

**REPORT TO ELECTORAL AREAS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024**

SUBJECT **Household Hazardous Waste Pickup in Electoral Areas – Follow-up**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide information on household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal education for the electoral area residents, and costs and feasibility of HHW pick-up in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

BACKGROUND

At the December 13, 2023 Electoral Areas Committee (EAC) meeting, staff were directed to report back on options to provide education and information on disposal of HHW for electoral area residents; and to investigate a program and assess costs and feasibility for a HHW roundup in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area once every 3 years. Previous staff reports on this topic are included as Appendix A.

On an ongoing basis, the Capital Regional District (CRD) promotes its HHW program in the form of campaigns, including a direct mail out to 125,000 homes in the capital region, partnering on the pesticide reduction initiative, and with source control programs, as well as messaging through an annual illegal dumping/abandoned waste campaign. The CRD also distributed customer handouts to HHW product retailers, and developed and distributed education materials to communities when the mobile HHW roundup events were discontinued in 2016. The CRD continues to provide guidance on how to safely dispose of many types of common HHW items at the Hartland Depot. This information can be found on the CRD's website.

The development of a more comprehensive education and information program for communities in the electoral areas would entail working closely with the Gulf Islands Depots and the Port Renfrew Depot to develop messaging and outreach materials on HHW. Working directly with depot staff, this work could include the development of newsletters or fact sheets that are specific to each island and the Port Renfrew depot around types of products (accepted and not accepted), collection and proper disposal of HHW. Staff can complete this work with existing resources and this work fits within the 2024 work plan.

Staff have investigated the costs of hosting a HHW roundup within the Juan De Fuca Electoral Area. Preliminary estimates provided by a qualified third party to conduct a mobile collection event identified costs would range from \$20,000 to \$50,000 per event, depending on volume and type of products received, as well as travel logistics and subsequent transport of material to sorting and processing facilities. If an event were held in the Juan De Fuca Electoral Area, staff recommend that the event be held within the surrounding East Sooke Area as the communities of Port Renfrew and Willis Point are both serviced by nearby depots accepting many HHW products.

The Environmental Resource Management budget for the HHW service is limited to the Hartland Depot operation and community education; and the costs for mobile collection events are not currently included.

The 2016 decision to discontinue HHW roundup events in electoral area communities, was made in part due to an expansion of provincial extended producer responsibility programs placing the responsibility for end disposal of HHW products on producers. Through expansion of the *BC Recycling Regulation*, it is expected that by 2025, collection programs will be operational in the province for orphan materials, such as compressed canisters (fuel, adhesives, bear spray) propane tanks, fire extinguishers and more, providing additional return opportunities for consumers.

CONCLUSION

The Environmental Resource Management (ERM) budget for the household hazardous waste (HHW) service is limited to the Hartland Depot operation and community education; and the costs for mobile collection events are not currently included. The development of a more comprehensive education and information program for communities in the electoral areas would entail working closely with the Gulf Islands Depots and the Port Renfrew Depot to develop messaging and outreach materials on HHW. Staff will undertake this work using existing resources. Costs to reinstate a mobile round up HHW collection service within the Juan De Fuca Electoral Area is estimated to be \$20,000 to \$50,000 per event. These costs are not currently included within the ERM budget. Through expansion of the *BC Recycling Regulation*, it is expected that by 2025, collection programs will be operational to receive and manage more HHW materials at depots across the province, including with Electoral Areas.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Previous Household Hazardous Waste Pickup in Electoral Areas Staff Reports
(September 13 and December 13, 2023)