

**REGIONAL SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes from the meeting held on October 24, 2023 via Zoom commencing at 10:32 am

**PRESENT:**

|                                                                 |                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| W. Cole-Hamilton                                                | Co-Chair, RSWAC              |
| D. Baar                                                         | Campbell River               |
| D. Birtch                                                       | Campbell River               |
| M. E. Walling                                                   | Campbell River               |
| W. Semmelink                                                    | Comox                        |
| R. Rowe                                                         | CVRD Area B                  |
| K. Stubblefield                                                 | CVRD Area C                  |
| M. Stewart                                                      | SRD Area D                   |
| K. Lukinuk                                                      | Hornby Island                |
| K. Hamilton                                                     | Tavola Group                 |
| L. Eason, CSWM Community Educator                               | Consultant                   |
| M. Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer                       | Village of Tahsis            |
| C. Thompson                                                     | City of Courtenay            |
| C. Perry, Manager of Public Works                               | Town of Comox                |
| R. Crisfield, Manager of Operations                             | Village of Cumberland        |
| S. Fisher, Engineering Services Coordinator                     | Strathcona Regional District |
| A. Milwid, First Nations Liaison                                | Strathcona Regional District |
| M. Rutten, General Manager of Engineering Services              | CVRD                         |
| V. Schau, Senior Manager of CSWM Services                       | CVRD                         |
| S. Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning & Policy Development | CVRD                         |
| K. Douville, Manager of Financial Planning                      | CVRD                         |
| M. Briggs, Branch Assistant – Engineering Services              | CVRD                         |

**ITEMS:**

S. Willie requested that the advisory committee please ensure all communications are sent to the CSWM email due to staff turnover.

**Review of Agenda and Minutes**

Co-Chair W. Cole-Hamilton acknowledged that the meeting is being hosted on the traditional unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, and the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the September 19, 2023 Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) meeting and no errors or omissions were noted. The advisory committee adopted the October 24, 2023 meeting agenda.

R. Crisfield and M. Stewart joined the meeting at 10:39 am.

**Step 2 Consultation “What We Heard” Report Presentation**

K. Hamilton gave an overview of the consultation process. Staff are seeking advisory committee feedback on the consultation report by November 3. Provided a brief overview of the communications and consultation objectives, which include increasing understanding of solid waste management,

making solid waste management understandable and accessible, engaging a broad and diverse range of residents and stakeholders, and meeting or exceeding legislative requirement for public consultation. The three key topics include the role of the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and the importance of managing waste effectively, opportunities and challenges of existing system and future needs, and guiding principles and goals for a new SWMP. CSWM has been raising awareness through multiple medias (digital, hardcopy, in-person) and methods (website, newsletters, posters, etc.). Over 3,000 people participated in the consultation process.

Overall themes of the input received included:

- Support for draft guiding principles and goals. Received feedback recommending that simplified language be used.
- Education is key to behavior change. Request for additional information, including for existing services. Suggestions for school programs, social media campaigns, landfill tours, etc.
- Producers of packaging and single-use products should take greater responsibility. May be beyond scope of SWMP, but still desire for greater responsibility from producers.
- Costs and value for money, and better understanding of how service is funded. Some residents feel they are paying twice through taxes and user fees, and rural communities feel they are receiving less value for the services than provided in municipalities.
- Recycling should be easy. Service should be equitable across service area and more accessible.
- Different communities have different needs. Split between equitable service or adjusting depot model.
- Solid waste programs should anticipate barriers to participation, including seniors, those without vehicles, etc.
- Organics and yard waste programs are top of mind. Lots of interest and questions as people adjust to new program.

Landfill open house and tour had 142 people attend. Overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, with overall support for guiding principles and goals and most feeling that touring landfill made solid waste management tangible and visible. Suggestions included:

- Taking a more global perspective
- Encouraging the ban or reduction of packaging on store-bought products
- More focus on the Rs
- Greater emphasis on consumerism
- Preventing harm to local environment
- More emphasis on corporate responsibility and financial sustainability, such as using landfill gas to generate electricity and equitable service levels across all areas

Key actions residents would like considered in next 10 years included:

- Need and value of increased education and accessible information
- Incentives to get people to recycle
- Expand curbside recycling services to other areas
- Organics collection in multi-unit buildings
- More repair cafés and salvage opportunities

M. Tatchell joined the meeting at 10:47 am.

L. Eason provided an overview of the CSWM community outreach events. Interacted with 2,264 people at 15 events since July. Overall support for draft guiding principles and goals, with only

concerns about how to achieve them, and key actions varied per community. Used mix of tools to boost engagement, including bean toss game for children, board with post-its to share thoughts on how to improve solid waste management in community, etc. General themes for each community were:

- Courtenay/Comox: Most questions were about carts and bi-weekly garbage pickup. Multi-family residences feel excluded. Comox residents want depot and have adjusted recycling methods to avoid going to Puntledge depot.
- Cumberland: Residents happy about waste management.
- CVRD Area A, B, and C: Royston residents curious about inclusion of yard waste, but don't feel it is necessarily needed. Area B and C residents are unhappy with private haulers and want curbside, especially residents who moved from municipalities and want consistency with service. Communities near municipalities curious about being given service similar to Royston.
- Campbell River: Happy about organics/yard waste. Curious when they will be receiving carts. Would like second depot in south Campbell River or all recycling picked up at curb.
- Zeballos: No event held in Zeballos, so resorted to door knocking with approval of Village. Residents would like better education, more frequent pickup at depot and options for refundables. Residents want to reuse what they have in community, and favoured idea of free store/re-store.
- Sayward: Recycling depot seems full too often, so need more bins. More education needed. Interested in hosting repair cafés or moving depot out of Village towards gas station. Love clean-up days.
- Tahsis: Want more depot pickups or bins. Composting program still has barriers keeping people from participating (composting in backyard, don't have car, etc.). Everyone wants to recycle and some want curbside for everything. Residents liked idea of repair café, so looking to host one in spring.
- Cortes: Residents loves depot and free store. Don't have a lot of space to hold construction material, so hoping to expand free store to include those items. Significant need to keep materials around longer with free stores.
- Quadra: Residents really want recycling depot and free store. Keen to do right thing and strong support for zero waste. Have a tool lending program.
- Gold River: Residents supportive of goals, but want expanded offerings. Happy about hours and that facility benefits from waste drop-off and recycling. Looking to host repair café in Gold River.
- Hornby: Need a re-store up and running, since can't leave construction material lying around. Everyone loves depot, and movement towards zero waste. Due to seasonal residents, can be more consistent with material provided.

K. Hamilton gave overview of online survey results. Survey was open for three months, with 509 surveys completed and 2,698 visitors. Overall support for guiding goals, with Goal 4—to responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills—favoured most by residents. Advisory Committee can look into how to achieve the goals. Ideas suggested for how goals can be strengthened included:

- Focusing on costs, affordability and value for money
- The need for education
- Corporate responsibility
- Language used for goals could be simplified
- Keep the system simple/realistic/not overly complicated
- Recognize and address barriers to diversion and participation
- Yard waste options can be improved

Guiding principles received significant support, with Guiding Principle 5—prevent organics and recyclables from going into the garbage—favoured most by residents, and Guiding Principle 4—support polluter and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize behavior outcomes—less favoured. Ideas suggested for how guiding principles can be strengthened included:

- Language could be simplified
- Increase emphasis on retailers and corporations
- Curiosity about how they can be achieved
- Affordability, value for money and cost-effectiveness are important considerations
- Education and communication are key

Key actions residents felt should be considered in next 10 years included:

- Increased education
- Invest in strategies and make recycling and composting easier
- Encourage greater corporate responsibility/requirements for businesses to reduce the amount of packaging and eliminate single-use products
- Expand institutional and commercial recycling and waste reduction programs
- Introduce more options for re-using and recycling household items, clean wood and appliances
- Introduce re-store or similar at waste management centre
- More equitable access to recycling and composting services in rural areas
- Either expand curbside collection to more areas or introduce more recycling depots
- Address illegal dumping
- Consider frequency of collection and size of curbside bins

An online open house was hosted on September 12, with 27 RSVPs and 12 attendees. An in-person open house was hosted on September 19 in Campbell River with 11 attendees. Despite the low turnout, the attendees actively engaged with staff and provided insightful comments and questions. Questions and comments from the attendees were focused on:

- Recycling options for specific materials
- Curbside organics program, specifically organic bin size
- Frequency of garbage and organics collection
- Introducing curbside for CVRD Area B and SRD Area D
- Expanding curbside collection to capture all depot material
- Assisting businesses to reduce waste
- Discouraging use of bottled water

Advisory comments:

None.

**Step 2 Consultation “What We Heard” Report Discussion**

K. Hamilton requested comments and questions from the advisory committee. Advised that the consultation report will be posted on the CSWM website after finalization.

The advisory committee was asked the following two questions:

1. What have we learned so far? What are your key takeaways?
2. What are your priorities for action after hearing from the community and through the discussions we’ve had so far?

Advisory comments:

- Do we have the ability to affect that change regarding putting the responsibility back onto the suppliers? Would require feedback to the provincial and federal governments. Part of that ability can come from direct pressure to and conversations with a small set of large distributors, such as grocery chains and online vendors, plus consumer pressure, which can be supported by this group alongside other efforts. That will feed back to sources, since they depend on those large distributors.
- Education is important, especially for what should go where. More can be done to reduce packaging and improve producer responsibility. Interesting that there were only 3,000 unique online visitors, since should expect more if we have over 2,000 in-person interactions.
- CSWM visit to Quadra was before changes to private hauler, so may have heard comments about access to curbside that have been addressed by now. Residents are eager for depot, but also for transfer facility. Wish there would have been more results from outer islands and what we can do to provide solid waste services to communities that don't have facilities. SRD is conducting feasibility study on what solid waste recycling amenities would cost and what volumes would be required to trigger collection on these islands.
- What is the population of the outer islands? Challenging to determine due to seasonal population. Residents on outer islands are supportive of zero waste.
- Excellent summary of the consultations. It's important to keep the momentum moving.
- Does everyone have access to the app used in Campbell River: CR Recycles? We could use that as a tool for disseminating information across all the communities. Courtenay and Comox have apps, and CSWM is working with those municipalities and Cumberland to ensure consistent messaging across service area. Partnership with municipalities has allowed for effective messaging, such as with the rollout of the organics program. Municipalities control what is included and sent on each app, and need to be cognizant of number of notifications sent since residents may ignore the notifications if there are too many.

Sarah asked the advisory committee to reflect on their experience in their community. Next few meetings will look at solutions and how to achieve guiding goals and principles, so would like to hear suggestions from members.

- Everyone wants more services, but are also concerned about costs. Would be beneficial to provide estimated costs for expanded services, or maximize use of existing services. SRD Area C residents want equitable services. How can we support people who have limited accessibility to services?
- Education of what happens to recycled material is important. More willingness to recycle if people know what happens to their recyclables and that it's not going to the landfill. Equitable access also important.
- Good to see engagement at Hornby fall fair. Another community mailout/engagement explaining the SWMP process and where we are at in the process might lead to additional feedback. Important to close the loop with those who have been engaged so far.
- Community education and understanding of what is happening with landfills and transfer station stood out. Concerns about residents not understanding about landfills and transfer stations, what happens when a landfill is closed and why does it need to be closed, etc. May be helpful to have visual of how transitioning a landfill to transfer station works. Videos on project page may provide additional information.
- Important to keep momentum moving forward and close loop on communications. Should rework communications plan to refine and repeat messaging to provide to elected officials, since they're the ones being contacted by their constituents. Sympathy for outlying communities

who want access to services, and encouraged by their willingness to put in effort to be engaged in SMWP process. Opportunity to continue with messaging and communicating in a way that shows that people were heard.

- Area that seems to be most impactful and that is a priority is what we can do to reduce packaging, particular single-use packaging. Might be outside SWMP scope, but when discussing costs and value for effort, requirements for curbside pickup, amount of waste to be processed and future landfill space, reducing packing could be the single biggest positive impact we could have.
- Noted need for simplicity of language and would like whole process to be easier. Focus right now is on educating residents on using existing services, but will receive better results if we can make the process simpler for them. Other communities have recycling pickup that accepts anything recyclable and doesn't require sorting.
- There are a lot of rural areas where curbside makes sense. Interested in learning where curbside can be expanded. Still a lot of work to be done to support multi-family, with more consistent access to recycling, most likely in municipalities.
- Remarkable scale of outreach and the communities' level of engagement, providing a solid foundation for the SWMP process.
- Should make information more available. Realtors and property management company need to supply information to new or prospective homeowners or renters about services provided in area. School curriculum should have component about circular economy and include landfill tours. Should emphasize health aspect of waste economy.
- Should look to improve service in certain areas, such as rural areas, and identify areas where there is a real benefit for new or expanded services. Building the right services will see better utilization. Cumberland has multi-family building that has complained that recycling is going into garbage stream, so could benefit from better education and communication on solid waste management program. The challenge is how to engage those who don't want to be engaged.
- Town of Comox advocates for recycling depot to come back to Comox. Express & Go is most used in province, but not all materials collected there. People don't want to drive to Puntledge or landfill. Should advocate for additional materials to be included in curbside program. Biggest barrier to participating in recycling program is it's too complicated (take to different locations, store non-curbside items, etc.). Simplifying recycling will increase participation.
- Consultation report noted that military base had zero respondents. Unsure why no one responded, but base is largest employer in Comox Valley, so might be worth contacting DND directly rather than residents. Might also be worth contacting people based on their employment rather than residence, targeting large employers.
- Bumped into residents who attended community events and they were all well received.
- Should make recycling options easier. Good to see strong participation from smaller communities and speaks to interest from rural areas. Tahsis looking at how to better handle larger items and keep them out of landfill so as to extend its life. Wildlife issues are a strong consideration for rural areas, with a need to better manage food waste since it can attract wildlife. No way to dispose of food waste other than put in waste stream. Tahsis wants to keep landfill open as long as possible. Illegal dumping is universal, but especially acute in rural areas. Tahsis does have weekly curbside, but considering expanding curbside with recycling or compost.
- Courtenay and Comox have implemented automated cart system, which has been hottest topic for the City of Courtenay. Residents have been calling in about new system. New residents want to know how system works, so could improve communication on role of municipalities and CSWM. Community would benefit from return of Comox depot.

- Biggest takeaway is need for further education. Staff are looking at using online newsletter. Lot of education needed on recycling and services provided. Great that people are listening, but need to work on educating those who aren't.
- Important to get resounding yes from community. Not a lot of conversations or comments about services that aren't needed or can be removed, but residents usually interested in expanding or adding services, or simplifying process.

