

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024**

SUBJECT **Curbside Collection of Packaging and Printed Products – 2024 Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update regarding the implementation of the new six-year contract with GFL Environmental Incorporated (GFL) for the provision of residential blue box curbside collection of packaging and printed products that began January 1, 2024.

BACKGROUND

At its October 12, 2022 meeting, the Capital Regional District Board approved a motion directing staff to enter into a six-year contract with GFL to provide residential curbside blue box collection from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2029. GFL began service on January 2 but experienced roll-out challenges that have now largely been resolved. These challenges included:

- delayed delivery of the full fleet of specialized collection trucks due to a labour disruption
- changing collection days in some areas to optimize collection routes
- new collection crews learning collection routes
- increased volumes of recyclable materials following the Christmas holiday season
- a large snowfall event in early January that resulted in cancellation of collection for three days

The largest of these challenges was the delay in the delivery of the full fleet of 25 collection trucks, which meant that glass collection had to be suspended for the month of January because the back-up temporary replacement trucks were not configured to pick up three separate streams of materials. Glass collection resumed on February 1, but the large backlog of glass that then needed to be collected proved challenging, and there were days when not all materials were able to be collected on the scheduled collection day. Recovery collections were undertaken by GFL, including on weekends, and this backlog has now been cleared. Recyclable material volumes have now largely returned to normal levels and scheduled collections are now being fully completed.

As of the end of February, GFL has received 20 of the 25 trucks that were ordered in October 2022 for the program. The last three compressed natural gas fueled trucks are expected by mid-March and will continue to be replaced by the rental trucks until they are received. The remaining two trucks will be all-electric powered, but they are not expected to be delivered until the end of March due to manufacturing delays and will be put into service once they are received.

Understanding that its offices in Langford may not be convenient to many residents, GFL has been working to establish a distribution network for residents to obtain new and replacement blue boxes and bags throughout the region. There are now over 10 different distribution locations, including several municipal halls in the capital region.

CONCLUSION

The contract with GFL Environmental to provide curbside blue box collection began January 1, 2024, with a few roll-out challenges, including a delay in the delivery of collection

trucks, resulting in the temporary suspension of glass collection, and there was inclement weather. These service delivery challenges have now largely been resolved, and service has normalized in the region. Two new all-electric collection trucks are expected to be received by the end of March and put into service as part of the program.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., Acting General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer