

Cremona residents getting blue and green rollout bins

Recycling and composting curbside pickup service available soon

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Cremona residents will soon have curbside recycling and compost pickup services.

Council gave village officials the go-ahead to purchase 65-gallon rollout recycling and compost bins for residents during the July 21 council meeting.

The bins cost about \$65 each and officials are purchasing 500 of them. Luana Smith, chief administrative officer for the village, said the bins will be paid for with MSI funding and she is hoping to receive them by October.

Council also awarded waste pickup services to Can-Pak Environmental Inc., as the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission announced in May it will outsource solid waste collection.

Cremona, Carstairs, Didsbury and Sundre provided one year's notice to withdraw from the commission in December of 2014 after the commission increased its 2015 requisitions to make up for financial losses.

Didsbury and Carstairs do not use the commission's collection service and instead have contracts with Can-Pak as well.

Can-Pak will charge the village \$3.59 biweekly to pick up garbage, recycling and compost, while the waste commission charges \$3 biweekly for garbage pickup only.

And with the new service, village officials plan to close the recycling centre by the end of the year, which would also save the village money.

"I will leave it open until the end of the year, but one of the goals, because of going to the recycling, is to close the recycling centre because it's costing us a lot of money and staff time for cleaning up," said Smith.

"Plus the waste that's thrown there and we have to take things to the landfill, and then we have to pay additional funds for taking items back to the landfill," she

"Our goal is to have a cleaner, more environmentally-conscious community."

LUANA SMITH,
Village of Cremona CAO

said.

"And the compost that we have down there is consistently contaminated so it goes straight into the landfill instead of going to Olds College for composting."

Cremona is not the only municipality having issues with contaminated compost bins and non-recyclable items being dumped at its recycling centre.

There are often loads sent to the landfill from Carstairs as well, and cameras are installed at the centre in town so officials can try and catch people who are dumping non-recyclable items.

There is currently no curbside recycling or compost pickup service available to Cremona residents and the recycling centre is the only option. Because of the change, Smith said residents will be educated on what can and can't be disposed of in their new bins.

She said there are many benefits involved with the rollout bins and curbside pickup service.

"The benefits are more services for the same money – especially for people who don't have access to vehicles or seniors who have difficulty taking things down to the recycling centre," she said.

"Our goal is to have a cleaner, more environmentally-conscious community."

The Town of Didsbury council also recently approved purchasing 65-gallon rollout recycling bins and Carstairs council will consider the same in October.

Didsbury and Carstairs residents currently have 16-gallon blue tote boxes for curbside pickup service.