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STRATEGY GROUP

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WHAT WE HEARD CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

Comox Strathcona Waste Management Solid Waste Management Plan **STEP 3A**

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November 2024

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OVERVIEW

This What We Heard Summary Report reports outlines the public consultation activities and input collected within Step 3A of the overall Solid Waste Management Plan renewal process. The second part of Step 3 [3B], “Evaluate Options”, will continue into Spring 2025.

THE 4-STEP SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROCESS

Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) is developing a new solid waste management plan (SWMP). The plan will guide how garbage, recycling, yard, and food waste programs are managed for the next decade.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (Ministry) recommends that plans be renewed every 10 years to ensure the plan reflects best practices and the evolving realities of solid waste. The last plan was updated in 2012. Meanwhile, the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area has grown 13% during that time and is forecast to continue to grow.

As communities, regulations, and public needs change, the CSWM must adapt to meet the evolving environment through the delivery of effective, cost efficient and convenient solid waste management services.

The solid waste management plan renewal process has four steps:



Per the *Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* prepared by the Ministry, when submitting an amended solid waste management plan to the Ministry for approval, a regional district should be able to demonstrate, via its consultation report, that “adequate” consultation has occurred as follows:

- The advisory committee has been involved from the start of the process, beginning at the design stage of the consultation process.
- The consultation process has been inclusive of a wide range of interested parties (including the public).

- Interested parties (including the public) have been given ample notice of each of the consultation opportunities through a variety of notification methods.
- The documentation provided sufficient information to enable the interested parties to determine how their interests may be affected.
- Interested parties (including the public) have been provided with sufficient time to respond to draft documents.
- The proceedings and outcomes from the consultation process have been well documented and made available for public review, so that interested parties (including the public) are able to see how the plan addresses their comments or issues.

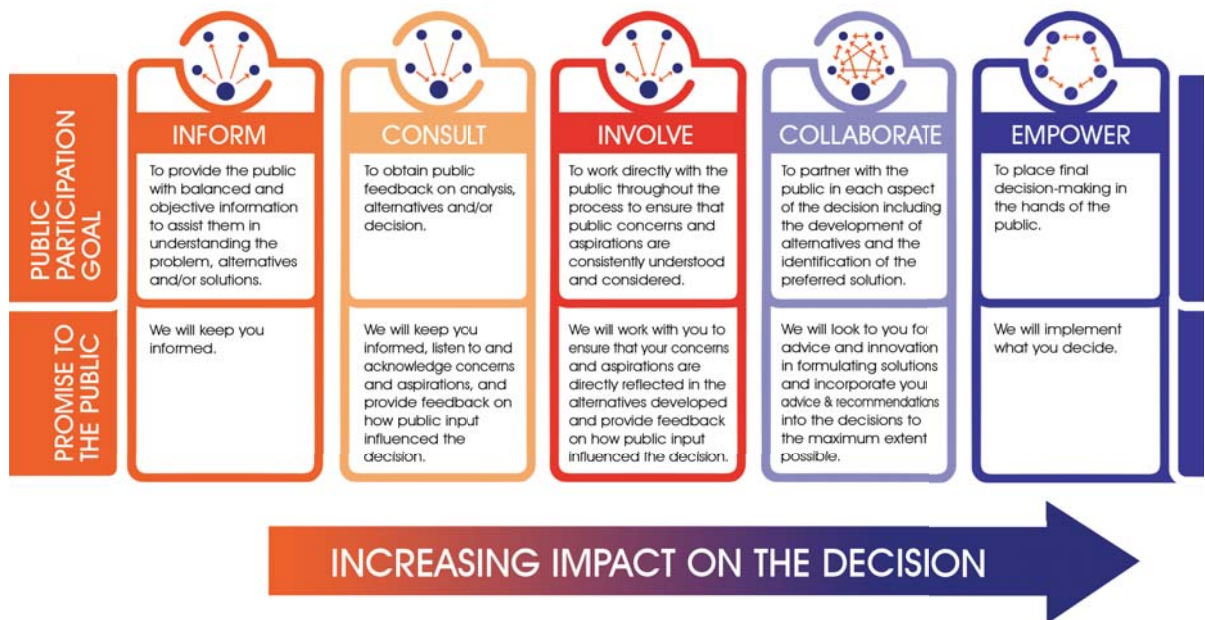
Recommendations and a draft Solid Waste Management Plan will be informed by broad public input and the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC). Upon completion of multi-phase public consultation and recommendations of the RSWAC, the draft plan will then be considered by the CSWM Board for final consideration and approval. Upon CSWM Board approval it will then be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy for review and approvals.

STEP 3A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION APPROACH

The consultation process was designed in alignment with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum and core values.

The Step 3A public consultation strategy commits to engaging the broad public at the level of “inform” and “consult” providing information, listening and acknowledging concerns and to work with the public to exchange information, ideas, and concerns.

