



September 10, 2020

Subject: Commercial Cardboard in alleyways

Earlier this month, Jasper Municipal Council passed a motion to deem that cardboard that is not flattened and cardboard storage areas that are not kept to a reasonable standard could lead to fines to property owners under the [Nuisance Bylaw \(#046\)](#).

The reason behind this change is that over the last several years, commercial cardboard collection by municipal staff has become unmanageable and has led to an increase in operational costs. Several businesses do not flatten their cardboard, which means we cannot fit as much cardboard as we should in our garbage trucks (which are not equipped with compactors). It also means our drivers are spending a lot of time collecting loose boxes to place them in the truck, causing significant inefficiencies in the process. If every business took some time to flatten and place their cardboard neatly in the alleyways, staff estimate the Municipality could save up to \$50,000 a year.

Please ensure that any cardboard placed in the alley by you, your staff or your tenants is flattened, organized neatly, and heavy enough to not get blown away in the wind.

Cardboard placed against garbage bins is also problematic, as our drivers must move sometimes very large piles of cardboard in order to empty garbage bins. Cardboard can be placed near garbage bins, but please avoid placing it directly against the bins.



On September 10 and 11, municipal staff sent letters to all businesses, communicating the aforementioned information. A grace period of a few weeks, until **October 1, 2020**, will be provided to let businesses and property owners adjust their practices, followed by active monitoring and additional communication where necessary. Formal warnings may be issued, followed by tickets as a final step.

Municipal staff are committed to working with businesses and property owners to improve current practices. Please reach out to the Operations Department at 780-852-3040 or operations@town.jasper.ab.ca with any questions or concerns.

What's next?

Municipal Council is considering changes to the commercial cardboard recycling program in the future, and would like input from businesses to help determine which options would work best for our community. Several options are possible, most of which have budget implications. The Municipality is looking to gather input ahead of the 2021 budget process, which is scheduled for the fall. Changes in service levels would take place starting in 2021. No decision has been made yet on this item.

Some of the key values and considerations for this process include:

- **Equity** – ensuring that users of the service are responsible for covering its costs.
- **Fiscal responsibility** – ensuring that the true cost of providing the service is reflected in the rates, and that the service is provided as effectively and efficiently as reasonably possible.
- **Community safety** – finding a solution that reduces the fire hazard caused by loose cardboard in alleyways.
- **Tidiness** – finding a solution that improves that improves the appearance of our alleyways, and ensures cardboard does not fly away in the wind.

Possible options:

- Implement a commercial cardboard bins program, modeled after the current commercial garbage bins program, where non-residential users are responsible for the purchase of the bin and may enter into sharing agreements with other commercial users. This program could be paired with increased opportunities for drop-off at the Operations yard for businesses who may wish to opt out of a user-pay collection service;
- Reallocate savings generated by mandatory flattening of cardboard and general tidiness (savings in staff time and wear and tear on equipment) to partially subsidize the purchase of new, dedicated cardboard bins for businesses, and increase funding to the Bylaw department for increased monitoring, compliance and enforcement;
- Review the [Utility Fees Levy and Collection Bylaw](#) (schedule 2) to more equitably distribute the costs of commercial cardboard recycling. The current recycling fees are the same for residential and commercial properties;
- Suspend the pick-up service, and revert to original intent of only accepting delivery at the Operations yard; or
- Require or incentivize businesses to adopt a zero-waste management program before issuing a business license for 2021.

The Municipality of Jasper and the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce would like to invite interested business owners and commercial property owners to a Town Hall meeting to discuss possible changes to the program and hear concerns and suggestions from those using the program.

Commercial Cardboard Virtual Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, September 24 at 7:00pm on Zoom

Presentations by John Greathead, Director of Operations and Laurent Bolduc, Operations Service Manager, facilitated by the Jasper Park Chamber of Commerce

Please join the conversation and share your input to help inform upcoming Council debate and decision on this matter. A link to the Zoom meeting will be shared closer to the event date.