### **Next Steps**

S. Willie requested that any further comments about the consultation report should be submitted by November 3.

Notified the committee that the Coast Waste Management Association online conference starts October 25 and lasts until October 27. Will host roundtable at next advisory committee meeting to share ideas or inspiration that came out of attending the conference. Asked the advisory committee if there were any challenges so far accessing the online sessions, but none were identified.

Advised the committee that the next meeting will be in-person at the CVRD office on December 14 from 10:30am to 3:30pm. Due to staff turnover, the members were asked to inform staff of any food allergies or preferences.

### Advisory comments:

None.

### **Wrap-Up**

S. Willie requested any outstanding questions, comments or thoughts.

### Advisory comments:

- Further clarification on next steps was requested, such as when the SWMP process is expected to complete and what needs to be done to reach that point. Consultation summary report will go to CSWM Board next month. Staff will then begin working on options analysis, and anticipate more advisory committee meetings in winter/spring 2024 to discuss individual topics. Staff will be conducting more in-depth community sessions with formal presentations, with the occasional event in the spring but the bulk of consultation to be done in fall 2024. Might not get as much engagement with focused events, but expect greater turnout from those interested or concerned about specific issues, and can see increased engagement by focusing on local issues. Will be hosting another landfill open house in September and looking to host tour of compost facility in Campbell River. SWMP process expected to conclude in early 2025. Will look into building tool to keep financial model up to date, and make sure that there are staff to support initiatives and funding available. Will need to further investigate the role of the CSWM, CVRD/SRD, and municipalities for new services. Whole process will result in draft SWMP
- Quadra does not have curbside service organized by government. Previously had bag tag program, where Waste Management would drive around once a week and pickup bags with tags, but was frustrating for Waste Management to manage due to not knowing how many bags there would be, how long it would take to collect them and how much money they would make. Changed to subscription service.
- The next repair café event is held on November 18 at Lake Trail School in Courtenay.
- Flare being installed at Campbell River Waste Management Centre, so can begin burning landfill gas and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

V. Schau adjourned the meeting.

**GENERAL:**

The next Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee is scheduled for December 14, 2023 at 10:30 am.

**TERMINATION:**

The meeting terminated at 12:11 pm.

Recorded by:

***M. Briggs***

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Michael Briggs  
Branch Assistant – Engineering Services

Certified correct:

***V. Schau***

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Vivian Schau  
Senior Manager of CSWM Services

# Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee Meeting

SWMP Renewal Meeting #6

October 24, 2023

Zoom

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

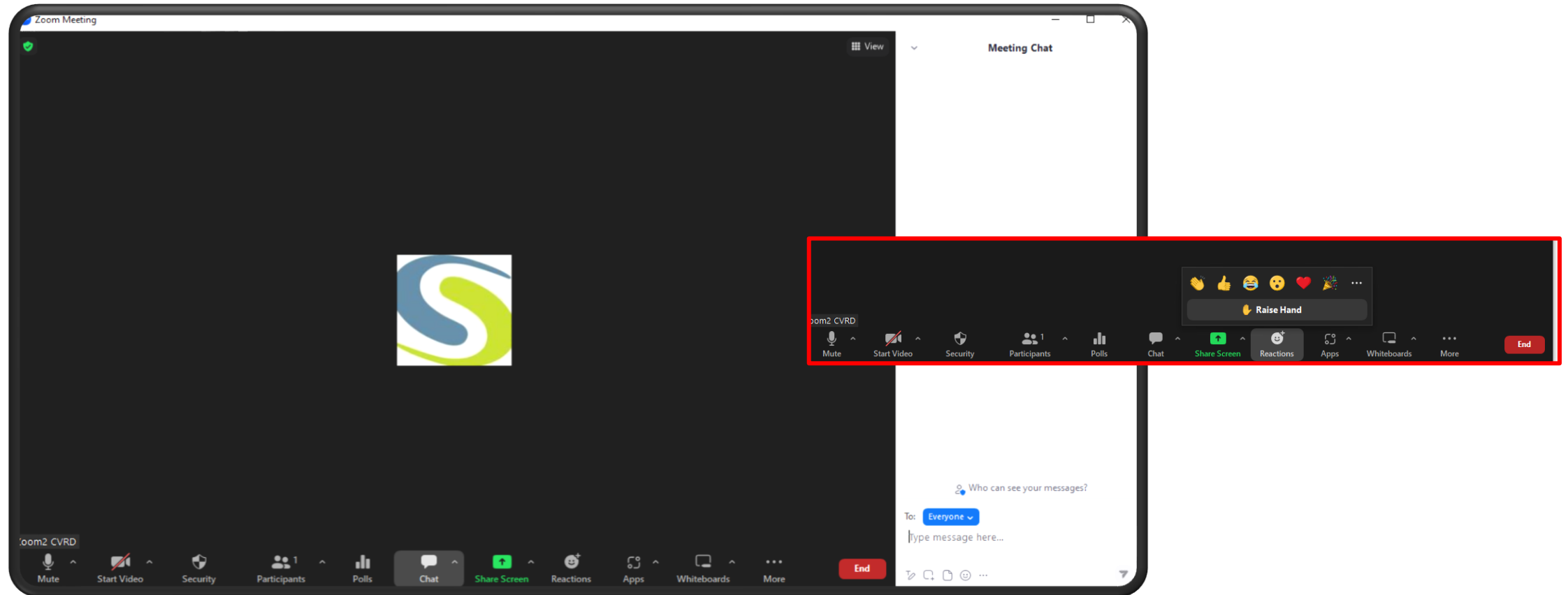




# Welcome and Questions

- Questions can be asked anytime throughout the meeting today
- Use your virtual hand raising feature and we will call on you to unmute
- Alternatively you can type in the chat function to make comments, or to ask questions of us or your colleagues
- We love to see your faces, so please leave your camera on as much as possible if bandwidth allows

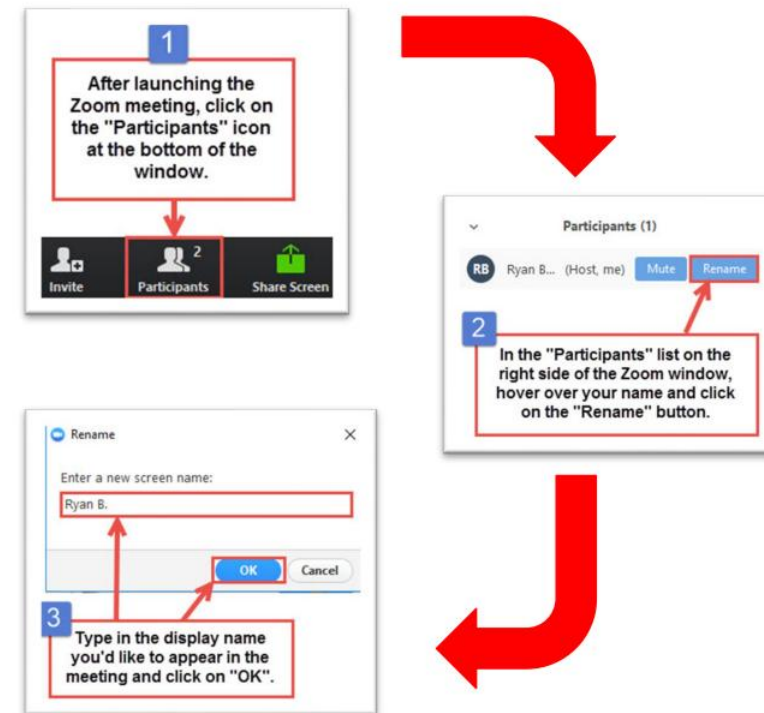
# Zoom Meeting Tools



# Recording for Minutes

- We are recording this meeting for note taking purposes.
- The recording will not be distributed or published.
- To ensure those participating are meant to be with us, please ensure your name is visible and use your camera if you can.

How to change your name.



# Review of Agenda and Minutes

Co-Chair Cole-Hamilton

10 minutes

RSWAC Meeting 6.1

# Land Acknowledgement

*We would like to acknowledge we are hosting this meeting on the traditional unceded territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, and the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuuchahnulth territories.*



# Adoption of Minutes and Agenda

## Approval of Minutes

- September 19, 2023 Minutes in Agenda
- Any modifications to minutes?

## Agenda for Today

- Take a quick look at the agenda, is anything missing?

### Parking Lot

Issues or questions that come up as we go along can be placed in the 'parking lot' for discussion at the end, or future meetings.



# Purpose of the Meeting

- Presentation of Step 2 Consultation this Summer
- Refer final report to the Board of Directors



# Step 2 Consultation 'What We Heard' Report

Katie Hamilton and Lindsay Eason

30 minutes

RSWAC Meeting 6.2

Any Questions or  
Observations?



# Step 2 Consultation Discussion

Katie Hamilton

60 minutes

RSWAC Meeting 6.3

# Next Steps and Wrap Up

Sarah Willie

15 minutes

RSWAC Meeting 6.4 – 6.6

# Next Steps for the RSWAC

- Last chance for comments by November 3!
- Coast Waste Management Association  
Virtual Conference starts tomorrow until Friday
- Next Meeting is in person, Thursday  
December 14, 2023 at 10:30 am to 3:30 pm

# Wrap-Up

## Parking Lot

- Any outstanding questions, comments, thoughts?

[CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:CSWM@comoxvalleyrd.ca)





Thank YOU.

Any questions or  
comments, email or  
call Sarah.

250-334-6065

[swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca)



# Final Word and Meeting Adjournment from Chair





**TAVOLA**  
STRATEGY GROUP

# WHAT WE HEARD CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT

## Comox Strathcona Waste Management Solid Waste Management Plan Step 2

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Submitted by:  
Katie Hamilton, Principal  
Tavola Strategy Group Ltd.  
[tavolagroup.com](http://tavolagroup.com) | [katie@tavolagroup.com](mailto:katie@tavolagroup.com)

**October 2023**

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# OVERVIEW

## THE 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 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 of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, 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.

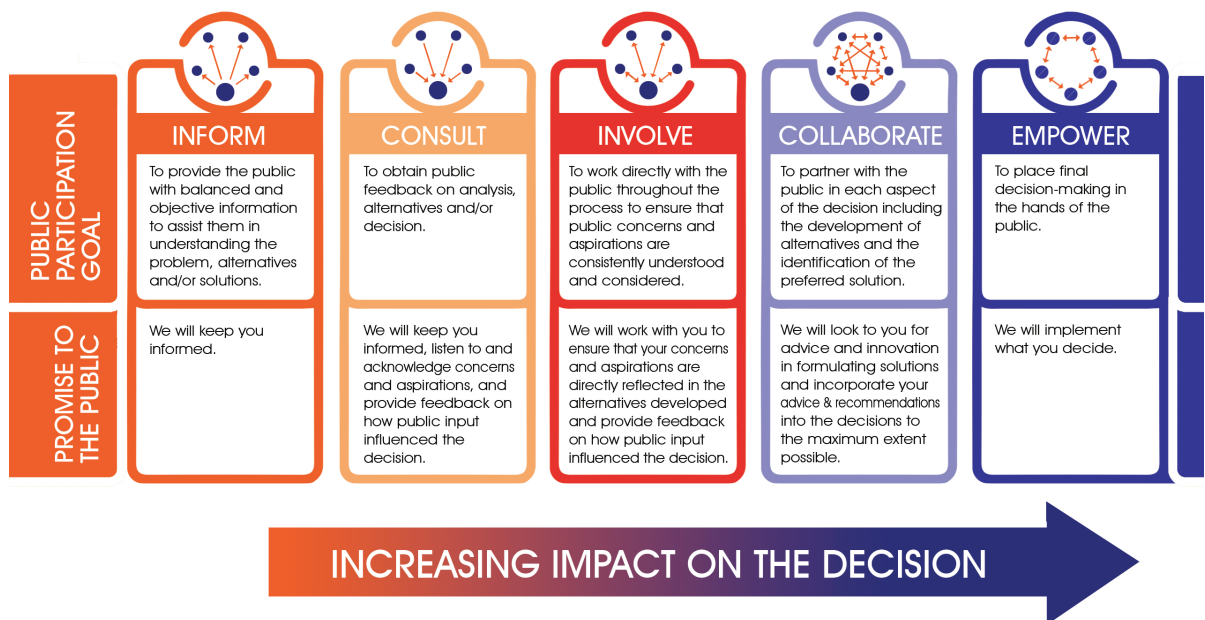
Recommendations and a draft Solid Waste Management Plan will be informed by broad public input and the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC). Upon completion of multi-phase public consultation and recommendations of the RSWAC, the draft plan will then be considered by the CSWM Board for final 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 2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION APPROACH

The consultation process was designed in alignment with the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum and core values. The Step 2 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.

The Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) comprised of diverse interests and perspectives engages at a level of “involve”.

### International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum:



## STEP 2 COMMUNICATIONS AND CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

- 1. Increase understanding of how solid waste is managed in the regions and how its effective management supports quality of life, health, business, and the environment.***
- 2. Make solid waste management and process understandable and accessible to citizens across the regions by using plain language, using a blend of in-person and digital channels, and making it interesting.***
- 3. Engage broad, geographically representative, and diverse range of residents and stakeholders about the solid waste management system and potential future directions***
- 4. Meet or exceed legislative requirements for public consultation as set out by Ministry of Environment for SWMPs.***

## OVERVIEW OF STEP 2 CONSULTATION PROCESS

Step 2 of the Solid Waste Management Plan renewal process focussed on reviewing the current solid waste system and setting the future direction. It occurred from June to September 2023.

During consultation, the CSWM invited input on the existing system, future trends, and draft goals and guiding principles for solid waste management over the next 10 years. The goals and principles were developed with input from the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee, which includes 15 members of the public, local government staff and business owners.

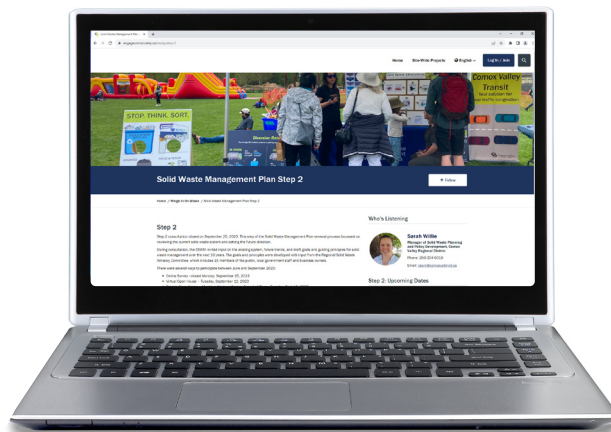
In June 2023, Comox Strathcona Waste Management launched the Step 2 public consultation process. Detailed information was shared through a variety of channels for residents and stakeholders to learn more about the existing solid waste management system, draft guiding principles and goals, and the overall renewal process.

