

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ROUNDTABLE FEEDBACK

Feedback Item #	Strategy	Comment (from July 3, 2020 SWAC Meeting)	Proposed Action / Next Steps
Education Related			
1	1	How do we push the education/awareness for the public now that the plan is drafted	The Plan provides high level direction on how education efforts will be enhanced. The specific tools to be employed will be determined as part of the plan's implementation, as staff evaluate their annual work plan and identify opportunities to maximize resources (through collaborations, using proven materials prepared by other organizations, etc.).
6	1	Awareness of general public and understanding regarding where products go and what to do with them	This is important, particularly considering the increasing skepticism about the validity of recycling. This information/messaging can be incorporated into the implementation of the actions listed in Strategy #1.
17	1	Confusion is a challenge – align recycling methods so it is the same everywhere (i.e., colours, bins, etc.) – consistent messaging throughout	<p>Agreed. This is something to be addressed/included as part of program design, and could be promoted by the CRD as part of its support for the Industrial, Commercial & Institutional (ICI) sector and municipalities (streetscape, municipal facilities, events). For example, in recent years, many waste management organizations are promoting a standard for colour coding of containers/signage. The more this standard is used consistently (at home, work, locally, abroad), the better it will be for everyone.</p> <p>We are fortunate in BC that as of 2014 we have a province-wide residential recycling program that has moved us much closer to having a consistent program across the province.</p>
25	1	Strategy 3 (education) is of utmost importance	Agreed
28	1	Recycling/Reuse – more awareness on <i>how</i> you do it; education is essential	Agreed. “How” needs to be incorporated into how Strategy #1 is implemented.
Finance Related			
11	All	Table of proposed capital operating expenditures over the decade needed	Plan modification recommended. A summary of Revenue and Expenses will be inserted into the financial section of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP).

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12	All	Is \$350,000 for new initiatives laid out in SWMP sufficient? Budgets for streetscape and illegal dumping too little.	The cost estimates were provided by Tetrattech and are amounts <i>in addition to</i> the budget that we currently spend on these items. However, an Environmental Services budget is developed annually, and this will allow us to adjust the budget for these items at the time they are implemented, if needed.
14	2	Review of budget to explore increasing tipping fees – is it enough?	As shown in Table 9-2, maintaining our current tipping fees for the next 10 years and achieving the waste reduction targets will diminish the reserves but not deplete them.
			There are many factors that will need to play out to determine whether these financial predictions will come true: our ability to reduce per capita disposal (not fully in our hands), the strength/weakness of the economy (correlates to waste generation), and what happens to tipping fees in other jurisdictions.
			The Board can assess the financial sustainability of the solid waste system as the plan is implemented and decide if adjusting the tipping fee is prudent. At this time and for the next 10 years, given current conditions, the CRD has the funds to implement this solid waste management plan and maintain its current financial model.
39	All	Is the current budget going to be enough?	See response to Item #12.
41	General	Provide more details on the budget, such as capital investment; where does the 15M go in 2021 and 2022?	Plan modification recommended. A summary of Revenue and Expenses will be inserted into the financial section of the draft SWMP.
Municipal Waste Management			
7	13	Convenience to recycling access points in public space	Plan modification recommended. We can add a section in the draft plan in Section 4.2 on streetscape waste management saying, “Public space litter and recycling collection is a municipal service, as well as a responsibility of Recycle BC. Streetscape recycling is part of the Recycle BC’s EPR program for packaging and printed papers.”
8	13	Municipality description needs: litter, street scape sanitation, collection of materials in the public realm.	Plan modification recommended. This can be incorporated into Table 4-1 (participants in the waste management system) and into the new section on public space/ streetscape waste management noted above.