International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum:



STEP 3A COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

- 1. To increase understanding of how solid waste is managed in the CSWM service area including facilities, services, and programs, including how various services are funded.*
- 2. To provide accessible information and channels to solicit feedback and input from rural areas and specific sectors on proposed strategies to achieve the desired outcomes that have been prioritized and identified in Step 2.*
- 3. To solicit feedback on the level of accessibility for various material streams for residents in rural areas.*
- 4. To communicate the CSWM is committed to working towards waste reduction efforts from financially responsible solutions-based approach.*
- 5. To ensure residents, industry, commercial and institutional sectors have opportunities to provide input.*
- 6. To meet or exceed legislative requirements for solid waste management public consultation as set out by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.*

OVERVIEW OF STEP 3A CONSULTATION PROCESS

Step 3 of the solid waste management plan renewal process is organized into two components, Step 3A and 3B. Building off the goals and guiding principles established in Step 2, Step 3A was designed to advance discussions about ways to achieve these goals. Broad education through facility tours, website and outreach continued and input was sought from rural communities about how to improve access and convenience of solid waste services to increase waste diversion.

Awareness-raising efforts:

- A media release was distributed launching the process on July 5, 2024.
- A second media release on September 4, 2024 promoted the upcoming facility tours.
- The *Weigh in on Waste* project webpage cswm.ca/swmp continued to be the landing page for the project and linked to the public engagement portal offering interactive features to share ideas and pose questions. It included events, photo gallery and project updates.
- The subscriber-based project news continued to be utilized.
- Posters were distributed throughout the rural CSWM communities where events were held.
- Social media posts appeared on CSWM Facebook throughout the process.
- A digital ad series displayed on Facebook, Google and YouTube promoting the events and website.
- 20 print ads were run in 16 different community publications.
- Letters were sent to 11,500 households, raising awareness of the solid waste management renewal process and the opportunity to participate and provide feedback in rural community events.
- A prize draw for a yard of compost was used as a participation incentive at each event.
- Solid waste outreach booth at summer markets.
- Information included on Oyster River Fire Hall and Macauley Road signs

There were several ways to provide input:

- Seven community events were held in total, with advertised open houses in Fanny Bay, Union Bay, CVRD Electoral Area B, SRD Electoral Area D, Black Creek and community outreach events occurred on Quadra Island and Cortes Island.
- The *Weigh in on Waste* project page invited visitors to share their ideas for how and where to divert more waste in rural communities and how to improve and fund diversion strategies.
- Feedback forms at Landfill Tours held on Saturday, September 14, 2024.
- Feedback forms at Regional Organics Facility Tours held Saturday, September 21, 2024.
- Presentations were offered to municipal councils and regional boards.
- Project email: cswm@comoxvalleyrd.ca



Top left and above: Social media posts raising awareness of public tours offered to the public.
Top right: Screenshot of the 'Weigh In On Waste' project webpage where feedback could be submitted.

ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Over 1,900 people participated in the process:



1,200+ unique web visitors



77 online contributions



169 subscribers to project updates



173 people engaged at community outreach events



89 people attended rural community open houses



67 people attended the compost facility tours



136 people attended the landfill tours



9 Council/Board presentations



1 Council tour

WHAT WE HEARD

OVERALL THEMES

Rural Communities

- Fanny Bay, Oyster River and Black Creek attendees indicated interest in roadside collection service, while attendees at Union Bay and CVRD Area B events were divided on the need. While some opposed to roadside service cited the cost as a deterrent, some were concerned it would negatively impact the existing hauler.
- The Alternative Approval Process is not a preferred process for soliciting electoral input with some noting associated misinformation associated with previous processes.
- There is an appetite for additional recycling depots in all five communities. Some expressed the need for more information about what happens to the material after it is dropped off.
- Union Bay, CVRD Area B, and Oyster River attendees indicated interest in increased organics options.

Community Outreach Events

Cortes Island:

- Most Cortes Island residents expressed satisfaction with curbside collection services and many see the need for increased education and enforcement. Many Cortes island residents appreciate the Free Store and the variety of items that are accepted at the recycling depot. Some had suggestions for additional items that could be recycled.

Quadra Island:

- Many Quadra Island residents are satisfied with the proposed recycling depot hours and 4-day/ week schedule with a high preference for weekend access and almost everyone is satisfied with the recycling drop-off and its location. Some had suggestions for additional items that could be collected. Most residents were comfortable with funding coming from taxation however some felt waste disposal rates are too high which can be a disincentive to proper disposal.
- Increased options during tourist season, mandatory commercial composting for businesses, and yard and garden collection were noted as possible service enhancements.

