

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT  
**Transforming  
Biosolids to Biochar**

**Summary of Public Input**

May 2026

**TAVOLA**  
STRATEGY GROUP



# Engagement Process



## IAP2 Informed Consultation Plan

---

Established engagement objectives and methods.  
**Fall 2025**



## Active Engagement

---

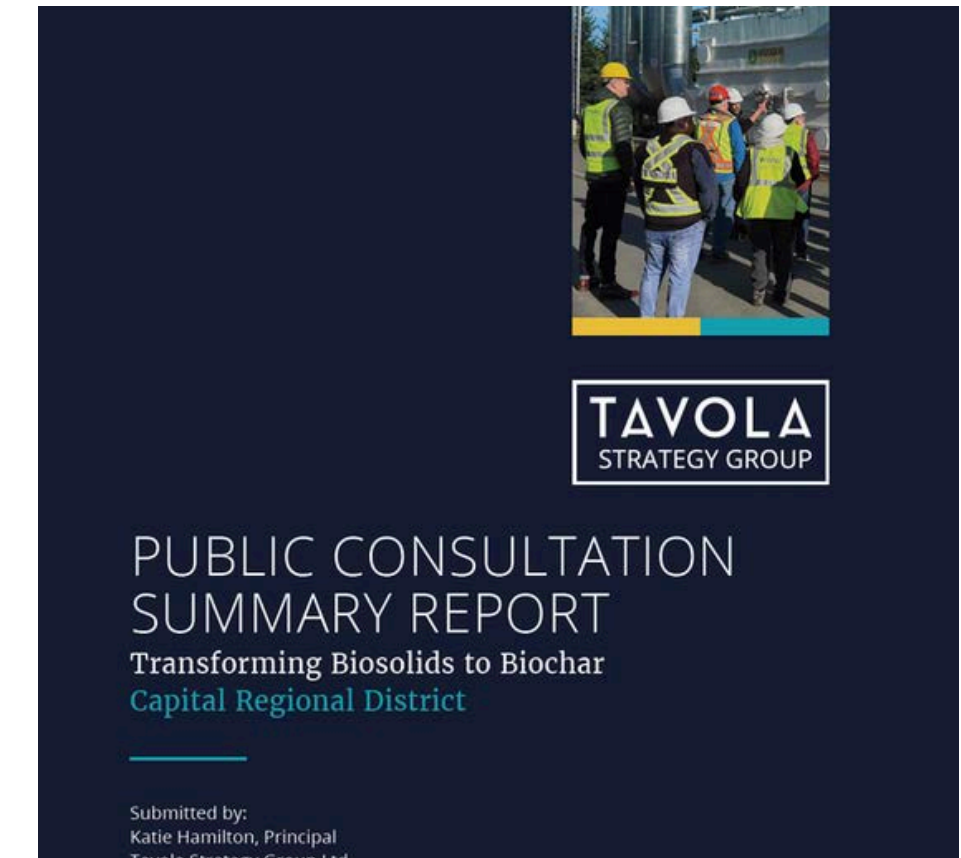
Awareness-raising and engagement activities to capture input.  
**February 13 - March 6 2026**



