

City Operations  
Waste Services

Edmonton

# Single-Use Item Reduction Bylaw Bag Fees

**January 22, 2024**

Utility Committee

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## Bag Fee Overview

- Bag fees and phased approach are aligned with many municipalities in Canada and the United States
- Bag fees are not taxes and are optional for customers



## Bag Fee Theory

- Bag fees are used to change behaviour by encouraging people to bring their own reusable bags instead of buying new ones
- Alternatives to plastic have an environmental impact
- Voluntary changes will not reach the majority



# Bag Fees in Other Municipalities

**Bring Your Own Reusable Bag.**

Bag fees increase April 1, 2023.

MINIMUM 25¢

MINIMUM \$2

Plastic bags are banned in Chilliwack. Reusable and paper bags are available for purchase here if you forget yours.

Chilliwack.com/singleuse

**Chilliwack**

REDUCE SINGLE-USE ITEM WASTE: Banff

**PACK YOUR BAGS!**

PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS ARE BANNED IN BANFF. PAPER & REUSABLE BAGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR A FEE.

Thanks for zeroing in on zero waste!

Banff.ca/SingleUse

**Banff**

**BYO BAG**

Victoria!

Bring your own bag.

Businesses will no longer be providing plastic checkout bags. Reusable and paper bags are available for purchase.

NEW CITY BYLAW EFFECTIVE APRIL 15, 2021

Victoria | REUSABLE | victoria.ca/reusablebags

**Victoria**

Leading practice used in many Canadian cities:

- \$0.25 paper bag fee
- \$2 reusable bag fee

SUI reduction bylaws in other municipalities with low or no bag fees saw minimal waste reduction.



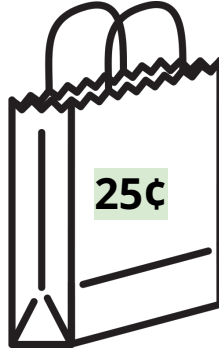
## Bag Fee Options

1. Proceed with planned bag fee increase
2. Delay bag fee increase by one year
3. Keep bag fees the same
4. Differentiated paper bag fees at food service and retail



## Option 1 - Proceed with Planned Bag Fee Increase

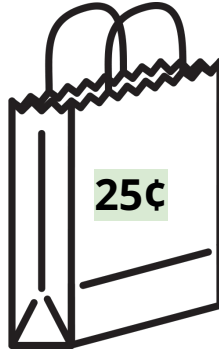
**July 1, 2024**



- Consistency with other jurisdictions
- Behaviour change impact supported by research and survey data

## Option 2 - Delay Bag Fee Increase One Year

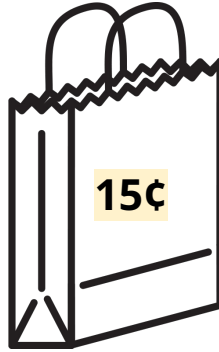
**July 1, 2025**



- Commits to increasing bag fee but adds time
- More local waste characterization data available
- May impact 2025 and 2027 waste reduction goals
- Requires Bylaw rewrite

## Option 3 - Keep Bag Fees the Same

**July 1, 2024**

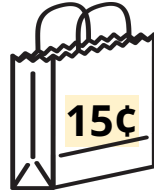


- Lowest impact to residents and businesses
- Out of alignment with majority of municipalities, reputational risk
- May impact 2025 and 2027 waste reduction goals
- Requires Bylaw rewrite

