



GVS&DD Board Meeting Date: June 29, 2007

To: GVS&DD Board

From: Waste Management Committee

Date: June 14, 2007

Subject: **Enhanced Material Disposal Bans**

Recommendation:

That the GVS&DD Board approve:

- a) a ban at all GVRD waste transfer and disposal facilities on the disposal of yard and garden waste, gypsum wallboard, materials collected in municipal curbside recycling programs and materials for which provincially mandated product stewardship programs exist;
 - b) the reduction of the tolerance level for banned materials to zero percent for household hazardous waste materials and 5 percent for all other banned materials in any load delivered to a GVRD waste transfer and disposal facility, and that staff report back to the Waste Management Committee 12 months after implementation;
 - c) a surcharge of 50 percent on the tipping fee for waste loads delivered to GVRD transfer stations and disposal facilities found to contain banned materials in excess of the tolerance level to begin January 1, 2008; and
 - d) the proposed implementation schedule set out in Attachment 1 of the report titled "Enhanced Material Disposal Bans" dated April 5, 2007.
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At its meeting on June 13, 2007, the Waste Management Committee received the report titled "Enhanced Material Disposal Bans" and adopted the above resolution, which includes in part b) direction to staff to report back to the Committee.

Attachment:

Enhanced Material Disposal Bans report



Waste Management Committee Meeting Date: June 13, 2007

To: Waste Management Committee

From: Mike Stringer, Senior Engineer,
Fred Nenninger, Division Manager, Regional Utility Planning
Policy and Planning Department

Date: April 5, 2007

Subject: **Enhanced Material Disposal Bans**

Recommendation:

That the GVS&DD Board approve:

- a) a ban at all GVRD waste transfer and disposal facilities on the disposal of yard and garden waste, gypsum wallboard, materials collected in municipal curbside recycling programs and materials for which provincially mandated product stewardship programs exist;
 - b) the reduction of the tolerance level for banned materials to zero percent for household hazardous waste materials and 5 percent for all other banned materials in any load delivered to a GVRD waste transfer and disposal facility;
 - c) a surcharge of 50 percent on the tipping fee for waste loads delivered to GVRD transfer stations and disposal facilities found to contain banned materials in excess of the tolerance level to begin January 1, 2008; and
 - d) the proposed implementation schedule set out in Attachment 1 of the report titled "Enhanced Material Disposal Bans" dated April 5, 2007.
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1. PURPOSE

To obtain the GVS&DD Board's approval of recommendations to increase the scope and effectiveness of material disposal bans at GVRD solid waste management facilities.

2. CONTEXT

Background

The 2004 Waste Composition Study showed that almost 7% of the waste stream consists of cardboard, newsprint, and office paper which have all been officially banned from disposal at GVRD plan facilities. It also showed that a further 10% of the waste consists of yard waste, some other paper types, beverage and food containers and certain household hazardous materials for which recycling or stewardship programs are already in place. Together these categories represent approximately 150,000 tonnes of waste going to disposal per year.

A report to the committee on March 9, 2005 suggested that the amount of material diverted from disposal could be increased by increasing the scope and effectiveness of disposal bans already in place at GVRD and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities. Staff indicated they would consult with member municipalities, the waste hauling industry, facility

contractors and the general public and prepare a strategy for increasing the scope and effectiveness of the disposal bans.

A report to the Waste Management Committee titled “Zero Waste Challenge” dated January 18, 2007 identified enhanced material disposal bans as a potential Zero Waste Challenge action. The GVS&DD Board requested staff to investigate and report back on this and other actions.

Consultation

A questionnaire regarding material disposal bans was circulated to municipal waste reduction coordinators and to approximately 300 businesses and institutions including 150 waste management companies. Ipsos-Reid was hired to survey 500 households by telephone. Staff has met with Wastech, the City of Vancouver and several times with the Waste Management Division of the BC Trucking Association representing waste haulers to discuss the enhancement of disposal bans. A draft discussion paper was produced and circulated to the municipal waste reduction coordinators, REAC Solid Waste Subcommittee and the waste haulers group for comment.

The groups consulted generally:

- supported the banning of new materials if sufficient recycling options are readily available;
- emphasized the need for effective communication and education directed at the waste generators – both residential and commercial;
- did not support a zero tolerance, because of concern of unreasonable enforcement, but suggested the tolerance could be tightened from the existing 10% of total volume per load to 5%;
- supported an increase in enforcement effort along with an emphasis on education;
- recommended a phasing in of any changes.

Waste haulers were concerned that the enforcement measures at the transfer stations are directed at their industry while the solution to banned material in the waste stream lies with their commercial customers and residents who actually generate the waste. They were very supportive of more education directed at waste generators.

A number of schools and small businesses mentioned the extra labour and space required to separate additional materials for recycling.

