

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021**

SUBJECT **Enerkem Facility Update**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide an update on Capital Regional District (CRD) staff discussions with Enerkem regarding suitability of its Integrated Resource Management waste-to-energy technology for the capital region.

BACKGROUND

At the October 21, 2020 meeting, staff provided the Environmental Services Committee with information on the Enerkem waste-to-energy technology that is currently operating at the Alberta Biofuels Demonstration Facility in Edmonton. It was identified that the CRD would need to enter into a non-disclosure agreement to obtain further information about the Enerkem technology, process effectiveness and costs, and staff were directed to do so.

Staff have subsequently met with Enerkem to obtain further information about the technology. A non-disclosure agreement was signed in January 2021, and staff met with an Enerkem representative in early 2021 for a high-level business model discussion.

Enerkem evaluated that the feedstock quantities in the region are not enough for its standard system and, combined with the lack of existing industrial infrastructure nearby, the conditions would not allow the bio-refinery project to be viable.

Strategy 15 of the new Solid Waste Management Plan commits the CRD to continuing to conduct research, investigate and report out on emerging waste management technologies, including alternatives to landfilling, such as Integrated Resource Management and gasification. As the Solid Waste Management Plan is implemented, staff will return to the committee with next steps for further investigation into emerging waste management technologies.

CONCLUSION

Staff have met with representatives from Enerkem who have confirmed that the Capital Regional District's feedstock availability, and level of local industrial activity, make the CRD an unsuitable location for Enerkem technology at this time. Staff continue to research and investigate emerging waste management technologies and will return to the committee for direction regarding next steps for further investigation during implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

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