

**NOTICE OF MOTION TO PARKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING OF JULY 24, 2019**

SUBJECT Reducing Expanded Polystyrene Foam Waste

RECOMMENDATION

That the Parks & Environment Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board:

That staff be directed to report back with options and implications for creating a model bylaw to ban single-use expanded polystyrene foam cups and containers.

BACKGROUND

Single-use waste items, including expanded polystyrene foam, have been proven to have a negative impact on oceans, streams, wildlife, other aspects of our natural environment. They can also be caught in storm drains and littered in streets, parks and other areas. Not only are these impacts seen on an international scale, but also locally within many areas of the CRD. Pieces of expanded polystyrene foam and other waste, both small and large, can be found on our beaches, in our Parks, storm drains, and elsewhere.

Single-use expanded polystyrene foam cups and containers, although convenient, are wasteful and unnecessary. There are alternatives readily available to businesses and residents which are proven to be less harmful, less wasteful, and equally as convenient.

Several Municipalities within the CRD have now banned, or are working towards banning, single-use plastic bags, along with other single-use waste items. Waste reduction is an area where local government can have a significant impact.

Earlier this year, the CRD Board along with many municipalities in the region, declared a Climate Emergency. It is clear that climate action and protection for our natural environment is a top priority, not only for the board, but for municipalities and communities across the region.

Climate action and environmental stewardship is listed as a desired outcome in the CRD 2019 - 2022 Strategic Plan. Additionally, "identify best practices to further reduce waste" is listed as part of the initiatives in our Strategic Plan.

Why do this at the CRD?

- A) It would allow representatives from all jurisdictions in the region to deliberate the details of the model bylaw, which helps ensure that a bylaw will be best suited for the region as a whole. Once a model bylaw could be developed, it would then be readily available for municipalities to adopt and implement it if they wish.

- B) Having one, individual bylaw that makes sense for the region, would provide needed consistency for businesses with chains in multiple jurisdictions.
- C) There could be value in providing this for municipalities who may have high workloads or less resources available.
- D) This field of work is something that CRD staff have had experience with in the past. For example, during the last term, staff developed a model bylaw that related to the reduction of single-use plastic bags.

CONCLUSION

It is clear that environmental stewardship and climate action are priorities for the CRD Board and the communities we serve. This is a low risk, first step that could provide our region with the ability to further reduce waste.

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Submitted by,

Director Ned Taylor

Director Gary Holman

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