## Reporting and Closing the Loop

---

*What We Heard* report to document and communicate results.  
**May 2026**





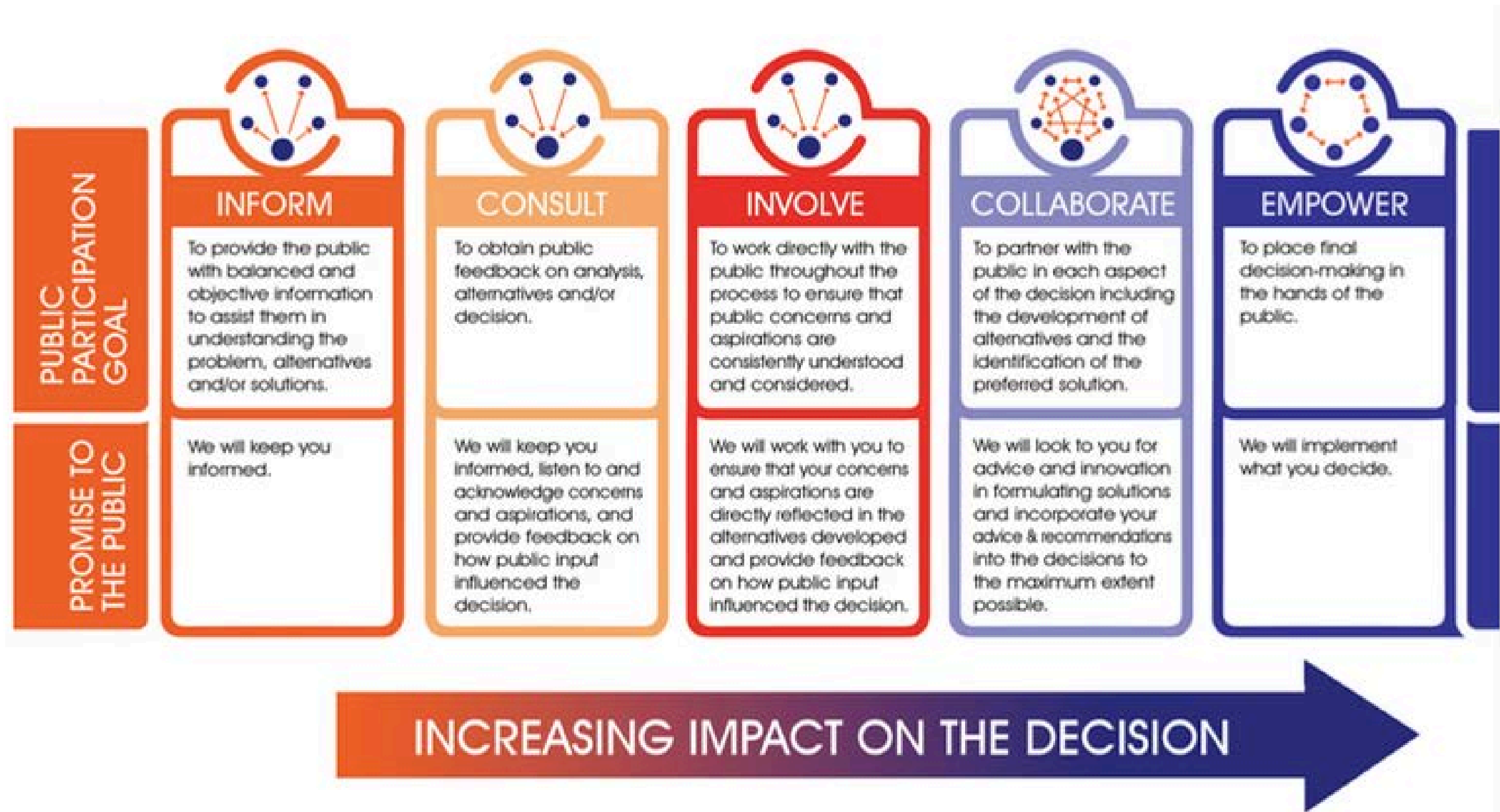
Part 1:

# Engagement Process








# Engagement Objectives

1. Inform capital region residents about the new technology being pursued to responsibly manage biosolids.
2. Create opportunities for those neighbouring the Residuals Treatment Facility at Hartland Landfill and interest holders to understand what is planned for biosolids management at the site, operational considerations and mitigation measures.
3. Understand top-of-mind considerations related to operations and potential end uses for biochar.
4. Build trust and confidence in the Capital Regional District's (CRD) approach to biosolids management through proactive, two-way communication and a transparent decision-making process.
5. Meet or exceed provincial regulatory requirements for Waste [Air emissions] Discharge notification.