### **Awareness-raising efforts:**

- A media release was distributed launching the process.
- A detailed project webpage [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp) and engagement page [engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2](https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2) were developed including sections to share your ideas, pose questions and complete a survey. It included videos, photo gallery and project updates.
- A subscriber-based project news was created.
- Posters were distributed throughout the CSWM communities.
- Social media posts appeared on CSWM Facebook throughout the process.
- Digital ad series displayed on Facebook, Google and YouTube.
- Print and radio ads were run.
- Digital ads promoting the landfill open house, survey, and open houses.
- Letters were sent to 107 stakeholders, raising awareness of the solid waste management renewal process and the opportunity to participate and provide feedback.

## There were several ways for the public to provide input:

- Online Survey [engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2](https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2) – June 22, 2023, to September 25, 2023
- Landfill Tours - Saturday, July 8, 2023
- Virtual Open House – Tuesday, September 12, 2023
- Drop-in Open House – Maritime Heritage Centre, Campbell River– Tuesday, Sept 19, 2023
- Community outreach booth at events across Strathcona and Comox Valley regional districts
  - 1. Canada Day
  - 2. Sayward Farmers Market
  - 3. Tahsis Days
  - 4. Cortes Day Farmers Market and Recycling depot
  - 5. Campbell River Farmers Market
  - 6. Nautical Days
  - 7. Quadra Island Farmers Market
  - 8. Denman's Farmers Market
  - 9. Campbell River Farmers Market
  - 10. Gold River Days
  - 11. Black Creek Fall Fair
  - 12. Campbell River Farmers Market
  - 13. Hornby Island Fall Fair
  - 14. Comox Valley Home Show
- Project email: [cswm@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:cswm@comoxvalleyrd.ca)



# ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Over 3,000 people participated in the process:



**2,698** unique web visitors



**2,264** people engaged at community outreach events



**509** online survey participants



**111** subscribers to project updates



**142** people attended the landfill tours



**12** people attended the online open house



**11** people attended the in-person open house

# WHAT WE HEARD

## OVERALL THEMES

Several over-arching themes emerged from the various engagement activities. More detail is provided within the specific sections.

### **There is overall support for the draft guiding principles and goals.**

A consistent perspective shared through the online survey, community events, and open houses was that the draft guiding principles and goals are a good foundation, and there is enthusiasm and curiosity regarding the methods and strategies that can be employed to achieve them. There were no strong concerns expressed with specific goals or principles, or with them collectively. However, we did hear that the goals and guiding principles could be reworded to be more accessible and easier to understand.

### **Education is key to behaviour change.**

There is an appetite for more information overall about topics like what materials are accepted where, what happens to recycling materials after they are collected, and how we as a community are doing in our waste reduction efforts. School programs, social media campaigns and tours of the landfill were commonly suggested.

### **Those who create packaging and provide single use products should be required to take greater responsibility.**

Although some felt it might be outside of the CSWM's sphere of influence, many felt manufacturers and retailers play an important role in reducing the amount of packaging and disposable items being generated. Incentives, penalties, and regulations were seen as possible strategies for reducing waste.

### **Costs and value for money are important.**

Affordability, value for investment and at times confusion about how the solid waste programs are funded was top of mind, in particularly in the online survey and from residents within rural communities. Some feel they are paying twice for services, through taxes and user fees. Those in rural communities were more likely to perceive less value for solid waste services.

### **Recycling should be easy.**

Many respondents noted the barriers that prevent people from recycling and composting. Lower service levels in rural communities were seen as a barrier to greater participation. Commonly suggested solutions included expanding curbside collection to more communities, more/larger depots, increased frequency of collection, and increased education. Fees and distance were often seen to encourage illegal dumping.

### **Different communities have different needs.**

Residents were able to articulate the needs and experiences within their local context. Many in rural communities believe all CSWM households should have access to the same services, while others in rural communities feel their needs could be better met with greater access to recycling depots, community composting programs, Free Stores, and free collection days for larger, salvageable items such as furniture, clean wood, appliances etc.

### **Solid waste programs should anticipate barriers to participation.**

There were many barriers to responsible waste management practices identified across all engagement activities. The physical and mobility limitations of individuals, and seniors, were noted. Transportation to depots and the landfill were seen as barriers to proper disposal and recycling, as were tipping fees and user fees for various materials.

### **Organics and yard waste programs are top of mind.**

Recognizing that the Step 2 public engagement process occurred timed with the implementation of a new regional composting facility and organics collection system, there are a lot of questions and views about the new program. We heard a lot of feedback about yard waste limitations, drop-off fees, bins, and rodents/wildlife.

## ONLINE SURVEY

An online survey was hosted on the Step 2 project website from June 20 – September 25, 2023. 509 people completed the survey. The highest participation was experienced in July and September, likely driven by promotion and media coverage of the landfill tours, and increased promotion of the survey and two open houses in September.

### Who We Heard From

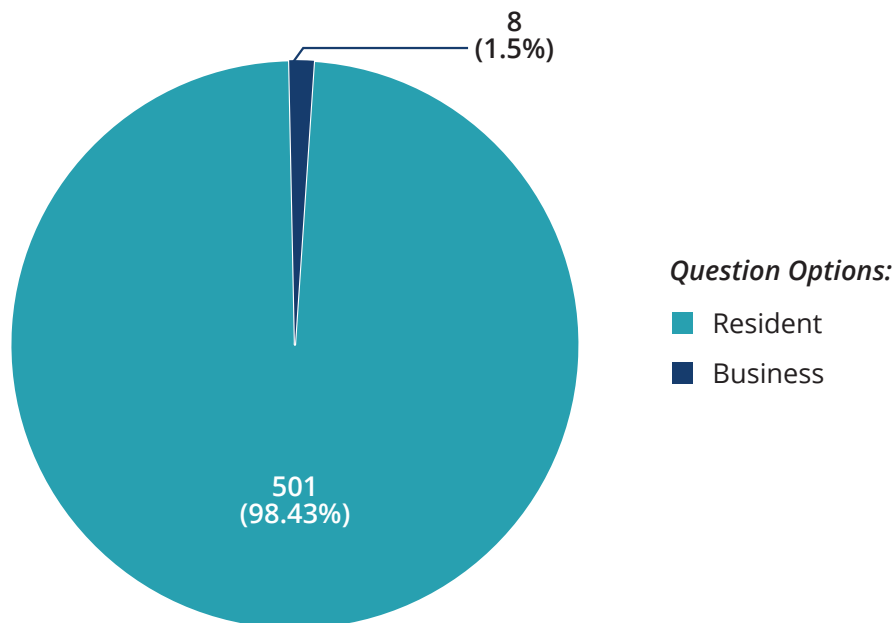
98% of respondents indicated they were residents of Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts and 89% live in a single-family home.

78% of online survey respondents indicated they were from Comox Valley Regional District.

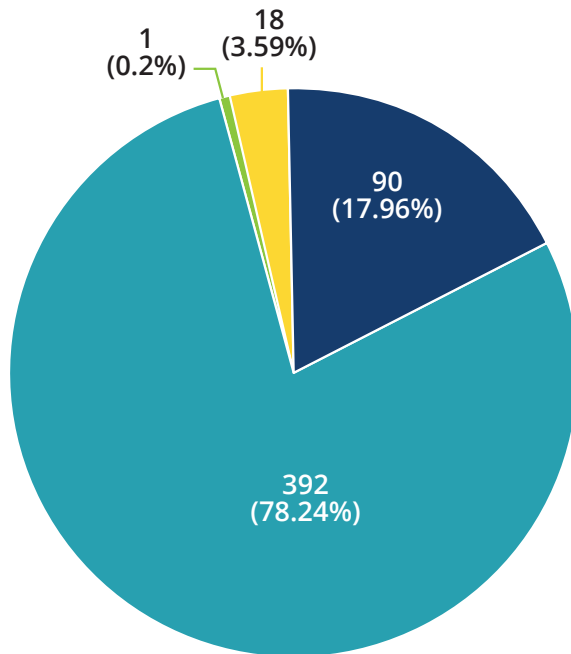
8 of the 509 respondents were representing a business.

6 of the 8 business respondents were located in the Comox Valley Regional District, 1 was in Strathcona Regional District and 1 was in the Homalco First Nation. Business perspectives were also captured at community events.

**Question:** *Are you answering as a resident or the owner or operator of a business within the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area?*



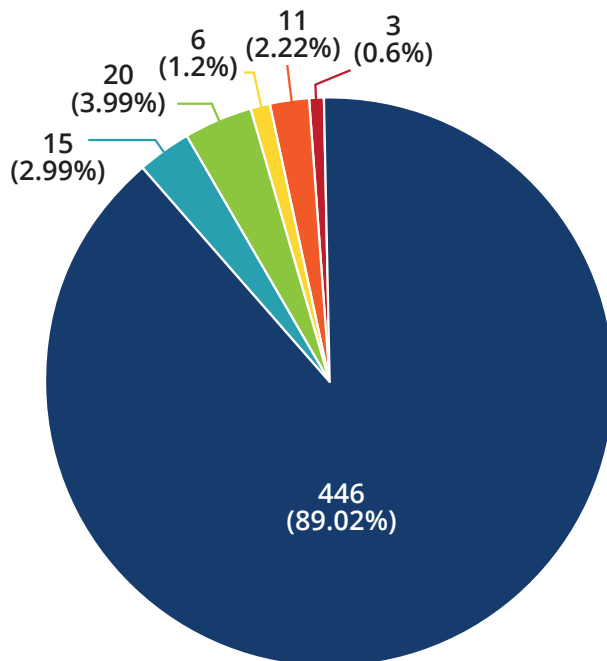
**Question: Where are you from?**



**Question Options:**

- Strathcona Regional District
- Comox Valley Regional District
- First Nation Reserve or Treaty Land
- Other

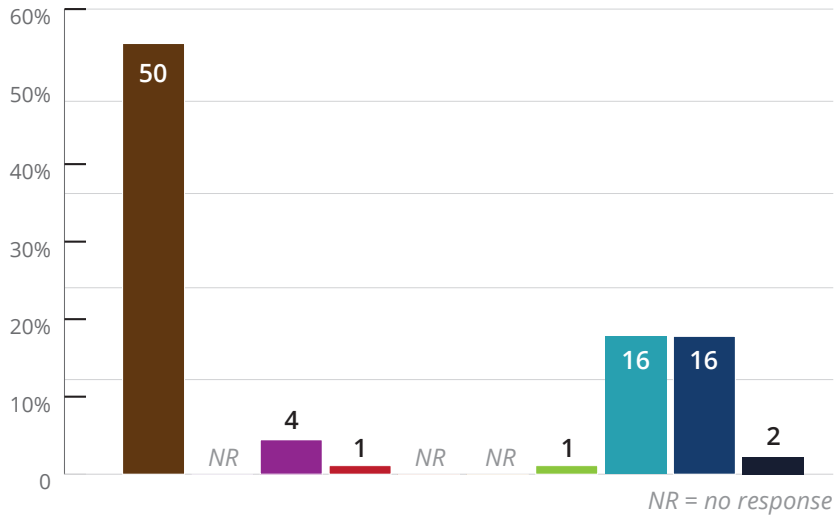
**Question: What type of home do you live in?**



**Question Options:**

- Single-family Home or Duplex
- Townhome or Row House
- Apartment or Condominium
- Suite within a single-family home
- Manufactured / Mobile Home
- Other

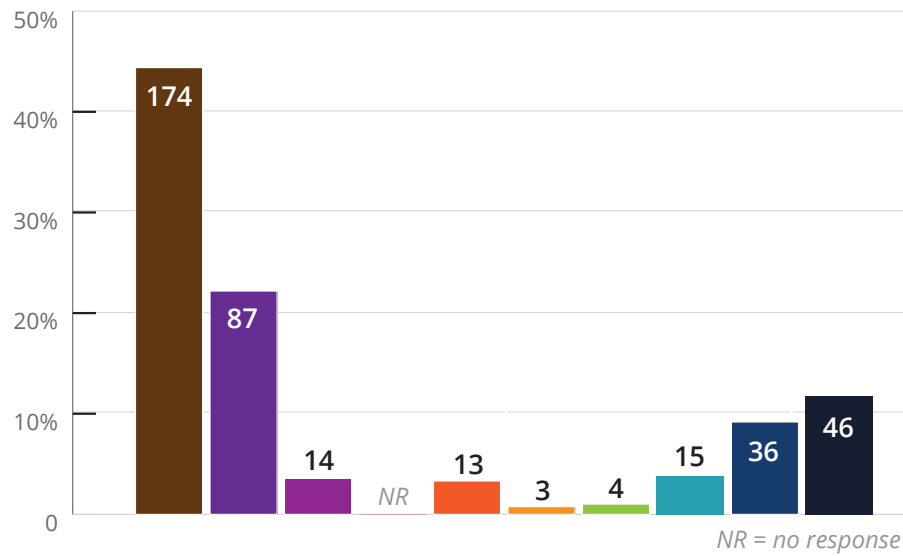
**Question: Please specify which community in Strathcona Regional District you reside in:**



**Question Options:**

- City of Campbell River
- Village of Gold River
- Village of Tahsis
- Village Zeballos
- Village of Sayward and Sayward Valley - Electoral Area A
- Kyuquot/Nootka - Electoral Area A
- Cortes Island - Electoral Area B
- Quadra Island, Discovery Islands- Mainland Inlets - Electoral Area C
- Oyster Bay - Buttle Lake - Electoral Area D
- Other

**Question: Please specify which community in Comox Valley you reside in:**



**Question Options:**

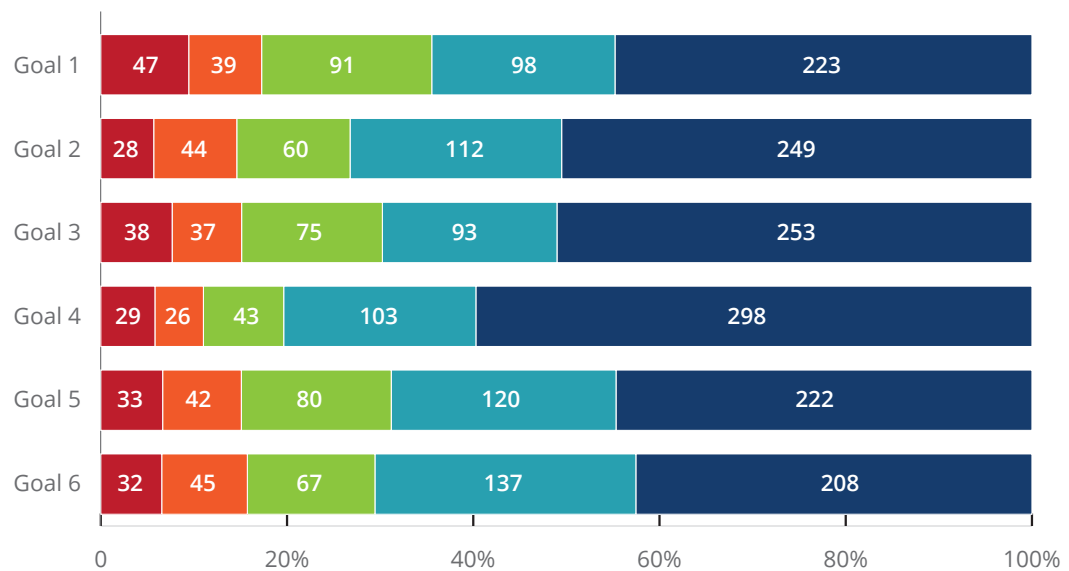
- City of Courtenay
- Village of Cumberland
- Town of Comox
- Canadian Forces Base - Comox
- Royston – Electoral Area A
- Denman Island – Electoral Area A
- Hornby Island – Electoral Area A
- Electoral Area A on Vancouver Island excluding Royston
- Electoral Area B (Lazo North)
- Electoral Area C (Puntledge Black Creek)

## What We Heard

### Draft Goals

**When asked how important each of the six goals are, respondents indicated support for all.**  
*Goal 4: to responsibly manage waste and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills, received the highest level of importance.*

**Question: How important is each goal to you?**  
*(Rank each one from 1-5. 1 is least important, 5 is most important)*



#### Goal Definitions:

Goal 1 - To support regional circular economy approaches, and to work towards a goal of zero waste.

