

Update on the Stormwater Utility Implementation and Proposed Bylaw Amendments for the Stormwater Utility and Rainwater Rewards Program

November 5, 2015



Purpose

- To provide an update on the implementation of the Stormwater Utility
- To seek Council direction on proposed changes the Stormwater Utility and Rainwater Rewards Program.
- To seek Council direction on proposed bylaw amendments.

Stormwater Utility

- More equitable, user-pay system
- Offers incentives for managing rainwater
- Helps to clean and preserve our waterways and beaches

Fee based on Four Factors:

- Impervious area
- Street Cleaning
- Intensity
- Code of Practice



Implementation Update

- July 2014 - Utility/Credit program approved
- Jan 2015 - Rebate program approved
- May 2015 - Program launched, assessment notices sent
- Fall 2016 - Bills sent
- Resources:
 - Rainwater Management Standards
 - Rainwater Management Planner

Rainwater Rewards
For Your Home



Rainwater Management Planner

Management Plan Summary x I want to...

It looks like you haven't yet added any rainwater management methods to your plan for this property. To begin, click 'Start My Plan' below.

Property Details

Below is a snapshot of the information the City of Victoria has on record for 1035 EMPRESS AVE. If you believe there is an error in the information below, please visit victoria.ca/stormwater and complete a Property Characteristic Change Request form.

Area of Property	592 m ²
Total Roof Area	184 m ²
Street Frontage	15 m
Property Type	Single Family Residential (4 units or less)
Approximate Annual Stormwater Utility Bill	\$126

Public Feedback

- Inquiries ➡ 435 calls for service
- Five 'Ask an Expert' sessions ➡ 115 attendees
- Two community events ➡ 80 residents

- What we heard:
 - Rainwater rewards
 - Property characteristic changes
 - Bill amount clarification/concerns
 - Concerns on utility model
 - Misconceptions - "rain tax"



Moving Forward

- Recommendations made to address concerns/feedback
- Seeking direction on the following:
 - Changes to Stormwater Quality Code of Practice Program
 - Changes to the Street Cleaning fee
 - Changes to Credit program
 - Elimination of permit fees under Rainwater Rewards program
 - Housekeeping updates to bylaw



Stormwater Quality Codes of Practice

- Stormwater Quality Codes of Practice adopted in 2005
- Specify pollution prevention measures

Recommendation:

- Include properties not connected to stormwater system

Impacts

- Pollution prevention measures required for properties that directly discharge to the receiving environment

- ☐ Automotive and Parking Lots
- ☐ Construction and Development
- ☐ Recreation Facilities
- ☐ Outdoor Storage Yards
- ☐ Recycling Operations



Stormwater Utility Street Cleaning Fee

- Based on level of street cleaning service

Recommendation:

- Change fee calculation for low density residential
- Update fee amount

Impacts:

- Fee calculation change - \$150,000 budget shortfall
- To offset, increase rate from \$1.08 to \$1.57 for local streets
- 88% of properties will see a decrease/increase <\$5 to what was communicated



Comparison of Existing Fee vs. Proposed Change



Current Frontage Fee

Local frontage length: 15.23 m
Collector frontage length: 34.09 m
Fee: \$136.88

Proposed Frontage Fee

Local frontage length: 45.32 m
Fee: \$71.15

Current Frontage Fee

Local Frontage length: 15.23 m
Fee: \$16.45

Proposed Frontage Fee

Local frontage length: 15.23 m
Fee: \$23.91



Rainwater Rewards Credit Program

Recommendations:

- Treat roof impervious area and surface impervious area equally:
 - Improves fairness of credit program
- Lower minimum treated area from 25% to 10%
- Adjust increments from 25% to 5%
 - Increases accessibility and scalability



Elimination of Permit Fees for Rainwater Rewards

- Permits - required when Rainwater Rewards work is done

Recommendation:

- Eliminate permit fees for projects completed under the Rainwater Rewards program.

Impacts

- Eliminate potential barrier
- Further analysis is required to assess:
 - Potential financial implications
 - Necessary bylaw amendments



Housekeeping Updates to Bylaw

- Bylaw was consolidated in July 2014

Recommended housekeeping updates:

- Address typos
- Provide clarification
- Updates that were missed in the last bylaw consolidation



Questions?



Summary of Recommendations

That Council:

1. Direct staff to bring forward amendments to the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities bylaw to regulate all businesses who operate under Schedule 'E' in the Stormwater Codes of Practice pollution prevention program for protection of the environment.
2. Direct staff to bring forward an updated Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities Bylaw Stormwater Fee to charge "Low Density Residential" properties the 'Local' frontage rate for all frontage lengths, and an update to the Street/Sidewalk Cleaning Factor rate for 'Local' frontages.



Summary of Recommendations

That Council:

3. Direct staff to bring forward an amendment to the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities bylaw Rainwater Management Credit Table for Multi-Family Residential, Civic Institutional and Commercial/Industrial properties to:

- a. Treat roof impervious area and surface impervious area equally.
- b. Lower minimum size of treated area to 10%, and adjust size increments to 5%

4. Direct staff to investigate options to eliminate permit fees for projects completed under the Rainwater Rewards program.

5. Direct staff to bring forward minor housekeeping updates to the Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Utilities bylaw as outlined in this report.