Online

- There is a desire for improved waste management services across recycling, organics and garbage, including yard waste and large/bulky item collection options.
- Many residents believe that curbside pickup for garbage, recycling, and compost would be the most effective service, while more recycling facilities or transfer depots were commonly suggested from Quadra Island respondents.
- There are some concerns about wildlife and rodents with the current system.

Regional Facility Tours

- Increased education, roadside collection across the CSWM and expanded organics collection options are seen as key to increased waste diversion.
- The landfill and organics facility are considered very important assets, and most are very satisfied with the environmental protections in place.
- More should be done to increase diversion from multi-family dwellings and Industrial, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sectors.
- The tours are highly rated by those who attend and feel more should be offered.

RURAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Staff from Comox Strathcona Waste Management and engagement consultants hosted open house events in rural communities to kick off Step 3 of the Solid Waste Management Plan consultation process.

Attendees could learn more about the various aspects of the current solid waste management system, the goals and priorities established during Step 2, and what strategies are being explored to achieve regional goals and waste diversion targets. Each event was an opportunity to present information and gather feedback.

Attendees were entered into a random draw to win a free yard of regionally made compost. Attendees were invited to participate in a free 'Junk in the Trunk' activity at each event by bringing along unwanted items in usable and good condition to swap with other attendees.

Community Open Houses were held from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. in:

1. Fanny Bay, July 16
2. Union Bay, July 17
3. CVRD Electoral Area B (Huband Park Elementary), July 18
4. SRD Area D (Oyster River), July 23
5. Black Creek, July 25

Community Outreach occurred in:

1. Quadra Island, July 19 from 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.
2. Cortes Island, July 20 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m., July 21 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.



What We Heard at the Rural Open Houses:

Questions posed at each Open House:

- **How do we improve your access to diversion?**
What specific strategies, services or resources would improve waste management in your community, and should they be funded by taxes, tip fees or utility fees?
- **Where is, or where would be, a convenient recycling depot location for you?**
Are you happy with a current depot location or would you like to see a depot in a more convenient location? Let us know!
- **Please add any other thoughts, comments or ideas!**

FANNY BAY OPEN HOUSE – JULY 16, 2024

Fanny Bay Community Hall, 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

31 attendees

Overall themes:

- Although some attendees are satisfied with the Cumberland recycling depot location, the majority of attendees were interested in seeing the establishment of a recycling depot located nearby. Location suggestions: Ships Point (Union Bay), Fanny Bay area.
- Most common feedback was that attendees were interested in receiving roadside collection service and to have these costs funded through taxation.
- Many attendees expressed a strong desire to avoid the Alternative Approval Process (a method of seeking electoral approval) for future decisions around determining whether roadside collection should be implemented within their community.
- Some attendees noted the need for large item collection or drop-off opportunities (e.g. one day drop-off/collection days each year).
- The top ways people heard about the event:
 - *Newsletter*
 - *Facebook post to community page*
 - *Local newspaper*
- Some recommended advertising future events in the Comox Valley Record and on the local Facebook community message board.



UNION BAY OPEN HOUSE – JULY 17, 2024

Union Bay Community Club, 5 p.m. – 7p.m.

30 attendees

Overall themes:

- Overall general satisfaction with the service current small private hauler provides.
- Majority of attendees were highly concerned about further increases to their taxes. Many noted they've just received a significant increase for a new water, sewage and firehall service.
- 1/3 of attendees were in favour of a CSWM roadside service.
- Options for compost, either roadside pickup or self-haul option at Cumberland landfill.
- Although some attendees are satisfied with the Cumberland recycling depot location, some suggested new depot locations near Buckley Bay ferry, near Union Bay Fire Station, beside the Union Bay store (south of fire hall), or at Union Bay Community Hall.
- Some attendees expressed concerns about misinformation shared within the Alternative Approval Process (a method of seeking electoral approval)
- The top ways people heard about the event:
 - Newsletter
 - Local newspaper
 - Facebook post on community board
 - Word of mouth
- Some recommended advertising future events on local Facebook community message board.