Goal 2 - To reduce and remediate environmental impacts from solid waste management activities.

Goal 3 - To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue beneficial use of landfill gas.

Goal 4 - To responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills.

Goal 5 - To have informed residents, businesses and community partners empowered to participate effectively and consistently in proper waste management practices. To use CSWM enforcement powers when necessary.

Goal 6 - To ensure that the CSWM solid waste service are financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities.

#### Question Options:

- 1 - Least Important
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Most Important

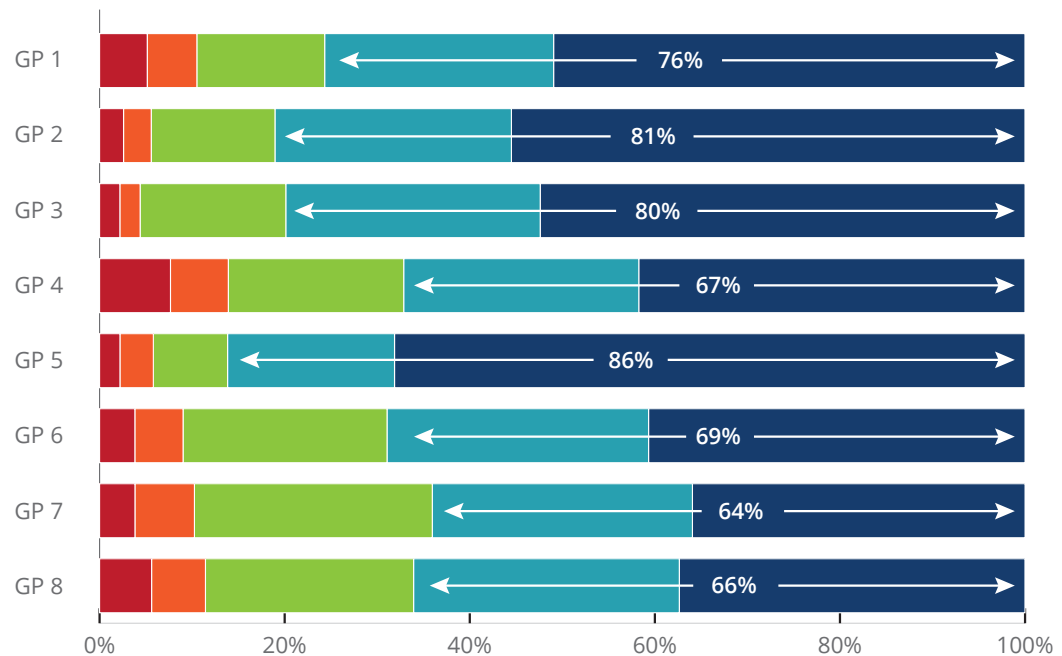
**When asked how the six goals could be strengthened, several themes emerged:**

- Focus on costs, affordability, value for money. There were varying opinions about user pay fees and whether they were incentives or disincentives. Some also felt they were paying twice; taxes and user pay.
- Need for education [e.g., schools, how to recycle and where it goes, what's accepted, data about progress]
- Corporate responsibility where products are created and sold [e.g., packaging]. Some suggestions included creating incentives, enforcement, and penalties for businesses.
- The language used to describe the goals was difficult for some to understand [e.g., wordy, hard to understand,]
- Keep the solid waste management system simple/realistic/not overly complicated.
- Recognize and address barriers to diversion and participation [e.g. needs of seniors, accessibility, low-income, rural]
- Yard waste options can be improved [e.g. more drop-off opportunities, eliminate drop-off fee]
- More opportunities for salvage/re-use [e.g., Free Stores, salvage depots, free collection/spring cleaning days]
- Some liked the idea of zero waste but felt it was unrealistic somewhat unattainable.

## Draft Guiding Principles

The draft Guiding Principles also received high level of importance.

**Question: How important is each guiding principle to you?**  
(Rank each one from 1-5. 1 is least important, 5 is most important)



### Guiding Principles (GP):

- GP 1 - Promote and support zero waste approaches and support a circular economy.
- GP 2 - Promote the first 7 R's – Refuse, Rethink, Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.
- GP 3 - Maximize beneficial and best use of waste materials and manage residuals appropriately.
- GP 4 - Support polluter and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize behaviour outcomes.
- GP 5 - Prevent organics and recyclables from going into the garbage.
- GP 6 - Collaborate with other regional districts, municipalities, First Nations, service providers, institutions, and associations both private and public.
- GP 7 - Build and support collaborative partnerships to achieve regional targets set in plans.
- GP 8 - Strive for equity within regions for private and public solid waste management facilities to achieve or exceed regional targets set in plans.

### Question Options:

- 1 - Least Important
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Most Important

**When asked how the draft guiding principles could be strengthened, several themes emerged:**

- Some felt the language could be simpler to describe the guiding principles. [e.g., jargon, hard to understand, not clear how they are different from the goals, need to be simple to communicate]
- Increase emphasis on retailers and corporations to reduce or eliminate unnecessary packaging and single use products.
- Curiosity about implementation and “how” the guiding principles will be achieved.
- Affordability, value for money and cost effectiveness are important considerations.
- Education and communication are key. [e.g., educate about where materials go and how they are recycled, more information about programs and changes to programs]

**When looking to the future, respondents noted several specific actions that can be taken to improve how we manage solid waste within the next 10 years. Themes included:**

- Increased education to encourage positive behaviour change. Examples included landfill tours, school programs, and social media campaigns.
- Invest in strategies that make recycling and composting “easier” [e.g., expanding curbside collection to more communities, more depots in rural areas, no limits on yard waste, increased frequency of collection]
- Encourage greater corporate responsibility or introduce requirements for business to reduce the amount of packaging used and eliminate single-use products (e.g., bags, straws, cups).
- Need to expand institutional and commercial recycling and waste reduction programs.
- Introduce more options for re-use and recycling of good condition household items, clean wood, and appliances are desired. Some mentioned the need for a Restore or similar at the waste management centre.
- More equitable access to recycling and composting services to make it easier to recycle in rural areas. Many suggested expanding curbside collection to more areas, and many others suggested introducing more recycling depots.
- Illegal dumping was mentioned several times, with various strategies for how to address it. Some felt waiving fees would make it easier, whereas others felt introducing more depots or collection options would minimize it.
- Frequency of collection and size of curbside bins was mentioned by several. Some felt there should be greater flexibility to choose based on household needs.

## LANDFILL TOURS – Saturday, July 8, 2023

142 people participated in behind-the-scenes landfill tours at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre. This was the first time public tours were offered. 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 and what they learned about the existing system, draft guiding principles and goals, and key actions they felt could be taken over the next 10 years.

There was overall support for the draft guiding principles and goals. Suggestions for strengthening the guiding principles included more global perspective, encouraging government to ban or reduction of packaging on store-bought products, more focus on the R's, greater emphasis on consumerism, and preventing harm to local environment (wildlife, water). Opportunities for strengthening the goals included placing more emphasis on corporate responsibility, financial sustainability, and using landfill gas to generate electricity and equitable service levels across all areas.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

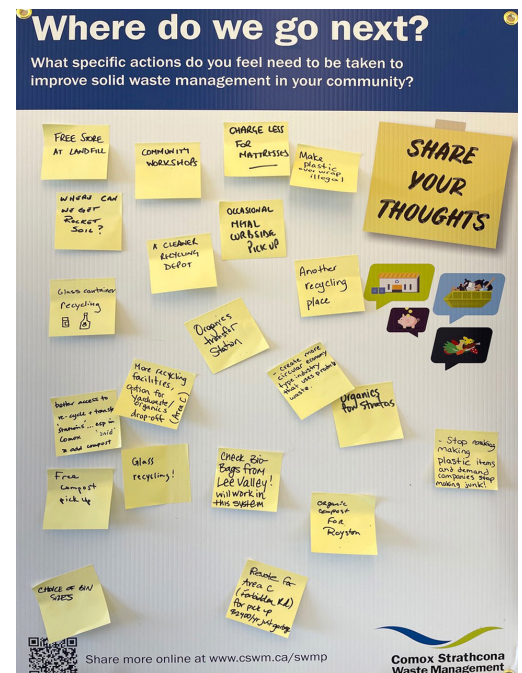
- Many attendees mentioned the need and value of increased education and accessible information [e.g., more public tours, social media, school programs]
- Introduce incentives to get people to recycle
- Expand curbside recycling services to other areas
- Organics collection in multi-unit buildings
- More Repair Cafés and salvage opportunities

Attendees offered very positive feedback about the tours and a desire to see more offered in the future. They were described as comprehensive, interesting and educational.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

The CSWM Education Coordinator actively engaged with the community by attending 14 events throughout the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts, and conducted door-to-door visits in Zeballos. Each event featured a dedicated outreach booth, equipped with informative boards and interactive activities. Feedback was collected through conversation, post-it notes and feedback forms. The display boards were tailored to cater to the solid waste programs and common interests of each community, fostering a sense of relevance and inclusivity. Attendees were actively encouraged to provide their valuable feedback on the draft guiding principles, goals, and key actions that they believe the CSWM should prioritize over the next 10 years. The in-person events were designed to mirror the feedback opportunities offered online.



### Chart of community events attended:

|                  | Community Event               | Date                  | Attendees |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1.               | Canada Day Courtenay          | July 1, 2023          | 250       |
| 2.               | Zeballos [Door Knocking]      | July 14, 2023         | 22        |
| 3.               | Sayward Farmers Market        | July 15, 2023         | 36        |
| 4.               | Tahsis Days                   | July 16, 2023         | 55        |
| 5.               | Cortes Day                    | July 22, 2023         | 77        |
| 6.               | Campbell River Farmers Market | July 30, 2023         | 104       |
| 7.               | Quadra Island Farmers Market  | August 5, 2023        | 81        |
| 8.               | Comox Nautical Days           | August 5-7, 2023      | 591       |
| 9.               | Denman's Farmers Market       | August 19, 2023       | 84        |
| 10.              | Campbell River Farmers Market | August 20, 2023       | 130       |
| 11.              | Gold River Days               | August 26, 2023       | 56        |
| 12.              | Black Creek Fall Fair         | September 9, 2023     | 94        |
| 13.              | Campbell River Farmers Market | September 10, 2023    | 98        |
| 14.              | Hornby Island Fall Fair       | September 17, 2023    | 79        |
| 15.              | Comox Valley Home Show        | September 22-24, 2023 | 507       |
| Total Attendees: |                               |                       | 2,264     |

### 1. Courtenay - Canada Day - July 1, 2023

#### People engaged: 250

Residents were supportive of the draft guiding principles and goals. Some comments noted appreciation for more R's [i.e., 7R's], the need for more education, and the need to be more specific with language within the goals and guiding principles.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Improve options for recycling soft plastics, glass and Styrofoam
- Improved recycling options and waste management support for hospitals, businesses, schools, and homeless population

- Explore options for recycling or reuse of dog waste
- Transfer station for yard waste and organics, especially in the spring and fall, which will reduce organics in the landfill (specifically Area A – Union Bay).
- Rethink packing, i.e.: stop wrapping fruits and vegetables in plastic, stop individually packaging everything. Regulate the type of packaging/ wrapping – make it recyclable.
- More frequent recycling pickup, or larger containers., multiple sites that make it easier for people to recycle.
- Toolkit for businesses that show better recycling and waste reduction practices.
- Get CVRD collection services in the rural areas – currently 3 different waste companies are picking up garbage on the same streets at the same time.
- Provide alternative options for seniors who are unable to drive to the depot.
- Recommend a drop off repair outlet, i.e.: seamstress who can repair clothing and then donate it, so items don't end up in the landfill.
- Allow a second yard waste cart.
- Recycling pick-up services in areas like Arden, etc.
- Inform citizens of the human dangers to fish habitat, i.e.: wearing sunscreen in the river.

## **2. Zeballos [door knocking] – July 14, 2023**

**People engaged: 22**

Limited comments were received on the guiding principles and goals, however all comments were supportive. There was a strong need expressed to keep resources in the community because of the expense of getting supplies in.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Increase frequency of collection at depot, currently not often enough.
- Increased education (e.g., what can be recycled, where batteries go, options for small appliances and e-waste)
- Introduce Restore or Freestore to encourage reuse and recycling
- More options for battery and metal recycling
- More options for oil disposal [e.g. motor, cooking and associated rags]
- Refundable options for various items [e.g. metal,
- Events and incentives to minimize illegal dumping [e.g. refundable options, Free Recycling or Dump days]
- Consider curbside collection.
- Compost options for fish waste.
- Community compost program is unnecessary when composting at home and using it in own yard.

