

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026**

SUBJECT **Beyond Hartland 2050 – Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek Board endorsement of short-term research and planning initiatives that will inform the development of the Capital Regional District's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan and enable the CRD to responsibly manage the region's solid waste beyond 2050.

BACKGROUND

BC's *Environmental Management Act* requires the Capital Regional District (CRD) to provide a safe, secure and sustainable disposal option for regional solid waste in perpetuity. With the opening of Cell 4 in January 2025, Hartland Landfill secured approximately 25 more years of landfilling capacity to meet the region's waste disposal needs.

By 2050, either the final build-out of the landfill will need to be largely underway or the CRD must have implemented a viable alternative solution for managing the region's solid waste. Given the complexity and planning horizon required for either option, investigative work should begin in 2026 to ensure regional options for waste management are sustained beyond 2050.

Solid Waste Management Plan Direction

All regional districts in BC are required by the Province to create and maintain a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) that guides their waste reduction, recycling and disposal initiatives. Commissioning a final (Phase 3) design plan for the landfill aligns with strategy 15C of the CRD's 2021 SWMP, which requires the CRD to "develop design options that maximize the disposal capacity of Hartland Landfill to 2100 and beyond". At the same time, strategy 15D of the SWMP directs the CRD to "conduct research, investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies (including alternatives to landfilling such as integrated resource management and gasification)".

Given the scale of any future capital project and the regulatory requirements involved, the region's preferred option for waste disposal beyond 2050 must be included with substantial detail in the CRD's next SWMP, scheduled to be updated by 2030. Ministerial approval of the 2030 SWMP will give staff necessary direction and adequate time to pursue the subsequent regulatory steps that will be needed to implement any future waste disposal option.

Expansion of Hartland Landfill

As outlined in the CRD's 2021 SWMP, an additional 24 hectares of landfill property adjacent to the current Phase 2 footprint could be developed as Phase 3, extending the life of Hartland Landfill to approximately 2100. Drilling and blasting activities in this potential new landfilling area would need to begin in approximately 2037 unless significantly more waste is diverted or a viable alternative to landfilling is implemented. Although the estimated Phase 3 footprint resides within Hartland Landfill's property boundary, additional regulatory documents related to the inclusion of this Phase 3 footprint within the site's operating area will need to be updated pending Board direction on future landfilling.

Additional Options

In addition to commissioning a conceptual design plan that extends the lifespan of Hartland Landfill to 2100, staff will develop a comprehensive options analysis that considers a broader range of future waste disposal options available to the region, including but not limited to:

- Siting a new sanitary landfill elsewhere in the region
- Building a thermal processing facility for solid waste, either at Hartland Landfill or offsite
- Pursing emerging waste technology options
- Exporting waste to out-of-region landfills

This work will include a robust analysis of these residuals management options using criteria that include, but are not limited to:

- Environmental impact
- Technology readiness
- Economic feasibility, including development and operational costs
- Regulatory requirements and considerations
- Timeline to implement
- Region-specific considerations (e.g., material bans and other bylaws)

NEXT STEPS

The results of this essential technical work will provide a shortlist of future waste disposal options for Board consideration and endorsement in 2027. These options will then be included in the wide-ranging consultation activities required to develop the CRD's 2030 SWMP, beginning as early as 2028. Staff anticipate that the extensive nature of SWMP engagement will satisfy the consultation requirements associated with subsequent regulatory components of this project.