CVRD ELECTORAL AREA B - HUBAND OPEN HOUSE – JULY 18, 2024

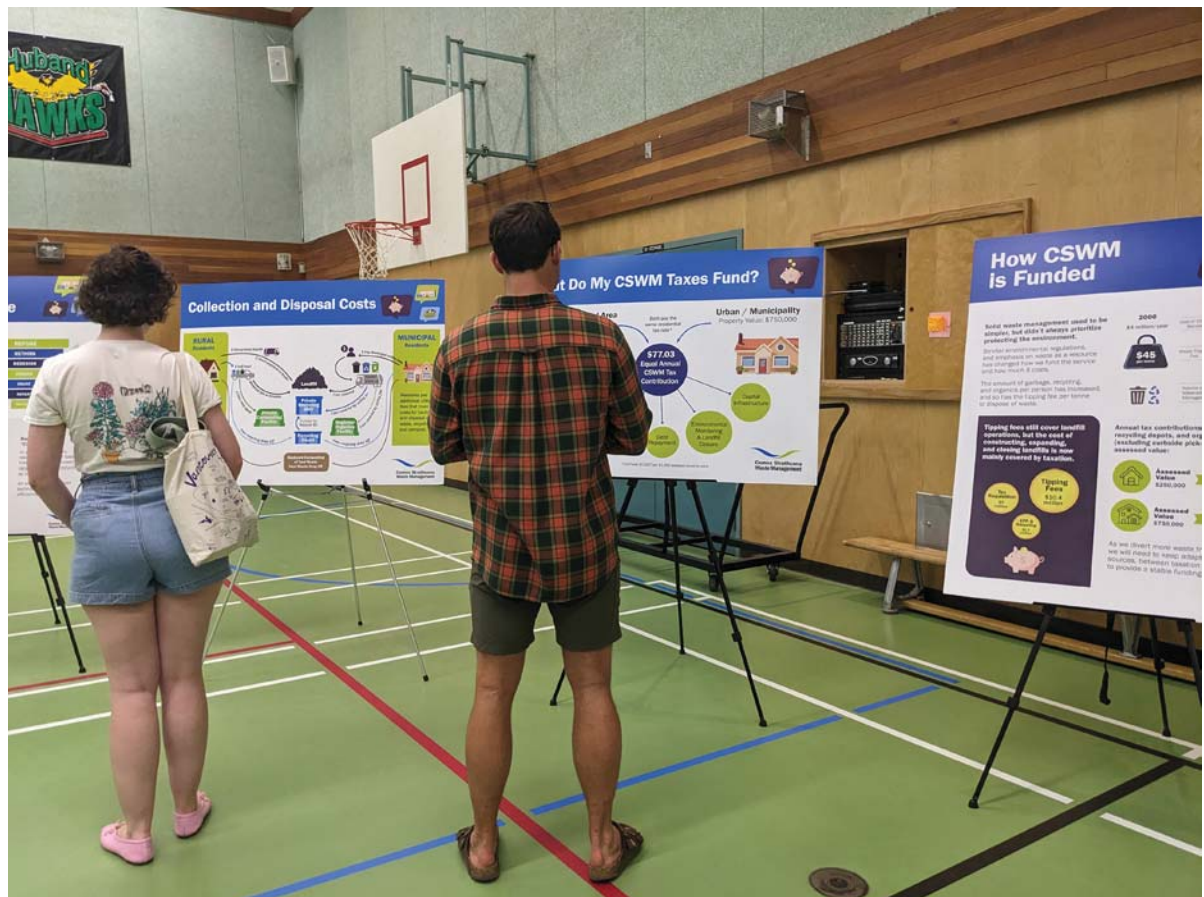
Huband Park Elementary School, 5 p.m. – 7p.m.

17 attendees

Overall themes:

- Many attendees felt compost collection is needed for rural area residents and/or food scraps should be accepted at Comox Valley Waste Management Centre.
- Many attendees felt recycling and organics collection should be required, supported and enforced at schools, workplaces, apartments, condos, high density housing units, etc.
- About 1/3 attendees would like to see roadside collection introduced. Another 1/3 oppose roadside collection, noting it would put a small local business out of work and/or hire a large company that wouldn't satisfy needs and/or things are fine they way they are. The remaining 1/3 did not have a strong opinion either way.

- Several expressed disappointment that the Alternative Approval Process (a method of seeking electoral approval) failed, noting misinformation was spread throughout the community.
- Some felt government shouldn't be stepping in on small, local private business.
- Two locations were suggested for a new recycling depot: CFB Comox (Military Row near junction of Ryan Rd. E) and the Merville Fire Station.
- Some felt Courtenay depot's demographic is not safe for children as well as having some adults feel unsafe.
- Some noted the current system is working, recycling is brought when self-haul garbage is delivered to CVWM facility.
- Some misinformation re: recycling, a few residents questioned whether what they put into the recycling system was actually being recycled.
- Almost all attendees heard about the event from the newsletter and two heard through word of mouth/friend.
- Some attendees felt the location of the open house was "off the beaten track" and suggested to have it more centrally located, potentially in Comox.



