



To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** February 22, 2022
From: Suzanne Bycraft **File:** 10-6370-04-01/2021-
Director, Public Works Operations Vol 01
Re: **Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803, Amendment Bylaw
No. 10361**

Staff Recommendation

1. That the Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803, Amendment Bylaw No. 10361, be introduced and given first, second and third readings.
2. That mercury containing and electronic thermostats be added to the scope of materials accepted at the Richmond Recycling Depot by registering with the Thermostat Recovery Program delivered by the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada.
3. That the Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2022-2026) be amended accordingly.

Suzanne Bycraft
Director, Public Works Operations
(604-233-3338)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The City operates the Richmond Recycling Depot (“Depot”), which provides a convenient one-stop recycling service for both residential and non-residential properties to drop off a number of recyclable materials. Year over year, quantities of materials received at the Depot and costs associated with processing continue to increase.

This report proposes an increase to the fee charged for yard and garden trimmings received at the Depot. Additionally, the introduction of a fee structure for drop off of upholstered furniture by non-residential properties is proposed. Lastly, as part of continuing to expand the scope of materials accepted at the Depot, this report seeks approval to add thermostats as an accepted item.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

2.2 Policies and practices support Richmond's sustainability goals.

This report supports Council’s Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #5 Sound Financial Management:

5.3 Decision-making focuses on sustainability and considers circular economic principles.

Analysis

Background

The Depot receives a wide variety of recyclable items ranging from common recyclables such as cardboard and Styrofoam, to more specialty items such as propane tanks and electronics. There are limitations on quantities for non-residential properties or items that require special handling, and fees apply to yard and garden trimmings drop off as noted in Table 1.

Table 1: Fees and Quantity Limitations

Description	Property Type	Fees	Limits
Recyclable materials	Residential	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recyclables: None • Items requiring special handling: program specific¹
	Non-residential	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General recyclables: one cubic yard per day • Items requiring special handling: program specific¹
Yard and garden trimmings	Residential	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First cubic yard
	Residential	\$20.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each subsequent cubic yard
	Non-residential	\$20.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each cubic yard

¹ Cooking oil, fire extinguishers, flammable liquids, gasoline, lead-acid batteries, light bulbs, motor oil, paint and pesticides

The fee for yard and garden trimmings drop off has not changed since 2008. The City has also added a considerable number of items to the scope of materials accepted at the Depot, including upholstered furniture. Furniture quantities have continued to grow, with more than double the number of items received in 2021 as compared to 2020. The costs for recycling upholstered furniture are increasing as the quantities increase.

Yard and Garden Trimmings

In 2021 the Depot received approximately 3,500 tonnes of yard and garden trimmings. The \$20.00 per cubic yard fee generated \$75,000 of revenue, which funds just 24% of the total transportation and processing costs.

Staff propose to increase the drop off fee for yard and garden trimmings to \$25.00 per cubic yard. This is expected to increase annual revenues to approximately \$95,000, or 30% of total transportation and processing costs. Table 2 provides an overview of the increasing volumes of yard and garden trimmings.

Table 2: Yard and Garden Trimmings

	2019	2020	2021
Tonnes received	1,469	2,507	3,541
% Increase from previous year		71%	41%

Staff note that as a no-cost alternative, residents have the ability to drop off unlimited quantities of yard and garden trimmings at Ecowaste Industries free of charge, with the costs billed back to the City. Commercial landscapers also have the opportunity to utilize a no cost drop-off option at Ecowaste Industries for services provided to properties in Richmond by registering in advance.

Upholstered Furniture

Starting January 1, 2019 the City began accepting upholstered furniture for drop off at the Depot. Accepted items include office or dining chairs, armchairs, recliners, loveseats, couches, reclining couches, sectionals, sofa-beds and ottomans. This program ensures that upholstered furniture items, which were previously sent to the landfill, are taken to a local facility for reuse or recycling.

Quantities of upholstered furniture received at the Depot were trending at normal patterns until 2021, where there was an increase of over 100% as shown in the table below. Recycling costs are also shown to have increased markedly in parallel with the increased quantities received.