## **3. Sayward Farmers Market – July 15, 2023**

**People engaged: 36**

There was limited feedback on the guiding principles or goals, however all were supportive.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- The two most common comments were related to increasing education around recycling and addressing volume issues at the recycling facility. Suggestions included increasing the size of the recycling facility bins or increase frequency of collection.

- Suggestions for education included increased social media, events, and recognition campaigns.
- Maintain recycling depot and Sayward Free Dump/Recycling collection. Very popular.
- Increase enforcement or increased charges as an incentive to recycle and reduce waste.
- Host repair cafes to reduce waste.
- Collect more products [e.g., oil and plastics, and twine]
- Implement a policy to stop over-packaging in stores.
- Curbside pickup of recycling.
- Issue with bears and garbage – especially the garbage depot.
- Improve location and size of depot for greater access.
- Reduce the garbage can limit to 1 can, instead of 2.
- Consider discounted compost bins for sale through the regional district to encourage composting.
- Have refundable collection in the village.

#### **4. Tahsis Days - July 16, 2023**

##### **People engaged: 55**

There were limited comments received about the draft guiding principles and goals. Respondents noted that they like the idea of zero waste but were curious how it would be achieved, the importance of tailoring programs to the local context, and opportunity to improve /beautify the village by working with nature.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Need bigger bins at depot or more frequent collection, especially cardboard bins.
- Curbside collection, particularly for those seniors who can't get to the recycling depot.
- Increase education and engagement [e.g., schools, workshops, reduction education, what is recyclable, better signage]
- Find a new location for transfer station - at the old landfill or gravel pit out of town.
- There is mold on items dropped at the landfill from homes with water damage, consider this when building the transfer station.
- Host an annual Repair Café, utilize the skills of those in the community.
- Monitoring at the depot, so people don't dump garbage at recycling depot.
- Offer options for paint and electronic recycling.
- Curbside collection. Too many barriers to participate in existing compost program.
- Can do pick-ups from restaurants and schools and create soil to give back to the community.

#### **5. Cortes Farmers Market and Recycling Depot - July 22, 2023**

##### **People engaged: 77**

No written feedback on goals and guiding principles, however, verbally, residents were very much in support of the direction to reduce waste and move towards a zero waste model.

**Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:**

- More education and sorting programs in school, radio updates.
- Keep woodchips from the Strathcona Regional District chipping programs for residents to purchase/ use.
- Curbside compost and yard waste pick-up (reduces the rat problem).
- Ban packaging on the Island and pilot reusable containers, this reduces recycling from businesses.
- Electronics recycling, and/ or a way to repair and repurpose electronics at the Waste Management Centre.
- Pilot glass tumblers for garden drainage, landscaping.
- Signs posted for visiting campers to direct them how to deal with their recycling. There are currently only garbage and refundable bins (Smelt Bay).
- Collect garbage and recycling on the docks as boaters don't have cars to drop at the depot.
- Re-evaluate curbside pickup. While one resident felt residents don't make enough garbage to pay for pick-up services, others were willing to pay for services others could receive.
- Housing issue means people are living on boats, but there is no sani-dump, fresh water or solid waste services available for them.
- Construction material waste from renovations and new builds ends up at the depot.
- Re-evaluate charges at Waste Management Centre (flat rate vs. pay per bag). The goal is to stop people from illegal dumping.
- Metal sorting area.
- Consider incineration options to reduce trucking costs.
- Build a new and larger free store to hold all material longer, and have it open during depot hours.

## **6. Campbell River Farmers Market – July 30, 2023**

**People engaged: 104**

Comments related to the draft guiding principles and goals were supportive. One respondent questioned what “responsibly managing waste” looked like in practice and felt it important to ensure that recyclable plastics are truly recyclable. Another respondent noted the need to design organics recycling programs in a way that is wildlife/bear safe and importance of the solid waste management program being accessible to people of all backgrounds. Staff received several questions related to the new organics collection program.

**Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:**

- Several noted a desire for expanded curbside collection, particularly in rural areas.
- Curbside recycling could be expanded to include items such as glass, foam, and flexible plastic bags.
- Mandated diversion at events, volunteers to help with sorting, recycling, garbage pick-up.
- Organics and compost collection at condos and townhouses
- Open another Return-It Depot
- Offer more tours at Waste Management Facility.

- Consideration of wildlife and organics/composting.
- Reduce waste at the source and encourage circular economy

## **7. Quadra Island Farmers Market – August 5, 2023**

**People engaged: 81**

Comments were supportive of the guiding principles and goals. One person felt the third goal was the least important of them all. Overall, residents seemed excited for a new Recycle BC depot to open to replace the current CSWM recycling bins.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Options for organic waste/community composting [e.g., organic waste collection, yard waste drop-off]
- Increased collection/drop-off options for various materials [e.g., pay to dump, metal collection, bulky items, transfer stations, glass and bottle, community clean-up day]
- Repair cafes, tool lending and Free Stores
- Incentives for big water jugs, to reduce bottled water.
- Include garbage, recycling, and yard waste costs in taxes.

## **8. Comox Nautical Days - August 5-7, 2023**

**People engaged: 591**

Residents were supportive of the draft guiding principles and goals.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Prioritize opening an additional Recycle BC depot in Comox.
- Provide equitable services to all parts of the region, i.e. urban and rural should have same level of service.
- Increase education [e.g. community workshops, dispel myths about recycling, promote recycling and reuse]
- More recycling facilities, options for yard waste and organics as well – consider a transfer station.
- Reduce garbage pick-up and increase recycling.
- Reduce use of plastic packaging.
- Encourage a more circular economy that uses product waste.
- Consider use of [Lee Valley] bio-bags in organics program
- Offer residents a choice in the size on organics bins
- Re-vote for Area C for curbside recycling. Residents are being charged a lot of money for garbage pick-up by Waste Management, and pick-ups are missed too often.
- Add glass collection to curbside program and glass recycling at the depot.
- Better access to recycle and transfer stations.
- Organics collection for strata's.
- Reduce fee for mattress drop-off.
- Introduce a Free Store at the landfill.
- Add curbside collection for depot only items. Many residents expressed their dislike for going to the Puntledge Rd. Recycling Depot.

## **9. Denman Island Farmers Market – August 19, 2023**

**People engaged: 84**

Comments were supportive of the guiding principles and goals. Some comments related to equity across sectors, allowing anything recyclable to be collected and “how” would circular economy be achieved. There were many positive comments about the Denman Island depot.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Greater transparency about what happens to recyclables and waste when it leaves the island.
- Introduce recycling options for other materials, such as textiles, propane cylinders and agricultural plastics (bale wrap)
- Increased education [e.g. bean bag toss in schools, better promotion of 3R's, increase anti-littering education, policy to accompany reduction promotion.
- Allow businesses to recycle foam, flexible plastic, and glass, in rural and urban areas.
- Subsidize Speedibins.
- Circular economy programs.
- Free stores in all rural communities.

## **10. Campbell River Farmers Market – August 20, 2023**

**People engaged: 130**

Residents were supportive of the draft guiding principles and goals.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Increase education about where recycling materials go, after collection.
- Organics and recycling for stratas, condos (4 plexes, etc.)
- Increased recycling options for business [e.g., Styrofoam, plastic bags]
- Improve services in Area D
- Add more items to curbside collection [e.g., glass, flexible plastics]
- Consider another recycling depot
- School presentations
- Address illegal dumping.
- Eliminate fee for yard waste at the landfill

## **11. Gold River Days - August 26, 2023**

**People engaged: 56**

Nine people provided feedback on the guiding principles and goals. Some comments noted they were “simple and smart” and “achievable”. All comments related to the guiding principles and goals were supportive.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Improved options for organics diversion [e.g., green collection/bins, community composting program, free grass clipping drop-off.]
- Introduce a Free Store.

- Expand curbside collection or privatize it, add recycling and organics.
- Find ways to curb illegal dumping.
- Use hemp instead of plastics (tree plantings).
- More education on recycling, including for seniors.
- Put up barriers at the transfer station to reduce people “tossing over”.
- End of year school diversion support.

## **12. Black Creek Fall Fair - September 9, 2023**

**People engaged: 94**

All comments about guiding principles and goals were supportive. There were many questions about when curbside collection might start, when people can vote and what has happened since the Alternative Approval Process.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Most comments were related to a desire for increased recycling options Area B and Area C. Suggestions included curbside collection, improving the recycling depot, more bins/drop-off locations, referendum for blue box collection.
- Plan for handling increased waste due to development in Black Creek area.
- Carts at the depot in Campbell River.
- A construction worker noted that building sites are too small for sorting waste into multiple piles and it's too costly and time consuming.
- Limited options for Black Creek residents, costs of private haulers is too high
- Increase transparency about better recycling solutions.

## **13. Campbell River Farmers Market – September 10, 2023**

**People engaged: 98**

Residents were supportive of the draft guiding principles and goals. Some suggestions for improving the goals were to incorporate higher quality bins, provide easier ways to recycle and improve accessibility.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Improve kitchen bins [e.g., lids to prevent materials from blowing, bearproofing]
- Encourage businesses to communicate how to recycle their products [e.g., use of visuals]
- Provide organics collection for stratas and/or drop-off bins
- Small 12-unit strata would like to be on city waste services
- Recycling, compost, and garbage pick-up for Area C.
- RV parks and campgrounds need recycling, food, and yard waste collection (e.g., Glen Alder).
- Stories Beach – concern residents pay for garbage collection and water twice (municipal and private).
- Consider automated carts.
- Recycling depot closer.

## **14. Hornby Island Fall Fair – September 17, 2023**

### **People engaged: 79**

There were limited comments related to the guiding principles and goals. There were some comments about the cost and sphere of influence when it comes to fostering a circular economy.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Add curbside garbage, recycling, and compost collection.
- Need ReStore up and running so residents aren't throwing away renovation materials and other items that can be reused.
- Need full scale industrial capacity plants to recycle glass and plastic.
- Reduce fees for depot and garbage collection – equitable with other areas.
- Continue yard waste collection.

## **15. Comox Valley Home Show – September 22-24, 2023**

### **People engaged: 507**

Several residents provided feedback on the guiding principles. Most comments indicated support. However, some respondents noted the goals seemed vague and too broad to achieve in 10 years, one felt recycling targets won't be achieved if people must drive to recycle, and that services should be consistent across all areas to achieve the greatest diversion.

Key actions residents felt could be considered in the next 10 years:

- Several mentioned the need for a recycling depot, especially in Comox and one respondent indicated Puntledge depot is too busy and not open on evenings and Sundays.
- Several people noted garbage bins are too small and the limits on yard waste are too low.
- Yard waste is a problem, especially after winter storms. City should consider options for some sort of carbon credit to residents they pick-up from.
- Varying opinions were expressed about the size of the organics bin [e.g. too small, too big, not needed]
- Equitable waste management services for stratas – charged fees and not getting enough service.
- Equitable waste management services for businesses, incentives for businesses to collect recycling and subsidize businesses that redesign waste into usable items.
- Explore using gas from landfill to heat homes and businesses.
- Weekly recycling pick-up, especially for apartments, condos, and townhouses.
- Curbside pick-up for deposit only items.
- Reconsider contract with Emterra, they are not providing consistent service.
- More public tours of the landfill.
- Make sure the drop off days for old garbage and recycling bins is accessible for snowbirds (i.e. Jan-April).
- Introduce recycling options for metal drop-off in Comox.
- Remove deposit on milk jugs.
- Introduce program for recycling wine corks (like Powell River).
- Host more Repair Cafés

## VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE – Tuesday, September 12, 2023

A facilitated virtual open house was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

12 people attended. Attendees indicated they were from City of Courtenay, Town of Comox, and Comox Valley Regional Electoral Area. The format began with a detailed overview of the existing solid waste management system, followed by opportunities for attendees to ask questions answered by CSWM project staff. Feedback was then sought on the draft guiding principles and goals. Attendees posed questions about a variety of topics, largely focused on recycling options for specific materials (glass and Styrofoam), organics bin size, and frequency of garbage and organics collection.

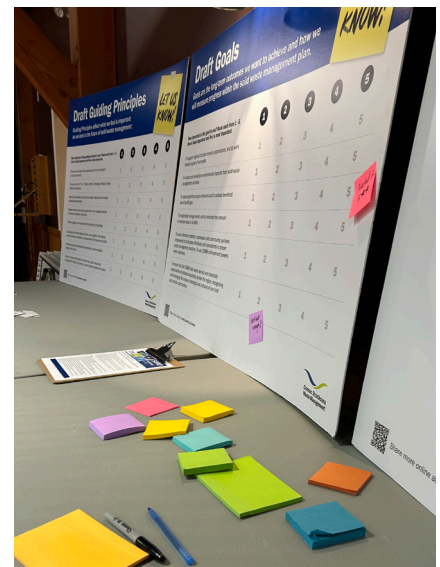
A follow-up email was sent to all attendees with links to more information and resources. Attendees were encouraged to complete the online survey. A recording of the virtual open house was posted on the project website at: <https://engagemoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2>.



## IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE – Tuesday, September 19, 2023

An open house was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Maritime Heritage Centre in Campbell River. 11 people attended. Attendees could review informational display boards about the existing system. CSWM staff were present to answer questions. Feedback was sought about the draft guiding principles and goals, and key actions attendees feel the CSWM should consider over the next 10 years.

Of the 11 attendees who attended, almost all came with questions about recently introduced curbside organics program. When asked what key actions the CSWM should take over the next 10 years, suggestions included introducing curbside pick-up for the blue box for Area B and Area D, expanding curbside collection to capture all depot materials, assistance for businesses to reduce waste, and to discourage use of bottled water.



# NEXT STEPS

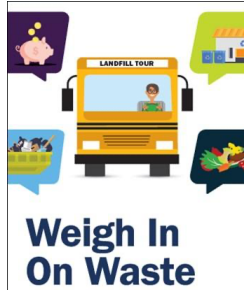
This *What We Heard* Summary Consultation report will be presented to the Regional Solid Waste Advisory committee and the CSWM Board in the Fall of 2023. It will be available on the CSWM project website at: <https://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp/step-2>

# APPENDICES

## Media Release & FAQ

### Join us for a Behind the Scenes Tour of the Landfill

June 26, 2023



The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) is welcoming the public “behind the scenes” with guided tours of the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre Landfill on Saturday, July 8, 2023, from 9 am to 12:20 pm.

