

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

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**SUBJECT**     Financial Support for Township of Esquimalt Integrated Resource Management – Biochar Testing

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Township of Esquimalt has reached out to the Capital Regional District (CRD) to confirm the continued availability of previously offered Integrated Resource Management funding.

**BACKGROUND**

The Township of Esquimalt has been exploring an Integrated Resource Management approach to managing municipal solid waste, kitchen scraps and yard and garden waste using thermal technologies at its public works yard since 2019.

At the July 14, 2021 CRD Board meeting, staff were directed to support the business case process the Township of Esquimalt was undertaking to explore feasibility and gasification of solid waste, and \$50,000 was identified to support this work.

At the September 25, 2023 Township of Esquimalt council meeting, an Integrated Resource Management Update was provided to Esquimalt Council and they moved:

*That Council postpone consideration of this matter pending receipt of a proposal for biochar testing costs and confirmation of availability of funds from the Capital Regional District to undertake this testing.*

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Capital Regional District provide \$50,000 to the Township of Esquimalt in support of municipal solid waste biochar testing costs.

*Alternative 2*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Capital Regional District not provide funding to the Township of Esquimalt in support of municipal solid waste biochar testing costs.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

In 2021, CRD staff identified \$50,000 from the Core Area Liquid Waste Planning Operational Reserve Fund to support the Township of Esquimalt's pilot project which, at that time, included evaluation of potential co-processing of biosolids.

Township of Esquimalt staff have confirmed that the proposed biochar testing would be conducted on municipal solid waste, and not biosolids. Staff have identified an alternative source of funds (\$50,000) within the Hartland Landfill operating budget that could be provided to the Township of Esquimalt in support of municipal solid waste biochar testing costs.

### **CONCLUSION**

At the July 14, 2021 Capital Regional District Board meeting, staff were directed to support the business case process the Township of Esquimalt was undertaking to explore feasibility and gasification of waste. To support this work, \$50,000 was identified. The Township of Esquimalt has approached the Capital Regional District requesting confirmation of the availability of funds. If directed, staff will allocate \$50,000 from the Hartland Landfill operating budget to the Township of Esquimalt in support of biochar testing costs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:  
That the Capital Regional District provide \$50,000 to the Township of Esquimalt in support of municipal solid waste biochar testing costs.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer