

Council revisits green bin

Sylvia Cole, Carstairs Courier, April 20 2010

A green funds grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities may be the solution to Carstairs' waste problem.

Statistics compiled from the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission show that Carstairs has the highest per capita rate of garbage of the communities in the county. In 2009 Carstairs was billed for 682.57 tonnes of garbage.

Carstairs and Cremona are two communities that don't participate in a green bin program and as a result, are estimated at recycling 19 per cent of their compost materials, compared to about 30 per cent for Olds, Sundre and Didsbury.

During last Monday's town council meeting, Al Molnar mentioned the Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission suggested the possibility of applying for a grant to cover 50 per cent of the cost of the bins.

"If there's a grant then why the heck not," said Don Reid, chief administrative officer for Mountain View Waste Commission. He explained that green bin pickup would occur on alternate weeks from garbage pickup.

Reid said green bins would be a great thing for Carstairs by helping reduce its carbon footprint. He said the municipality has to apply for the grant but the regional waste commission can help Carstairs show a reduction in waste and landfill use, which it needs to do for the grant application.

Mayor Lance Colby was hesitant to accept the statistics that suggest Carstairs recycles 19 per cent of its compost material while other communities recycle 30 per cent at Monday's council meeting.

"I don't put compost in (the garbage) at any time. I don't know where they're getting the tonnage from. I don't agree with it."

Carstairs offers residents free backyard composters and Colby said he feels this option works just as well.

Councillor Rhonda Wise explained how the green bin could be convenient to younger families who see going out to the yard to compost as one extra step they just don't have the time for.

Nathan Cooper, a new resident to Carstairs agreed with this sentiment during the question period at council.

"We're a family of three right now and will become more ... I just have to say if the town offers a green bin we definitely will use it," he said.

Council agreed to do more research on green carts and discuss the topic again.