

ST. CLEMENTS CONSIDERS CHANGES TO WASTE DISPOSAL FEES

Residents Invited to Provide Feedback on Proposed Changes

St. Clements, MB – March 30, 2021 – In an effort to maintain the quality and affordability of living in St. Clements, the RM is planning to introduce changes to its waste disposal fees and is looking for feedback from residents on the proposed changes. This would be the first fee increase considered in over a decade and would help address rising infrastructure costs and meet new environmental standards at a time when sources of non-tax revenue and provincial funding has decreased.

“We know that low property taxes, reliable services and keeping our rivers and lakes clean are priorities to our residents and we are working hard to deliver just that,” said Mayor Debbie Fiebelkorn. “We’re looking forward to hearing what the people of St. Clements think about the proposed changes, how they think they should be implemented and how we can keep improving the RM’s waste management services.”

The RM is inviting residents to visit their website to learn more and provide feedback on the changes to ensure the new fee schedule can be rolled out smoothly. Council is also interested in hearing from residents on how services and efficiency can continue to improve as the community’s waste management operations evolve. **Feedback is being requested by April 23** so that comments can be considered as the by-law, which is now before Council, goes through second and third reading.

If council adopts the proposed changes, fees would increase for the following services on August 1, 2021:

- [Bag fees for household refuse](#) left at transfer stations will increase to \$2.00/bag (from \$1.25) for residents. Non-residents will increase to \$4.00 (from \$2.50). At the Libau landfill, residents would still be able to leave up to 10 bags of garbage per visit at no charge.
- [Tipping fees](#) for miscellaneous garbage at the landfill will increase to \$60.00/tonne (from \$43.50) for residents, with a \$15.00 minimum fee for smaller loads. Non-residents and commercial users will increase to \$75.00/tonne (from \$43.50 for non-residents and \$71.00 for commercial users) with a \$25.00 minimum fee.
- Fees for disposing of [refrigeration items](#) at the landfill will increase to \$35.00/unit (from \$30.00) for residents and \$50.00 (from \$30.00) for non-residents and commercial users.

Council feels that opting for increases in user fees is a better solution because it would ensure that a larger share of the cost for waste management services is paid by those who use those services the most. The changes would also shift a greater proportion of waste management fees onto non-residents and commercial users who would now pay the same fees under the new by-law.

Meanwhile, St. Clements is making steady progress in reducing costs and protecting the environment through the implementation of the following initiatives:

- A new contract for solid waste handling has substantially reduced operating costs at transfer stations. The RM is exploring other prospects for improving efficiency in partnership with neighbouring municipalities in the Winnipeg Metro Region;
- The new curbside recycling program that recently launched in St. Clements is expected to generate enough savings and benefits to cover the program's cost. Since 2017, recycling throughout the RM has increased by over 60%. For every tonne of waste we keep out of the landfill, we save the \$10/tonne levy that would otherwise be paid to the provincial government.
- The launch of the free Household Hazardous Waste Recycling program, in partnership with Product Care Recycling, opening up at the Libau Landfill in June 2021. More info on this program to follow.

For more information on the proposed changes, visit <https://rmofstclements.com/waste-management/> or contact the RM office at 204-482-3300 or communications@rmofstclements.com.

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