Proposed Changes to Material Disposal Bans

The materials currently banned from disposal at GVRD facilities are corrugated cardboard, news print and office paper. Gypsum drywall has not been banned by board resolution but its receipt has been restricted at disposal facilities for operational reasons. To reinforce this restriction, gypsum drywall should be included in the list of materials to be banned.

It is recommended that the following materials also be banned from disposal:

- yard and garden waste
- blue box recyclable materials
 - mixed papers including boxboard, directories, magazines
 - rigid plastic containers numbered 1,2,4 and 5
 - metal food containers
 - glass food containers
- materials subject to provincially required stewardship programs

- household paints, stains and their containers including aerosols
- solvents, flammable liquids and their containers
- prescription and non-prescription drugs and their containers
- waste lubricating oil and its containers
- oil filters
- lead acid batteries
- tires
- electronic goods including computers and their peripherals, desk-top printers and televisions (subject to the implementation of the electronic waste stewardship program before August 2007)
- beverage containers except milk and milk products.

These materials have readily available recycling options.

A communication and education plan to publicize and support the new and existing disposal bans is essential to the success of the proposed program. It will be directed toward residential and commercial waste generators.

It is recommended that the tolerance level for banned materials in any load of waste delivered to transfer and disposal facilities be reduced from the existing 10% of total volume per load to 5%. The tolerance for banned household hazardous wastes will be zero percent. For the purpose of the material disposal bans, all stewardship materials with the exception of beverage containers, are considered household hazardous wastes. Enforcement levels will be set to avoid penalizing trivial amounts of banned material found in waste loads.

To support the education and enforcement efforts the amount of time devoted to load inspections will be increased from the current 30 hours per week to 70 hours per week spread among all of the facilities. The penalty for excessive banned materials in a load will remain as a 50% surcharge on the tipping fee for that load.

It is recommended that the changes to the material disposal bans be phased in following the schedule provided in Attachment 1 and be in full effect by January 1, 2008.

3. ALTERNATIVES

The GVS&DD Board may:

1. approve:
 - a. a ban at all GVRD waste transfer and disposal facilities on the disposal of yard and garden waste, gypsum wallboard, materials collected in municipal curbside recycling programs and materials for which provincially mandated product stewardship programs exist;
 - b. the reduction of the tolerance level for banned materials to zero percent for household hazardous waste materials and 5 percent for all other banned materials in any load delivered to a GVRD waste transfer and disposal facility;
 - c. a surcharge of 50 percent on the tipping fee for waste loads delivered to GVRD transfer stations and disposal facilities found to contain banned materials in excess of the tolerance level to begin January 1, 2008.
 - d. the proposed implementation schedule set out in Attachment 1.
2. make changes to the recommendations for enhanced material disposal bans prior to adopting them

3. not approve the recommendations for enhanced material disposal bans

4. CONCLUSION

Material disposal bans have been used with success in the GVRD and in many other jurisdictions to support waste reduction, diversion and recycling initiatives. Expanding the scope and effectiveness of the bans has been identified as an early action item under the Zero Waste Challenge.

Alternative 1 is recommended given that enhanced material disposal bans supported by an effective communication and education program has the potential to divert a significant portion of the 150,000 tonnes of readily recyclable materials that are currently being disposed.

Attachment

1. Enhanced Material Disposal Bans – Proposed Schedule for Implementation

Attachment 1

Enhanced Material Disposal Bans – Proposed Schedule for Implementation

Phase 1 Approvals (June 2007)

June 2007 – Waste Management Committee and GVS&DD Board

Phase 2 Initial Implementation Steps (July 2007 – September 2007)

- Advise municipalities and waste haulers of the ban and the expected schedule for implementation
- Finalize the communications and public education plan for residential and commercial users of disposal facilities, including media relations, educational materials and signage at transfer facilities
- Develop an implementation plan for operational changes at disposal facilities
- Develop comprehensive list of alternative sites for disposal and recycling
- Acquire and train additional inspectors
- Train transfer station and disposal facility operators

Phase 3 Public Education (July 2007 and ongoing)

- Implement the communications plan
- Modify scale house software systems if necessary to collect surcharges on loads found to be in violation of the ban

Phase 4 Phase-in period with light enforcement (August – December, 2007)

- Loads found to be in excess of the tolerance level will be issued warning or “recycling opportunity notices” informing them of the bans and alternative recycling options, without a surcharge on the load
- Facility users will be directed to alternative drop off locations
- Ongoing implementation of communication and public education program

Phase 5 Bans fully enforced (January 1, 2008, onward)

- Customers with loads found to be in excess of the tolerance level will have the opportunity to remove banned materials to appropriate recycling drop-offs
- Facility users will be directed to alternative recycling drop off locations
- Uncooperative customers will be charged the surcharge
- Ongoing maintenance of communication and public education program