# IAP2 Spectrum

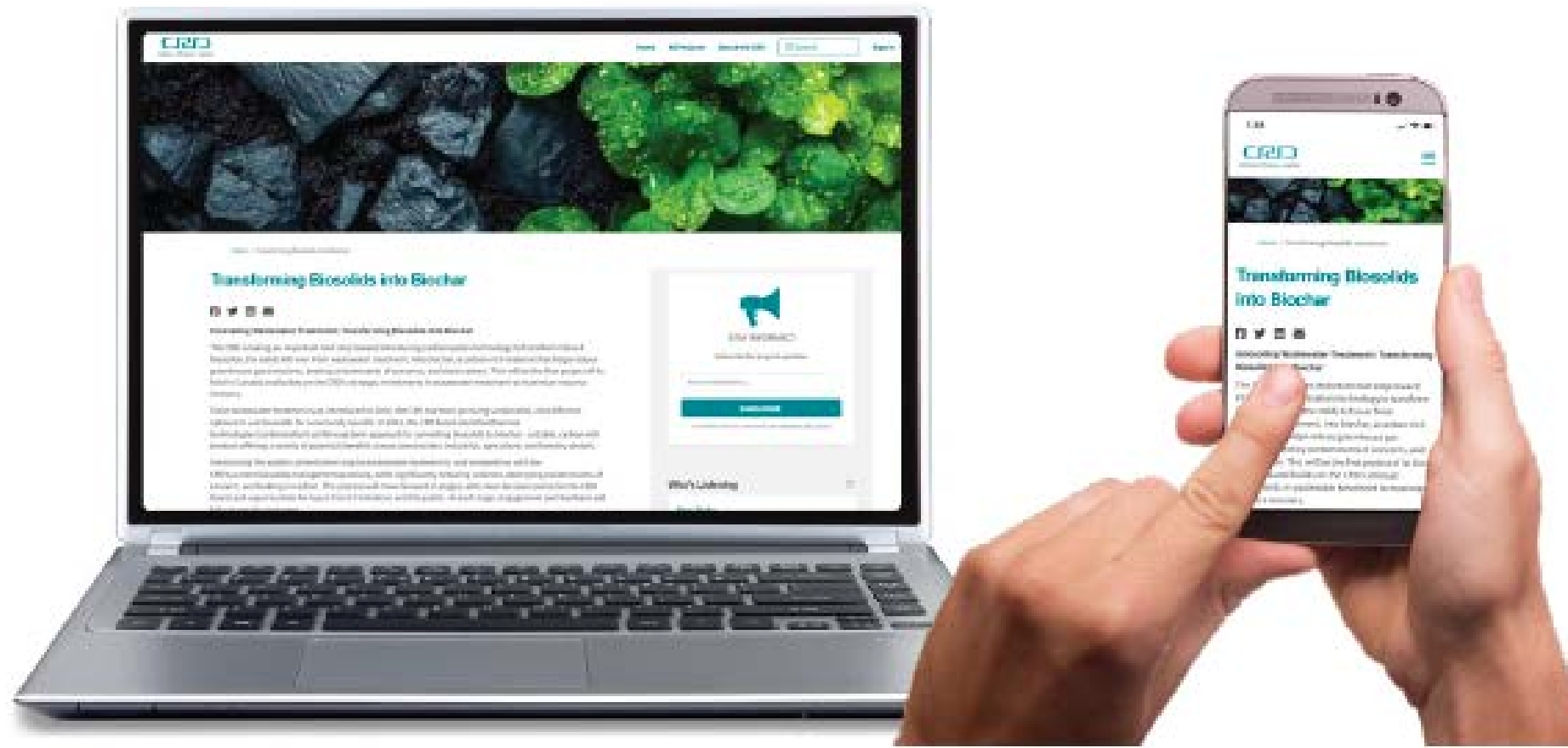


# Key Topics

Topic	Level of Engagement
What biosolids are, how they are created and how they are managed for beneficial use [Long-term Biosolids Management Strategy]	 <span data-bbox="2245 508 2518 611">INFORM</span>
Current biosolids management practices and their limitations, as well as previous engagement results about top-of-mind interests and concerns	 <span data-bbox="2245 699 2518 802">INFORM</span>
Overview of the selected technology benefits including environmental and climate change benefits, and the potential for the technology to destroy emerging contaminants of concern within CRD biosolids	 <span data-bbox="2245 921 2518 1024">INFORM</span>
Overview of the new technology, location, proponent, regulatory requirements and funding requirements, and climate mitigation	 <span data-bbox="2245 1142 2518 1245">INFORM</span>
Environmental monitoring and reporting [e.g. air discharge]	 <span data-bbox="2245 1330 2518 1433">CONSULT</span>
Operational considerations and neighbourhood integration [e.g. traffic, noise, etc.]	 <span data-bbox="2245 1532 2518 1635">CONSULT</span>
Potential uses of biochar	 <span data-bbox="2245 1720 2518 1823">CONSULT</span>

# Awareness-Raising

- Project webpage [getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/biochar](http://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/biochar)
- Informational overview video
- Media release and backgrounder shared on Friday, February 13, 2026
- Updates were emailed to project page subscribers
- Social media posts were shared on CRD Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
- Letters were sent to 14 community groups and 13 municipalities
- Print ads appeared in the Times Colonist and BlackPress newspapers.



