

Solid Waste Management

5. Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste (MSW) management system.

Ensure that any and all municipally-owned and operated components of putrescible MSW collection, transfer, disposal, recycling and composting in areas that are accessible to, or are frequented by, bears are bear-proof.

Implement a by-law to ensure that the same is true of any and all private sector components of putrescible MSW collection, transfer, disposal, recycling and composting (see criteria #7).

Implement a compliance strategy for the municipal solid waste management bylaws to ensure compliance.



Examples of some "how to" approaches for bear-proofing MSW systems:

Collection shall include use of bear-proof litter barrels on downtown streets which bears may be attracted to and at all municipal park facilities (campsites, ball parks, soccer fields, etc.)

Commercial/industrial collection routes in bear areas shall use bear-proof dumpsters.

Disposal shall consist of one of the following: landfilling inside a properly designed, constructed and operated electric fence; incineration using a complete-combustion incinerator properly sized to the population; or a bear-proof transfer station that ships the refuse outside of the area to a bear-proof disposal facility.

Backyard composting may need to be restricted in residential areas adjacent to high-use bear habitat or otherwise required, by bylaw, to be conducted in a bear-proof manner (e.g., use of electric fencing in backyards, or use of bear-proof composting containers such as steel drums).

Community composting of putrescible matter in bear areas shall be conducted inside an electric fence.

Legislation

There is legislation in effect that can help prevent the creation of "problem" bears and provide public safety. Under the *Wildlife Act*, it is an offense for people in British Columbia to feed dangerous wildlife (bears, cougars, coyotes and wolves) or disobey orders to remove and clean up food, food waste or other substances that can attract dangerous wildlife to their premises.

Conservation Officers may issue a written dangerous wildlife protection order, which requires "the removal or containment of compost, food, food waste or domestic garbage." If people fail to comply with the order they could face a penalty of up to \$50,000 and/or six months in jail.