

Tag-a-Bag Program

Motion: In order to reduce the amount of household waste, the City of Edmonton will start a Tag-a-Bag program.

Residents will need to purchase from the City, tags that will be attached to garbage bags or containers of specified sizes: the bigger the bag or container, the more costly the tags.

Advantages of Tag-a-Bag Program	Disadvantages of Tag-a-Bag Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated that this program will reduce garbage by up to 20% • Fairer system: homes where little waste is produced will benefit by reduced cost to themselves (Right now waste removal is paid through taxes. With this system, those who use the service most will pay more) • Encourages people to be more aware of garbage produced and the cost of landfills • Better for environment if we can get people to reduce waste • At the present time, those with more expensive home pays higher property taxes – therefore, they are paying more for waste disposal than those with less expensive homes • People will become used to the program over time • Will encourage people to compost and recycle • Will encourage people to avoid buying junk that leads to more things being thrown away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tags could be removed and stolen • Lower income residents may not be able to afford the tags: families may suffer more as a result of having to pay fines • Could be difficult to spot tags and may take a lot of the bylaw officers' time (increased cost to enforcing bylaw) • May encourage people to dispose of garbage illegally by dumping in alleys, along roads, etc. • Might increase pollution because people might try to illegally burn garbage in backyard fire pits • Some people will feel that this is unfair to larger families • Elderly/disable/sick/ frail residents who cannot do backyard composting or taking recycling to depots may not be able to afford the cost of tags • May be very difficult to enforce in apartments or condos where people share a common garbage container: would be unfair for people in the apartment/condo who produce very little garbage to have to pay the same

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will encourage people to demand that manufacturers of products reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging	<p>amount as those who are throwing in far greater amounts of waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many people receiving fines may challenge them in court: increasing cost of enforcement (property taxes?)• People who feel that they are paying for waste disposal already in their property taxes, will feel that this is an increased form of taxing by government – this could lead to greater resentment toward government and bylaw enforcement officers
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