

Recycling Outreach Assistant
Final Report

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Environmental Resource Management
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Acknowledgment of the Territory

I respectfully acknowledge the Ləkʷ əŋən and W̱ SÁNEĆ nations, on whose territories this project took place. Thank you for the opportunity to live, learn, share, and create connections that will build a sustainable future for the generations to come.

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1.0 Background

Environmental Resource Management Division:

Environmental Resource Management's (ERM) mission is to efficiently and effectively manage the region's solid waste resources in an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible manner. The ERM division is responsible for municipal solid waste management in the Capital region, including waste reduction, recycling programs and operation of the Hartland Landfill based on the 5R Pollution Prevention Hierarchy.

First Nations Relations:

The Capital Regional District (CRD) established the First Nations Relations Division to support the Board's commitment to building strong relationships with neighboring First Nations Governments.

The CRD operates within the traditional territories of the Coast Salish, Straight Salish, and Nuuchah-nulth peoples, and is committed to respectfully and appropriately engage those communities in regional strategies, decision-making and shared interests.

Project Background

In 2019, the CRD sought to bring connection and education to the First Nation Communities within the Capital Region. Part of my role was to build accountable relationships with communities, while coming to understand their needs, and the barriers that they face in regards to waste management.

This term was completed over 5 months from July 2019, to November 2019.

2.0 Community Outreach

2.1 Songhees Nation

When reaching out to Songhees Nation, I got into contact with Charlotte Charlie. She is the Nations Education Liaison, and Youth Group coordinator. I had the opportunity to work with her and her youth, and take them out to the Hartland Landfill with Avril Gilmour-Ford for a tour around the facility. I also got in contact with Chris McElroy, he works with the Nation as the Recreation Coordinator. He had a lot to say in regards to the Songhees Wellness Centre and the work that could be done in that area of

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the Nation. One thing we decided to do for the Centre was to get new recycling stations set up for different parts of the Building. The receptacles will be placed within the main public traffic areas around the building, and will be implemented towards the end of November 2019. I got to talk with many community members within the nation, where we discussed some of the issues around recycling that they are currently facing.

Some of the issues, or ideas discussed were;

- Creating a map of drop off locations, for non-curbside recyclables near the different bands
- Having no way to get non-curbside recyclables to different drop offs or depots. Possibility for a transfer station.
- Instead of selling bottled water at the Songhees Wellness Centre, adding in new water fountains that are easily accessed for the nation and visitors to use; thus using/selling less single use plastic bottles.
- Creating a Green Compost, for the rooftop garden.

2.2 Tsartlip Nation

During the beginning of my working term I got the chance to reach out to a few Community Members out at Tsartlip Nation, Angel Sampson and Virgil Sampson. Each year they host the Annual Yellow Wolf Powwow out at Tsartlip. A Powwow is a gathering where dancers and people from all over come together, to dance, sing, and represent where they come from, while also showing off beautifully crafted regalia. In talking with the Powwow coordinators, they had asked me to help them with their event, and be as zero waste as possible.

Some of the efforts that went into the event were:

- The kitchen used glass dishware to serve food, instead of using paper or Styrofoam plates
- In each bathroom there were two bins, One for just paper towels for compost, and the other for Landfill waste
- We eliminated all access to other garbage's and had one main sorting station with 8 different receptacles; one for compost, glass jars, paper/cardboard, soft plastics, flexible packaging, mixed containers, refundable, and then one for Styrofoam
- As the main waste source was going to be food waste, we rented a few extra compost bins from refuse for the entire duration of the event
- All in all we diverted a truck load of recyclables from the Landfill; it was over flowing the back of a pickup truck

Along with Helping out at the Powwow, I worked with the Bands Administrator who has now since moved on, but we were able to get some more Blue Bins and Blue Bags out to the Nation. She had asked for 200 bins, so the CRD was able to provide the funding for those. I also brought handouts and materials out to Tsartlip along with the bins and bags.

