

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2021**

SUBJECT Waste Stream Management Licensing

ISSUE SUMMARY

To seek direction regarding the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) motion recommending to the Environmental Services Committee that the Capital Regional District (CRD) prioritize waste stream management licensing as part of its short-term strategies to support municipalities in their solid waste reduction initiatives.

BACKGROUND

At its September 15, 2021 meeting, the SWAC passed a motion recommending that “the Capital Regional District prioritize waste stream management licensing as part of the short-term strategies to support municipalities in their initiatives”. This recommendation aligns with the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) feedback that was received on February 12, 2021 from City of Victoria (the City) staff, a copy of which is attached as Appendix A.

Waste stream management licensing is a form of waste flow management used to regulate solid waste facilities and/or waste haulers, and thereby control the movement of solid waste and recyclable materials within the region. The BC Environmental Management Act (EMA) grants regional districts the authority to license solid waste management facilities and waste haulers. EMA allows regional districts to create two types of licences, which are:

1. a waste stream management licence issued to a site that accepts and manages municipal solid waste; and
2. a hauler licence issued to waste haulers.

Licensing provides regional districts with the ability to:

- facilitate the diversion of recyclable materials
- prevent abandonment of large quantities of stored solid waste or recyclable materials
- track the movement of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials, which is useful in determining success of waste diversion programs
- establish minimum administrative and operating requirements for facilities
- incent private sector investment in waste management infrastructure by establishing a level playing field; and
- ensure the financial sustainability of regional district facilities by managing the flow of solid waste to them.

Implementing waste flow management may also help municipalities with their own solid waste reduction initiatives. For example, the City is in the process of developing a bylaw to mandate the deconstruction of buildings in lieu of traditional demolition. It is intended that requiring deconstruction will allow for reusable resources, such as old-growth timbers to be salvaged and reused rather than landfilled. The City estimates that this change has the potential to divert up to

3,000 tonnes of waste from disposal annually. Waste stream management licensing may prove helpful to the City by tracking the flow of demolition and deconstruction materials, and ensuring they are not disposed of outside the region.

The new SWMP includes potential waste stream management actions described under the Continue and Enhance Policy Development (Strategy 6) – “Investigate regulatory mechanisms to manage municipal solid waste and recyclable materials in the region” and “Investigate licensing waste management facilities in the region to encourage transparency, consistency, and a requirement that all facilities protect public health and the environment”. These initiatives do not specifically form part of the five priority areas outlined in the SWMP Short-Term Implementation Framework that was provided to the Environmental Services Committee in a September 29, 2021 information report; however, there is an opportunity for these Strategy 6 items to be explored as part of the Municipal Collaboration priority that contemplates the use of regulation and bylaws to facilitate waste diversion from landfill. A copy of the SWMP Short-Term Implementation Framework is provided for information in Appendix B.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff include the investigation of waste stream management licensing as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Implementation Framework.

Alternative 2

That staff move forward with the Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Implementation Framework and investigate waste stream management licensing after the short-term implementation work has been completed.

IMPLICATIONS

Environmental & Climate Implications

While not necessarily essential, waste stream management licensing has the potential to ensure that more recyclable materials are diverted from disposal, which will assist the CRD in meeting its SWMP targets and extend the life of Hartland Landfill.

Intergovernmental Implications

Waste stream management licensing has the potential to aid municipalities with the delivery and effectiveness of their own solid waste reduction initiatives which, in turn, will aid the CRD in achieving its SWMP targets.

Financial Implications

Investigating waste stream management licensing systems can be done as part of the existing SWMP implementation budget.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

Immediate investigation of waste stream management licensing means that less resources will be available for other short-term SWMP implementation priorities. As a result, other short-term implementation priorities may take longer than anticipated.

CONCLUSION

At its September 15, 2021 meeting, the Solid Waste Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending that the Capital Regional District prioritize waste stream management licensing as part of the short-term strategies to support municipalities in their initiatives. While broadly contemplated in the new Solid Waste Management Plan, investigating waste stream management licensing was not an immediate action identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Implementation Framework. Adjustment of the short-term priorities and timelines should allow for an opportunity to investigate waste stream management licensing.

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Services Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board: That staff include the investigation of waste stream management licensing as part of the Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Implementation Framework.

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

ATTACHMENTS

- Appendix A: Letter from City of Victoria regarding Draft Solid Waste Management Plan
– February 12, 2021
- Appendix B: Solid Waste Management Plan Short-Term Implementation Framework