

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

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**SUBJECT**     **Solid Waste Management Plan – Three-Year Cycle**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide an overview of the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) three-year study cycle.

**BACKGROUND**

In the spring of 2023, Environmental Resource Management staff worked with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee to develop performance indicators and metrics to better enable monitoring of progress towards meeting the CRD's 2021 SWMP goals and targets. Gaps in available data and metrics were identified, leading to a proposed three-year cycle of studies designed to document and collect relevant metrics and allow for comparison throughout the life of the SWMP. The solid waste market research study, waste generator study and solid waste stream composition study were identified as key opportunities to gather data and monitor progress toward the SWMP goals and targets. Data from these three studies will be used in conjunction with regular solid waste operational data (e.g., Hartland tonnage, scale data, Infoline data, etc.) to inform policy and initiative design to address goals and targets outlined in the SWMP.

The first study completed under the new three-year cycle was the Solid Waste Market Research and Engagement Study, which was conducted in 2024. The study was designed to help determine the effectiveness of the CRD's waste reduction programs and to identify challenges, limitations, or gaps in relation to the public's knowledge and behaviours towards the CRD's solid waste programs and initiatives.

The second study to be completed is the waste generator study. This study is scheduled to take place in 2025 and will help the CRD gather data on where waste is generated and gain insights into any patterns of waste generation. The study will consider waste generated through residential, business, industry and/or community sources before it arrives at Hartland Landfill.

The third and final study to be completed is the solid waste stream composition study, scheduled for 2026. Waste composition studies provide valuable benchmark data and analysis assessing the composition of waste being landfilled at Hartland. In the past, the waste composition study was completed every five years; however, in consultation with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, the CRD has committed to completing waste composition studies as part of the three-year cycle.

The budget for yearly studies was accounted for and approved during the five-year budget planning cycle that occurred in 2023. The addition of new and more frequent studies will provide more data and allow for more effective measuring and monitoring of progress towards achieving the SWMP targets and goals.

**CONCLUSION**

In 2023, gaps in available data and metrics were identified, which led to establishing a three-year cycle of studies: the solid waste market research study, waste generator study and solid waste stream composition study to be completed over the life of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The intention is to provide valuable data and analysis for evaluating and monitoring progress of the Capital Regional District's programming toward meeting the SWMP goals and targets. Staff will share results of each study as they are completed and include highlights annually in the Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

Submitted by:	Tom Watkins B. Sc., Acting Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Glenn Harris, Ph.D., R.P.Bio., Acting General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer