etc.), Farmer's Market, City Facilities and in the BIA;
- A facilitated workshop was hosted in May for property owners/businesses in the BIA; and
- Throughout 2024 and this year – use of instructional videos, social media, television, radio advertising, mobile signage, transit advertising, voice and text broadcasting to landlines and cell phones.

**Staff will continue to work directly with multi-residential, IC&I and BIA property where registration for service is required.** These relationships now allow for the ability to visit properties directly, provide information on set-out locations and other requirements for service (such as formal Waste Collection Service Agreements for services provided on private property), ownership of waste and participation in the City's diversion programs.

### **Environmental and Climate Change Impact Matters:**

The following environmental and/or climate change impact matters have been considered in the development of the recommendation:

Proper waste management ensures protection of the environment and contributes to addressing climate change through reduction of landfill-related greenhouse gas emissions. The Waste Management By-law establishes the framework for proper collection and disposal of waste and regulates the management of such materials within the City. This by-law is, in essence, a critical tool that aligns with both municipal and provincial policy and programs set to standardize service, minimize garbage, increase diversion from landfill, and advance a circular economy approach to waste.

### **Appendix:**

Appendix A – Draft Waste Management By-law

### **Report Author:**

S. Mack, P.Eng., Associate Director, Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability, Waste Management and Environmental Sustainability Department

**File #:**

C01

**Pending #:**