



## **Town Invites Citizen Input on Proposed Changes to Waste and Recycling Program at Public Open House on July 18**

*(July 9, 2018 – Ponoka, Alberta)* – The Town of Ponoka is once again inviting public input on its Waste and Recycling Program at a Public Open House being held on Wednesday, July 18 at the Kinsmen Community Centre in Ponoka (5009-46 Ave.). Members of the public are invited to drop in anytime between 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The upcoming Open House is the next step in a program review and design process that began earlier this year to gauge citizen satisfaction and evaluate possible changes to the Town's Waste and Recycling Program for 2019.

The program review and design process involves a significant public consultation component which included a Public Open House in May and a Citizen Input Survey that was completed by just over 300 Ponoka residents this past spring. The survey asked for input on the current Waste and Recycling Program and on program changes citizens might like to see.

"We've listened and carefully reviewed the input we received at the spring Open House and from the survey. Based on that input and on the research we've done into the cost and potential benefits of various program design options, we will present a proposed program design for public review and comment at this next Public Open House on July 18," explains Michel Savard, Interim Director of Operations for the Town of Ponoka.

### **Full Organics Compost Program Proposed for 2019**

The main change being proposed to the current Waste & Recycling Program is the addition of a full organics composting program that would allow citizens to compost all food waste in their green carts, including meat and bones, soiled paper and cardboard, pet waste, animal bedding, coffee grinds, tea bags, yard waste and other items. "A full organics green cart program could resolve a lot of the concerns we've been hearing from residents about our current Waste and Recycling Program," says Savard.

"It would remove smelly items from the grey bins and reduce the amount of waste placed in those grey garbage bins. The green carts would still be picked up weekly from May through October and biweekly the rest of the year. The grey carts would continue to be picked up biweekly. It would also help the Town get closer to achieving the provincial goal of 80 per cent waste diversion from landfill," explains Savard.

A full compost program is expected to divert approximately an additional 15 per cent of household waste from the landfill. That would bring the Town's total household waste diversion rate up to about 50 per cent, as Ponoka continues to work toward the provincial goal of 80 per cent waste diversion. Full details about the proposed full organics compost program will be presented at the July 18 Open House.



**The Open House will feature a drop-in format and will be an opportunity for citizens to:**

- Browse information displays about the proposed program design for the Town's Waste and Recycling Program in 2019
- View the results of the program review and public consultation process conducted this past spring
- Fill out a Citizen Comment Form that asks residents for their feedback on the proposed program design
- Ask questions, share comments, and have one-on-one discussions with members of Town Council and Administration

The Town's current Waste and Recycling Program contract expires at the end of this year. Citizen input gathered at the upcoming Public Open House will be carefully reviewed and considered by Town Council and Administration as the Waste and Recycling Program design is finalized for 2019.

**Proposed Program Design and Comment Form Will be Posted Online**

If you can't attend the Public Open House, you will be able to view the proposed program design and fill out a comment form on the Town website at [www.ponoka.ca](http://www.ponoka.ca) from July 18 – August 3. Paper copies of the proposed program design and comment form will also be available at the Town Office (C, 4900-54 St.) during that same timeframe.

**For Media Inquiries:**

Sandra Smith  
Communications Manager  
Town of Ponoka  
403-783-0158