



Webinar on the Recycle BC 5-Year Cost Study, May 30, 2018 QA

#	Sector	Question	Answer
1.	Local Government	Will the slide presentation be available following the webinar for reference when reporting back to our elected officials?	Yes, the slide presentation and the recording from the webinar is available under '5-year study and consultation updates' here .
2.	Not provided	Do you know what percentage of total recycling done in BC is handled by Recycle BC?	We do not know the exact percentage of packaging and paper product recycling that is managed by Recycle BC but we believe the majority of BC residents receive residential recycling services financed and operated by Recycle BC. Please note however that Recycle BC does not manage any of the packaging and paper material collected from the institutional, industrial or commercial (ICI) sector.
3.	Not available	Do we have information on why service administration costs are so low or decreased to such an extent in some communities?	We do not have that insight. In some instances, these were observations noted by the accountant through his discussions with communities but no further explanations were provided.
4.	Not available	How will we define which are the largest municipalities that will be subjected to the new service level failure credit process? Will that be based on households?	Yes, the determination of communities that will be part of the new service level credit process will be based on number of households. As of today, we have not yet made a determination of that threshold. We expect the new service level failure credit would apply to only a few communities and we welcome input on how to set that threshold.
5.	Not available	Was the new proposed service level failure credit for large municipalities proposed for multi-family collection in addition to curbside?	No, we are proposing for curbside only at this time.
6.	Local Government	Were there any interesting findings on the cost for communities which moved from providing their own services in 2012 to transitioning to direct service provided by Recycle BC in 2017?	We did not note a specific trend. In the cost study we are showing a cost per household which includes some direct service communities which were municipally run in the 2012 data; however, the number of households in some cases was close to double when the community went to direct service which makes cost comparisons difficult.



Webinar on the Recycle BC 5-Year Cost Study, May 30, 2018 QA

#	Sector	Question	Answer
7.	Not available	Can you please explain the requirement for a 90 kg/ household capture rate that is being proposed?	There are a number of curbside collection programs that are part of the Recycle BC program that have a capture rate below 90 kg/ household. All of the existing collectors under the Recycle BC program, regardless of whether or not they are achieving 90 kg/ household, will receive an offer for a new five-year agreement. The 90 kg/ household threshold refers to the capture rate a community needs to achieve in order to be eligible to transition their program to direct service by Recycle BC.
8.	Not available	In developing that threshold of 90 kg/ household for direct service by Recycle BC, did you take into consideration programs in rural communities which generate considerably less material per household?	Yes, we did consider rural communities where the capture rate is lower than what is typically achieved in larger urban centres. Recycle BC operates curbside programs directly in a number of areas that have very low capture rates and we have experience with the costs associated with delivering programs where there is a very low capture rate. When reviewing the capture rates of all the communities across the province we came to the conclusion that 90 kg/ household was a fair threshold for the delivery of curbside recycling services by Recycle BC. However, if a community wants to deliver curbside service where they are not achieving that capture rate they are welcome to deliver that service and receive our incentive rate.
9.	Not available	Can you explain the eligibility criteria of a community that has a population of less than 5,000 but is achieving a 90 kg/ household capture rate? How would you determine if they meet the eligibility requirements if they don't meet the threshold for population but meet the required capture rate?	Recycle BC has established some criteria for a community to receive curbside collection and that includes a community having a population of 5,000 and the community being incorporated. We have examined programs across the province and have concluded that for communities with a population of less than 5,000 depot service makes more sense often because these communities are in rural parts of the province allowing the community to share the cost of the depot with surrounding rural areas. However, if there are communities of less than 5,000 that are achieving a 90 kg/ household capture rate, that is new information and we would need to look at that community to determine how to proceed.



Webinar on the Recycle BC 5-Year Cost Study, May 30, 2018 QA

#	Sector	Question	Answer
10.	Not available	If circumstances changed for a collector between 2012 and 2017, how did the cost study account for those changes?	In the cases where there was significant change in the community our accountant had meetings with the collectors to review their surveys and the elements of their program and in particular items such as allocations. In some cases, allocations changed because the programs have changed, so yes, the survey did account for changes in programs between 2012 and 2017 through this cost survey process.
11.	Not available	Given that this year's study was designed to establish the five-year cost delta between 2012 and 2017, when Recycle BC conducts this survey in the future will you approach the study differently	Yes, it would be our hope to have a much wider level for participation during a future study so that we are able to achieve results that are statistically sound and that would be achieved by including a larger number of communities. This will be the last time we will use this data set. Next time we will undertake a study it will have a much broader scope and participation.
12.	Not available	On the scatter plot for Promotion and Education costs there are some communities that appear to be spending zero on P&E, how can that be?	Some communities appear to have zero costs because their costs/ household were less than one dollar. When charting communities based on costs/ household if their costs are less than one dollar it appears as zero when in fact they are spending under \$1.00/ household.
13.	Private Waste Management	Does the data you collected on depots represent those serving small and remote communities as well as large and more central depots?	In the original 2013 study where 16 depots participated there was province-wide distribution and the representation of depots covered different types of depots and depots serving different types of communities. Only eight of those depots participated in the current study so we cannot say that we have the same representation as 2013, however we believe that we still have a fair representation of the different types and characteristics of depots across BC.
14.	Depot Operator	Many depots are privately owned and operated. Why did you only approach local governments and regional districts with regards to depot costs? Would it not have been better to have a cross section of depot types?	The purpose of this study was to replicate the 2012 data set to the greatest extent possible in order to determine the cost delta over the past five years. Since the 2013 study included only local government operated depots we also only invited local government to participate in this study. Going forward we would like to have a



Webinar on the Recycle BC 5-Year Cost Study, May 30, 2018 QA

#	Sector	Question	Answer
			more comprehensive cost study and will invite the participation of private depots and hope they are willing to share their data with us.
15.	Private Waste Management	Do you compensate governments or depots financially for collecting the data?	No, there was no compensation provided to those who participated in the survey.
16.	Not available	Will Recycle BC share which communities participated in the cost study?	No, we are not able to share that information with you. Communities participated with the understanding that by providing their data to a third-party accountant the list of participating communities would not be shared.
17.	Local Government	Does Recycle BC require participation in providing this data by collectors?	No, the data that was provided by communities was provided voluntarily and we do appreciate all those that took the time to share their data with the accountant so that we could conduct the cost comparison.
18.	Not available	Is it still Recycle BC's intent to require the phase-out of blue bags and provide new containers?	Yes, any collectors currently using blue bags as their collection container type (which accounts for approximately 10% of households receiving curbside service and a declining trend) will be required to move away from blue bags within 19 months of the new agreement and during that time will decide what type of collection container makes the most sense for their community.
19.	Not available	Is Recycle BC requiring a certain type of collector container?	Recycle BC is not being prescriptive about the type of container that should be provided to residents. Recycle BC has recommendations as we have experience in a number of communities with different container types and which ones we believe work best and we are very happy to have discussions with individual collectors as they make those decisions.
20.	Private Waste Management	Why are the compensation rates increasing substantially for things that are light such as styrofoam but are increasing very minimally for heavier materials of which we collect a large amount?	Thank you for that question. We would like to address the question of compensation rates at the Recycle BC webinar on June 12th when we will review the methodology behind the compensation rates and will provide the rationale for the updated rate structure.