Planning Approach

The timeline to develop the CRD's 2030 SWMP is anticipated as follows:

| | Milestone | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|----|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hartland 2100 Design Plan and options analysis | Q2-Q4 | Q1 | | | |
| 2. | 2021 SWMP assessment and 2030 SWMP pre-planning | Q4 | Q1 | | | |
| 3. | <u>Report back to Board on Design Plan and options analysis</u> | | <u>Q2</u> | | | |
| 4. | SWMP 2030 goals and target development and report back | | Q3-Q4 | | | |
| 5. | SWMP 2030 Phase I engagement: goals and targets | | | Q1 | | |
| 6. | Report back to Board on Phase I engagement results; draft plan | | | Q3 | | |
| 7. | SWMP 2030 Phase II engagement: strategies and actions | | | Q4 | Q1 | |
| 8. | CRD Board approval of 2030 SWMP; submission to Province for approval | | | | Q3 | |
| 9. | Begin regulatory updates and amendments, if required | | | | | Q2 |

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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

- 1) That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
- 2) That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
- 3) That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
- 4) That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.

Alternative 2

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

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

Initiating planning activities related to both the final build-out of Hartland Landfill and the evaluation of emergent waste management technologies aligns with Strategy 15 of the CRD's 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan to "Enhance Hartland Disposal Capacity."

Financial Implications

The funding required for this technical work has been included in the Environmental Resource Management division's 2026 operating budget that was provisionally approved in October 2025. The results of these planning projects will support 10-year budget forecasting activities for capital expenditures related to Hartland Landfill and for resources to support the subsequent regulatory activities required for any future disposal option. This work will also support ongoing analysis of potential revenue sources for this service beyond tipping fees.

First Nations Implications

Solid waste management planning has been identified as a topic of key interest for several First Nations that the CRD has formalized Memorandums of Understanding and Protocol Agreements with. Sharing information related to these research and planning activities over the next five years will provide opportunities to collaborate and to receive ongoing input throughout the development process for the CRD's next SWMP.

Intergovernmental Implications

Provincial legislation requires the CRD to provide a safe and sustainable disposal option for regional solid waste in perpetuity. This obligation was reiterated as a component of the Minister's 2021 SWMP approval letter in July 2023. Initiating planning and technology evaluation activities now creates an opportunity for potential collaboration with neighboring regional districts that are facing similar timelines to determine future waste disposal plans.

Service Delivery Implications

The CRD endeavors to operate and develop Hartland Landfill in a manner that recognizes the interests of the community while continuing to provide an essential regional service. Developing a formal Phase 3/Hartland 2100 design plan in 2026 ensures that staff will have adequate time to complete the regulatory requirements and amendments to enable service delivery ahead of potential Phase 3 construction work that would be designed by 2038 and commence no later than 2039, pending Board direction on future landfilling activities.

CONCLUSION

With the opening of Cell 4 in January 2025, Hartland Landfill has secured approximately 25 more years of landfilling capacity to meet the region's current waste disposal needs. By 2050, either the final (Phase 3) build-out of Hartland Landfill will need to be substantially underway or the Capital Regional District (CRD) must have implemented an alternative solution for managing the region's solid waste in perpetuity. Given the scale of any future capital project and the regulatory requirements involved in either building out the final footprint of the current landfill or pursuing a new processing technology, investigative work should begin in 2026 to inform the upcoming 2030 update of the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

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

- 1) That staff commission a conceptual design plan to build out Phase 3 of Hartland Landfill in alignment with Strategy 15 of the 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan;
- 2) That staff develop a comprehensive options analysis that outlines and evaluates a broad set of future waste disposal alternatives to landfilling at the Hartland site;
- 3) That staff include timely information on these planning activities in the scope of ongoing government-to-government conversations with First Nations who have identified solid waste management as a topic of interest; and
- 4) That staff present the results of the above activities to the Board in 2027, including a shortlist of options to inform early development of the CRD's 2030 Solid Waste Management Plan.

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Submitted by: | Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management |
| Concurrence: | Stephen May, P.Eng., Senior Manager, Corporate Capital Project Delivery Services |
| Concurrence: | Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services |
| Concurrence: | Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer |

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan (July 2023)

Appendix B: 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan Approval Letter (July 13, 2023)

Presentation: Beyond Hartland 2050 - Landfill Design Plan and Alternative Options