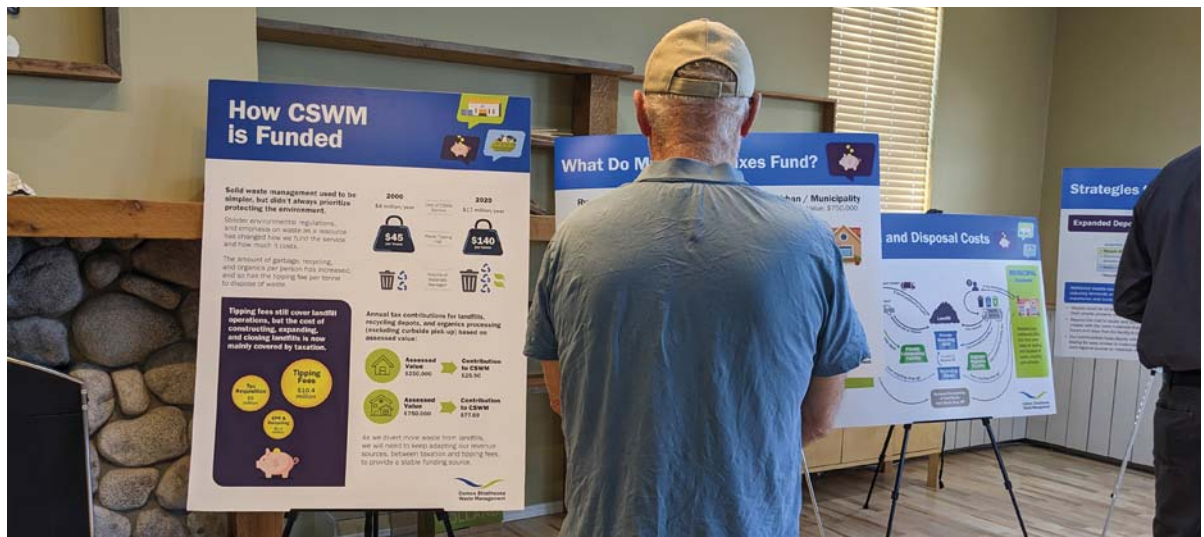
SRD AREA D - OYSTER RIVER OPEN HOUSE – JULY 23, 2024

Ocean Resort, 5 p.m. – 7p.m.

8 attendees

Overall themes:

- All attendees feel that recycling depot at Oyster River needs to be improved, either increase capacity or add another location. The depot is often full, and residents have to drive away, unable to unload their recycling. One suggested a webcam be installed so residents can see if it is full before they arrive.
- Cleanliness of the recycling depot could be improved.
- Most attendees were in support of roadside service inclusive of organics and recycling collection.
- There is a desire for improved composting options noting examples such as: CSWM bulk buy of rodent proof composters for residential backyard composting, collection via roadside pickup or acceptance for self-haul drop off at a waste management facility.
- Possible locations for a new recycling depot were:
 - Merville Fire Station
 - Merville General Store
 - Willow Point Park (Sportsplex)
 - Oyster Bay Rest Area
- Some misinformation re: recycling, a few residents questioned whether what they put into the recycling system was actually being recycled.
- Two attendees expressed strong desire for roadside service.
- There were some comments about how expensive private hauling service is compared to cost estimates for a CSWM funded service.
- All attendees heard about the open house through the newsletter, and some also heard about the event from the Oyster River Fire Hall sign and Post on the Oyster River recycling depot Facebook page.



BLACK CREEK OPEN HOUSE – JULY 25, 2024

Black Creek Community Centre, 5 p.m. – 7p.m.

20 attendees (16 from area C, 1 from Area A, and 3 from Area D)

Overall themes:

- Most attendees expressed a strong interest in roadside collection services, while some attendees are opposed to a roadside collection service.
- Staffed recycling depot to increase quality and assurance that what's going in will be recycled.
- Many attendees noted concern with the current cost of private hauling services.
- When asked about potential locations for recycling depots, most felt more depots are needed and one attendee suggested the Courtenay Country Market for new depot location.
- The top ways people heard about the event:
 - *Newsletter*
 - *Local newspaper*
 - *Sign at the fire department*



What We Heard at the Community Outreach Events:

QUADRA ISLAND COMMUNITY EVENT – JULY 19, 2024

Aroma Cove Café, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Quadra Island Recycling Depot 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

75 people engaged

Overall themes:

- Many residents noted satisfaction with the waste management system in Campbell River.
- Many people shared their strategies for diversion and waste management, including home composting and frequency of trips to Cumberland and Campbell River Waste Management Centres.
- Most residents are satisfied with the proposed recycling depot hours and 4-day/week schedule with a high preference for weekend access.
- Some felt the application for becoming an operator was not open long enough/application process was too complicated.
- Almost everyone is satisfied with the recycling drop-off and its location, however, some noted that the bins for recycling are often full.
- Some stated they missed the previous “pay per drop” policy and preferred to use stickers for curbside pick-up.
- When asked about how services were funded, most were comfortable with funding coming from taxation however some felt waste disposal rates are too high which can be a disincentive to proper disposal.
- Some felt waste management needs to increase during tourist season noting limited places to bring garbage. Potential improvements included operating a transfer station during peak periods and short-term vacation rental hosts offering bins for waste diversion to make it easy for tourists.
- Some felt commercial composting should be mandatory for businesses, optional for residents and yard waste collection could help curb fire risk. Wood chipping was a suggested option for recycling wood waste.
- A variety of miscellaneous waste management suggestions were noted for the proposed recycling depot including:
 - Increased education about where recycled material goes after collection may drive positive behaviour change.
 - Introduce oil collection
 - Open a Free Store on-site, volunteer-operated