# Input methods

- Online survey invited input from February 13 to March 5, 2026.
- Open House and guided tours of the Residuals Treatment Facility were held Saturday, February 28th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Letters/emails were received through the project email or submitted directly to the CRD Board.
- Presentations were offered to local interest holders
  - CRD Staff presented to Willis Point Community Association on March 27, 2026
  - A tour of the Hartland Landfill has been requested by Probus [Sidney Chapter]

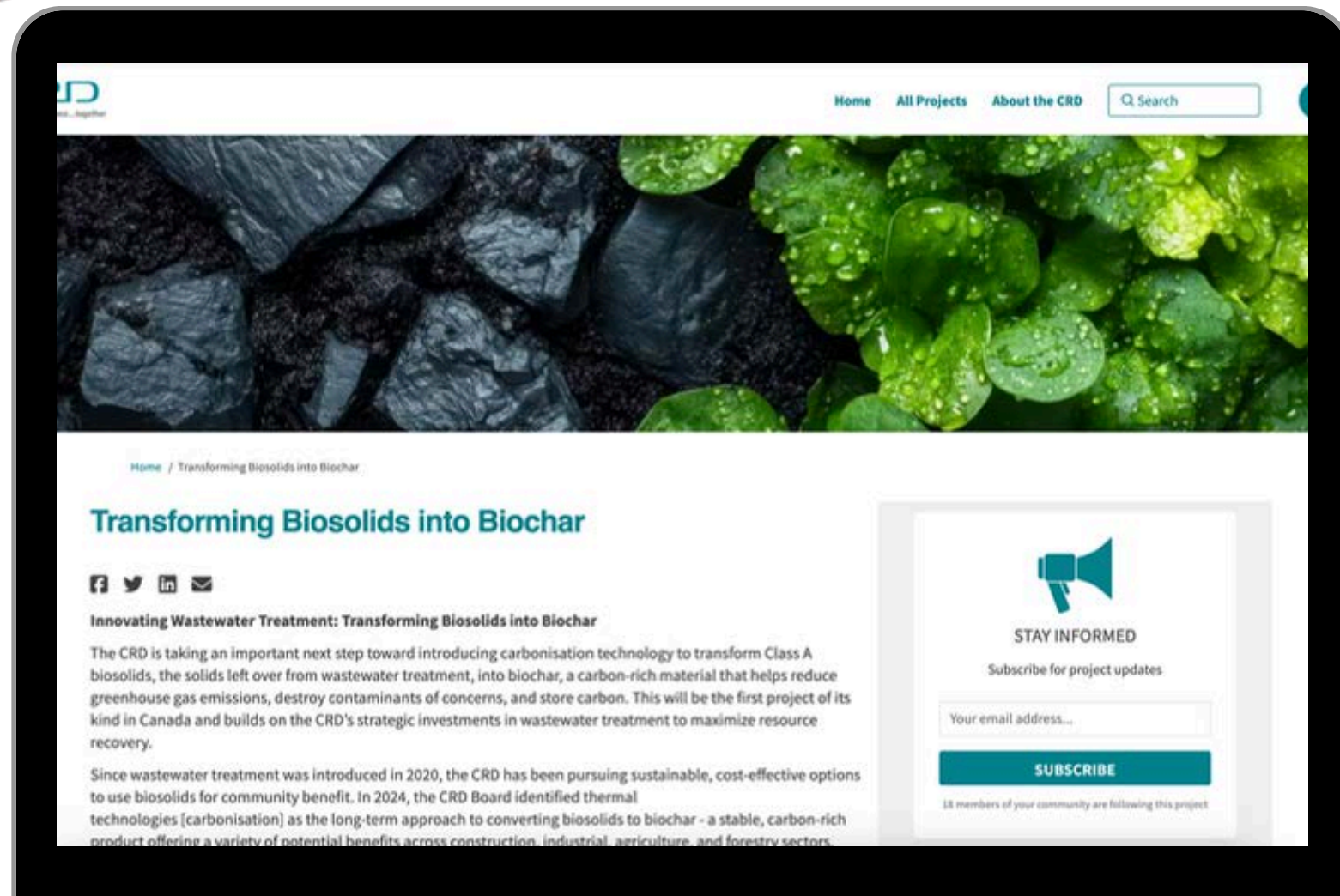
# Guided Facility Tours



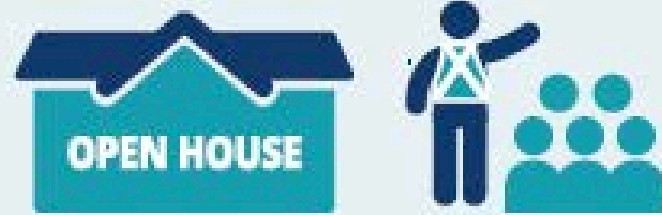
# Open House



# Online Survey and Video



# Participation



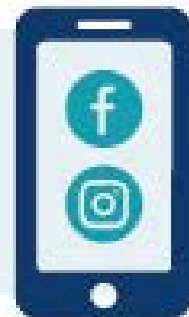
**86**  
*Participants (1 Open House + 6 Site Tours)*



**170**  
*Online survey participants*



**1,292**  
*Unique web visitors*



**11,000+**  
*Facebook, Instagram views*



**18**  
*Subscribers to project updates*



Part 2:

# What We Heard

2021 approved Capital Budget is \$10 million



*\$2 million*  
*Borrowing for planning and design*

*\$8 million*  
*to be funded through a mix of capital reserves, debt, and/or grants*

*Let's make sure we have a mix of funding sources to cover the capital budget.*

Short-term (one to two year lifecycle)

Water Services Investment

CARBONISATION TECHNOLOGY

\$200 - \$720

\$200,000 - \$2.2 million

Investment to help meet regulatory and performance objectives

# Overarching Themes

## Overall Interest and Support

- Interest and support for advancing carbonisation technology, provided that key conditions and safeguards are met.
- Critical to community interests:
  - Management of neighbourhood and air-quality impacts
  - Transparent monitoring and reporting
  - Understanding of biochar composition and potential end uses
  - Realistic cost estimates with strong financial oversight
- Many who expressed support for the overall approach noted it as an alternative to land application of biosolids and/or advancing climate and environmental objectives.
- Very positive feedback on open house and facility tours

# Overarching Themes

## Neighbourhood Impacts

- Concerns about odour, noise, and traffic were the most consistently raised
- Survey respondents posed questions about increased traffic, odour and noise, whereas open house participants shifted toward questions about thresholds, monitoring, and accountability

## Air Quality, Emissions, and Monitoring

- Air emissions data and air quality modelling are of greatest interest
- Need for monitoring, independent verification, and public access to emissions data
- Survey feedback emphasized uncertainty around emissions, fuel sources, and contaminants [i.e. PFAS, heavy metals, etc.], and how emissions would be modelled, and risks would be managed.
- Open house participants referenced need for continuous monitoring systems, regulatory requirements and the importance of transparent reporting.

