

Sample Policy Guide for Recycling, Garbage and Composting Storage Space and Access in Multi-Family, Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Developments

For Local Governments in the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen

Introduction

This sample policy guide addresses one of the key goals from the RDOS 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP); increasing recycling levels at multi-family residences and workplaces.

The goal of this guide is to provide recommendations and sample policies that local governments within the RDOS can customize and adopt to support the RDOS 2012 SWMP through amendments to existing municipal development permit and zoning bylaws and solid waste management plans. Such amendments will help ensure that adequate space, amenities and services for recycling, garbage and composting are provided in building design and development.

Purpose & Background

Adequate space for recycling containers is an issue for many multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional developments. Developers and designers are responsible for designing and locating storage facilities that provide sufficient, accessible space that can accommodate all recyclables and garbage (and eventually organics) between collection days.

Yet an appropriate plan to ensure that waste is properly diverted from the landfill is often lacking for many developments. Building owners and operators are ultimately responsible for ensuring that such plan is in place to ensure that the business or organization is operating in accordance with municipal and regional legislation.

Objectives

Mandating the specific recycling, composting and storage space allocations for new multi-family, commercial, industrial and institutional developments, as well as siting requirements for storage facilities to facilitate access and movement of recycling and garbage containers into and

out of the space by both building occupants and collection service providers, will help to ensure that current and future building occupants can meet local and regional waste diversion goals and regulations.

Requirements for recycling (and eventually organics) diversion plans and the number of recycling and garbage containers for new and existing buildings will help to ensure that buildings are actually operating their waste management systems as designed and in accordance with waste diversion goals and regulations.

Recommendations

Several key recommendations from the 2012 SWMP will support the above objectives. RDOS member municipalities are encouraged to adopt these recommendations.

- Mandate that all new multi-family and ICI developments have adequate space dedicated for storage of garbage and recyclables. Potentially require that these developments are also “organics-ready” for a future organics collection program.
- Mandate all existing multi-family and ICI buildings in urban communities implement a recycling collection service by a defined date.
- Consider providing recycling collection services to ICI buildings as a local government service (exemptions for buildings with internal recycling systems could be made)
- A combination of the above two approaches:
 - Small ICI buildings that can be serviced by the same collection vehicle that collects recyclables from the residential sector are included in the curbside program, similar to Hedley’s program.
 - Larger ICI buildings that cannot be serviced by the curbside program would be required to contract recycling services directly with a collection company.

Sample Policies

The links below provide BC-based examples of existing policies and their requirements for the provision of spacing, access and containers for adequate garbage and recycling amenities in commercial and multi-family developments. RDOS member municipalities are encouraged to review and customize these samples policies to suit each municipality’s bylaw structure and definitions, and ultimately work towards meeting the above recommendations from the 2012 SWMP.

[City of Vancouver Garbage and Recycling Storage Amenity Design Supplement](#)

This document outlines:

- Design requirements of a waste storage amenity
- Operational requirements to ensure access to containers, including temporary loading/storage area on collection day

- Steps on how to estimate the number of containers and space required for various buildings
- Tables showing the suggested number of containers required for various building uses based on estimated waste generation rate
- Dimensions and specifications of various commonly used storage containers and collection vehicles

[City of North Vancouver Community Development: Guidelines for Recycling and Garbage Storage Space and Access in Multiple Unit Residential, Commercial and Institutional Developments \(2014\)](#)

These guidelines identify specific recycling (including recyclable and compostable material) and garbage storage space allocations for new multiple unit residential, commercial, industrial and institutional developments, and assist in siting storage facilities to facilitate access and movement of recycling and garbage containers into and out of the space by both building occupants and collection service providers. Recommendations are also provided to help determine the suggested number of recycling and garbage containers for each building use.

[Metro Vancouver Technical Specifications for Recycling and Garbage Amenities in Multi-family and Commercial Developments - June 2015 Update](#)

These technical specifications provide guidance on allocating sufficient and accessible recycling and garbage storage space in multi-family and commercial buildings and complexes, and are provided for consideration as an addition to a municipal bylaw or guideline affecting the development permit process. Municipalities can tailor and implement them according to their needs.

[Metro Vancouver Guide to Estimate the Recycling and Garbage Bins Your Complex Needs for Weekly Collection](#)

This document provides a convenient tool for calculating the size of bins a development would need based on occupancy in multi-family developments.