CORTES ISLAND COMMUNITY EVENT – JULY 20 AND 21, 2024

Cortes Days, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cortes Island Waste Management Centre, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

98 people engaged

Overall themes:

- Most are satisfied with curbside collection services and noted that curbside services help decrease traffic at the waste management facility and save a long round-trip for those located a further distance away. Many landfill customers were happy to continue supporting the roadside services even if they did not use them.
- Some would like to see glass continue to be collected.
- Many expressed appreciation for the recycling depot and curbside collection employees.
- Many were pleased with the variety of items that can be recycled at the depot. Some suggested keeping the free store open during recycling depot hours and others suggested maintaining summer hours in the winter. One suggested an outdoor free store area. Some noted the social benefits of the Free store and waste management centre as a social hub.
- Some would like to see more upcycling opportunities and recycling options for items like bike tires and cooking oil as well as wood and yard waste drop-off to reduce backyard burning.
- Many support increased enforcement to combat recycling being thrown into the garbage.
- Summer visitors are observed to have poor waste diversion/sorting habits, and some feel seasonal residents are unaware of curbside services. Recycling opportunities for boaters are limited.
- Although most people seemed satisfied with the current taxation for waste management services, there appeared to be some confusion. Many residents understood that curbside service should cost more than self-haul. Many appreciate that it's 'free' to drop off garbage, a one-time service fee, this funding model helps to abate illegal/irresponsible disposal. Many noted they would support a "pay as you throw" system at a reasonable cost.
- Many noted the need for more education on various topics [including where recycling goes after collection] and to target specific demographics. Specific suggestions included signage, a reminder service for curbside collection and use of the Tideline newspaper and local radio station (89.5).



LANDFILL TOURS – Saturday, September 14, 2024

136 people participated in behind-the-scenes landfill tours at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre. This was the second-year public tours were offered. This year they were offered in September, versus July the previous year.

Shuttled by bus, participants discovered everything from where their garbage goes and ways to divert waste from the landfill to managing birds and wildlife, capturing, and treating leachate, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The tours drove home the opportunity for collective improvement by taking simple steps to reduce waste, thereby reducing the amount of residual waste going into the landfill.

At the end of the tour, attendees were asked for feedback about the tour, how satisfied they are with the environmental protection in place, and the importance of the landfill as a community asset.



Overall Themes:

- Almost all attendees expressed overall appreciation and positive feedback about the tours, describing the events as very informative and the tours as accessible, relevant and tangible. The tour hosts received a lot of feedback about their enthusiasm and knowledge. Respondents appreciated the way they presented the information and were able to make many connections between the current waste system, climate change, and actionable ways individuals can divert waste.
- The top recommendation for increasing waste diversion was to increase education, awareness, and outreach efforts. Almost half of the feedback received mentioned the need for increased educational efforts. Attendees noted a variety of strategies, including brochures, handouts, and newspaper articles. Additional suggestions included increasing efforts to debunk recycling myths and target specific demographics such as school-aged children, multifamily dwellings and the industrial, commercial, or institutional sector.
- The second most common recommendation for increasing waste diversion was offering curbside collections services across the service area, inclusive of food scraps and yard waste.
- A few respondents suggested increased penalties and enforcement to incentivize waste diversion.
- A few respondents felt waste diversion could be easy and more accessible, particularly for island residents.
- Many people commented on the breadth of information and complexity of the solid waste programs, and a handful of participants mentioned it was insightful to see “behind the scenes” and the visual scale of the operation.
- 85% of respondents stated that they felt the landfill is a “very important” asset in their community and 73% felt “very satisfied” with the environmental protections in place at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre.
- Many suggested to offering more tours more often/throughout the year.
- Some suggested lengthening the tour duration to allow for more questions, with additional possibilities to get out of the bus and stay at some sites longer.
- Many participants heard about the tour by word of mouth, particularly from people who took the tour last year. Most participants found the content provided to be valuable and informative.

REGIONAL ORGANICS FACILITY TOUR – September 21, 2024

67 people participated in first-ever public tours of the Regional Organics Facility.

Attendees were guided through the facility on foot by CSWM staff learning about how organics are collected and where they are brought for processing. The guided tour provided an overview of the impacts of organics being landfilled and the environmental benefits of organics being diverted and responsibly processed. The tour detailed how organics are collected and processed to create nutrient-rich compost, including the environmental standards and protocols in place to protect air, soil and water.