Table 3: Upholstered Furniture

	2019	2020	2021
Upholstered furniture items	5,242	5,931	11,972
% Increase from previous year		13%	102%
Recycling Cost	\$102,326	\$123,133	\$223,186
% Increase from previous year		20%	81%

To help manage costs and control volumes, staff are proposing a fee be implemented for items dropped off by commercial operators and items originating from non-residential properties typically brought to the depot by moving or junk removal businesses. The addition of fees will help to curtail further cost escalation associated with drop off by commercial operators. This approach is consistent with that already in place for yard and garden trimmings and is prudent to implement at this time to avoid volume increases beyond that which can be reasonably managed at the Depot. The Depot is also the only local facility at the present time that accepts free drop off of upholstered furniture for recycling.

The proposed fee structure for non-residential properties is shown in Table 4. The proposed fee structure is based on size or type of furniture and cost recovery for processing and transportation of the items to the recycling facility.

Table 4: Proposed Non-Residential Upholstered Furniture Fee Structure

Description	Proposed Fee
Office or dining chair, ottoman, bench	\$20.00
Arm chair, loveseat, couch, recliner, chaise	\$35.00
Sectional, sofabed, reclining loveseat/couch, massage chair	\$50.00

Annual revenues from this fee structure are estimated at \$25,000.

Richmond residents will continue to have access to this service at the Depot at no charge. Residents are also able to participate in the City’s Large Item Pick Up Program, where items are collected from curbside for residents with Blue Box or Garbage Cart service.

Thermostats

The Depot is conveniently located and highly used by residents since a wide range of materials are accepted for recycling. The City is continually looking for opportunities to expand the scope of materials accepted to be considered a one-stop location for drop off of recyclable materials.

Thermostats contain mercury and require safe handling to prevent environmental impacts. Thermostats include both mercury containing and electronic products that sense and control room temperature through communication with heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment. By recycling used thermostats, hazardous waste is diverted from the landfill and the need for raw materials to manufacture new products is reduced. The Thermostat Recovery Program is a stewardship program which is delivered by the Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada, and is funded by the manufacturers and distributors that sell and/or import mercury containing thermostats into Canada.

Participation in the Thermostat Recovery Program is at no direct cost to the City because the program steward pays the collection and processing costs. The City’s costs are limited to staffing and administration associated with receiving these materials from customers. The City receives the thermostats in containers provided by the program steward and subsequently ships them to the processing facility at the program steward’s cost. The program steward is responsible for all processing and any related disposal costs.

There are currently only two locations in East Richmond that accept them for recycling, staff suggest the addition of thermostats as an accepted item at the Depot to provide residents an alternative drop off option.

Financial Impact

Estimated annual revenue from the fee increase for yard and garden trimmings is expected to be approximately \$20,000 above current revenue amounts. The fee for commercial drop off of upholstered furniture at the Depot is expected to generate \$25,000 in additional annual revenues.

There is no cost for adding thermostats to the scope of materials accepted at the Depot.

The Consolidated 5 Year Financial Plan (2022-2026) will be amended accordingly for the additional revenue generated for the yard and garden trimmings and upholstered furniture at the Depot.

Conclusion

Costs for handling yard and garden trimmings at the Depot have increased over the years. As there has been no increase in the drop off fee since 2008, staff are proposing to increase the service fee from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per cubic yard. Further, due to increased use and popularity of upholstered furniture drop off at the Depot, staff recommend the addition of a fee structure for drop off of upholstered furniture by commercial operators as outlined in this report. These changes require an amendment to *Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803*, as presented with this report.

Staff also recommend that mercury containing and electronic thermostats be added to the scope of materials accepted at the Depot. This is in keeping with the City's ongoing efforts to offer continuous improvement in recycling services provided to the community.



Laurie Ackerman
Waste Reduction and Recycling Coordinator
(604-233-3356)

LA:la

Att. 1: Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803, Amendment Bylaw No. 10361



**Solid Waste & Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803, Amendment
Bylaw No. 10361**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. The **Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803**, as amended, is further amended by deleting Section 2.1.1(c) in its entirety and replacing with the following:

(c) establish and maintain a recycling depot for use by **owners** and **occupiers** of both **residential properties** and **non-residential properties** for the deposit:

(i) of **yard and garden trimmings**;

(ii) of **upholstered furniture**; and

(iii) free of charge, of **recyclable material** and scrap metal and aluminum items,

and every owner of **residential property** and **non-residential property** must pay the applicable City recycling service fee specified in Schedule B, which is attached and forms part of this bylaw.

