

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026**

SUBJECT **Solid Waste Management Plan - 2025 Progress Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2025 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Progress Report (Appendix A), which provides an overview of recent activities and achievements that advance the goals outlined in the region's SWMP.

BACKGROUND

In British Columbia, the *Environmental Management Act* requires all regional districts to develop solid waste management plans, which are high-level, long-term visions for how a regional district intends to manage solid waste within its community. These plans must align with the '5R' pollution prevention hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle, resource recovery and residuals management. The CRD's most recent SWMP was endorsed by the CRD Board in May 2021 and was approved by the Ministry of Environment & Parks (ENV) in July 2023. Following guidance from the Province, staff committed to report annually on progress related to the strategies and actions endorsed in this SWMP when the final Plan was approved by the CRD Board.

The goals of a SWMP may be achieved within the timeframe of the plan or a goal may also be aspirational, something for the CRD to strive for beyond the timeframe of the plan.

The 2021 SWMP goals are:

1. To surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target
2. To extend the life of Hartland Landfill to the year 2100 and beyond
3. To have informed citizens that participate effectively in proper waste management practices
4. To ensure the CRD's solid waste services are financially sustainable

PROGRESS UPDATE

Along with the overarching SWMP goals, the Plan defines three focus areas – Reduce/Reuse, Recycling and Recovery/Residuals Management – and fifteen strategies as guiding principles for this work. These focus areas and strategies form the basis of service and work plans designed to achieve Plan goals. Annual progress is measured by tracking achievements within the three focus areas, with each area assigned a status of 'on track', 'opportunity for improvement' or 'attention required' based on the year's activities. For 2025, the status and key indicators of each focus area are:

Reduce and Reuse (On track – achieved 75% or greater of yearly target):

- Launched the new What Goes Where tool to help residents search a database for disposal and recycling options. The tool recorded 27,487 active users from March to December 2025.
- Connected with over 4,935 residents through 3Rs themed education and outreach programs.
- The Rethink Waste Grant funded 29 community-based projects and 12 events through the

newly launched Zero-Waste Events Grant.

Recycling (On track – achieved 75% or greater of yearly target):

- Operation of the Material Diversion Transfer Station (MDTS) and implementation of source separation requirements for clean and treated wood and asphalt shingles resulted in the diversion of approximately 27,300 tonnes of material.
- Continued the Waste Stream Collector Incentive Program to promote source separation and multi-stream collection services.
- Provided funding to the City of Victoria to trial different drop-off collection methods for non-curb-side recyclables. The Beyond the Curb pilot program collected about 11 tonnes of materials from 5,000 users.

Recovery and Residuals Management (Opportunity for improvement – achieved 50%-75% of yearly target progress):

- Achieved a per capita disposal rate of 330 kg/capita, a decrease of 8 kg/capita from 2024 (or 70 kg/capita since the start of the Plan in 2021).
- Increased the general refuse tipping fee from \$150 to \$155 tonne.
- Five-year average Airspace Utilization Factor was 0.67 tonnes per cubic metre, missing the target of 0.76 tonnes per cubic metre, creating an opportunity for improvement to extend the life of the landfill beyond 2100.
- Calculated a landfill gas collection efficiency of 57% based on the ENV model, and 67% based on the UBCi model.

The overall progress of the SWMP for 2025 is on track. A complete update on the progress towards implementation of SWMP goals, focus areas and strategies can be found in the attached Progress Report.

Challenges and Opportunities

Implementation of SWMP strategies and actions to achieve SWMP goals requires collaboration and participation from the entire community. Challenges arise from the distribution of responsibilities and competing priorities across stakeholders and sectors. Staff have seen significant progress in the first four years of the Plan, particularly through targeted efforts on specific material streams, however, the pace of this progress is expected to slow. Many of the most straightforward opportunities have been addressed, so continued progress will require creativity and innovation. As the Plan moves into its latter half, achieving further progress will depend on identifying new opportunities, developing creative approaches, and responding to evolving community needs. This year saw steps in that direction through new initiatives at the MDTS and a new grant stream to address emerging community priorities.

In 2025, the MDTS completed its first full year of operations with all source separation requirements in place for clean and treated wood and asphalt shingles. As operations of the MDTS became more refined, staff identified opportunities to bring more material streams through the MDTS. Mattress deconstruction and yard and garden material processing was moved to the MDTS, reducing transportation costs and corresponding GHG emissions and increasing operational efficiency. In May 2025, rigid plastics collection was introduced for voluntary source separation for subsequent grinding at the MDTS and beneficial use on site.

The cost to divert and process these materials through the MDTS is substantially higher than the

cost of landfill disposal. As a result, staff will need to review and recalibrate Hartland Landfill’s tipping fee structure to ensure the long-term sustainability of these services.

Through community engagement with past and prospective grant recipients and municipal partners, staff identified an opportunity to support public event organizers to increase diversion and promote zero waste practices through public events. A Zero-Waste Event grant was launched in the Spring of 2025 that offered financial support to event organizers implementing waste reduction strategies. In 2025, 12 events accessed funds and worked to divert 89% of the waste generated across the events. Additionally, the grant helped raise awareness and inform attendees of zero-waste practices with an estimated 77,400 event attendees reached through this initiative.

Financial Implications

The Environmental Resource Management (ERM) division had a total 2025 operating budget of approximately \$54.2 million and a capital budget of approximately \$26.1 million. As of year-end 2025, ERM held total reserves of approximately \$32.9 million, including \$24.4 million in capital reserves, \$6.4 million in operating reserves and \$2.0 million in equipment replacement reserves.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District’s (CRD’s) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) includes four goals and three focus areas comprised of 15 strategies. A detailed update on the region’s implementation of the SWMP can be found in the CRD’s 2025 SWMP Progress Report. In 2025, the CRD has made progress on many SWMP strategies and actions contributing to a further 8 kg reduction in the region’s per capita disposal rate and an overall status of ‘on track’. The CRD’s 2025 SWMP Progress Report will be reviewed by the Solid Waste Advisory Committee for monitoring and evaluating purposes.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2025 Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report (April 2026)
Presentation: 2025 Solid Waste Management Plan Progress Report