



# Press Release

## LESS GARBAGE IS THE GOAL OF PORT COQUITLAM PILOT PROGRAM

**Port Coquitlam, BC – February 3, 2009...** The City of Port Coquitlam will test out different pickup schedules for garbage, recycling and kitchen/green waste at selected households this spring – the City’s latest effort to reduce how much garbage is going to the landfill.

Starting Feb. 9, the six-week Waste Reduction Pilot Program will determine the feasibility and effect of moving to bi-weekly garbage pickup, with and without additional recycling and kitchen/green waste pickup. A total of 150 households in different areas of the City will participate.

The City is also looking at a companion “eco-rebate” that could provide a rebate to homeowners, based on how many times they put out their garbage carts.

“The world is changing, and it’s important that we seek ways to improve how we’ve always done things. This pilot project will give us the information we need to determine if there’s a better way to manage our garbage,” Mayor Greg Moore said.

The 150 pilot households will test out one of the following schedules:

- status quo (weekly garbage collection, and bi-weekly collection of recycling and green/kitchen waste),
- bi-weekly collection of garbage, recycling and green/kitchen waste, or
- weekly recycling collection, and bi-weekly collection of garbage and green/kitchen waste.

All pilot households will also receive information on ways to reduce their household waste.

“In Port Coquitlam our residents divert about 52% of our garbage from the landfill, and that is significantly higher than the 40% average in Metro Vancouver,” noted Port Coquitlam Cllr. Mike Forrest, who chairs the City’s Environmental Enhancement Committee. “That shows us that initiatives like the Kitchen Green Waste Collection Program are working. But we’re going to have to do more to meet Metro Vancouver’s goal of diverting 70% of garbage from the landfills.”

The pilot will help the City determine if bi-weekly garbage pickup would be workable, would reduce how much garbage is produced by local households, and would reduce costs for garbage collection and disposal. Disposal costs for garbage are significantly more expensive than those for green/kitchen waste – and further increases are expected.

It will also gauge if the change would be acceptable to residents. In a recent financial plan survey of local residents, several respondents suggested the City move to bi-weekly garbage pickup. As part of the pilot, the City will survey participants and conduct focus groups.

The results of the Waste Reduction Pilot Program will be considered by the Environmental Enhancement Committee and Council in the development and implementation of future waste reduction initiatives.

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