

Presentation to Council

Proposed Transition from Manual to Automated Waste Collection Service

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Presentation overview

1. Update on the automated waste collection regional initiative
2. Current manual waste collection service
3. Proposed transition to an automated waste collection service
4. Service for commercial properties
5. Staff capacity and Bylaw services
6. Communication
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9. Staff recommendations





1. Update on the Automated Waste Collection Regional Initiative

- Since 2024, Emterra Environmental (Emterra) provides residential automated waste collection service to:
 - City of Courtenay
 - Town of Comox
- Language in the City of Courtenay contract allowing the Village of Cumberland and the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) for the Royston area to enter into a contract for similar services on substantially the same terms and conditions.
- In 2022, Council approved a solid waste collection user rate structure that would allow the Village to transition to an automated waste collection service.
- Staff propose the Village to join the regional automated waste collection service spring 2027 at the same time as CVRD for the Royston area.





2. Current Manual Waste Collection Service

- Service provided to the Village by Emterra since 2020

For residential:

- Weekly collection of organics (unlimited)
- Bi-weekly collection of garbage (limited to one container, max 120 litres)
- Bi-weekly collection of recycling (unlimited)

For commercial (56 properties):

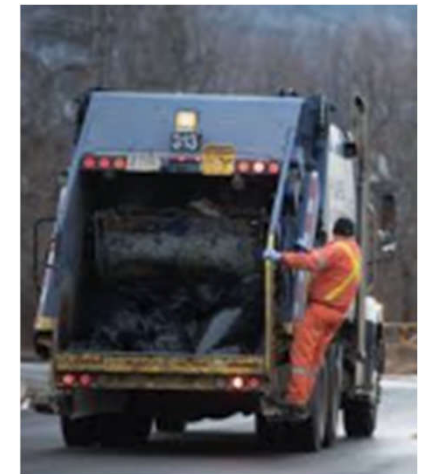
- Weekly collection of garbage (limited to three containers, max 120 litres)
- Bi-weekly collection of recycling (unlimited)

- Current contract ends on December 31, 2026

Emterra confirmed no issues extending the contract by a few months to support a transition to the automated service in 2027.

- Manual collection industry in North America

Challenges with staffing, health and safety and aging fleet explaining a general trend to transition to automated waste collection.





3. Proposed Transition to an Automated Waste Collection Service

Same add-a-day collection schedule for residential:

- Collection would be limited to cart size
- Expectation for residents to disposed of their excess waste at the regional waste management centre

Collection trucks and access

- Larger truck with automated arm limiting turning radius and access.
- Collection point and cart placement may have to be adjusted in some instances:
 - Residents may have to roll their carts further away and / or past any bike lanes
 - Collection may have to be done in the alley (to be kept clear)

Assistance set-out service

- Emterra's employees can roll the carts to the curb for an additional fee.
- Recommendation to limit this option to senior or disabled residents.





3. Continued:

Service for Residential Properties:

Carts recommended size per type of household:

- 3 bins: Recycling, Organics and Garbage

Cart selection

- Staff propose to allow resident to select their cart size to minimized exchange post-transition (~ 1 year)
- Carts would be owned by Emterra for the duration of a proposed 10-year term contract, then become the Village property.

Possible option for multiple carts

- Staff propose to allow the Village to provide additional cart to residents in specific instances.
- Additional fees would be considered.

Wildlife-proof locks

- Expected that most residents would store their carts outside - lock on carts would likely be recommended.

Residential	Recycling	Organics	Garbage
Single Family Dwelling	360 L	360 L	120 L
Secondary Suites	240 L	120 L	120 L
Townhouse, Mobile Home in a MHP, Triplex or Fourplex	240 L	120 L	120 L





4. Service for Commercial Properties

- **Current service:** to 56 commercial properties mostly located along Dunsmuir Avenue for garbage and recycling.
- **Consultation with the business community:**
Further consultation would follow prior to Staff recommending an option to Council.
- **Review of options available for commercial properties:**
 1. Enrollment to the automated solid waste collection service
 2. Status quo (manual collection)
 3. Discontinue the solid waste collection service (after extended transition period)
- **Other communities**
Most comparable municipalities on Vancouver Island do not provide waste collection service to commercial properties.





5. Staff Capacity and Bylaw Services

Internal staff capacity would be required to:

- Plan and facilitate transition
- Educate users with a communication strategy
- Coordinate communication efforts
- Review solutions for commercial waste collection service
- Prepare a detail transition plan requested by Recycle BC prior to a transition
- Update solid waste bylaw
- Review and maintain contract levels of service with Contractors

Bylaw services:

- Additional bylaw services capacity would be required to support with education and compliance support around the new requirements for the automated collection in the first few months of the transition.



6. Program Communications Strategy



- Draft communications materials, frequently asked questions, press release, and the use of social media to educate the Village of the programs benefits, details and rules to the system that the transition will impose.
- Collaboration with CVRD for the Royston area.

Additional capacity

- Budget request for \$25,000 for communication efforts and \$10,000 for contingency to support with the transition.
- Would be funded from stabilization reserve funds earmarked for solid waste service.



