

**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2016 March 15

**FROM:** DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

**FILE:** 36600-06

**SUBJECT:** BEAR RESISTANT GREEN BIN RECEPTACLE PILOT PROJECT

**PURPOSE:** To seek approval from the Committee and Council to undertake a Bear Resistant Green Bin Receptacle Pilot Project for select multi-family properties serviced by the City.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT the Committee recommend Council to approve a bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project for select multi-family properties serviced by the City as outlined in this report.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Staff have previously received inquiries from some residents for provision of bear resistant green bin receptacles. These requests have largely come from multi-family residential properties which have limited ability to secure their receptacles indoors. Staff have undertaken initial actions to work towards a resolution of this issue however additional measures are needed.

This report seeks approval from the Committee and Council to undertake a bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project for select multi-family properties serviced by the City.

**2.0 HUMAN-BEAR INTERACTION**

Bear sightings and interactions have previously been reported by residents and media in some areas of Burnaby. In response, staff worked with the Provincial Conservation Officers to better understand the issue relating to human-bear related interactions, prepared education and outreach related materials for residents which are made available on the City's website and undertook a survey to determine actions taken by some neighbouring communities in this region regarding this issue (see *Attachment #1*). Based on the initial staff survey, it is noted that neighbouring communities have varied programs both in scope and scale to address human-bear interactions within their own communities. These variations are largely a result of differences in servicing models, use of different waste receptacles, and the extent of geographical area impacted by bears accessing garbage and green bin receptacles.

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### **3.0 PROPOSED BEAR RESISTANT GREEN BIN RECEPTACLE PILOT PROJECT**

Given the variations in operational programs in neighbouring communities, staff recommends that a pilot project be undertaken in select study area(s) for a period of one year to inform a resolution specific to Burnaby's servicing model. For this pilot project, it is proposed that the study area(s) primarily focus on select multi-family properties serviced by the City and impacted by bears accessing waste receptacles. It is recognized that bears do access both garbage and green bins. However, in multi-family complexes garbage is typically placed in steel containers which can be better secured. As such, it is proposed that the focus be on bear resistant green bin receptacles (food scraps/yard waste receptacles) which cannot be readily or easily secured indoors during non-collection days. Each of the selected properties willing to participate in the pilot project will be provided with bear proof green bin receptacles(s). The pilot project will assist in identifying:

- effectiveness, ease of use and durability of bear resistant receptacles;
- challenges in servicing the containers;
- administrative and bylaw amendments matters which will require to be addressed; and
- required scope and scale of education/outreach program.

At the conclusion of the pilot project, staff will prepare a report outlining specific recommendations for Committee and Council's consideration which could also assist limited number of single family residences constrained in securing their receptacles indoors during non-collection days and impacted by bears accessing their garbage and green bin receptacles.

Subject to Committee and Council's approval of the proposed pilot project, funding for the proposed bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project in the amount of \$50,000 will be included in the 2016 Gaming Interest Funding request.

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#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Staff have received inquiries regarding the provision of bear resistant green bin receptacles. In response, staff worked with the Provincial Conservation Officers to better understand the issue relating to human-bear related interactions, prepared education and outreach related materials for residents which are made available from the City's website and undertook a survey of what some neighbouring communities in this region are doing regarding this issue. Given the varied programs undertaken in neighbouring communities to address human-bear interactions, staff recommends approval from the Committee and Council to undertake a Bear Resistant Green Bin Receptacle Pilot Project for a period of one year for select multi-family properties serviced by the City. Subject to Committee and Council's approval of the proposed pilot project, funding for the proposed bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project in the amount of \$50,000 will be included in the 2016 Gaming Interest Funding request.



Leon A. Gous, P.Eng., MBA  
Director Engineering

DD/ac

Attachment

Copied to: City Manager  
Director Finance

## Attachment #1

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Container Type</b>	<b>Bylaw</b>	<b>Outreach/Education</b>	<b>Enforcement</b>
City of Coquitlam	Locking Green Bins provided to all single family properties.	Yes. Bylaw includes sections specific to attractants of wildlife, bear designated areas and requirements for set out/removal times for containers and securing containers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Wildlife Coordinator coordinates outreach/education and enforcement)</li> </ul>	1 FTE
City of Port Coquitlam	Provision of waste cart locks for use on both Green Bin and Garbage Bin.	Yes. Bylaw applies City-wide, and includes sections specific to require the use of wildlife resistant enclosures/containers to secure collection containers, set out and removal times for containers, and other wildlife attractants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizes Solid Waste and Recycling staff for outreach/education</li> </ul>	Utilize City Solid Waste and Recycling staff and City Bylaw Officers for enforcement
District of North Vancouver	Provision of locking carts for both garbage and green waste in 2016.	Yes. Bylaw includes sections specific to set out/removal times for waste containers, storage of containers after collection, including the use of wildlife resistant enclosures or containers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborates with the North Shore Black Bear Society on community outreach and education.</li> </ul>	Utilize City Bylaw Officers for enforcement
District of West Vancouver	No provision of locking containers	Yes. Bylaw includes sections specific to set/removal times for waste and storage of waste containers after collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborates with the North Shore Black Bear Society on community outreach and education</li> </ul>	Utilizes City Bylaw Officers for enforcement