

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2022**

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**SUBJECT**     **Solid Waste – 2021 Annual Report**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2021 Solid Waste Annual Report (Appendix A), which summarizes solid waste service activities for 2021, identifies initiatives being pursued in 2022, and reports progress toward implementation and monitoring of the new CRD Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

**BACKGROUND**

Based on the 5R hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle, resource recovery and residual management, the CRD's solid waste services strive to minimize waste generation and disposal needs, and maximize diversion and recovery opportunities. Work in these areas focuses on conserving airspace in an effort to ensure enough landfill capacity to meet the residuals disposal needs of the community in the future. Highlights for 2021 include:

- Board endorsement of the new SWMP and submission to the Province of BC
- identification of SWMP priority areas and development of short-term work plan
- hiring for two new positions to support communications and new initiatives
- approval of supply contract between the CRD and FortisBC approved by the BC Utilities Commission
- debut of first live-streamed landfill tour of Hartland for schools on Earth Day
- continued expansion of waste reduction and consumer responsibility messaging
- reminder subscription reach of 90,000+ for Curbside Blue Box Recycling Program
- expansion of reusable items collection at Hartland Depot to include appliances for Restore
- partnership with Return-it to host an Express & Go station at Hartland Depot for beverage container deposit refund
- expansion of on-site beneficial use of source-separated material streams (e.g., unusable books)
- grind and transfer pilot of clean wood waste for offsite energy recovery

The disposal rate for the capital region was 400 kg/per capita in 2021, up from 395 kg/per capita in 2020. With a provincial average hovering around 500 kg/per capita, the CRD continues to maintain one of the lowest per capita disposal rates in the province. In an effort to accelerate waste diversion and meet/exceed the CRD's 250 kg/capita waste disposal rate target, material stream diversion has been prioritized and is outlined in a separate staff report on today's Environmental Services Committee agenda.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, in its plan monitoring role, be directed to review the 2021 Plan Monitoring Update (Appendix A – of the Solid Waste 2021 Annual Report).

### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### *Environmental & Climate Implications*

Extensive engineering controls are in place at Hartland to prevent or reduce landfill-related impacts to groundwater, surface water and air. The effectiveness of these controls are assessed through the CRD's environmental monitoring program, conducted in accordance with all regulatory requirements, including the Operational Certificate and the BC Contaminated Sites Regulation.

In early 2022, an exceedance of the water quality guidelines in one of the landfill's northern surface water drainages was reported under the landfill's monitoring program. Staff and professional consultants are completing an investigation to determine the cause of the exceedances and to identify appropriate actions to address the issue and to ensure surface water quality meets provincial guidelines into the future. The Province, and the impacted land owner, have been advised of the exceedance, and while this is now being managed, additional site improvements will continue to be implemented as landfilling occurs in areas that are newly opened.

### *Intergovernmental Implications*

Implementation of the Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste is underway. Adopted by the federal, provincial and territorial governments, the plan sets out tangible actions and clear timelines to better prevent, reduce, reuse, recover, capture and clean up plastic waste and pollution in Canada, create economic opportunities to recover the value of used plastics and achieve the goal of zero plastic waste by 2030.

Work is also underway with the proposed *Single-Use Plastics Prohibition Regulation*, which will, at the national level, prohibit manufacture and import (by December 2022) and sale (by December 2023) of problematic plastics, such as straws, stir sticks, ring carriers, cutlery and checkout bags, and regulates the production of food service ware.

Provincial initiatives to address plastic waste and expansion of Extended Producer Responsibility, as well as organics diversion and food waste prevention, progressed in 2021

In addition to the work being conducted at the federal and provincial levels, municipalities within the region, through their services, policies and planning activities, are primary partners in implementing SWMPs, and play an essential role in our region achieving its solid waste goals. Actions within the SWMP involve collaboration with municipalities in many areas. A new Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group was formed in early 2022 with staff from nine jurisdictions meeting on a monthly basis.

The WSANEC Leadership Council (WLC) and CRD staff have started meeting as the WLC/CRD Solid Waste Working Group to develop a partnership agreement that addresses WLC/CRD discussions on the SWMP and Hartland Landfill.

*Financial Implications*

Solid waste services continued to be self-funded (no requisition) in 2021, with surplus funds held in reserve for future capital works, operating shortfalls and closure/post-closure work.

**CONCLUSION**

The CRD's solid waste service continues to strive to maximize diversion and recovery options and minimize waste generation and disposal needs in an effort to conserve valuable air space at Hartland Landfill. Opportunities for the community to further waste reduction and diversion activity were realized in 2021, with the CRD Board endorsement of a new Solid Waste Management Plan for the region. The 2021 Solid Waste Annual Report provides an initial plan monitoring framework encompassing activities identified in the plan, and identifies the priority areas adopted for early implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, in its plan monitoring role, be directed to review the 2021 Plan Monitoring Update (Appendix A – of the Solid Waste 2021 Annual Report).

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P. Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: 2021 Solid Waste Annual Report