

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2021**

SUBJECT City of Victoria – Zero Waste Victoria Update

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update on waste reduction and material diversion initiatives being pursued by the Zero Waste Victoria strategy and to provide an update on synergies with the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) being prepared for Capital Regional District (CRD) Board consideration, anticipated this spring.

BACKGROUND

Approved in December 2020, Zero Waste Victoria (Appendix A) is a City of Victoria (City) strategy document aimed at a 50% reduction in the amount of material being sent to the landfill by 2040 – from Victoria residents, businesses, institutions and visitors. As described in the report to Council (Appendix B), Zero Waste Victoria is a result of the City's role as a service provider, evolving beyond managing just garbage and litter to one that supports waste reduction and diversion, builds on current programs for the collection of organic material and recyclables and aligns with climate leadership and environmental stewardship objectives set out by the City.

To establish key areas of focus, the City conducted a comprehensive analysis of waste generation across all sectors of the community. It was estimated that up to 1/3 of the material being sent to Hartland Landfill originates from within the City. The results of the City's waste composition audit align with findings in the 2016 CRD Waste Composition Study, with organic material representing approximately 23% of the material being landfilled followed by construction material, including wood waste at 20%, paper at 17% and plastic at 16%.

Zero Waste Victoria – key actions to achieve a 50% reduction in landfilled waste by 2040:

- development of new single-use item regulations
- changes to building permits to reuse and recycle materials from building demolitions
- new requirements for organics and recycling at multi-family and commercial properties
- enhancements to the City's solid waste services

The City's short-term action plan, which identifies strategies for implementation from 2021-2023, is included as Appendix C.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The CRD's draft SWMP outlines ways the community will work to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover materials and energy from the solid waste stream as much as possible over the next ten years. By moving waste materials up the 5R hierarchy, the SWMP will keep materials circulating in the economy, conserve landfill space and efficiently use the Hartland site for future community

needs while continuing to investigate emerging technologies for managing residual waste materials.

The SWMP includes an ambitious target of reducing the per capita disposal rate from 380 kg to 250 kg per capita within the next ten years and includes an aspirational goal to achieve 125 kg per capita should the community achieve the target quickly. This translates to a 33% reduction in landfilled waste by 2030.

To achieve the target set out in the SWMP, participants in the solid waste systems, such as municipalities, will play an important role. Strategies in the SWMP include collaboration with municipalities in the following areas:

- reduce and reuse education campaigns
- zero waste and circular economy initiatives
- solid waste facilities and residential recycling depots
- waste management plan requirements (multi-family and business sectors)
- organic material diversion
- construction, renovation and demolition material diversion
- illegal dumping prevention
- procurement policies

Zero Waste Victoria sets a reduction target of 50% by 2040, which aligns with the overarching reduction target for the region outlined in the SWMP of 33% by 2030. Strategies such as those identified in Zero Waste Victoria will contribute to our community achieving its solid waste goals.



It is anticipated that with the adoption of the SWMP, work conducted in collaboration with member municipalities will increase as resources required for implementation of the Plan's strategies and actions progress.

Intergovernmental Implications

The regional model for waste management is built on separation at the source—on residents and businesses keeping banned and recyclable materials out of their garbage from their households and through operational practices. This work will require continued collaboration with other levels of government that have jurisdiction on items such as mandating source separation, obligating producers and regulating production of products. Appendix D provides a detailed description of participants' roles in the solid waste management system.

Environmental & Climate Implications

In 2019, the CRD Board identified Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship as a priority for the region and approved a motion to declare a climate emergency. The CRD's regional climate action strategy sets a climate action goal to minimize waste generation and transform remaining waste into a resource.

Strategies and actions identified in the SWMP targeted at waste avoidance, reduction and reuse shifts products away from being managed in a linear economy (take, make, throw) to a recycling and ultimately circular economy, thereby reducing climate impacts associated with extracting raw materials. When the community, such as the City, decreases their generation of waste and material directed to landfill, greenhouse gas production is also reduced.

CONCLUSION

Zero Waste Victoria sets a waste reduction target of 50% by 2040, which aligns with the overarching reduction target for the region outlined in the Solid Waste Management Plan of 33% by 2030. Strategies such as those identified in Zero Waste Victoria will contribute to our community achieving its solid waste goals.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

That this report be received for information.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: City of Victoria - Zero Waste Victoria

Appendix B: Zero Waste Victoria – Short Term Action Plan

Appendix C: City of Victoria, Committee of the Whole Report – December 10, 2020

Appendix D: Participants in the Solid Waste Management System