The public can pre-register at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp) for one of five bus tours to learn about where our waste goes and how they play a role in reducing waste in our community. Attendees will see where waste goes and how it is managed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the surrounding environment. Interactive stations will demonstrate how to reduce waste, recycle, and compost.

This event is part of a four-step process to develop a new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area. A SWMP outlines the long-term vision for garbage and recycling and presents the programs, services, infrastructure, and policies that guide the design and implementation of solid waste in the region.

The Ministry of Environment recommends that plans be renewed every ten years to ensure that the plan reflects best practices and the evolving realities of solid waste. The SWMP for our region was last updated in 2012. Meanwhile, the Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area population 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 public is invited to provide input about how solid waste is managed, future trends, and draft goals and guiding principles for managing solid waste over the next ten years. They can participate through a range of activities over the next three months, including in-person and virtual public open houses, community outreach events, and an online survey.

Learn more about how to Weigh In On Waste is at: [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)

Media can register in advance by calling 250-334-6065 for the 12:20 pm tour. Appropriate closed toe footwear will be required.

*The Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuuchah-nulth territories.*

-30-

#### For more information please contact:

Sarah Willie, Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development 250-334-6065



## Solid Waste Management in the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service Area

### What We Do:

- The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service is responsible for the public landfills, transfer stations and recycling depots within the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts. The CSWM service area is in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuuchahnulth territories.
- CSWM manages over 75,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees several diversion and education programs.
- It operates two regional waste management centres that serve the Comox Valley and Campbell River and several transfer stations that handle waste and recycling for the electoral areas. Most of the garbage is hauled to the modern engineered landfill in Cumberland. Residents that live near Zeballos or Tahsis have their waste buried in their local landfills.
- The CSWM does not provide pick up service directly from homes; curbside collection of garbage, recycling or organics is provided by municipalities and offered by private haulers to rural residents.

### Key Facts:

- There is room to improve. On average, each person in the region generates 551 kg of waste annually. The provincial target is 350 kg of waste per person.
- In 2021, 68,000 tonnes of garbage went into the regional landfills; 51 per cent of that waste could have been diverted and either composted or recycled.
- In 2017, organics made up 25 per cent of what was being thrown in the garbage.
- With more people, comes more waste. Since 2011, the population in the region grew by 13 per cent – and is forecast to continue to grow over the next 20 years. With growth, construction and demolition waste also continues to increase.
- More waste in the landfill means more greenhouse gases. Since 2016, landfill gas collection has prevented the release of nearly 170,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent into the atmosphere.
- We can do better. Removing organic materials like grass clippings, food scraps and yard waste from the garbage reduces the amount of methane gas that is released from our landfills. In CSWM's compost facility they add oxygen to the piles of material so that only carbon dioxide gas is created, which is at least 25 times less harmful for the climate than methane gas.
- CSWM residents divert over 12,000 tonnes of waste a year through participation in Extended Producer Responsibility programs (e.g. tires, beverage containers, batteries etc.)
- Depending on how much waste we produce, the approved capacity of the regional landfill will last until between 2037 and 2047.

### How Is It Paid For?

- The cost of operating landfills is funded through the tipping fees that are paid when materials are brought to the sites.
- The cost of constructing, expanding, and closing landfills is mainly covered through taxation. The tax rate in 2023 is \$0.1036 per \$1,000 of assessed value. A house worth \$250,000 will contribute \$25.90 towards the service, and a house worth \$750,000 will contribute \$77.69.
- Most of the recycling that is collected at the curb and from our depots is managed by extended producer responsibility programs, which are not funded by local government, but through the fees collected from consumers at the time products were purchased.
- As waste is diverted from the landfill, CSWM must analyze the costs associated with changes in consumer behaviour. Less waste going to the landfill is positive for the environment and preserves the current landfills, but also means a decrease in revenue from tipping fees. Moving forward, CSWM will need to consider a new mix of revenue sources, between tipping fees and taxation, to provide a stable funding source for the service.



To learn more and Weigh In On Waste, visit [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp)

## Print and Digital Advertising



# Weigh In On Waste

### Help Us Shape a Better Future for Solid Waste

**Join the Conversation**

Comox Strathcona Waste Management is renewing its Solid Waste Management Plan and we want to hear from you about how we should manage recycling, composting and garbage over the next ten years.

Join us at a virtual or in-person open house to learn more and share your ideas how solid waste is managed, future trends, draft goals and guiding principles for the solid waste management plan.

**Participate & Win!**

Two \$100 gift certificates, valid at either ReStore locations with Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North, will be awarded to randomly selected winners from those who complete the survey or attend an open house.



**Virtual Open House**  
Tuesday, September 12, 2023  
6 pm – 8 pm  
Pre-register at [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp)

**Maritime Heritage Centre Drop-In Open House**  
Tuesday, September 19, 2023  
5 pm – 8 pm  
621 Island Hwy, Campbell River

**Comox Strathcona Waste Management**

To learn more and Weigh In On Waste, visit [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp) and complete the survey by September 25!



# Weigh In On Waste: Open Houses

### Help shape how we manage solid waste in the future

Comox Strathcona Waste Management is renewing its Solid Waste Management Plan and we want to hear from you about how we should manage recycling, composting and garbage over the next ten years.

Join us at a virtual or in-person open house to learn more and share your ideas how solid waste is managed, future trends, draft goals and guiding principles for the solid waste management plan.

**Participate & Win!**

Two \$100 gift certificates, valid at either ReStore locations with Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North, will be awarded to randomly selected winners from those who complete the survey or attend an open house.



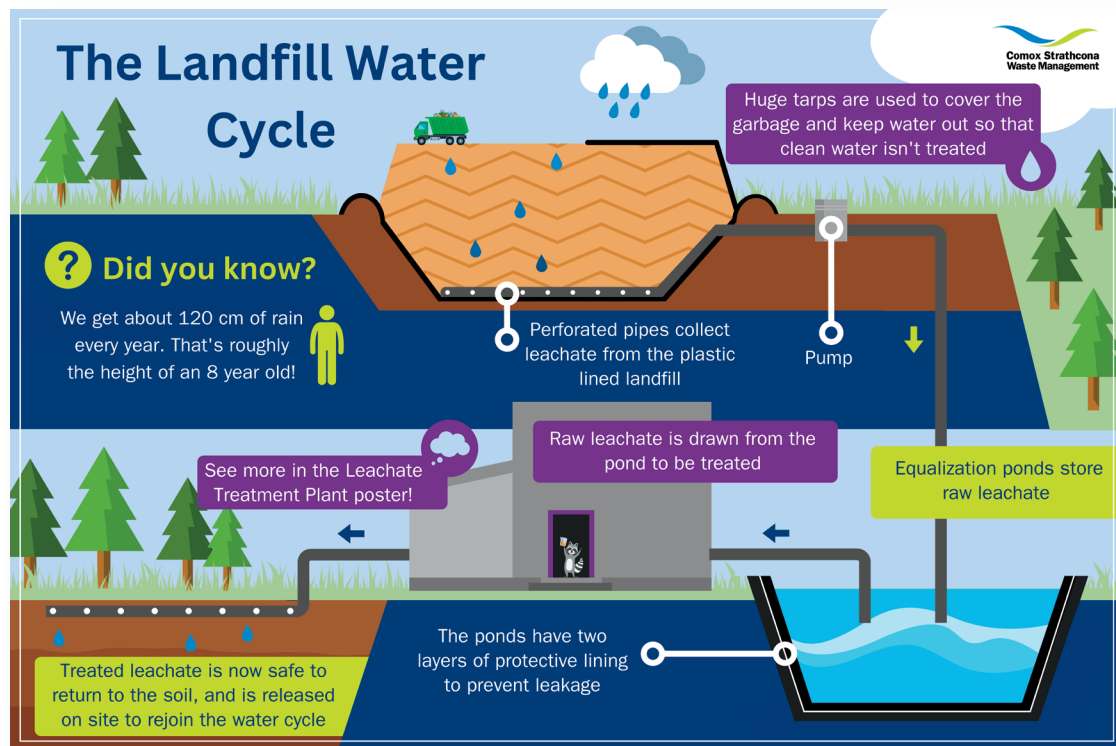
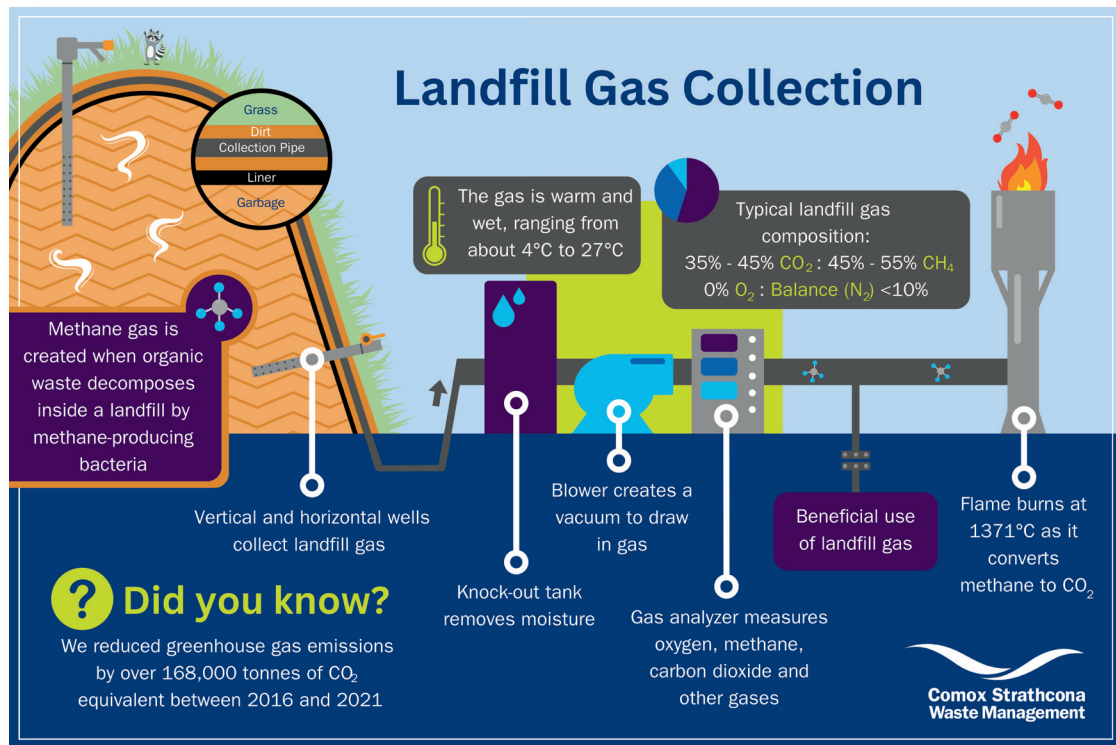
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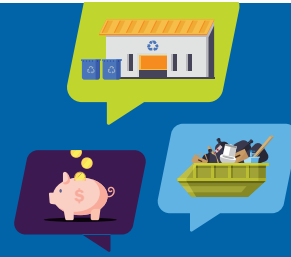
To learn more and Weigh In On Waste, visit [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp) and complete the survey by September 25!

## Landfill Tour Interpretive Signage



## Display Boards

# The 4-step Planning Process



**A Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is the long-term vision for garbage and recycling and presents the programs, services, infrastructure, and policies that guide the design and implementation of solid waste in the CSWM region.**

Plans are mandated by the Province through the Environmental Management Act for all regional districts to complete.

A 10-year renewal is recommended to ensure the plan reflects best practices and the evolving realities of solid waste.

**1995**

First Solid Waste Management Plan for the region.

**2003**

Solid Waste Management Plan updated.

**2012**

Solid Waste Management Plan updated.

**2022**

Solid Waste Management Plan renewal process launched.



**1.**

**Initiate the process**



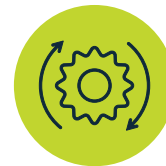
**2.**

**Set the Plan Direction**



**3.**

**Evaluate Options**



**4.**

**Prepare and Adopt the Plan**

Public consultation occurs at every step of the planning process.



# History of Solid Waste Management in CSWM



## How far we have come:



- Closure of smaller landfills in Sayward, and on Denman and Hornby Islands.
- Focus on backyard composting and recycling at drop-off locations.

1990s

- EPR for residential printed paper and packaging and many electronic products in effect, introduced in all CSWM communities in some form.
- Landfill Criteria updated further strengthening environmental controls and capital requirements.
- Waste composition audit found food waste was 30% of garbage sent to regional landfill.

2010s



- Pidgeon Lake Landfill closed.
- Engineered landfill opened with leachate and landfill gas collection in Cumberland.
- Food waste collection pilot introduced in Comox and Cumberland.

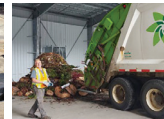
2000s

- In 2008, Comox-Strathcona Regional District split into two regions, solid waste maintained as one service for efficiency – Comox Strathcona Waste Management was created.
- Curbside recycling services introduced in four major population centres.



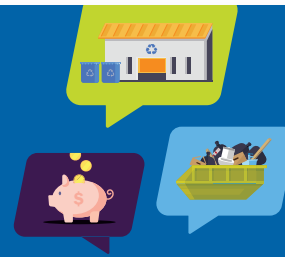
2020s

- Campbell River Landfill closed and transfer of waste to engineered landfill begins.
- Lateral expansion of the engineered landfill.
- Organics facility opened and food waste collection expanded to residents of Courtenay and Campbell River.



**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

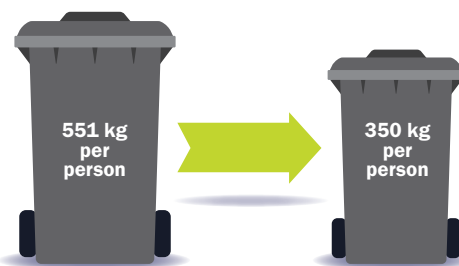
# Solid Waste in the CSWM



## The goal is to produce less garbage.

On average, each person in the service area generates 551 kg of waste annually. The provincial target is 350 kg per person.

The CSWM service manages over 75,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees diversion and education programs for the CVRD and the SRD.



## Who contributes to waste?



**Residential**  
Houses  
Condominiums



**Industrial**  
Aquaculture  
Forestry



**Institutional**  
Hospitals  
Schools



**Business**  
Retail Stores  
Restaurants



**Construction and Demolition**  
Builders, Haulers



## More people means more waste.

Since 2011, the population in the region grew by 13% – and is forecast to continue to grow over the next 20 years.

With growth, construction and demolition waste also continues to increase.