2. The **Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803**, as amended, is further amended by deleting Section 2.1.2 in its entirety and replacing with the following:

Notwithstanding the provisions of clause (c) and (d) of subsection 2.1.1,

(i) the **owner** or **occupier** of a **non-residential** property is limited to depositing one cubic yard of the material described in clause (c)(ii) and (c)(iii) per visit, per day; and

(ii) **regional customers** are limited to depositing one cubic yard of **base depot materials** per visit, per day.

3. The **Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803**, as amended, is further amended by adding the following definition to Section 15.1 in the appropriate alphabetical order and reordering the remaining definitions:

“**Upholstered Furniture**” means residential furniture intended for indoor use in a home and designed to be used for sitting, resting or reclining that is wholly or partially stuffed or filled with resilient cushioning materials enclosed within a covering consisting of fabric or related materials and does not include mattresses or box springs.

- 4. The **Solid Waste and Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803**, as amended, is further amended by deleting Schedule B and substituting Schedule A attached to and forming part of this Bylaw. For greater certainty, any reference to Schedule B shall be interpreted as a reference to Schedule A of this Bylaw.
- 5. This Bylaw is cited as **“Solid Waste & Recycling Regulation Bylaw No. 6803, Amendment Bylaw No. 10361”**.

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept. <i>LA</i>
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor <i>LB</i>

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

SCHEDULE A to BYLAW NO. 10361**BYLAW YEAR: 2022****SCHEDULE B to BYLAW NO. 6803**

FEEES FOR CITY RECYCLING SERVICE	
Annual City recycling service fee:	
(a) For residential properties, which receive blue box service (per unit)	\$ 68.94
(b) For multi-family dwellings or townhouse developments which receive centralized collection service (per unit)	\$ 53.50
Annual City recycling service fee:	
(a) For yard and garden trimmings and food waste from single-family dwellings and from each unit in a duplex dwelling (per unit)	\$ 176.94
(b) For yard and garden trimmings and food waste from townhome dwellings that receive City garbage or blue box service (per unit)	\$ 71.11
(c) For yard and garden trimmings and food waste from multi-family dwellings	
- Weekly Service	\$ 54.44
- Twice per week service	\$ 74.22
Cardboard bin recycling service for multi-family dwellings, collected once every 2 weeks	\$ 60.00/bin/month
Cardboard bin recycling service for multi-family dwellings, collected weekly	\$ 70.00/bin/month
Fee for yard/food waste cart replacement	\$ 25.00
Annual City recycling service fee for non-residential properties	\$ 6.23
Optional Monthly City organics collection service fee for Commercial customers	
- Weekly service	\$ 72.64
- Cost per additional cart	\$ 32.11
Optional Monthly City organics collection service fee for Commercial customers	
- Twice weekly service	\$ 100.16
- Cost per additional cart	\$ 61.11
City recycling service fee for the Recycling Depot:	
	\$25.00 per cubic yard for the second and each subsequent cubic yard
(a) (i) for yard and garden trimmings from residential properties	\$ 0.00
(ii) for recyclable material from residential properties	\$ 0.00
(b) For yard and garden trimmings from non-residential properties	\$25.00 per cubic yard
(c) For recycling materials from non-residential properties	\$ 0.00
(d) For upholstered furniture from residential properties	
(i) office/dining chair, ottoman, bench	\$ 0.00
(ii) arm chair, loveseat, couch, recliner, chaise	\$ 0.00
(iii) sectional, sofabed, reclining loveseat/couch, massage chair	\$ 0.00
(e) For upholstered furniture from non-residential properties	
(i) office/dining chair, ottoman, bench	\$ 20.00
(ii) arm chair, loveseat, couch, recliner, chaise	\$ 35.00
(iii) sectional, sofabed, reclining loveseat/couch, massage chair	\$ 50.00