

Engagement Highlights

Implementation of Advanced Thermal Technology – Biosolids to Biochar

Capital Regional District | October 2025

Engagement Goal

To guide the current stage of consultation on the proposed advanced thermal processing facility for the conversion of biosolids to biochar, including meeting provincial waste discharge notification requirements.

Objectives

1. Inform capital region residents about the new technology being pursued to responsibly manage biosolids.
2. Create opportunities for those neighbouring the Residuals Treatment Facility at Hartland Landfill and interest holders to understand what is planned for biosolids management at the site, operational considerations and mitigation measures.
3. Understand top of mind considerations related to operations and potential end uses for biochar.
4. Build trust and confidence in the Capital Regional District's (CRD) approach to biosolids management through proactive, two-way communication and a transparent decision-making process.
5. Meet or exceed provincial regulatory requirements for Waste [Air emissions] Discharge notification.

Note: Engagement with First Nations will occur through a separate but parallel process, supported by an independent contractor. Early outreach is planned for Fall 2025, with timelines and approaches tailored to the interests and decision-making processes of each Nation. CRD staff will ensure coordination between public and First Nations engagement while maintaining distinct processes.

Key Topics and Level of Engagement

Engagement will occur at the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum level of "Inform – Consult". For the level "Consult", the promise to the public is: *"We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision."*

TOPICS	IAP2 LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT
What biosolids are, how they are created and how they are managed for beneficial use (Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy)	Inform
Current biosolids management practices and their limitations, as well as previous engagement results about top-of-mind interests and concerns.	Inform
Overview of the selected technology benefits including environmental and climate change benefits, and the potential for the technology to destroy emerging contaminants of concern within CRD biosolids.	Inform
Overview of the new technology, location, proponent, regulatory requirements and funding requirements, and climate mitigation.	Inform
Environmental monitoring and reporting (e.g. air discharge)	Consult
Operational considerations and neighbourhood integration. (e.g. traffic, noise, etc.)	Consult
Potential uses of biochar	Consult

Timelines

Phase 0 Long-Term Biosolids Strategy Consultation (COMPLETE)

- Engaged the public, 19 First Nations, and technical/community advisors through online open houses, surveys, media outreach, and committee meetings to gather feedback and identify considerations for development of the Long-Term Biosolids Management Strategy.

Phase 1 Planning Public Communication - September – December 2025

- Develop consultation process and materials in preparation for active engagement in early 2026, in parallel to technical air modelling assessment being completed. Present engagement process to Committee (October 2025) and Board(November 2025) . Early outreach to neighbouring groups and interest holders about engagement opportunities in early 2026.

Phase 2 Active Engagement on Implementation of Technology – January - February 2026

- Communicate implementation of new technology, operational considerations, air modelling assessment results, opportunities for beneficial use of biochar, and seek feedback through open houses, tours and online survey.

Phase 3 Closing the Loop – March 2026

- Produce *What We Heard Summary* report for presentation to the public, Core Area Committee and Board of Directors.

Phase 4 Financing Strategy (FUTURE - TBD)

- Further communications and consultation may be required on funding sources and debt financing strategy.

Tools and Techniques

Inform

- Email invitations and updates to neighbours and community groups
- Get Involved website and digital content (e.g. maps, images, infographics, FAQs)*
- Project subscriber email updates [Get Involved]
- Video
- Social media*
- Agency referral letters*
- Print advertising*
- Digital advertising
- Printed materials (e.g. flyers, brochures, posters)
- Media outreach (e.g. media release[s], interviews, tours)
- Updates for CRD Board, Saanich Leadership and Council
- Signage on-site*
- *What We Heard* summary report*

Consult

- Online survey [Get Involved]
- Site tours/open house at the Residuals Treatment Facility
- Presentations at meetings
- Interactive displays at in-person events

Note: Tools marked with an asterisk (*) indicate Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) requirements for applicants pursuing authorization to discharge under the *Environmental Management Act*.

Engagement and Communication Methods – Phases 1-3

AUDIENCE	ACTIVITY	COMMUNICATION	TIMING
Capital Region Residents	Inform capital region residents about the new technology being implemented to responsibly manage biosolids in the region and future beneficial uses of biochar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media release, paid ads, social media, website and subscriber project updates Survey Open house/tour of RTF What We Heard Summary Report 	January - March 2026
Area Residents & Interest holders (e.g. streamkeepers, community associations)	Create opportunities for area residents to understand what is planned for biosolids management at site, operational considerations and mitigations, and seek to understand top of mind considerations associated with operations and beneficial use of biochar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters Media release, paid ads, social media, website and subscriber project updates Get Involved Survey Open House/tour of RTF Signage Presentations 	December 2025 - March 2026
Agency Referrals	<p>Letters to 11 CRD municipalities (Victoria, Esquimalt, Saanich, Oak Bay, View Royal, Langford, Colwood, North Saanich, Central Saanich, Sidney, Highlands)</p> <p>Island Health, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, community airshed groups, local environmental groups, interest groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letters and invitation to attend open houses/tours Presentations (if requested) 	January - March 2026
Capital Region Residents, Participants Decision-makers	Close the loop by updating the public and participants on the consultation process, highlighting key feedback received, and showing how notification requirements were met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project subscriber updates Website What We Heard Summary Report CRD Board meeting 	March 2026