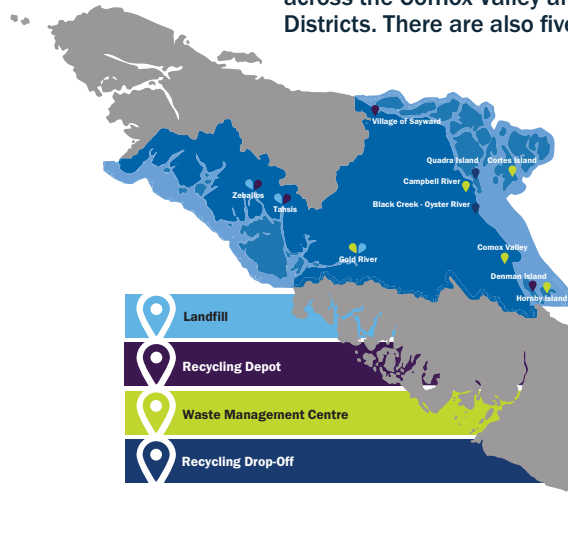


# How We Manage Waste

The CSWM service area is in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories.



CSWM operates waste management centres, recycling depots, transfer stations and landfills across the Comox Valley and Strathcona Regional Districts. There are also five closed landfills.



Each community in the service area is unique as are the solid waste services provided to meet their needs.

Beyond landfills and recycling, solid waste management also includes:

- Education and Promotion
- Organics Diversion
- Construction, Renovation and Demolition Diversion
- Disaster Debris Management
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Illegal Dumping

Many private and non-private partners also operate facilities and deliver solid waste services:

- Bottle depots
- Food banks
- Yard and garden waste composting
- Reuse organizations
- Repair cafes
- Haulers
- Recycling processing facilities



# Greenhouse Gas Emissions

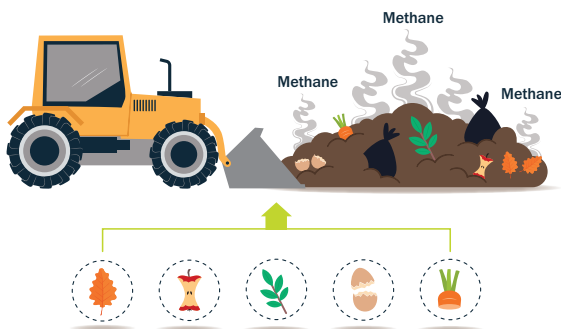
When organic materials – such as food, yard waste, and paper – are disposed in landfills, they produce methane – a powerful greenhouse gas.



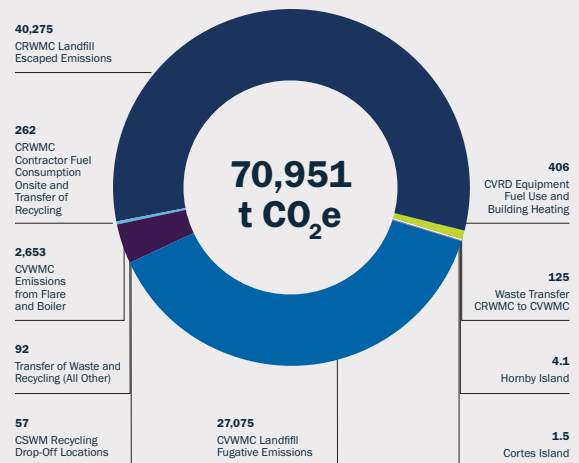
Municipal landfills account for about 23% of Canada's methane emissions. 95% of CSWM GHG's are generated from Comox Valley and Campbell River Waste landfills.

Since 2016, the collection and destruction of landfill gas has prevented the release of nearly 170,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent into the atmosphere.

**Less organic waste in landfills = less methane**

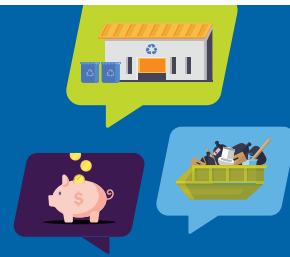


**Estimate of 2021 Greenhouse Gases from CSWM Service (Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> Equivalent)**



**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

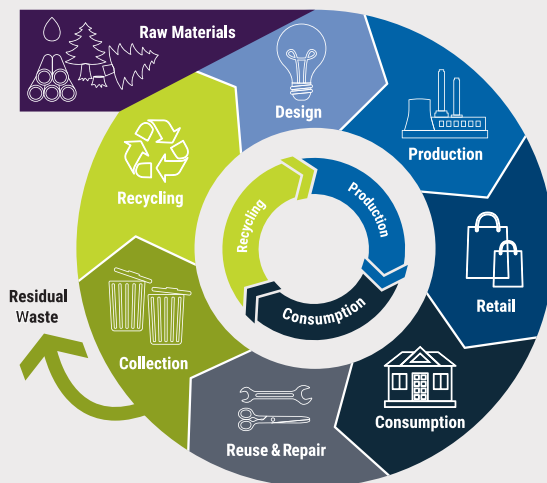
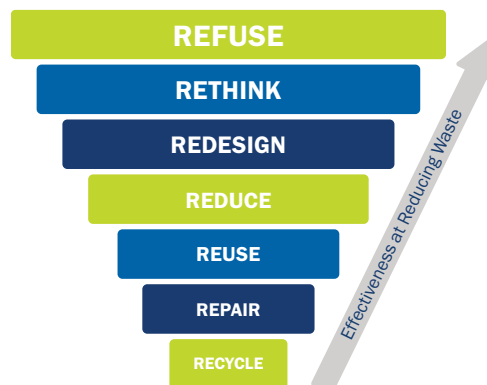
# How We Can Reduce Waste



## What is Zero Waste?

Zero waste approaches aim to reduce and ultimately eliminate garbage.

The first step is reducing the waste we generate and then taking further steps to find more beneficial ways of managing our resources.



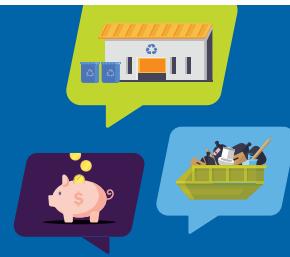
## Benefits of a “Circular Economy”

In a circular economy resources are never tossed. Instead, they are reused, recycled, and reintroduced as new products.

All with a focus on clean technology and energy efficiency.



# What's in our Waste

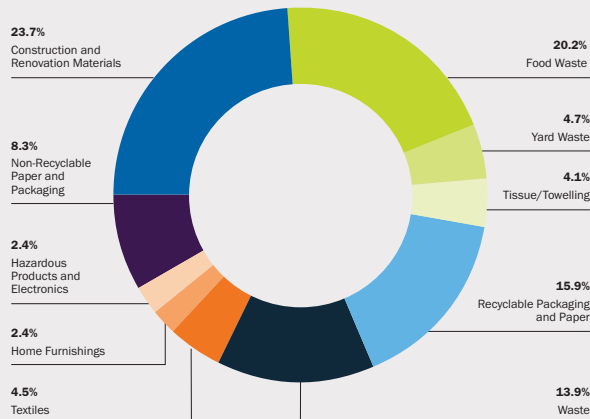


51% of waste going into the landfill could be diverted through recycling or composting.

The more we divert from the landfill, the longer it will be an asset to the community, protecting the environment, and saving money.



## 2017 Waste Composition Study Results

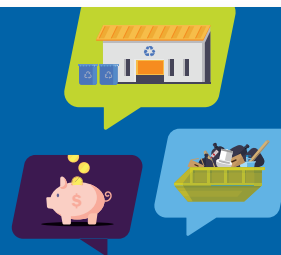


This data was gathered by opening up garbage bags and sorting through trash that came to CSWM facilities, not recycling bins.

|                                       |       |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Compostables                          | 29.0% |
| Construction and Renovation Materials | 23.7% |
| Recyclable Packaging and Paper        | 15.9% |
| Waste                                 | 13.9% |
| Miscellaneous                         | 9.3%  |
| Non-Recyclable Paper and Packaging    | 8.3%  |
| <b>100%</b>                           |       |



# What Goes Where?



## Recycling

Recyclables are sorted by and turned into new products like newspaper, packaging, or cans. They are not landfilled.



## Organics

Food waste and yard waste is turned into nutrient-rich compost that can be used in agriculture and landscaping. By keeping organics out of the landfill, we reduce methane and greenhouse gas emissions.



## Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

CSWM residents divert over 12,000 tonnes of waste a year through participation in Extended Producer Responsibility programs.

The growing list of EPR programs includes beverage containers, tires, and pharmaceuticals. The fees for these programs are collected at time of purchase.

Other EPR products such as chemicals, batteries, and electronics are collected and disposed of appropriately.



## Landfill

What isn't recycled or composted goes into the landfill. Over 50% of what currently goes into the landfill could have been recycled or composted.



# Responsible Waste Management



Responsible landfill management includes managing the leachate and landfill gas generated. CSWM has robust programs in place to capture and treat leachate and landfill gas.

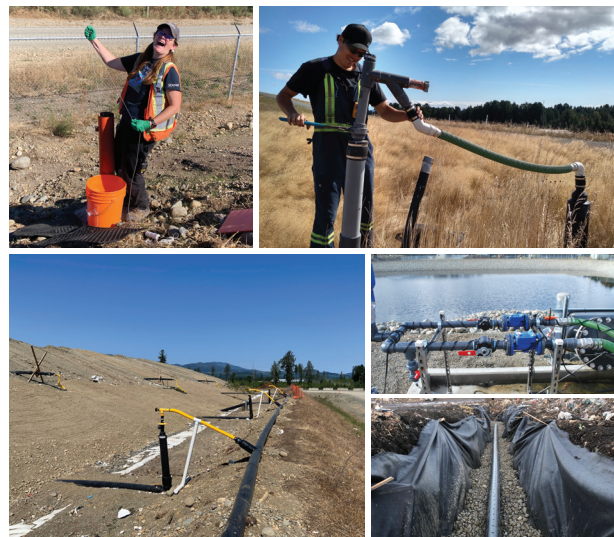
## How we protect groundwater

- Leachate is the water that drains from the landfill. It is captured from the engineered landfill, stored in lined ponds, and treated in an onsite wastewater treatment plant.
- Treated water is then returned to the ground.
- Surface water is kept away from the waste and directed to ponds to infiltrate.
- Monitoring wells are sampled.



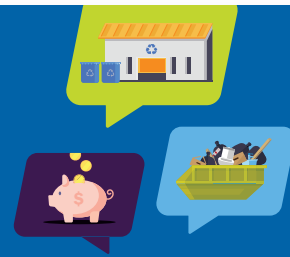
## How we reduce our climate impact

- Landfill gas is captured and destroyed through a landfill gas collection system.
- Removing organic materials like grass clippings, food scraps, and yard waste from the garbage reduces the amount of methane gas that is released from our landfills.
- Consolidating waste and reducing the number of trips.



**Comox Strathcona**  
Waste Management

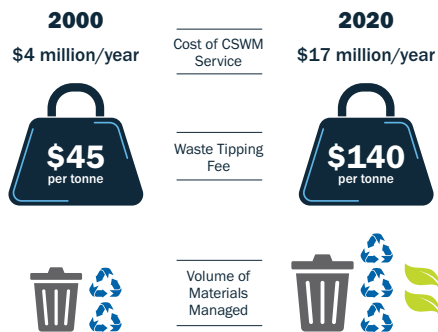
# How CSWM is Funded



**Solid waste management used to be simpler, but didn't always prioritize protecting the environment.**

Stricter environmental regulations, and emphasis on waste as a resource has changed how we fund the service and how much it costs.

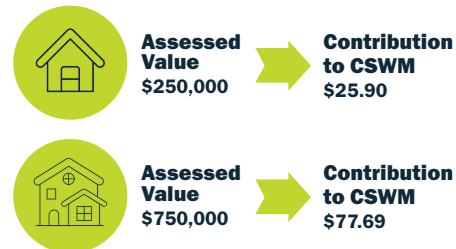
The amount of garbage, recycling, and organics per person has increased, and so has the tipping fee per tonne to dispose of waste.



**Tipping fees still cover landfill operations, but the cost of constructing, expanding, and closing landfills is now mainly covered by taxation.**



**Annual tax contributions for landfills, recycling depots, and organics processing (excluding curbside pick-up) based on assessed value:**



As we divert more waste from landfills, we will need to keep adapting our revenue sources, between taxation and tipping fees, to provide a stable funding source.

**Comox Strathcona Waste Management**

# Draft Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles reflect what we feel is important as we look to the future of solid waste management:

LET US  
KNOW!

How important is this guiding principle to you? Rank each from 1 - 5. One is least important and five is most important.

|                                                                                                                                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Promote and support zero waste approaches and support a circular economy.                                                                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Promote the first 7 R's – Refuse, Rethink, Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.                                                             | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Maximize beneficial and best use of waste materials and manage residuals appropriately.                                                              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Support polluter and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize behaviour outcomes.                                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Prevent organics and recyclables from going into the garbage.                                                                                        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Collaborate with other regional districts, municipalities, First Nations, service providers, institutions, and associations both private and public. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Build and support collaborative partnerships to achieve regional targets set in plans.                                                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Strive for equity within regions for private and public solid waste management facilities to achieve or exceed regional targets set in plans.        | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



Share more online at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)

Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management

# Draft Goals

Goals are the long-term outcomes we want to achieve and how we will measure progress within the solid waste management plan.

LET US  
KNOW!

How important is this goal to you? Rank each from 1 - 5. One is least important and five is most important.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| To support regional circular economy approaches, and to work towards a goal of zero waste.                                                                                                                            | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| To reduce and remediate environmental impacts from solid waste management activities.                                                                                                                                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue beneficial use of landfill gas.                                                                                                                                      | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| To responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills.                                                                                                                               | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| To have informed residents, businesses and community partners empowered to participate effectively and consistently in proper waste management practices. To use CSWM enforcement powers when necessary.              | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| To ensure that the CSWM solid waste service are financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |



Share more online at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)



# Where do we go next?

What specific actions do you feel need to be taken to improve solid waste management in your community?