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2.3 Esquimalt Nation

When reaching out to Esquimalt nation I talked to one of the Counsellors from the Nation, Millie Modeste. I explained to her the initiatives and goals the CRD had for the project and what I had envisioned for my role with Esquimalt. She really supported the idea of working together, and was really interested. Along with Songhees, I thought about new recycling stations that could go into the Nations main buildings. I ordered two stations for Esquimalt, both with four different receptacles for each station. One was to go to the Band office and the other over to their other main building. These are to be implemented late November or early December. I unfortunately didn't hear much back from the Nation after this.

3.0 Ləkʷ əŋən work

3.1 Recycling Event

On October 10th, 2019 the Capital Regional District Partnered with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to put on a Recycling and Waste Diversion Event for both Communities. The Event was funded through the CRD and Indigenous Services Canada, to promote and encourage recycling and waste management throughout the district. The Event took place at the Songhees Wellness Centre. There were three booths for members to engage in; the CRD, Indigenous Services Canada, and the Compost Education Centre were all there with educational and engaging materials about the topic of Recycling and Waste Management. There were also a few other tables with different things for people to participate in. One of them was a pledge board where people were able to write a "Green" pledge and after that they would receive a 'green team' t-shirt. We had about 150 t-shirts made with a traditionally inspired recycling logo designed by Lucy George. The shirts also had each nation's logo, and the CRD's logo on it as well. Aside from that there was also another table there with a recycling survey for people to fill out. The survey was written by myself and Charlotte Charlie, a worker from Songhees Nation. It had basic questions about curbside recycling and other household produced recyclables. After the walk around, a feast prepared by the Songhees Catering Company was shared, and a community member opened and closed the table. Following that a few short videos were displayed to inspire the Nations to think about protecting our earth. Then I was able to speak to the people who attended the event, about my work, and all the preparation that went into the evening. Overall it was a wonderful evening.

3.2 Recycling Audit

Towards the beginning of my term I got to learn and work with a few of the CRD Summer Youth Interns. I shadowed them during a few of their events, and even learned about Recycling Audits

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with Haneen Ghebari one of the interns. A few of the other youth interns and I followed her to an audit and she showed us what she does, and what she records. The audit I went on with her was quite extensive and even went into the contamination we saw within the blue boxes, and how many times we saw the item from the different houses. I took it upon myself to do a Recycling Audit for the two Ləkʷəṇən Nations, Esquimalt and Songhees. I ended up doing two Audits. I went out on September 12th before the Big Recycling event, and then again on November 21st, 2019. The audits I did didn't go into as much detail as the ones I went on with Haneen, but I wanted to know about how many households were actually participating Curbside Recycling. I headed out early on those two mornings before the recycling trucks and recorded the data. Then compiled it all together after both audits.

4.0 Other Community Outreach

4.1 Victoria Native Friendship Centre

The Victoria Native Friendship centre reached out to the CRD and asked if we wouldn't mind attending their 50th Anniversary Celebration. I was asked if I wanted to be included in manning the booth with one of the summer interns Brooklyn Glass. I jumped at the opportunity, and we planned for the event. We brought the interactive question wheel, and other recycling outreach materials. We also brought water bottles to give away, and the recycled newspaper pencils. There were many people there to celebrate the big event, so we had a lot of traffic throughout the day. It was a great event and I was grateful to be a part of it.

4.2 Esquimalt High School

I visited Esquimalt High School one afternoon with Charlotte Charlie, we went over some ideas to engage the kids in learning how to use the awesome recycling infrastructure that they already have. They have several recycling stations throughout the school hallways. They include a plastic drawer, for the different recyclables to be sorted in, including a drawer for mixed containers, soft plastics, flexible plastic packaging, and paper. There is also a compost bin beside that, and also a garbage bin. The troubles that they're having at the school is that the students don't always know which items go in which bin. So Charlotte thought of the idea to make a bingo-like game, where we would ask a question and the answer would be on the "bingo" sheet. She would collect prizes to give to the kids, and when they got 5 answers correct they would win one of the prizes. We didn't get to finish this during my term but I will follow up in December 2019.