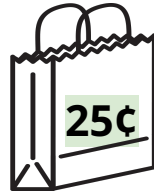


## Option 4 - Differentiated Paper Bag Fee

**July 1, 2024**



Food service

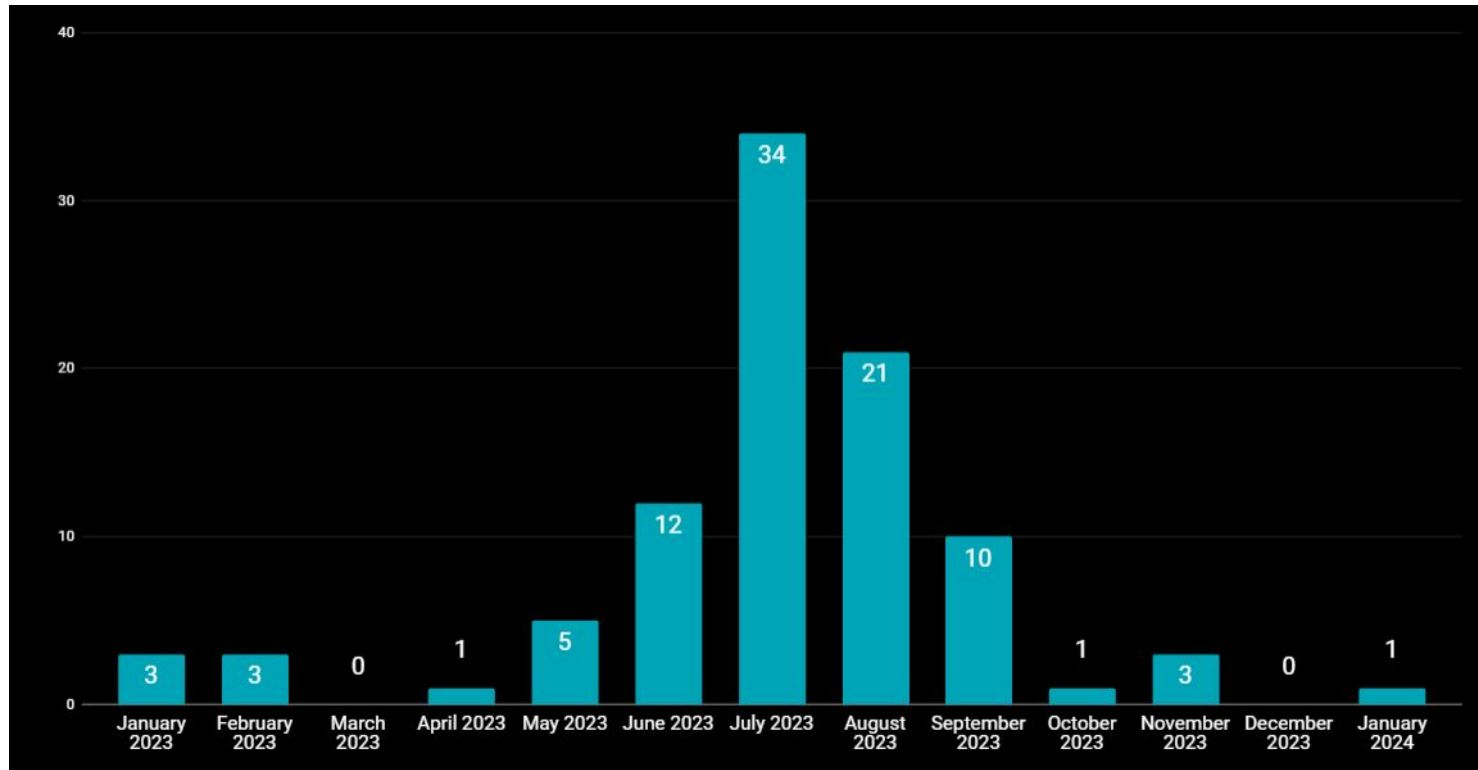


Retail



- Increase reusable bag fee and paper bag fee at retail, but not food service
- Acknowledges slower behaviour changes in takeout and drive thrus
- May impact 2025 and 2027 waste reduction goals
- Requires complex Bylaw rewrite and additional supports