Share more online at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)

  
Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management

## Stakeholder Letter

770 Harmston Avenue, Courtenay, BC V9N 0G8  
Tel: 250-334-6000 Fax: 250-334-4358  
Toll free: 1-800-331-6007  
www.comoxvalleyrd.ca



File: 5360-30/SWMP

August 16, 2023

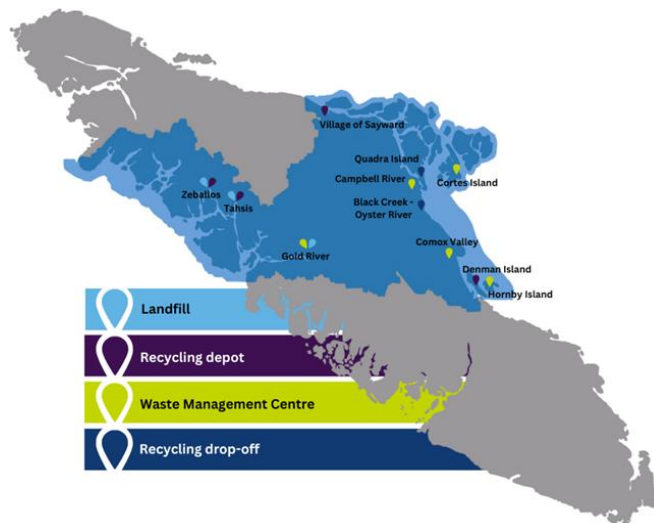
Sent via email only

Dear Community Partner:

**Re: Weigh In On Waste – Public Consultation**

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management Service (Service) is renewing its Solid Waste Management Plan. Public consultation will occur through all solid waste management planning phases. A Solid Waste Management Plan (Plan) is the long-term vision for garbage and recycling. It presents the programs, services, infrastructure, and policies that guide the design and implementation of solid waste management in the Service area. From Fanny Bay to Sayward and from Kyuquot to Hornby Island, the Service area is vast with diverse communities.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy recommends the Plan be renewed every 10 years to ensure that the plans reflect best practices and the evolving realities of solid waste. The Plan for our area was last updated in 2012.



The population for this Service area has grown by approximately 13 per cent during that time, and forecasted to continue. As communities, regulations, and public needs change, this Service adapts to meet the evolving environment by delivering practical, cost-efficient and convenient solid waste management services.

We invite the public to learn more and provide input about recycling depots, landfills, tip fees and education, as well as draft goals and guiding principles for managing solid waste over the next 10 years. The draft goals and guiding principles (attached) have

been developed with input from the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee, a committee comprised of public members, local government staff and business owners.

*The Comox Strathcona Waste Management service area is located in the Coast Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw, and Nuu-chah-nulth territories.*

Comox Strathcona Waste Management manages over 100,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees a number of diversion and education programs for the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts.

We believe that your business or organization has a stake in this work and we are especially interested in hearing from you as we work through this multi-year renewal of our Plan. The Service invites you to learn more and share your ideas about managing solid waste across the Strathcona and Comox Valley regional districts. The consultation process involves a range of activities from June to September, including:

- September 25, 2023 [Online Survey Closes](#)
- September 12, 2023 Virtual Open House (Pre-registration required)
- September 19, 2023 Drop-in Open House Maritime Heritage Centre, 621 Island Hwy, Campbell River
- Provide written feedback by email: [cswm@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:cswm@comoxvalleyrd.ca)

We have been out in the community this summer, and our community outreach events continue through August and September 2023:

- August 19, 2023 Denman's Farmers Market, Recycling Depot, 5901 Denman Rd, Denman Island
- August 20, 2023 Campbell River Farmer's Market, 1235 Shoppers Row, Campbell River
- August 26, 2023 Gold River Days, Nimpkish Park, Nimpkish Drive, Gold River
- September 9, 2023 Fall Fair, Black Creek Community Centre, 2001 Black Creek Road, Black Creek
- September 10, 2023 Campbell River Farmer's Market, 1235 Shoppers Row, Campbell River
- September 17, 2023 Fall Fair, Rosemuir Farm, 9925 Central Road, Hornby Island
- September 22-24, 2023 Home Show, Comox Recreation Centre 1855 Noel Avenue, Comox

Learn more about the solid waste management system, upcoming community events, register for an open house, and complete the online survey at: <http://www.cswm.ca/swmp>.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 250-334-6065 or [swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca](mailto:swillie@comoxvalleyrd.ca).

Sincerely,

**S. Willie**

Sarah Willie  
Manager of Solid Waste Planning and Policy Development  
Engineering Services

Enclosure: Draft Goals and Guiding Principles

*Comox Strathcona Waste Management*

## Goal

# 1

To support regional circular economy approaches, and to work towards a goal of zero waste.



## Goal

# 2

To reduce and remediate environmental impacts from solid waste management activities.



## Goal

# 3

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue beneficial use of landfill gas.



## Goal

# 4

To responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills.



## Goal

# 5

To have informed residents, businesses and community partners empowered to participate effectively and consistently in proper waste management practices. To use CSWM enforcement powers when necessary.



## Goal

# 6

To ensure that the CSWM solid waste service are financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities.



**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

### Guiding Principle 1

Promote and support zero waste approaches and support a circular economy.



### Guiding Principle 2

Promote the first 7 R's – Refuse, Rethink, Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.



### Guiding Principle 3

Maximize beneficial and best use of waste materials and manage residuals appropriately (e.g. clean wood waste).



### Guiding Principle 4

Support polluter and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize behaviour outcomes.



### Guiding Principle 5

Prevent organics and recyclables from going into the garbage.



### Guiding Principle 6

Collaborate with other regional districts, municipalities, First Nations, service providers, institutions, and associations both private and public.



### Guiding Principle 7

Build and support collaborative partnerships to achieve regional targets set in plans.



### Guiding Principle 8

Strive for equity within regions for private and public solid waste management facilities to achieve or exceed regional targets set in plans.



**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

## Stakeholder Distribution List

### Neighbourhood Associations

- Rental Owners and Managers Society of BC
- Condominium Homeowners Association of BC
- Vancouver Island Strata Owners Association
- Landlord BC
- Hornby Island Residents' & Ratepayers' Association
- Denman Island Residents Association
- Manson's Hall (Cortes Island)
- Macaulay Road and Area Neighbourhood Association
- Saratoga and Miracle Beach Residents Association

### Government Associations

- Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities
- DFO Courtenay
- DFO Victoria
- DFO Tahsis
- DFO Vancouver
- DFO Gold River
- DFO Campbell River
- Regional District of Mount Waddington
- Qathet Regional District
- Regional District of Nanaimo
- Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

### Waste Management Associations

- Coast Waste Management Association
- Recycling Council of BC
- Solid Waste Association of North America (Pacific Chapter)
- Waste Management Association of BC
- Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group

## **Waste Management Companies**

- GFL
- Waste Connections of Canada
- WM Canada
- Super Save Group
- Super Save Disposal
- Strathcona Recycling and Disposal
- Depot Operators
- Courtenay Return-It
- Island Return-It Campbell River

## **Hauling Companies**

- D.B.L. Disposal Services
- Fox's Disposal
- Berry and Vale Contracting
- Al & Sons Backhoe and Excavating
- B&D Containers
- Envirosystems Inc.
- Elcor Holdings
- SmallHauls.ca

## **Recycling Companies**

- Ocean Legacy
- ABC Recycling
- Radius Recycling
- Speedibin
- Earth Warriors Composting
- Vancouver Island Enterprises
- Vancouver Island Enterprises
- Western Rubber
- Emterra Environmental
- Pacific Wood Waste
- Nickel Bros - House recycling
- Pridy Bros. House Moving
- TerraCycle
- Island Health

- Value Village
- Jeremy's Scrap Metal Recycling
- Tayco Paving Courtenay
- Tayco Paving Campbell River
- Tahsis Compost - Garden Society

### **Environmental Groups**

- Campbell River Environmental Committee
- Comox Valley Land Trust
- Comox Valley Social Planning Society
- Coast Sustainability Trust

### **Business Improvement Associations / Business Sector Associations**

- Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Comox Business in Action (CBIA)
- Comox Valley Economic Development Society
- Comox Valley Tourism
- Campbell River and District Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Campbell River Business Improvement Association
- Downtown Courtenay Business Improvement Association
- Destination Campbell River
- Tahsis Chamber of Commerce
- Cumberland Business Association
- Hornby Island Community Economic and Enhancement Corporation

### **Sector Specific Associations**

- Vancouver Island Real Estate Board
- Campbell River Visitor Centre
- Cumberland Visitor Centre
- Gold River Visitor Centre
- Cortes Island Visitor Centre
- BC Restaurant and Food Services Association
- Retail Council of BC
- Association of British Columbia Marine Industries (ABCMI)
- Manatee Holdings Ltd.
- JLH Consulting Inc.

- Cermaq Canada
- Mowi Canada West
- Grieg Seafood
- Grieg Seafood
- BC Salmon Farmers
- BC Shellfish Growers Association
- BC Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences
- AKVA Group North America
- Poseidon Ocean Systems
- Aboriginal Aquaculture Association
- Gold River Aquafarm
- Liard Aquaculture
- Klahoose Aquaculture
- Coastal Springs Float Lodge
- Island Tides Fishing Lodge
- Ole's Hakai Pass Fishing Lodge
- Silver King Lodge

### **Construction/Building Associations and Business**

- Canadian Home Builders' Association – Vancouver Island
- Vancouver Island Construction Association
- Home Depot
- SLEGG Lumber
- Windsor Plywood
- Main Road North Island Contracting

## Community Outreach Boards

# We are updating our Solid Waste Management Plan



**A Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is the long-term vision for garbage and recycling and presents the programs, services, infrastructure, and policies that guide the design and implementation of solid waste in the CSWM region.**

Public consultation occurs at every step of the planning process:



**1. Initiate the process**



**2. Set the Plan Direction**



**3. Evaluate Options**



**4. Prepare and Adopt the Plan**

### Did You Know?



**Cortes Island used to have a landfill? It was closed in 1995 and all waste transferred to the Cumberland landfill for burial.**

- The free store is run solely by volunteers and is currently on summer hours (Monday/Wednesday)
- CSWM receives \$24,000 in revenue from the recyclable material and EPR items collected on Cortes
- Operating the Cortes Island Waste Management Centre emits 1.5 tonnes of GHG Emissions annually.

### What We Heard in Step 1



**31 Cortes residents completed the survey:**

- 61% are satisfied or very satisfied with the recycling options on the island. 39% are neutral or unsatisfied.
- 58% take their recycling to the depot.
- 30% have curbside collection.
- 68% are satisfied or very satisfied with how they deal with yard waste (compost or burn when allowed).
- 3 people use a community composting pick up program.
- Many residents want the free store to be improved and the operating hours to match the depot hours.

### Solid Waste Services In Your Community



**Cortes Island is a unique community with the following solid waste services:**

- The waste management centre, 1300 Squirrel Cove Road, (open Thursday-Sunday from 9 am-1 pm) offers:
  - Collection of all packaging and paper material
  - A transfer station for all garbage
  - A free store for gently used items
  - Scrap metal and yard waste collection
  - Paint, flammable liquids, pesticides and gasoline
- Weekly curbside garbage and recycling collection
- Klahoose First Nation operates a curbside garbage, recycling and compost program

### Solid Waste Costs In Your Community



**Solid waste management prioritizes protecting the environment. That is why all waste and recycling is transferred to Cumberland.**

- CSWM contributes \$120,000 per year to truck waste and metal to Cumberland from Cortes Island.
- CSWM contributes \$144,000 annually to operate the WM centre.
- Cortes Island residents pay \$99 per household for curbside garbage and recycling collection, plus \$82 per year to cover the tipping fees of the transfer station.
- Cortes receives an incentive of \$23,000 from RecycleBC
- CSWM receives \$24,000 in revenue from RecycleBC, metal and EPR items collected like paint.

To learn more visit: [cswm.ca/swmp](https://cswm.ca/swmp)



# Where do we go next?

What specific actions do you feel need to be taken to improve solid waste management in your community?



Share more online at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)



# Do You Support These As Our Direction For The Next 10 Years?



## Draft Goals

YES?

NO?

**1**

To support regional circular economy approaches, and to work towards a goal of zero waste.

**2**

To reduce and remediate environmental impacts from solid waste management activities.

**3**

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to pursue beneficial use of landfill gas.

**4**

To responsibly manage waste, and to minimize the amount of residual waste in landfills.

**5**

To have informed residents, businesses and community partners empowered to participate effectively and consistently in proper waste management practices. To use CSWM enforcement powers when necessary.

**6**

To ensure that the CSWM solid waste service is financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities.

## Draft Guiding Principles

YES?

NO?

**1**

Promote and support zero waste approaches and support a circular economy.



**2**

Promote the first 7 R's – Refuse, Rethink, Redesign, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle.



**3**

Maximize beneficial and best use of waste materials and manage residuals appropriately (e.g. clean wood waste).



**4**

Support polluter and user-pay approaches and manage incentives to maximize behaviour outcomes.



**5**

Prevent organics and recyclables from going into the garbage.



**6**

Collaborate with other regional districts, municipalities, First Nations, service providers, institutions, and associations both private and public.



**7**

Build and support collaborative partnerships to achieve regional targets set in plans.



**8**

Strive for equity within regions for private and public solid waste management facilities to achieve or exceed regional targets set in plans.



ANYTHING WE  
MISSED?



Share more online at [www.cswm.ca/swmp](http://www.cswm.ca/swmp)



## Feedback Forms



### Weigh In On Waste

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## Landfill Tour FEEDBACK FORM

We are renewing the Solid Waste Management plan want to hear what you think about the draft goals and guiding principles that will guide how we manage waste for the next 10 years.

**1 Guiding Principles:** Is there anything we have missed within the guiding principles? What do you like about them?

**2 Goals:** Is there anything we have missed within the goals? What do you like about them?

**3** What was your favourite thing about the landfill tour today?

**4** How did you hear about the tour?

|                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Radio        | <input type="radio"/> Website       |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspaper ad | <input type="radio"/> Word of Mouth |
| <input type="radio"/> Social media | <input type="radio"/> Other _____   |

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**How to Weigh In?**

Drop this form in the box to be entered to win one of two \$100 gift certificates, valid at either ReStore locations with Habitat for Humanity Vancouver Island North.

**Comox Strathcona Waste Management**

To learn more visit: [cswm.ca/swmp](http://cswm.ca/swmp)



### Weigh In On Waste

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## Community Event FEEDBACK FORM

We are renewing the Solid Waste Management plan want to hear what you think about the draft goals and guiding principles that will guide how we manage waste for the next 10 years.

**1 Guiding Principles:** Is there anything we have missed within the guiding principles? What do you like about them?

**2 Goals:** Is there anything we have missed within the goals? What do you like about them?

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**How to Weigh In?**

Drop this form in the box to be entered to win an eco-product basket!

**Comox Strathcona Waste Management**

To learn more visit: [cswm.ca/swmp](http://cswm.ca/swmp)