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9	5	Municipal Waste planning, working towards zero waste.	Plan modification recommended. We can add this to Table 4-1. In terms of support for municipal waste planning, CRD staff are able participate on municipal advisory committees, provide technical assistance and undertake solid waste management initiatives of mutual interest/benefit with municipalities, such as collaborating on regional/municipal communication campaigns.
15	13	More support for municipalities (from CRD) for illegal dumping and street sanitation – i.e., staffing resources or financial/community grants	<p>CRD currently supports municipalities with illegal dumping in public spaces and non-profits with waste materials they receive as donations. Since 1997, the CRD's Community Clean-up Program has been supporting non-profit groups that organize community clean-ups. The funding provided supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collection, processing and marketing of recyclables recovered during clean-up • container rental for transportation and disposal of non-recyclable material • supplies, such as rubber gloves and collection bags <p>In 2019, the CRD provided funding to nine community groups.</p> <p>Also in 2019, the CRD used funds received through the Transport Canada Abandoned Boat Program to work with a community partner, the Dead Boats Disposal Society, to assess and remove approximately 70 boats from the region's harbours. An awareness and reporting campaign was included in this initiative, as well.</p> <p>As part of the CRD's Marine Debris Program, funding is provided to municipalities to dispose of marine debris (wharves, docks, flotation, fishing gear, etc.) that is not covered by the Abandoned Boat funding. In 2019, 4.45 tonnes of debris was disposed of at the landfill through this program.</p> <p>While the CRD does not have a role in street sanitation, it supports municipalities through regional education/awareness campaigns (anti-littering, promoting reusable containers, etc.), as included in Strategy 1 and 13.</p> <p>Plan modifications recommended.</p> <p>As recommended earlier in this document, street sanitation is a municipal responsibility and should be added to <i>Table 4 1: Participants in the Solid Waste Management System</i>. In addition, a section on streetscape recycling will be added to the plan noting that streetscape recycling is part of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program for packaging and printed papers.</p> <p>A section on the CRD's continuing initiatives associated with illegal dumping could be added to Section 4 of the draft plan, which describes the existing solid waste management system.</p>
16	13	Implementation – new innovative ways for local government to support municipalities.	Initiative 13C is all about collaboration. Innovative approaches identified through this collaboration would be welcome. Collaborating should ultimately result in a better use of local government resources (staff and budget).

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34	1,2,7,8,9	Mandatory clear bags for all refuse loads	This is addressed in Action 5E.
Targets			
10	11,12	Prioritization of organics diversion and construction materials	These items are the top priority as identified in Section 8 on targets.
23	General	Need a target that is easy to understand	Per capita disposal is easy for us to measure at Hartland and convey. We have been tracking this data annually, and all regional districts in BC are now tracking their disposal data and reporting it to the Province, so we can readily benchmark ourselves against other BC regional districts. As it is a per capita metric, it also accounts for population growth.
24	All	Will the strategies and actions get us to the targets?	Tetra Tech developed the targets based on the specific strategies and actions listed in the draft plan. They stated that they are aggressive, and this is noted in the draft plan. However, the short- and mid-term targets are within the CRD's purview to achieve. The long-term target requires new EPR programs to be introduced, which is outside of the CRD's control.
26	General	Per capita must be calculated with the growing population	Understood. Because the total quantity of waste disposed is typically correlated to population, we look at waste disposed per person (per capita) rather than total tonnes as a means to compare one year to another. This allows an "apples to apples" comparison. Also, as it is a per capita metric, it accounts for population growth.