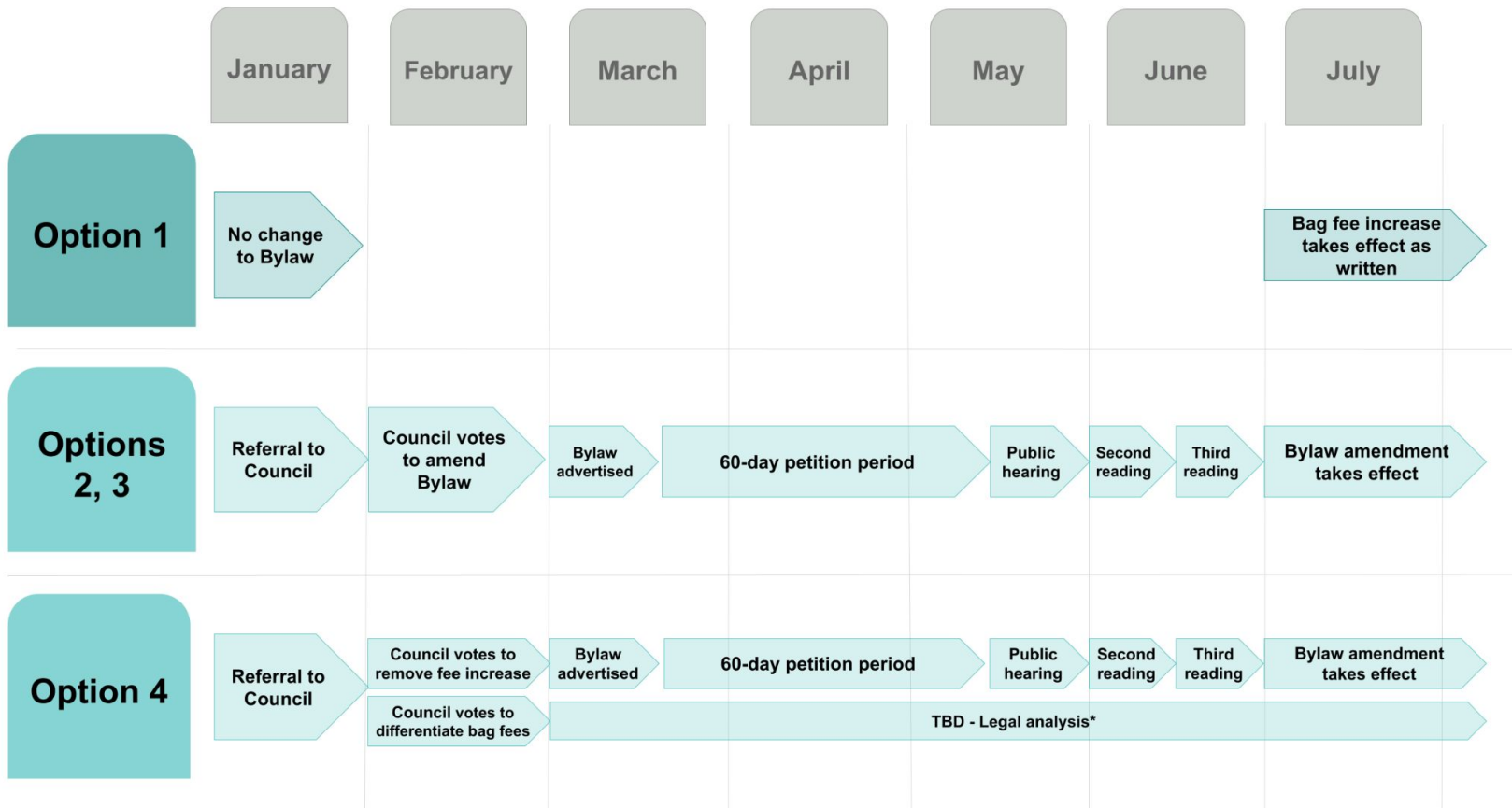
# Bag Fee Inquiry Statistics



\* Data accurate up to January 16, 2024

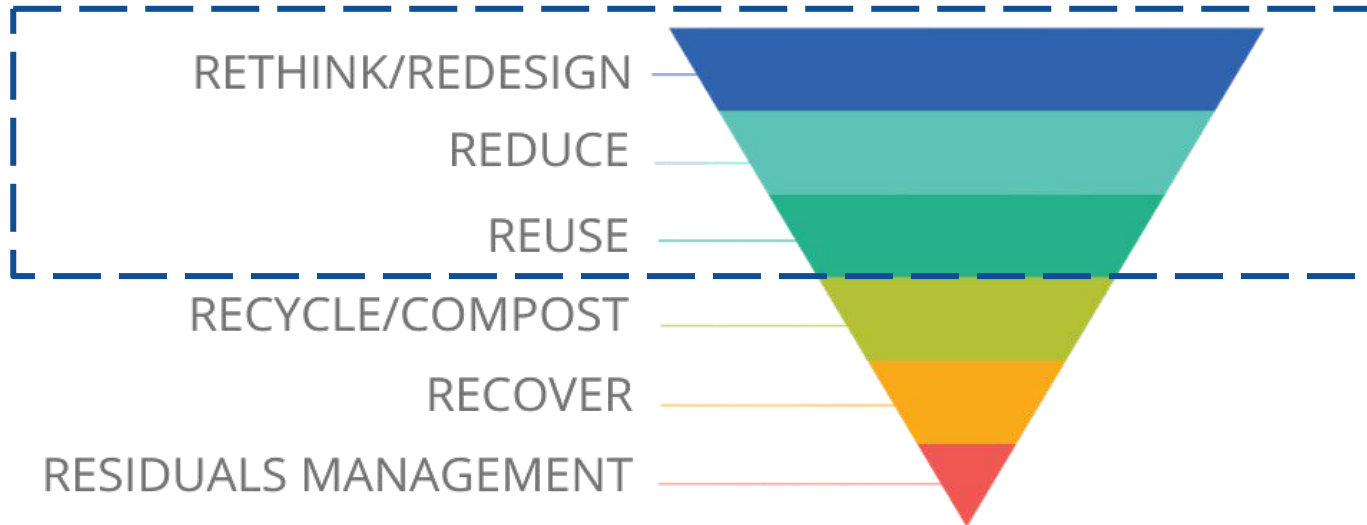


# Bylaw Rewrite Timeline



## Bag Fee Conclusion

- The SUI Plan aims for waste reduction, not waste diversion
- Bag fees reduce waste by encouraging behaviour change



**Thank you. Questions?**

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