

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

SUBJECT **Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present for Capital Regional District (CRD) Board endorsement a model bylaw for deconstruction and demolition waste that will serve as a resource for municipalities in the capital region.

BACKGROUND

At its March 2025 meeting, the CRD Board directed staff to develop a model demolition waste and deconstruction bylaw for municipalities in the region, using the City of Victoria's existing bylaw as a foundation.

Regional Direction and Data

Promoting the reuse of materials that would otherwise be sent for landfill disposal is one of the guiding principles of the region's 2021 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). Further, Strategy 5A of the SWMP requires the CRD to "develop model language for bylaws, best practices, official community plans and economic development strategies for use by local governments using research and collaboration to guide this process [of working towards a circular economy]."

The CRD's 2022 Hartland Landfill Waste Composition Study identified construction and demolition material as 13.3% of the overall waste stream, with another 18.9% of landfilled waste identified as wood and wood products. Compared to 2016 data, non-wood construction and demolition materials had increased by 29 kg/capita (6.6%) in 2022, while wood and wood products had increased by 15 kg/capita (1.9%).

Existing Waste Diversion Policies

In September 2022, the City of Victoria implemented its Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw to reduce the large volume of wood waste from house demolitions by establishing minimum wood-salvage targets, encouraging the construction industry to deconstruct or relocate homes rather than demolish them. This bylaw requires any person applying for a demolition permit to remove a structure built prior to 1960 to submit a refundable waste management fee of \$19,500. The permit holder is then given a unique salvage target based on the square footage of the structure and, if the target salvage rate is achieved, their waste management fee is refunded.

Compliance with the City of Victoria bylaw ensures that wood from demolition work is kept intact for reuse. To date, the City of Victoria's bylaw has diverted more than 80 tonnes of wood for reuse and, due to the nature of the deconstruction process, has in many cases also preserved other reusable elements of these buildings, including windows, cabinets and doors.

The CRD Board's direction to ban wood and asphalt shingles from landfill disposal in 2024 further supported the economic case for material salvage and recycling, improving permit holder compliance with the City of Victoria's bylaw.

Proposed Model Bylaw

The CRD's proposed model bylaw (Appendix A) is based on the City of Victoria's existing regulation, with some minor modifications to facilitate implementation by municipalities that may have different ticketing frameworks and operating fees.

If amended and adopted by additional municipalities, the resulting increase in deconstruction and house moving activities (versus traditional demolition) will divert a range of construction and demolition materials from landfill disposal in support of the region's SWMP goal to reduce the region's landfilled waste to 250 kg per capita by 2031.

NEXT STEPS

If endorsed by the Board, staff will present this model bylaw to municipal colleagues at an upcoming Local Government Waste Reduction Working Group meeting. This working group is comprised of solid waste planning and operations staff representatives from municipalities across the region. Following this presentation, staff will distribute this staff report and the accompanying model bylaw to all working group members for review and consideration.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

Alternative 2

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

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

A guiding principle of the 2021 SWMP is to promote the reuse of materials that would otherwise be landfilled. By incentivizing house moving and deconstruction, materials from house demolitions, including salvageable wood, are kept intact and can be reused.

The development and circulation of this model bylaw aligns with Strategy 5A in the SWMP, which directs staff to support local governments in working towards shared zero waste goals and a circular economy by developing model language for bylaws.

CONCLUSION

Construction and demolition materials have been identified as a significant proportion of the waste currently being disposed of at Hartland Landfill. The City of Victoria implemented a bylaw to address the volume of waste generated by house demolitions in 2022 and, following CRD Board direction in 2025, a model bylaw based on the City's regulation has been drafted as a resource for other municipalities in the region. Pending further Board direction, staff will share this model bylaw with local government staff for consideration and potential implementation in their respective municipalities.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That this model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw be distributed to staff at municipalities in the capital region for consideration and independent review.

Submitted by:	Russ Smith, Senior Manager, Environmental Resource Management
Concurrence:	Luisa Jones, MBA, General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Kristen Morley, J.D., Corporate Officer & General Manager, Corporate Services
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Model Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw