



It may not feel like it yet, but warmer weather will soon be here, and with arrival of spring, CUI intends to launch curbside recycling and composting. This month's message will focus on providing clarification and answering questions regarding the new program.

Q. Why the big push to compost and recycle?

A. As you know, Chestermere does not have its own landfill. As the landfills become fuller, rates to use them are rising. Composting and recycling is not only environmentally responsible, it is also becoming more and more expensive to truck our garbage to the landfill. In fact, over the next few years, the City of Calgary landfill intends to implement a total ban on paper items entering the landfill, followed by a ban on compostable items as well.

Q. How will the program be implemented?

A. We are committed to rolling this new program out as smoothly as possible. We will listen to any of your concerns and address them as best we can. Over the next few months, we will be providing more information on how this program will work, and how we can work together to make it successful. We will also continue to share information via our website, Facebook, Twitter, and the local newspaper. We will be making appearances throughout the community, at schools, businesses and events, and of course, our door is always open if you would like to come and talk with us.

Q. How is CUI offering the new curbside composting and recycling services without raising rates?

A. From conversations with residents and our customer survey we have learned that a curbside recycling program is important to our community, but customers do not want to pay more for the enhanced services. Tipping fees for taking our solid waste to the landfill currently costs \$110 per metric tonne, not including collection and shipping. If we all work together to make the composting and recycling programs successful, we will reduce approximately 80% of the current amount of home waste going into the landfills. We project that diverting the composting material will cut associated costs by approximately half. There is also a market for recycle items. This is how we can keep rates stable while providing a curbside compost and recycle program to customers.

Q. Why did we wait until spring to roll out these new curbside services?

A. We work very closely with our neighbouring communities and are part of a larger provincial group called the Alberta Recycling Management Authority. A number of the members of these communities have successful programs already in place. In discussions with our regional waste contacts, we were strongly advised to delay until the snow clears to make the introduction of the services as smooth as possible. You can expect to see your new carts delivered once we are free and clear of winter's grip.

Q. Why all the attention to the green carts - many communities focused on rolling out the blue carts?

A. The green carts are for compostable items such as food waste, grass clippings, leaves and even cat litter. These items account for approximately 65% of waste generated by a typical home. Recyclable items such as cardboard, paper and tin only account for approximately 15%. This is why we have decided to focus our attention on the green composting carts. Diverting 65% of the solid waste stream will allow us to make this program both affordable and sustainable.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the program, please call me at 403-207-8148 or e-mail me at rmacintosh@cuinc.ca.

Ray MacIntosh, President & Chief Operating Officer

WHAT'S IN CHESTERMERE'S GARBAGE?