Illegal Dumping			
35	5	Illegal dumping – would an increase in Hartland hours help? More accessibility to Hartland in general is needed.	<p>Illegal dumping is an issue in areas with waste facilities accessible 24/7, and without tipping fees.</p> <p>Hartland is currently accessible Monday to Friday (9-5) and Saturday (7-2). Not open Sundays and stat holidays. These hours provide extensive access to the facility.</p> <p>Further increasing the hours is not likely to improve illegal dumping behaviours. There are also a number of private transfer stations that accept garbage and recyclables throughout the region.</p>
36	1,13	Enhancement of Community Clean-up program	The actions listed in Strategy 13 are intended to enhance community clean-ups, and hopefully reduce the need for them over time.
37	10	Abandoned boats remains an issue for the region	We can add in a section to the draft SWMP, as part of a section on illegal dumping, about abandoned boats, adding that the CRD will continue to identify funding and collaboration opportunities to address this issue.
Industrial, Commercial Institutional			
20	6,9	Strategies will be hard to implement for some businesses – ease of use is crucial	Agreed. This will need to be considered when developing educational materials, policies, programs, etc. It will be important to engage/test drive ideas with those affected prior to full development of an initiative.
21	9	Need a toolkit for business waste reduction	Included as action 9C.
22	9	DND: Federal and provincial targets set; hard to monitor and meet both. Hard to align with the CRD's per capita target	DND's waste management activities and plans contribute to meeting the CRD's and province's target, but DND is not required to adopt or meet either target. They will need to do what's right for their operation, and be able to adjust their waste management operations to meet local disposal requirements (e.g., organic waste disposal ban).
30	12	Strategy 12 (ICI) – new buildings should be constructed with materials that are easily reusable and/or recyclable	Ideally yes. This idea can be discussed/incorporated into the implementation of Actions 12 A, B and C.
Incentives			
13	7,8,9	Consider community grants for hard to recycle materials	In 1995, the CRD developed a diversion credit program as a means of encouraging the recycling of materials that did not have a robust recycling market. The diversion credit program recognized that there was value in preserving landfill space, and therefore the CRD encouraged proposals from the private and non-profit sector to collect and recycle materials that were not currently being managed by the existing solid waste management system in the CRD. The program was eventually ended due to lack of interest from the private sector in the program.

			Since then, EPR has put the onus on industry to resolve (or at least pay for) the management of many hard to recycle materials. Given the success of the CRD model (pricing of disposal, disposal bans on items with established markets and supporting the expansion of EPR) AND the demise of the diversion credit program, revisiting intervention in the marketplace may not be warranted.
38	7,8,9,10	More support/incentives for communities to recycle	There are several tools identified within each strategy to drive waste diversion. Through the application of community-based social marketing approaches, the CRD will look for successful models that could be applied here, then “test drive” them for two years before assessing them for effectiveness. With this approach, the CRD can refine the tool, choose an alternate approach, and opt to increase or decrease its use. This also allows for an assessment of the need for other forms of support or incentives.
40	7,8,9	Consider a budget for direct investment in local recycling	The CRD supports the local recycling industry through the imposition and enforcement of disposal bans on divertible materials, plus having contracts to recycle materials collected at Hartland. Disposal bans are a low-cost policy approach to supporting local recycling activities, while allowing the local market (i.e., the collectors, recyclers and generators) to innovate in response to the policy.
Miscellaneous			
2		Integration of comments that have shifted things along the way	<p>Our consultants have used the input from each PTAC/SWAC meeting to help select the options to the ones best suited to the CRD or refine the options to make them better suited to our needs.</p> <p>Our consultation efforts with the general public helped us determine if we were on the right path in terms of the selected strategies and actions, or if any alterations are required.</p>
3	7,8,9	More access to depots on the gulf islands	Depot hours are set by the local operators to optimize service levels to meet the needs of local residents. Operational details to this level of specificity are not intended to form part of the SWMP.
4	10	Household hazardous waste on the gulf islands	<p>There is collection of household hazardous waste (HHW) materials (collected on behalf of an EPR program) at each of the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Island depots.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salt Spring: batteries, light bulbs/fixtures, fuels, pesticides, paint, electronics, thermostats, smoke and CO detectors • Mayne: batteries, electronics, paint • Pender: batteries, light bulbs/fixtures, paint, electronics, smoke and CO detectors • Galiano: household batteries, paint, electronics, smoke and CO detectors • Saturna: batteries, light bulbs/fixtures, paint, motor oil <p>In addition to depot collection, some HHW may also be returned to local retailers.</p> <p>Finally, there is one HHW depot for all residents of the region at Hartland that is open year round and accepts the full range of EPR products free of charge. There is no plan to extend this service to other parts of the regional district.</p>

