

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021**

---

**SUBJECT**     **Solid Waste Management Plan – Implementation Update**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

To provide an update on implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 12, 2021, the Capital Regional District's (CRD) new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) was approved by the CRD Board. At the same meeting, staff were directed to submit the plan to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) for regulatory approval and to immediately begin implementing the plan. In response to this direction, staff have submitted the Plan to ENV for review and approval, have developed a short-term work plan and framework, and have begun plan implementation. Details are provided below for information.

The new SWMP has a goal to surpass the provincial waste disposal target and aspires to achieve a disposal rate of 125 kg/capita/year. By the end of its tenth year, the plan targets a waste disposal rate of 250 kg per capita (or less). This represents an overall regional waste reduction of approximately one-third, or around 40,000 tonnes of waste against 2020 levels within 10-years – a significant challenge for a growing region.

The CRD has focused on waste reduction for many years and has already been successful in diverting a significant portion of the region's waste from the landfill. Between 1989 and 2019, the CRD's per capita waste disposal rate went down approximately 43%, as a result of a variety of CRD initiatives, including the blue box program, recycling depots, landfill disposal bans on materials when viable alternatives exist (including processing systems and end markets), as well as the introduction of the Extended Producer Responsibility programs regulated by the Province.

To meet the targets of the new SWMP, the CRD will need to build on these successes and implement new and expanded programs, policies and regulations, as identified within the plan, to continue to reduce, reuse and recycle materials, and recover materials and energy from the waste stream.

To support meeting the plan's waste disposal target within the timeframe, staff have developed a short-term work plan and framework (Appendix A) and have prioritized the plan's 72 actions through the lenses of those actions that will be most effective in reaching the plan targets, align with community (including municipal) priority areas, and are areas that fall within the CRD's jurisdiction and operational control.

On this basis, staff have identified five short-term focus areas for immediate implementation (see details in Appendix A). The vast majority of waste reduction is expected to be achieved through the targeted material stream diversion of wood waste, organics, paper and plastics, which combined represent about two-thirds of the materials currently being disposed at Hartland Landfill.

At its September 15, 2021 meeting, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee received the SWMP – Implementation Update staff report for information and passed the following related motion:

*That the Capital Regional District prioritize waste stream management licensing as part of the short-term strategies to support municipalities in their initiatives.*

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee motion, and staff prepared implications report, will be brought to Environmental Services Committee for consideration at their October 20, 2021 meeting.

### **CONCLUSION**

The final draft Solid Waste Management Plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for regulatory approval. Meeting the targeted waste disposal rate of 250 kg per capita (or less) per year within 10 years represents an overall reduction of approximately one-third of the current solid waste generation and will be a significant challenge for our growing region. Staff have begun plan implementation and have prioritized the 72 plan actions into five short-term focus areas through the lenses of actions that will be most effective in reaching the plan targets, align with community (including municipal) priority areas, and are areas that fall within the CRD's jurisdiction and operational control.

### **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

### **ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Solid Waste Management Plan – Short-Term Implementation Framework and Timeline