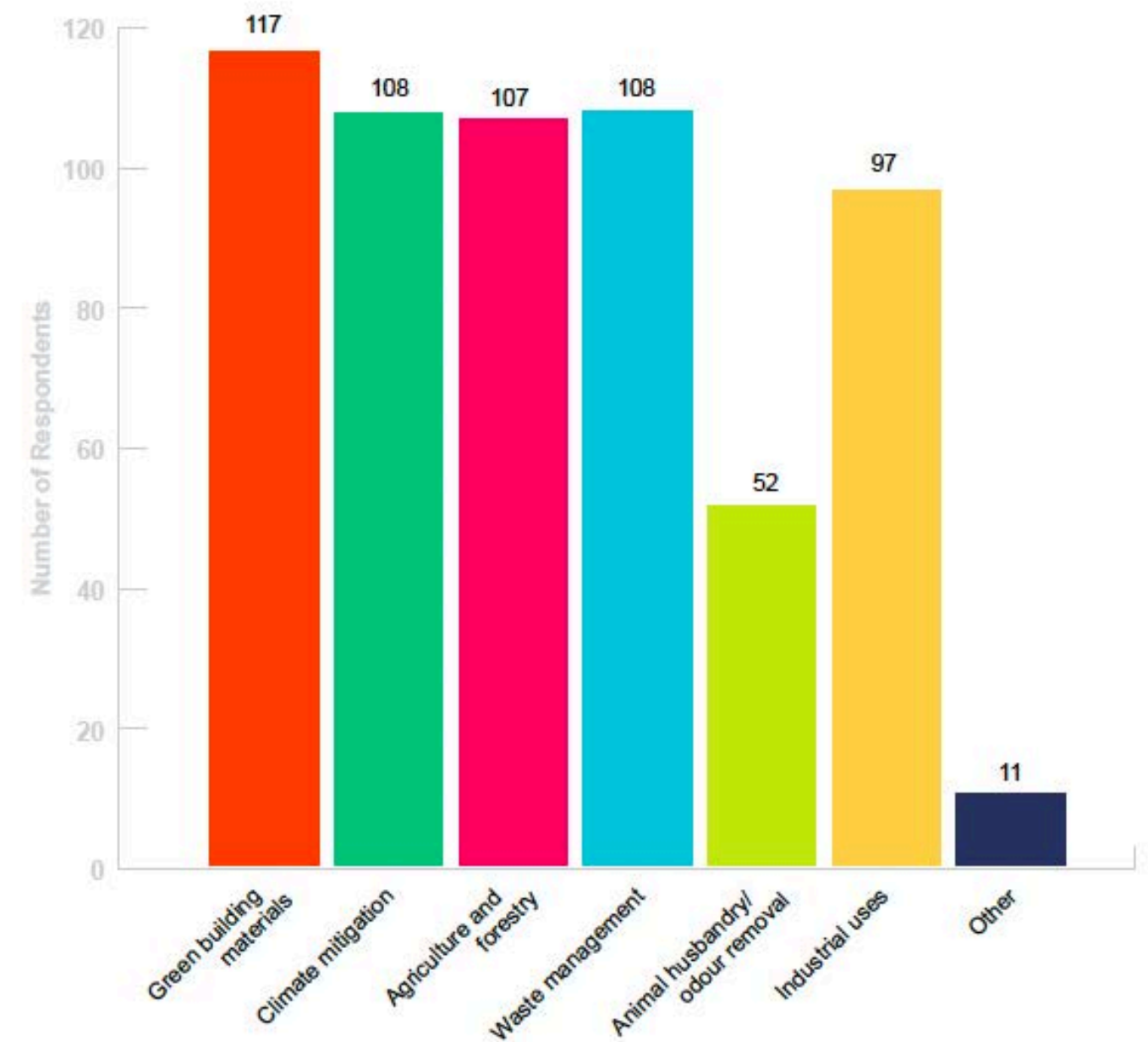
# Overarching Themes

## Climate and Environment

- Climate and environmental topics are largely interconnected, often linking climate change, contamination of food and water systems, and waste management together.
- Priorities include climate change mitigation, addressing contamination [e.g. soil, water, food, air], and protecting watersheds.

## Biochar Composition and End Uses

- Openness to a range of biochar end uses
- Want assurances about biochar quality and composition, standards for appropriate uses, and caution regarding applications in food systems/ sensitive environments unless safety [i.e. health & environmental] is well established.



# Overarching Themes

## **Costs, Affordability, and Value for Money**

- An emphasis on financial responsibility emerged.
- Some viewed the estimated capital cost as modest compared to other capital projects and emphasized the long-term environmental and operational benefits of the investment.
- Others raised affordability concerns in the current economic context and emphasized the importance of realistic cost estimates and risk allocation, external funding, and staged decision-making.