Estimated Cost for Manual Collection for Residential Customers

Village of Cumberland Estimated Rates 2026

Manual Service	Annual	Monthly
Total Residential Collection:		
Gargabe by-weekly	\$ 507,828	\$ 42,319
Recycling by-weekly		
Organics weekly		

Estimated Cost for Automated Collection for Residential Customers

Village of Cumberland Estimated Rates 2026

Automated Service	Annual	Monthly
Total Residential Collection:		
Gargabe by-weekly	\$ 425,301	\$ 35,442
Recycling by-weekly		
Organics weekly		
Total Residential Cart Fees based on :		
1 x 120L (recommended size for SF garbage)	\$ 79,768	\$ 6,647
0x 240L (recommended size for secondary suite recycling)		
2 x 360L (recommended size for SF recycling and organics)		
Assembly fee for 3 carts		
Total Estimated Cost - Residential Collection	\$ 505,069	\$ 42,089

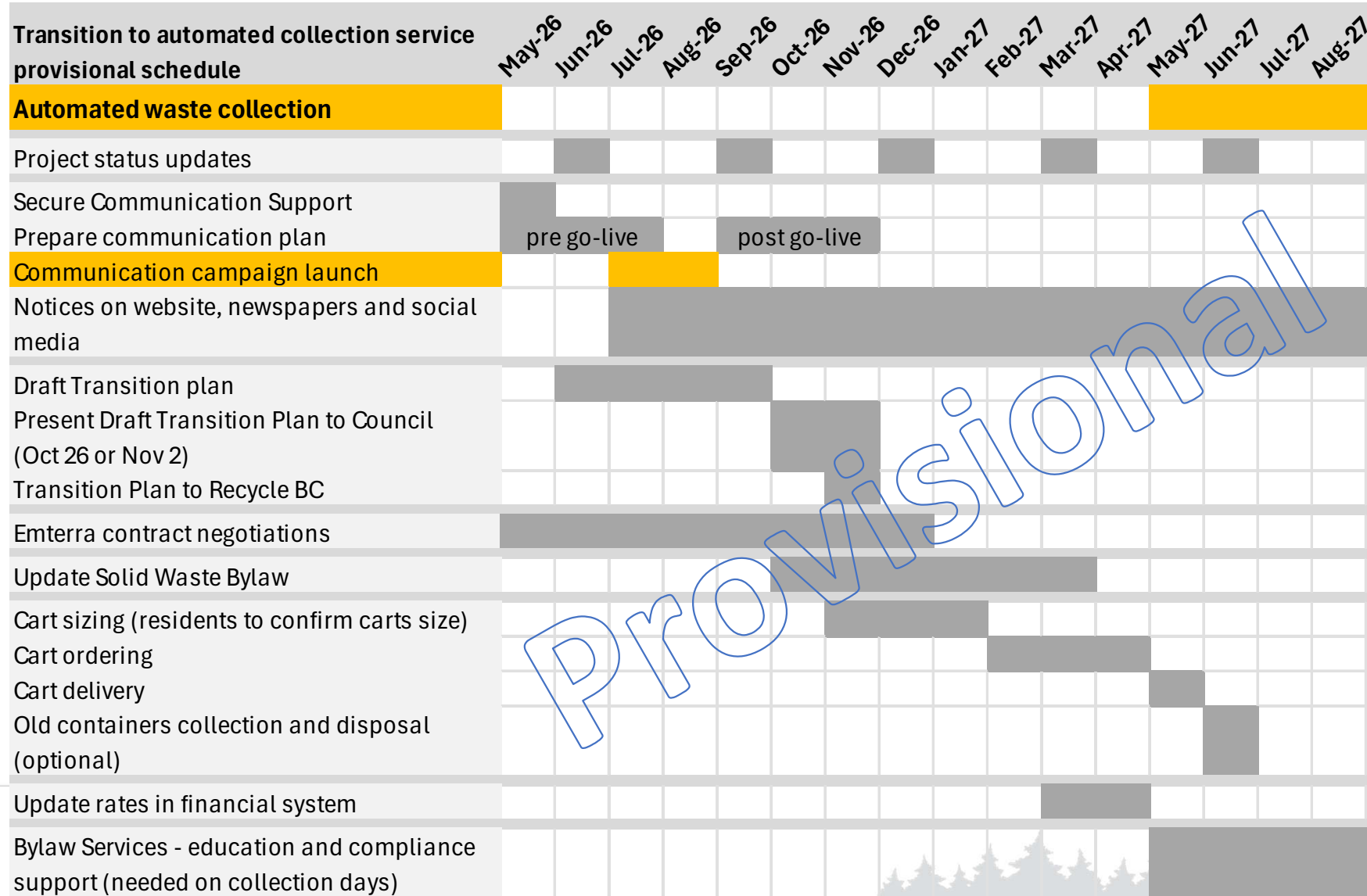
1. All prices are estimate and subject to change once contract is negotited and carts are ordered.

7. Financial Considerations

- Preliminary analysis suggests costs would be similar for both services
 - *Estimated prices are to be confirmed during negotiations
- Further increase should be expected for manual collection service due to required replacement of aging fleet and limited competition in the industry.
- 2026 solid waste residential fee is \$68.40 per quarter or \$273.60 for the year and covers for:
 - Collection service
 - Tipping fees
 - Minor administrative expenses



8. Provisional transition schedule



Provisional



9. Staff recommendations

1. THAT Council confirms that the Village intends to join the automated waste collection spring 2027.
2. THAT Council direct Staff to proceed with the communication as early as summer 2026, aligned with the Comox Valley Regional District for the Royston area.
3. THAT Council confirm:
 - Cart selection option allowing residents to choose their cart size prior to the transition.
 - Option allowing the Village to provide additional cart when requested by residents in some specific instances.
4. THAT Council direct staff to maintain the service with Emterra until the transition and start the negotiations for the contract for the new service.
5. THAT Council direct staff to update the solid waste bylaw.
6. THAT Council approve the additional \$35,000 to support the transition to be funded through stabilization reserve funds earmarked for solid waste.

