

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**

SUBJECT Solid Waste Management Plan – 2024 Progress Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

To present the Capital Regional District's (CRD) 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Progress Report (Appendix A), which identifies progress towards implementing the CRD's SWMP.

BACKGROUND

In BC, it is a requirement under the *Environmental Management Act* for all regional districts to develop solid waste management plans, which are high-level, long-term visions of how a regional district would like solid waste managed within its community, in accordance with the 5R 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.

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 Summary

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 achieving the goals. The 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 2024, the status and key indicators of each focus area are:

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

- The 2024 Solid Waste Market Research and Engagement Study reported 74% of residents show positive attitudes across five waste management behaviours.
- Connected with over 4,631 residents through education and outreach programs.
- The Rethink Waste Community grant funded 24 projects.

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

- General refuse material bans at Hartland Landfill on wood (clean and treated) and asphalt shingles resulted in 9,600 tonnes of materials diverted.

- Introduced reduced tipping fees at Hartland Landfill for treated wood, clean wood and asphalt shingles to incent diversion from general refuse stream.
- Enacted the Waste Stream Collector Incentive Program to promote multi-stream collection services.
- New contractor began services for the CRD blue box program.

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

- Increased the general refuse tipping fee from \$110 to \$150 tonne.
- Achieved a per capita disposal rate of 338 kg/capita, a decrease of 44 kg/capita from 2023.
- Built the Material Diversion Transfer Station at Hartland Landfill.
- Five-year average Airspace Utilization Factor was 0.68 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 43% based on the ENV model, and 50% based on the UBCi model.

The overall progress of the SWMP for 2024 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 the goals, focus areas and strategies in the SWMP require collaboration and participation from the entire community. Challenges can arise from the distribution of responsibilities and competing priorities.

Challenges that arose in 2024 include:

- Decline in landfill gas collection due to delays in expanding the reach of the existing gas collection system. This is expected to be resolved in 2025 when the gas wells will be connected, leading to improved landfill gas collection efficiency.
- Landfilling of blended biosolids. In June 2024, the CRD Board approved a Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy, leading to biosolids not having to be landfilled in future years.
- Adjustments and delay to implementation of Hartland Landfill policy changes, including a delay on banning on carpet and underlay, as well as delaying a \$300/tonne tipping fee for general refuse containing unsorted renovation and demolition materials. These policies will be introduced in the future, once end markets are available, industry has had time to adjust operations and consultation on policies to restrict flow of general refuse outside the region have been completed.

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) includes four goals, and three focus areas comprised of 15 strategies. An update on the progress towards implementation of the SWMP can be found in the CRD's 2024 SWMP Progress Report. In 2024, the CRD has made progress on many SWMP strategies and action contributing to reduction in the region's per capita disposal rate and an overall status of 'on track'. The CRD's 2024 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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Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Solid Waste Management Plan – 2024 Progress Report