

Managing Waste

During public engagement sessions, some residents questioned how the City could achieve savings in our waste and recycling program. Suggestions included reducing the amount of times we collect garbage and recycling; encouraging residents to divert more waste from the landfill through better recycling programs; and charging a fee to use the Residential Drop Off at Robin Hood Bay.

Some municipalities across Canada have adopted a bi-weekly garbage collection schedule in an effort to reduce the cost of curbside collection programs. By moving to bi-weekly collection, only half the city would be collected each week.



The City of St. John's currently follows a weekly garbage collection schedule and a bi-weekly recycling collection schedule. Would we save if we cut collections in half?



Recycling is already bi-weekly and we do not want to discourage recycling by asking residents to store a full month of bulky bottles, boxes and other recyclables. Experience and research suggest this approach would **reduce** the amount of recycling, not **increase** it.



We have examined changing to a bi-weekly garbage collection schedule and determined there would be no financial savings achieved. Why? Well, **the tonnage of waste collected will not change with bi-weekly collection.** Our garbage trucks can only carry a certain amount of garbage before they become full. If all households generate 4 bags of garbage a week, with bi-weekly collection, those same houses will now generate 8 bags of garbage and we will not be able to collect it without additional trucks or and collections. Plus, everyone would have to hold onto their garbage for two weeks.



Bi-weekly collection could possibly be achieved if there was significant change in waste generated per person. Reducing garbage is not only good for the environment - it's also good for the City's bottom line:



\$67.60
cost per tonne of garbage

\$20.00
cost per tonne of recycling

The Residential Drop Off (RDO) at Robin Hood Bay is part of a **regional** service; operational costs are not supported by property tax revenues but through the tipping fee's charged to commercial users. Charging a fee at the RDO **will not** reduce your property tax bill, nor will it create savings for the City of St. John's.

