



Curbside Pickup Fact Sheet

January 29, 2018

The RM is proposing to implement curbside trash and recycling pickup in the southern part of the RM due to strong public demand. Some people have concerns over this proposed service.

Thanks to all the residents who shared their concerns as it has helped us more fully develop some of the details of this proposal.

Top Concerns of Residents	Our Response
<p>1. Not required/not wanted, happy with current system</p>	<p>Many people are happy with their current system for waste and recycling which includes using the transfer stations, private pickup, taking it to work/a family member's home or burning. The problem:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of escalating costs, transfer station fees are one-third lower than they need to be to cover costs. That mean everyone is subsidizing trash at the transfer stations. • Private pickup in St. Clements does not include recycling so many people throw their recycling away. • Burning is not only illegal but today's garbage releases toxins that harm health.
<p>2. Too expensive</p>	<p>The cost for curbside pickup works out to between \$2.01 - \$2.23 per week (about the same as a large coffee from Tim Hortons) over the 5-year period of the service contract and includes two high quality carts valued at \$125 each.</p> <p>Many people don't consider the cost of driving to the transfer station/landfill. We created an example to calculate the cost of gas pretending we are driving from the RM office to the nearest transfer station, which is Clarke Road, once a week with one bag of garbage in a 2013 Honda Civic.</p> <p>Distance: 8.5 km (17 km round trip) Frequency of trip: once a week Total distance per year: 884 km Car's gas consumption: 7.6 litres/100km Litres used per year: 116 Cost per litre for gasoline: \$1.11 Cost of gas per year: \$129 Cost per bag of garbage: \$1.25 Cost of garbage per year: \$65 Total cost for year: \$194</p>

	This doesn't include wear and tear on your vehicle and other vehicle-related costs.
3. Should be able to opt out	Because of the demand for the opportunity to opt out of service, the RM is exploring if it is possible to offer an opt out option at an efficient price.
4. Long driveway	<p>We have contacted other RMs that also have homes with long driveways to see how they have handled this. None of them receive concerns about long driveways and they said these concerns fall away after service has been operating a few months. Other RMs also have a special service option available for people who are physically unable to move their carts.</p> <p>In some cases, residents store the carts near the end of their driveway and use their vehicles to transport garbage and recycling to the carts. Hitch attachments to transport the carts are available online and someone in East St. Paul also designed one when curbside pickup was implemented there.</p>
5. Physical impairment or elderly and unable to get carts to road	Upon hearing this concern we investigated what other RMs do in this situation. Some offer a free 'set back' service for residents with a doctor's note so they don't have to take their carts to the curb. We can consider this service.
6. Safety: carts blowing over, cars hitting carts, snow plows and windrows, no shoulders	<p>Wind: On very windy days, carts do blow over but it is an occasional problem at other RMs.</p> <p>No shoulders: The carts do not require a lot of space to be set out, because the base of the carts is only a little larger than one square foot. The RM and contractor anticipate that the shoulders in most areas should be sufficient to accommodate the carts.</p>
7. Don't generate enough garbage & we recycle and compost	<p>We have many residents who are very environmentally-responsible with their waste; they recycle and compost everything they can and thus have very little trash.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there are many who do not recycle or compost at all and much of this ends up in the landfill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organic waste in the landfill creates methane gas which is a greenhouse gas that is 86 times more potent than carbon dioxide. • Recycling put in the landfill wastes resources and fills the landfill cell quicker. • Cells are very expensive to build and that cost is paid for by all taxpayers. • The RM also gets paid for recycling and must pay a fee for all garbage disposed of in the landfill. <p>Curbside pickup of recycling has been shown to increase recycling rates by 30%-50%. Recycling carts are purposely bigger than the trash carts to encourage recycling.</p>
8. Animals getting into garbage, garbage in ditch	The carts have lids and typically this reduces the attraction of wildlife and litter compared to ordinary garbage bags and open top bins.

9. Carts unsightly on road, don't want to handle and store	This is part of having curbside pickup. Fortunately it is only one day per week.
10. Don't want 'city services'	The majority of residents do want this service and 9 out of 12 municipalities around Winnipeg have curbside pickup service including West St. Paul, East St. Paul, Ritchot, Macdonald, Springfield, Tache, Rockwood, Hanover.
11. Biweekly recycling is not enough	The 360 litre (95 gallon) recycling cart has been shown to be adequate for bi-weekly pickup in other municipalities. Bi-weekly pickup costs half of what weekly pickup would cost.

