

What do you get for a dollar a day in waste fees?

City Council recently approved the 2011 budget for our Waste Management Utility. On January 1, 2011, the monthly fee for single family households will increase from \$26.59 to \$29.85. the monthly fee for multi-family units will increase from \$17.29 to \$19.40.

The main driver behind the fee increase is the closure of the City's [REDACTED] Landfill in 2008. this results in higher costs for hauling our waste to a distant landfill and the need to build new processing systems.

The City's fees are very much in line with other major cities in Canada, and our city's environmental management system is widely regarded as one of the best in North America.

City residents have a comprehensive system that does much more than collect household waste and bury it. Residents have convenient services for recycling, safe disposal of hazardous materials, and large items disposal. A new program offers door side collection to people with reduced mobility.

Right now, through recycling and composting, the City is keeping close to 60 per cent of household waste out of landfills. New processing facilities include an Integrated Processing and Transfer Facility for sorting waste, and a waste-to-biofuels facility that will be completed in 2011. These facilities will enable us to divert 90 per cent of waste from landfill by 2011. It also means that City residents will soon be able to purchase gasoline that contains ethanol made from garbage they set out for collection.

City residents are proud recyclers and have been very supportive of our City's waste system. This is shown by the fact that 89 per cent of single family homes regularly recycle with the blue bag program, Eco Station visits are increasing 16 per cent each year, and our backyard composting and grasscycling rates are among the highest in Canada.

The best way to learn about the City's waste system is to see it in action. Tours of the City's Waste Management Centre are available to groups of 10 or more. If you don't have a group, you can join another tour. Call [REDACTED] to book.

Waster Management Services include:

- Collection of waste and recyclables from 321,000 homes, apartments and condominiums
- Three Eco Stations
- 21 community recycling depots
- 12 Big Bin events for large items
- Assisted collection for those with reduced mobility
- A Reuse Centre for drop-off and pick-up of reusable household items
- Leading edge processing systems that divert 60% of the City's waste from the landfill