



Item.....
Meeting.....2018 Feb 06

COUNCIL REPORT

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SUSTAINABLE CITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

DATE: 2018 January 31

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 36600-06
*Ref: Multi Family
Recycling*

SUBJECT: BEAR RESISTANT GREEN BIN RECEPTACLE PILOT PROJECT

PURPOSE: To provide the Committee with the findings of the Bear Resistant Green Bin Receptacle Pilot Project for select multi-family properties serviced by the City.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Committee recommend Council to
 - a) receive the findings of the bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project for select multi-family properties serviced by the City.
 - b) authorize staff to implement bear resistant green bin receptacles to multi-family complexes that are serviced by the City within bear areas.
 - c) authorize staff to investigate the provision of bear resistant receptacles for a limited number of single family residences within bear areas that are constrained in securing their receptacles indoors.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 2016 April 25, Council approved a report from the Environment Committee for staff to proceed with a bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project for select multi-family complexes serviced by the City. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee and Council on the findings of the year-long bear resistant green bin pilot project and to seek Council approval to proceed with full implementation of bear resistant green bin receptacles to multi-family complexes that are serviced by the City within bear areas.

2.0 BEAR RESISTANT GREEN BIN PILOT PROJECT

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 interactions, prepared education and outreach related materials for residents which are made available on the City's website and undertook a survey to determine action taken by some neighbouring communities in the region regarding this issue.

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Based on the initial staff survey, it was noted that neighbouring communities have varied programs both in scope and scale to address human-bear interactions. 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.

2.1 Background

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.

In July 2016, the City initiated a bear resistant green bin pilot project to assist the City in identifying: effectiveness, ease of use and durability of bear resistant receptacles; challenges in servicing the containers; any administrative and bylaw amendments; and required scope and scale of education/outreach program.

The pilot project included five multi-family complexes, a total of 455 units, serviced by the City that is within known bear areas (Forest Grove, Cariboo and Simon Fraser Village). The City provided each complex with three styles of bear resistant green bins to trial:

- IPL 240L – reinforced side and front metal bars, with side locking clips;
- Schaefer Cart 240L – reinforced side and front metal bars, with side locking clips;
- Schaefer Cart 240L – reinforced side and front metal bars, with side locking clips and gravity lock.

In addition to the provision of bear resistant carts, the City provided residents an informational letter outlining the pilot project, instructions on how to utilize each style of bin, direction on securing garbage receptacles and What About Bears brochures that provides additional information on bear attractants and human-bear interactions. Under the pilot project, residents were asked to test each of the three styles of bear resistant green bins to place their food scraps in for weekly collection.

2.2 Pilot Project Findings

The City received feedback throughout the pilot project from a complex representative, including concerns or issues relating to the locking mechanisms, collection of green bins and bear sightings and interactions with the bear resistant green bins. Staff conducted routine site visits to monitor the bear resistant green bins to ensure clips were in place, and that other attractants such as garbage receptacles were secured, and addressed any concerns directly with complex contacts.

2.2.1 Survey of Participating Complexes

In January 2018, the City undertook a survey to residents of the five complexes soliciting feedback on the program and survey responses were received from all five complexes. Generally, comments regarding the pilot project were favourable towards usage of the bear resistant green bin receptacles and they were found to be effective in deterring bears.

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The survey responses indicated a strong preference (88%) for the receptacles with side locking clips, but without the gravity lock. Most respondents (73%) indicated that the receptacles were easy to use.

Over half of the survey respondents found the bins to be mildly to very effective in deterring bears from accessing the contents of the bins. During the pilot project year, a few bins were damaged by bears, and modifications have been made to address any weaknesses in the design.

2.2.2 Collection Crew Feedback

City staff worked with Solid Waste and Recycling Collections Crews to provide feedback on potential challenges with servicing, including equipment type (semi-automated or automated collection vehicle), type of bins and durability of bear resistant green bins tested in the pilot project.

The results indicated that there were no issues with equipment for servicing the bear resistant receptacles and that there was no preference between bin body types. There was, however, a preference for the lids without the gravity locks which was the same preference indicated by the public.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The year long multi-family bear resistant green bin receptacle pilot project was well received by the participating residents and was a noted step forward in addressing human-bear interactions within the City. Based on the positive feedback from surveys to the public and City staff, staff propose to implement bear resistant green bin receptacles to multi-family complexes that are serviced by the City within bear areas. The findings support the usage of the green bin receptacles with modified, reinforced side and front metal bars and side locking clips. During the pilot project educational material on human-bear interactions and bear attractants was provided to residents. This program would be expanded along with the roll-out to the remaining multi-family complexes serviced by the City.



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SR/ac

Attachment

Copied to: City Manager