5.0 Additional Activities

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5.1 Recycling Champion Training; Indigenous Services Canada

I got the chance to connect with some people from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Emily Chu and Calvin Jameson. Emily from ISC and Calvin from the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG). They are both involved in working with First Nation Communities within BC regarding Recycling and Waste Management. As they are doing work with Tsartlip, they reached out and asked if I wanted to sit in on one of their meetings with Karen Harry. They were bringing the idea to Karen about having a person from the nation to go attend a Recycling Champion training session in Williams Lake B.C. in the beginning of October 2019. I attended this meeting and me being from Songhees Nation, they asked if Songhees would be interested in sending me to this training as well. I flew to Williams Lake and was there for three days. I attended the training sessions, and I was able to learn so much about things related to the current work I was doing. I got to learn more about Recycle BC, Indigenous Services Canada, and even Recycling Stewardships and how everything works together here in BC.

The training being in the Cariboo Regional District I learned about their Recycling systems up in Central BC. I was able to compare that to here in the Capital Region. It is rather different as they have plenty of Transfer Stations as the communities are farther apart, or spread out. The Recyclables from the transfer stations get picked up and brought somewhere else to be processed. Much like how Hartland is just a drop off location for recyclables and doesn't do any of the actual processing or deal with any of the materials. It was really neat to see and learn about where recyclables go and how they're managed. I gained lots of knowledge and understanding during this training opportunity, it really was amazing.

5.2 Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA); Conference

While in this role I was also able to attend the Coast Waste Management Association Conference. Again I was able to learn so much more about Recycling, Waste Management, and everything in between. I found it really interesting to be able to attend and listen to the different speakers that were there. I was able to get a sense of different people's thoughts and views on things like outreach/ education topics and many other things. I found that really helpful in even just thinking about how to differently reach out to communities. There was a plethora of amazing speakers during this conference, and they all touched on some great subjects about the matter. From behaviour and habits, to the amount of food waste Canada creates on a yearly basis. Whatever the topic was I absorbed so much from this conference and was thankful to have the chance to go.

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6.0 Recommendations

While this was a great and amazing experience doing this Community Outreach to First Nations Communities, I do think it is important to have this as an ongoing effort. One of the things I came

to understand is that if we don't keep going with this movement things will definitely slow down. This is such an important message to get across to people and it will take time. So starting slow and implementing things gradually is crucial. I'm very proud of the First Nations Relations Division in creating these important relationships with First Nation Communities, and abiding with First Nation protocols and customs, it is really great to see. Another component in doing this kind of work is understanding the barriers that these communities face.

Whether it be the lack of awareness about the importance in managing our waste has on our home lands and environment, or over production of recyclables with in homes and communities. Learning about these barriers is important to both the CRD, and the Nation Communities themselves.

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Questionnaire for Recycling Education for our Household

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Check or circle all options that apply to you.

QUESTION 1

How important is recycling to you?

Very Important 39

Not Important 0

Somewhat Important 11

QUESTION 2

Are you familiar with what items to recycle and compost?

Yes 45

Maybe 1

No 3

No Answer 1

- I don't know
- cans, plastic bottles, plastic bags
- because if we don't change our way - there isn't going to be a tomorrow
- was never really taught
- so my items don't sit on the side of curb - in case not sorted
- I don't know learned in school
- never really put much thought into it
- plastics, cardboard, tins and cans
- I learned a lot with my children when they were at Craigflower School
- some things I'm still unsure of so I can keep recyclables out of landfills
- The professional cooking classes and other corresponding courses
- to help assist with gardening and yard maintenance
- lots of good info tonight
- have been doing it for long time
- work in a kitchen
- I started when Blue Bins started in our community
- my grandma websites we were taught by our parents as we were growing up

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QUESTION 3

Do you think it is important to recycle and compost?

