

# INFORMATION NOTE

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Sanitation Regulations Implementation Plan</b>
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	November 20, 2020
<b>Report To:</b>	Council
<b>Councillor and Role:</b>	Councillor Ian Froude, Public Works & Sustainability
<b>Ward:</b>	N/A

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## **Issue:**

The current Sanitation Regulations have been updated to include current collection methods such as the automated cart system and to incorporate garbage covering regulations and be more descriptive in all curbside collection programs. Included within this bylaw are rules for households provided an automated cart and for households that will continue to be collected manually. For equity, and to support and advance Council's strategic goal to divert more wastes from landfill, households with carts are limited to what the cart can hold and houses without carts will be limited to four bags of garbage per week.

In addition to the above, the bylaw requires households to use clear bags when placing wastes at the curb. The clear bags will allow collectors to easily identify wastes that should not be directed to landfill such as recyclables and household hazardous wastes. This will improve worker safety and will ensure residents are taking advantage of available waste diversion programs.

The four-bag limit and the clear bags are a change that will require an effective communication plan so households can be aware and adjust to the change. The clear bags will also require communications with local suppliers to ensure adequate inventory is available when the clear bag requirement comes into effect.

## **Discussion – Background and Current Status:**

There will be two timelines involved with the complete implementation of the Sanitation Regulations. Most of the sanitary regulations will come in effect immediately after the sanitation regulations are advertised and gazette. It is expected that this will be complete by January 2021. The four-bag limit for manually collected households will come into effect at this time.

The clear bag requirement will come into effect starting January 1, 2022. The extended timeline on this implementation date will allow residents time to use the green or black bags they have already purchased and will allow suppliers to ensure adequate inventories of clear bags are available to the public when the implementation date comes in effect.

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# ST. JOHN'S

An important component of the implementation plan will be effectively communicating these two changes to waste collection. There are two main target audiences for the communication plan:

- City Residents
- Suppliers of Garbage Bags

There are two separate communication campaigns required to cover the separate implementation dates of the changes connected to the new Sanitation Regulations. The goal is to create effective educational tools and supports to assist households in complying with the new regulations.

The Communications Division will develop the awareness campaigns that will target city residents with input from the Waste and Recycling Division.

The Waste and Recycling Division will develop the educational messaging with input from the Communications Division to assist residents through the changing requirements as they occur. The Waste and Recycling Division will also reach out to local suppliers of garbage bags to provide awareness of the change to clear bags in St. John's, so store inventories can be adjusted appropriately.

Waste and Recycling will adopt a "soft" education approach during the initial implementation. The goal of the soft approach is to have residents adjust to the new requirements with minimal impact on their curbside collection. It was the experience of Waste and Recycling staff that this approach worked well during the implementation stages of the automated cart program.

The awareness campaigns will encourage residents to make the change to clear bags as they purchase new bags and not wait for the January 1, 2022 implementation date.

Communications with suppliers should include a combination of both written communication and/or communication directly with staff.

The key messages during the implementation of these regulations will be:

- The City of St. John's has updated the Sanitation Regulations to reflect current and modern practices of waste collection.
- Our goal is to increase diversion of wastes away from landfill.
- The four-bag limit on households that do not use the automated carts is equitable with households that use the automated carts.
- The clear bag requirement will come into effect on January 1, 2022 to allow time for residents to use their current supply of green/black bags.
- Residents are encouraged to transition to clear bags the next time they purchase garbage bags.
- Households can have one "privacy" bag that does not need to be clear.

**Key Considerations/Implications:**

1. Budget/Financial Implications:

Any costs of the communication plan will be funded through the Communications Division.

2. Partners or Other Stakeholders:

Suppliers of garbage bags.

3. Alignment with Strategic Directions/Adopted Plans:

Strategic Plan "*A Sustainable City*"

4. Legal or Policy Implications:

N/A

5. Privacy Implications:

N/A

6. Engagement and Communications Considerations:

As detailed above.

7. Human Resource Implications:

N/A

8. Procurement Implications:

N/A

9. Information Technology Implications:

N/A

10. Other Implications:

N/A

**Conclusion/Next Steps:**

Once the finalized Sanitation Regulations are adopted by Council, then the Communications Division and Waste and Recycling Division will start preparing all necessary communications to ensure the effective implementation of the updated Sanitation Regulations.

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**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	Sanitation Regulations Implementation Plan.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Nov 20, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Lynnann Winsor - Nov 20, 2020 - 2:41 PM**