

Council gives green light to composting facility study

(Penticton, BC – April 20, 2021) – Impacts to the City of Penticton from a proposed in-vessel composting facility at the Campbell Mountain Landfill will be the focus of a forthcoming joint study between the City of Penticton and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS).

The study, approved by Penticton City Council during their April 20 meeting, will build on work that has already been completed by both the City and RDOS and will help set-out terms and conditions that both organizations may wish to consider when entering into a future agreement. The City will contribute approximately \$30K to the study which will assist staff in better understanding any service impacts to residents along with any financial impacts to the City's solid waste and sewer utilities.

"Once the study is complete, the findings will be presented to the Community Sustainability Advisory Committee and Council, and staff will then make further recommendations on appropriate next steps, including any recommendations relating to public engagement activities the City may wish to undertake," said the City's General Manager of Infrastructure, Kristen Dixon.

Background:

The City's waste water treatment process results in the production of biosolids. The City currently manages these biosolids at the composting facility, which is located at the RDOS Campbell Mountain Landfill. The City has utilized a simple composting process for many years to manage the biosolids, however, facility age/condition, regulations, marketing challenges, landfill needs and development pressures have triggered a need to review the current operations and explore other potential methods to manage this product in the future.

In 2019, the City completed a comprehensive study evaluating alternative options and recommended an updated, in-vessel composting facility be considered at the existing property. Similarly, the RDOS has been exploring the opportunity to introduce organics processing at the Campbell Mountain Landfill and has identified an in-vessel composting solution as an economically viable option to extend the life of the landfill, address odor issues and gain environmental benefits by separating this material.

Given the synergies of both potential projects, the City has worked closely with the RDOS to explore the possibility of constructing an in-vessel system that will address all organics streams, including food waste, yard waste, and waste water biosolids.

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