Yes	48
Maybe	0
No	0
No answer	1

- because the Earth is dying
- going Green is Cool
- be more healthy for the Earth
- help not to stink when it has be opened by people or birds
- you have to
- better for everyone and everything
- keeps the landfill less full
- save our planet
- Go Green
- Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!
- where will all the garbage go
- we can maintain better community hygiene
- for the future reduce reuse recycle always
- to reduce my impact on the environment
- less in the landfill
- reverse the damage we've done to our environment
- reduce waste in a beneficial way
- Good for reducing landfill & great for growing own food
- better for the environment Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!
- Reduce! Reuse! Recycle!
- To save the Earth
- better soil
- we have to do everything we can to protect the land so it can be used for the future

QUESTION 4

Is it easy to recycle at home?

Yes	42
Maybe	2
No	4
No answer	1

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- I don't know
- it's set up outside our place
- because we do not have the proper tools or equipment to do so
- have it all set up outside our place to recycle and compost
- because I don't know the schedule or where to put things
- it's orderly
- we are all in a routine to sort it out
- it could be if I had proper bins
- it's just easy
- excellent service for recycling & compost, except for soft plastics and electronics
- do not have all the containers to recycle
- all items have a nice set up we have a routine
- because I am aware of Mother Earth
- make it a habit
- takes room and time to wash tins
- work in a kitchen
- do not have the proper equipment to recycle
- bins and compost bins provided help a lot
- we have Blue Bins and bags, that is helpful

QUESTION 5

Do you actively seek recycling and compost options?

Yes	30
Maybe	0
No	18
No answer	1

- I don't know
- not yet have it
- to learn to Be Green
- right outside my house
- because it feels right
- I forget
- at work and home always in a rush, I need to slow down
- it matters
- to prevent damaging the Earth
- to further reduce

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- any new ways are great
- there are a wide variety of items in which I am unaware of where to recycle
- no more plastics
- reduce waste
- I believe it is a good thing to do
- right thing to do
- our family recycles normally
- don't want to
- lessen the impact on the planet
- there are so many options available

QUESTION 6

What items does my household recycle: (Check all that apply)

42-Paper	46-Cardboard	41-Hard plastics
40-Soft plastics	23-Metal	37-Glass
20-Electronics	49-Bottles & Cans	21-Batteries
32-Household items & Clothes		

QUESTION 7

How often do you sort your recycling?

None	2
1/week	25
2/week	19
a lot/week	1
Everyday	2

QUESTION 8

I would recycle and reuse more items if I had:

34 -proper bins and bags
15 -more information on what I can compost and recycle
10 -assistance with recycling and composting classes
10 -No answer

- would like assistance with non-curb-side items - no car

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QUESTION 9

Do you need more information about recycling & composting?

14 -Yes

34 -No

1 -No answer

- because I need to learn it
- never learned a lot about it
- I didn't learn
- I would like to learn more about how to properly do it
- common sense
- but maybe just because
- because I didn't know much about it
- worked in the food industry,
- I'm pretty knowledgeable
- was never shown how to
- segregated bins for each item to recycle
- changes happen
- clothes
- we have pretty high standards in the kitchen
- because tenants leave a variety of items to dispose of
- I received it at the community meeting
- excellent information tonight
- I can't use my home compost bin due to rodent problems
- (what to do with) unused shampoo
- it's all clear to me now
- I'm smart
- The information is available online

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QUESTION 10

Check all that apply.

- 12 -I need more information on what can be recycled.
- 25 -I need more information where to take non-household, not curb-side, recycling
- 30 -I need more information with where to take hazardous waste
- 27 -I need more information with where to take Styrofoam
- 14 -I need more information with what goes into the compost bin
- 8 -No answer
- 1 -What to do with invasive species