Top 3 Myths

1. Transfer stations are less expensive

It is true that transfer stations currently charge a low rate to residents at \$1.25 per bag for the RM to transport trash and recycling. However, transportation and related costs have skyrocketed over the past several years and the real cost for each bag of garbage from Clarke Road and Dunning Road Transfer Stations is **\$4.50**. At this time each bag is being subsidized by all taxpayers by \$3.25. User pay is not covering the costs.

2. This survey doesn't represent the will of the people. Why didn't you mail it out to everyone?

There is a misunderstanding that the Service Options Survey is the final word in this process. This is not the case. The RM must follow a legislated process including a public hearing and approval from the Municipal Board before being allowed to implement curbside pickup.

The electronic survey was a quick and economical way to reach a large proportion of people in the service area to get a general idea of the preferences of the people. The RM has consistently found that consulting with citizens helps us make better decisions that reflect what residents really want.

The survey, analysis and promotion was all done in-house at a low cost. To mail it out to the entire service area would have cost at least \$4000, with no guarantee of a better response. There are an estimated 2600 homes in the service area and we reached about 1000 people, using readily-available tools, through email, Facebook, our website, the RM readerboard, and two mobile signs. 565 people responded. This response is considered 95% statistically accurate plus or minus 4% for a population of 2600 people and in fact we would have only needed 488 responses to get this level of statistical accuracy.

3. Curbside pickup is a "done deal" – the plan to start curbside pickup has already been decided

Curbside pickup is a proposal at this stage. The RM must follow a legislated process including a public hearing and approval from the Municipal Board before being allowed to implement curbside pickup.

Why does the RM want to implement curbside pickup now?

The curbside pickup initiative came out of the review of the RM's solid waste management practices that was done as part of the *2015-2018 Strategic Plan*. The RM of St. Clements has one of the lowest recycling rates in Manitoba but some of the highest costs for waste management. Many residents

have expressed an interest in having curbside pickup. Curbside recycling pickup has been shown to increase recycling rates by 30% to 50%. Here are more reasons:

- Costs of managing waste have escalated due to increased regulation, enforcement, transportation and other demands.
- The RM is charged a tax of \$10 per tonne of garbage put in Libau Landfill.
- Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) gives the RM a rebate based on weight of recyclables collected.
- Recycling converts our old products into new products which saves resources and helps reduce air and water pollution. In other words, it is good for the environment.
- Keeping recyclable out of the landfill means the landfill fills up more slowly. Creating new capacity for garbage at the landfill is very expensive and the RM (thus taxpayers) must pay for this.
- Reduces the amount of garbage-burning homeowners do which is actually illegal and potentially releases toxic gases into the air

According to the [Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba 2015 Annual Report](#) (view starting on page 9) in 2015:

- The RM of St. Clements recycled **25 kg** per person
- The average for Manitoba was 73 kg per person
- The RM of St. Andrews recycled 56.9 kg per person
- The City of Selkirk recycled 103.5 kg per person
- The City of Winnipeg recycled 79.5 kg per person

Why don't you install 24-hour central recycling depots like they have in the RM of St. Andrews?

The RM of St. Clements collects recycling as well as household trash, e-waste, used oil, tires, yard waste, car batteries and propane tanks at all four transfer stations and the Libau Landfill, but with limited access.

The 24-hour-a-day access recycling bins in the RM of St. Andrews that collect regular household recycling are certainly convenient and in our survey, many residents of St. Clements said they regularly take their recycling there. The RM of St. Clements considered this option but found:

- The RM of St. Andrews has higher recycling rates (in 2015, 56.9 kg per person per year) than the RM of St. Clements (25 kg per person per year) but it is still well below the provincial average (73 kg per person per year).
- The system is inefficient because, unless bin contents are compacted, a lot of space is taken up by air; bins fill faster and you are paying to transport air. RMs are paid for recycling (by Manitoba Waste Reduction and Recycling Support) by weight, not volume. The cost of transport diminishes/eliminates income from recyclables.
- Bins are unsupervised and thus prone to vandalism and misuse with people disposing of garbage