



CITY OF ST. ALBERT  
**ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER**

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**TITLE: ORGANIC CART PICK UP**

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On February 19, 2017, Councillor Russell provided notice in accordance with Section 23 of Procedure Bylaw 35/2009 that he intended to bring forward the following motion:

That the weekly pick up schedule for Green Organic Cart begin in April rather May of 2017.

**BACKGROUND:**

The weekly pick up of green organic carts currently occurs from May to October and every two weeks from November to April. Through discussions with the organics collection contractor, the contractor would be able to provide this service for the month of April, but they are required to know by March 13, 2017.

To initiate weekly pickup for an additional month would cost approximately \$50,000 which equates to \$0.23/household/month. This would be approximately a 3.8% increase on the \$5.85/household/month residents currently pay.

It should also be noted that the current calendars sent to residents in January/February did reflect collection starting in May, as such administration will be required to conduct some additional advertising if the dates were to change. The cost for the advertising would be minimal.

When the curbside organic cart program started in 2011, weekly pickup started in mid-April and ended in mid-October. Based on the low tonnages collected in April and feedback received from residents, this was changed to the beginning of May to end of October. .

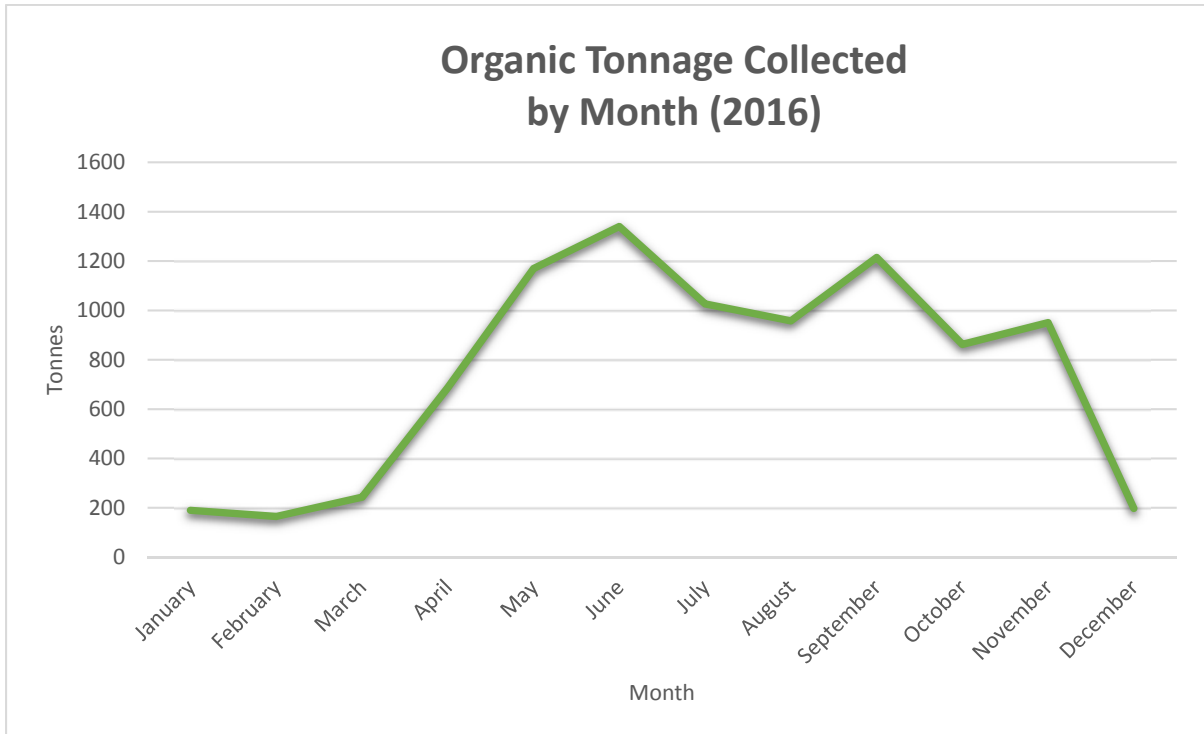
Table 1: Curbside Green Organic Cart Tonnages – April versus May

<b>Year</b>	<b>April Organic Tonnage (MT)</b>	<b>May Organic Tonnage (MT)</b>
2012	323	1,060
2013	298	1,140
2014	396	911
2015	482	780
2016	687	1,170

Monthly organic tonnages are highest in May to September and are usually between 1,000 – 1,500 tonnes/month depending on the weather. October and November tonnages are slightly lower but usually between 750 – 1,000 tonnes/month. April averages are typically low, usually between 300 – 500 tonnes/month.

In 2017, we are expecting tonnages to be close to the average, around 400 tonnes. High tonnages for April 2016 were a result of an early spring.

Figure 1: Curbside Organic Tonnage 2016



Besides the curbside green organic cart pickup, residents also have the option of using Compost Depot on Villeneuve Road from April to October for their yard organics including sod, grass, leaves and branches.

Report Date: March 6, 2017  
Author(s): Leah Kongsrude  
Committee/Department: Environment  
General Manager: Glenn Tompolski  
City Manager: Kevin Scoble