Attendees were asked for feedback about the tour, actions that need to be taken to improve waste diversion, the importance of the organics facility as an asset to the community, and their satisfaction with the environmental protections in place at the organics facility.



Overall Themes:

- Attendees expressed appreciation for the knowledgeable and engaging tour hosts, with several comments noting that the tour was very informative and well-organized. Some noted they liked that it was outdoors and on foot.
- The most common comment from participants was that they enjoyed visiting the site in person and learning about all the processes involved in making finished compost.
- The second most suggested improvement in terms of increasing waste diversion was to expand upon the regional composting program by making it easier to drop off organic waste, allowing for more material to be collected and expanding collection to multifamily dwellings and the ICI sector.
- 73% of respondents made some mention of increasing educational outreach efforts. Specific suggestions varied from increased efforts in the schools to educate children who

can then educate their parents to providing more direct communication to residents about what can / cannot go into the compost. Direct mail and repeated messaging in local print media were both suggested with some noting the need to target increased participation of those living in multi-family dwellings.

- 90% of respondents felt the regional organics facility is a “very important” asset in their community and 90% felt satisfied to reasonably satisfied with the environmental protections in place at the organics facility.
- Some suggested offering more tours and improving the signage on the site to educate visitors about the overall process.
- Many suggested improvements to the AV technology for future tours. Increased volume and a conscious effort to repeat questions before answering so that everyone can hear.

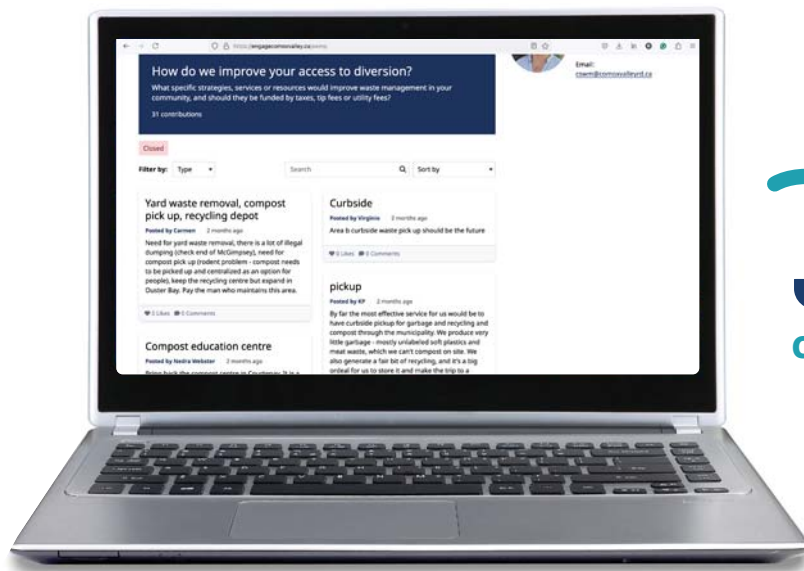


ONLINE INPUT

The *Weigh in On Waste* project website provided detailed information about the goals and guiding principles approved in Step 2 and posed two questions to generate dialogue on potential strategies for rural areas.

Share your ideas: How do we improve your access to diversion?

What specific strategies, services or resources would improve waste management in your community, and should they be funded by taxes, tip fees or utility fees?

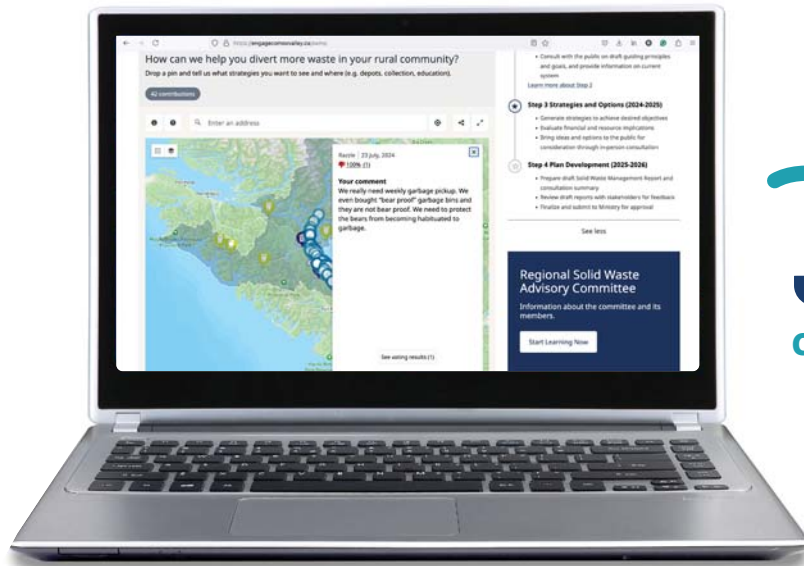


Three main themes emerged:

1. *Yard Waste and Composting: There is a desire for yard waste removal and compost pick-up services to address illegal dumping and rodent problems. Several suggest expanding the recycling center in Oyster River and introducing a compost centre in Courtenay to help people learn about composting.*
2. *Curbside Pickup: Many residents believe that curbside pickup for garbage, recycling, and compost would be the most effective service. This would reduce the need for trips to depots and address the issue of multiple private companies servicing the same area.*
3. *Large Item Disposal: Some suggested having bins for large item disposal in accessible areas like Heriot Bay and a transfer station on Quadra Island. Seasonal property owners also suggest offering a summertime collection or dumpster option for large and abandoned items.*

Social Map: How can we help you divert more waste in your rural community?