5	10	HHW management in general was also mentioned by two other members	<p>Plan modification recommended.</p> <p>We will add in a section on HHW into the SWMP indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the majority of HHW collection is handled through EPR programs not all HHW is covered by EPR programs, and as a result, the CRD has a HHW depot at Hartland that receives non-EPR HHW. This will remain available as long as there is a need for the service. However, this is a cost to the CRD solid waste service. The CRD will continue to encourage the province to expand the list of HHW products covered by EPR.
18	7,8,9	Recycling needs to be convenient and easy to find	Agreed. Convenience is important for successful participation in recycling. The pursuit of consistency across the region and province should improve proper participation, but it will take time and effort.
19	7,8,9	How do we stay on top of the changing markets (i.e., plastics, etc.) – what is recyclable – what is garbage?	The CRD's Environmental Resource Management staff keep up on what's happening in the recycling marketplace locally and globally through their membership in several waste management associations and attending relevant conferences and webinars. Additionally, CRD staff have regular contact with the waste management companies, EPR organization partners and contractors that are directly involved in marketing recyclable materials.
27	14B	Technologies/new approaches – needs to be expanded	Action 14B is to “Investigate collaboration opportunities with educational institutions to research new beneficial uses and technologies”. This option is intended to be high-level to allow for the CRD to consider a broad range of collaboration opportunities, if the CRD Board deems a research opportunity to be in the best interest of the region.
29	11	Strategy 11 (organics) – needs more clarification on what will be done, what are the end-markets for finished compost?	At this point in time, the CRD Board has committed to a process to develop local organic waste processing capacity as described in Section 6. Action 11C indicates that municipal uses are intended to be one of the markets for the finished compost (and possibly the most significant market). Establishing markets and market value for the end products will be an essential component of assessing technologies and the ultimate operating cost of the processing system. Understanding the market(s) for the end products will play a critical role in the decision making process. At this time, additional details are not available to be included in the SWMP.
31	10	Electronic waste (i.e., electric cars) will represent a large waste stream in the near future	Thankfully, electronics and batteries (including vehicle batteries) are already under an EPR program and the technology for recycling the batteries from electric cars is improving. The CRD will continue to liaise with the Province and the battery extended producer responsibility organizations to ensure there is local capacity to manage these material flows as they emerge over the coming years.
32	7	Waste that is diverted, is it properly recycled? Consider the end-markets for diverted materials	The extended producer responsibility organizations that are responsible for collecting EPR materials (including residential PPP) must track and demonstrate to the Province that they have legitimate markets. The CRD also incorporates market reporting into its recycling contracts they engage with outside of provincial EPR programs to ensure that there are legitimate uses for the products collected. This is ultimately an operational item more than a SWMP item, but if it is important to make a statement about how the CRD engages with its recycling contractors in the future by requiring proof of end use/market—this is something we could add in.

33	14B	Consider novel ways to manage Greenhouse gases and utilize coming from the landfill	The CRD Board acknowledges the current climate emergency. Managing our landfill gas in the most effective way is the driver for the RNG agreement with Fortis. The CRD is interested in maximizing the value of the LFG and ensuring that its impact on the environment is minimized.
42	n/a	How much freedom do we have as an advisory committee	<p>The Solid Waste Advisory Committee's (SWAC) Terms of Reference (associated with the SWMP) are to advise the Steering Committee (Environmental Services Committee) on the development of Revision 3 of the SWMP. It is up to the Chair to ensure that the discussions at the table serve this purpose.</p> <p>The process to develop a new SWMP has been underway for some time, with the input of a multi-stakeholder advisory committee and consultants. Much work has been done and input received to bring us to the draft plan stage. The process to develop the plan has been designed as linear so that it moves us towards completion of the plan. That being said, the committee can make recommendations to the Environmental Services Committee (ESC) to revisit an aspect of the plan if it deems it appropriate to do so. It will be up to the ESC to consider the recommendation.</p>
43	General	Cruise ship waste is calculated in the per capita disposal	If the waste is disposed at Hartland, then it is included as part of the per capita disposal, the same as other tourism-related waste.