

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026**

SUBJECT **Beyond the Curb – Drop-Off Recycling Program for Non-Curbside Materials**

ISSUE SUMMARY

To provide information on the Capital Regional District's new Beyond the Curb residential recycling collection program.

BACKGROUND

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) curbside recycling program and Hartland Public Drop-off Depot offer effective collection options for specific materials; however, there is an immediate need for more accessible drop-off options for recyclable materials that are not currently collected directly from homes (e.g., flexible plastic and foam packaging) that will serve residents living in all housing types.

While staff continue to investigate options for the curbside collection of flexible plastic packaging, the Beyond the Curb program will begin to address these needs in alignment with Strategies 7, 8 and 10 in the CRD's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) that focus on increasing diversion from residential sources and supporting BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs.

Program design for this regional initiative was based on insights provided from the City of Victoria's Beyond the Curb pilot in 2025, which the CRD supported with funding. The City's program trialed the collection of non-curbside recyclables at community markets, pop-ups and a hub location for Victoria residents from May to December 2025. As part of the CRD's funding agreement, the City provided a final report with pilot results, findings and recommendations. The City subsequently notified CRD staff that they would not be continuing the program in 2026.

Based on the success of the City of Victoria's experimental program, CRD staff have procured a contractor to coordinate, manage and operate a region-wide drop-off program for recyclable materials that are not collected at the curb.

NEXT STEPS

The CRD will be working with Adanac Recovery Ltd. (operating as The Bottle Depot) for the next two years to deliver a regional Beyond the Curb program, offering drop-off services for non-curbside recyclables at community markets across the region. At a minimum, this program will operate throughout the market season, which is typically May to October each year. Staff will also seek opportunities for semi-permanent hub collection points that can be offered year-round.

Proposed community markets to host Beyond the Curb were identified based on housing density, gaps in existing services and accessibility to residents. Markets in Victoria, Saanich, Central Saanich and Langford have been identified as ideal locations to address the needs of residents in both single-family and multi-family homes. Suitable locations for hub spaces include recreation centers, schools and other commercial facilities in dense residential areas as these sites are already visited regularly by residents. CRD staff and the contractor will work with municipal partners and other interested parties to source ideal locations for these hub spaces.

By providing multiple free drop-off locations for recyclable materials that can't be collected directly from homes, Beyond the Curb will:

- decrease the amount of recyclable materials that end up in Hartland Landfill.
- reduce contamination in the CRD’s curbside blue box recycling program.
- support municipalities in meeting their waste reduction goals.
- gather data and insights to inform recommendations for regional recycling facility needs.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Implications

Beyond the Curb will provide regular and consistent drop-off options for non-curbside recyclable materials that residents can rely on and build habits around. Program participation will increase diversion from all residential sources, support existing EPR programs and extend the life of Hartland Landfill.

Financial Implications

The activities associated with these recommendations will be funded by Environmental Resource Management’s core operations budget (1.521) through an existing \$700,000 allocation for community support programs. This 2-year project is funded through Environmental Resource Management’s 2026 and 2027 core operating budget, with funding specifically allocated for Community Support programs. In the table below, funding for this program is included in the “Committed to date” figures.

| | Community Support Budget Allocation | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------|
| | 2026 | 2027 |
| Total | \$700,000 | 1,500,000 |
| Committed to date | \$546,000 | 1,200,000 |
| Uncommitted Funds | \$154,000 | 300,000 |

CONCLUSION

The Capital Regional District’s curbside recycling program and Hartland Public Drop-off Depot offer effective collection options for specific materials; however, there is a need for more accessible drop-off options—especially for flexible plastic and foam packaging. The Capital Regional District will be launching a region wide Beyond the Curb program to address this gap, providing drop-off points for these materials at community markets in high density locations. Staff will also explore options to extend this program to semi-permanent hub locations so that residents from all housing types can access this program year-round. By providing consistent drop-off opportunities for depot-only recyclables closer to home, Beyond the Curb will increase waste diversion and extend the life of Hartland Landfill.

RECOMMENDATION

There is no recommendation. This report is for information only.

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