Drop a pin and tell us what strategies you want to see and where (e.g. depots, collection, education).



Summary of feedback received:

- Many comments expressed an overall desire for improved waste management services, including regular garbage, recycling, and compost collection.
- Several respondents mentioned the need for a recycling facility or transfer depot, with some suggesting specific locations. This was most prevalent from Quadra Island respondents.
- There are also concerns about the current system's impact on wildlife, particularly bears, and the environmental impact of multiple trucks on the same street.
- Some comments suggest the need for better facilities to manage organic waste and yard waste, including wood chipping services and composting facilities.
- There is some lack of trust in public consultation and transparency in decision-making processes.
- Some noted current options are too expensive, and some indicated improved services should be funded by taxation.

FEEDBACK BY COMMUNITY

SRD Area C – 8 respondents:

Most respondents noted the need for a recycling depot and/or a waste transfer station on Quadra Island. Some noted the need for additional options for recycling glass, soft plastics and yard waste. One person suggested costs could be collected through taxation and one person noted the need for a waste bin at Hoskyn Landing.

SRD Area D – 6 respondents:

More than half of respondents noted the need for a recycling depot and desire for yard waste/ compost options. Two respondents suggested locations on McGimpsey Road and two suggested locations near Oyster Bay. Two respondents suggested residential collection is needed.

Campbell River – 2 respondents:

Two respondents suggested recycling depot locations south of Campbell River, with one suggesting the half-way point between Oyster River and Willow Point. One respondent also suggested re-opening a free yard waste drop off center in Campbell River. One respondent felt that there shouldn't be a minimum landfill tipping fee for small amounts.

CVRD Area A – 7 respondents:

Five respondents noted the need for more recycling depots, with Royston and Union Bay noted as potential locations. One respondent noted the need for mandatory garbage collection in Fanny Bay paid for by taxes.

CVRD Area B – 7 respondents:

Most respondents noted a desire for roadside collection services. Those who did not noted the need for a more accessible recycling depot and preferred somewhere other than the bottle depot. One respondent noted that curbside services could be funded through taxation.

CVRD Area C – 8 respondents:

Half of respondents noted interest in some level of curbside collection, and one respondent suggested the regional district should not manage curbside garbage collection due to perceived increase in costs. One respondent suggested more recycling depots. Some respondents noted challenges with wildlife when waste is not collected routinely.

Comox – 4 respondents:

Two respondents noted interest in a recycling depot in Comox and two respondents noted a desire for expanded roadside services. Two respondents noted the need for improved options for items such as Styrofoam, appliances, cardboard and plastics.

SECTORAL ENGAGEMENT

A Construction Waste Reduction meeting was organized for May 8, 2024 with direct outreach to 33 Campbell River construction companies. Nine expressed interest in participating, however as the event approached none of the companies could attend.

Alternatively, a Construction-Demolition pilot was completed over the summer.

Additional engagement will occur in 2025.

COUNCIL/BOARD PRESENTATIONS

From May to September 2024, presentations were offered to local government councils and boards in the Comox Strathcona waste management service area. These sessions provided an update on the Solid Waste Management Plan renewal process, solid waste context for each respective community and an opportunity for Councillors to identify issues and ask questions about the solid waste management service and ongoing process. Presentations were tailored to each community based on feedback from previous engagement within respective communities.

All questions and responses from the Council/Board presentations are noted in the [Appendix, pages xliv to lv](#).

Presentations were held on the following dates:

1. *Town of Comox - May 15*
2. *Village of Gold River - June 3*
3. *Village of Tahsis - June 4*
4. *Village of Cumberland - June 10*
5. *City of Courtenay - June 12*
6. *City of Campbell River - June 23*
7. *Strathcona Regional District - June 26*
8. *Village of Zeballos - August 27*
9. *Village of Sayward, September 24*

Tour of the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre

Four members of Village of Cumberland Council and two Village staff toured the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre on October 28, 2024.

NEXT STEPS

This *What We Heard* Summary Consultation report will be presented to the Regional Solid Waste Advisory committee and the CSWM Board in November 2024.

The report will be available on the CSWM project website at:
<https://engagemoxvalley.ca/swmp/>