## **Level of Awareness and On-going Communications**

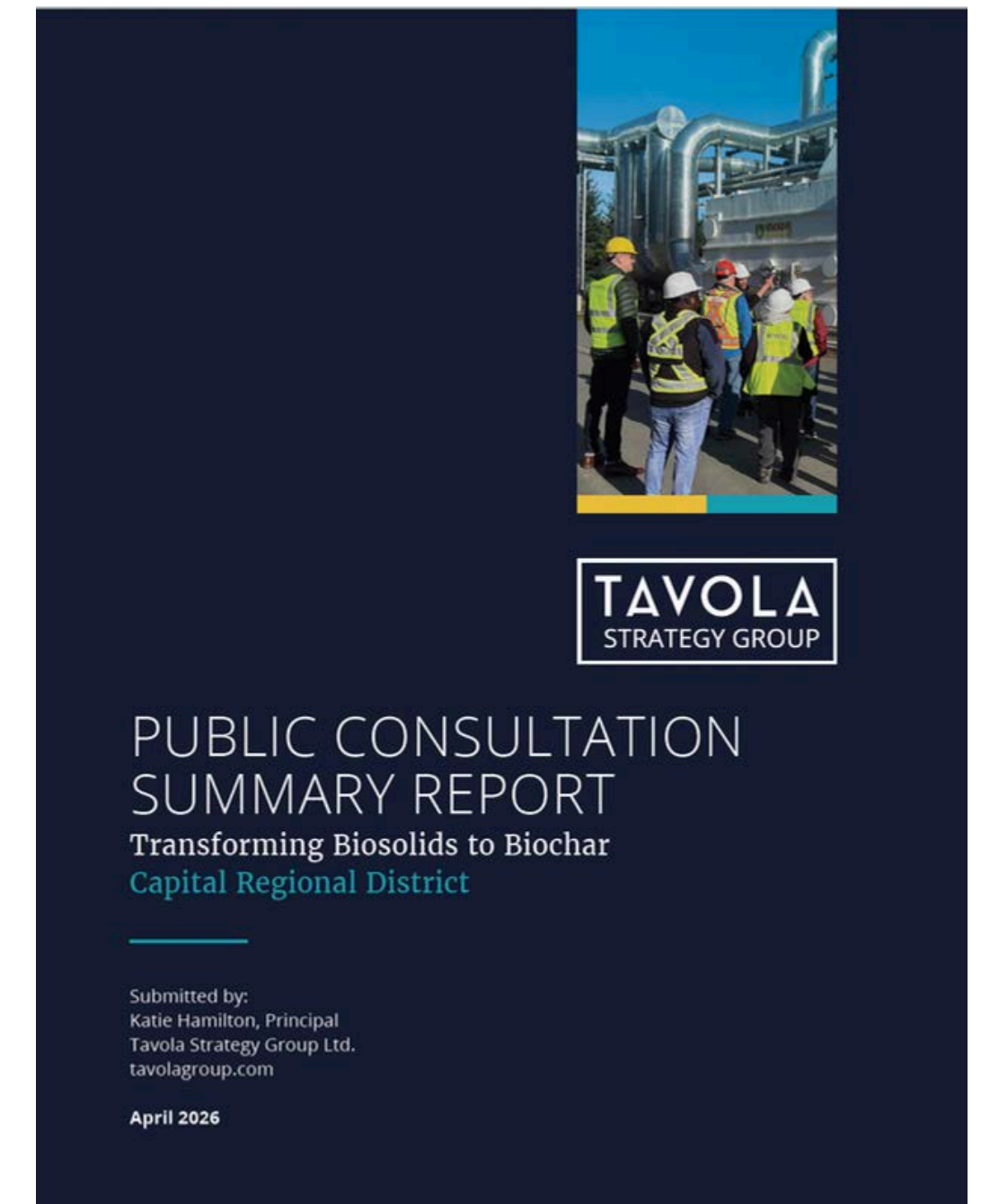
- While there are varying levels of familiarity around this topic, there is a strong interest in ongoing updates and clear communications as the process advances.
- The need for First Nations involvement was also highlighted.

# Next Steps

The public input received will be considered as part of on-going project planning and communications.

The complete *What We Heard* summary consultation report will be included in the application for the Province of BC Waste [Air] Discharge Permit

The report will be available at [getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/biochar](https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/biochar) and an email will be sent to Project Subscribers.



**TAVOLA**  
STRATEGY GROUP

**Questions?**

THANK YOU

[www.tavolagroup.com](http://www.tavolagroup.com)