



ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

MARCH 18, 2010

6:00 PM – CVRD Board Room
175 Ingram Street

AGENDA

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Distribution:

CVRD Director Gerry Giles (Chair)
Roger Wiles
Peter Keber
Chris Wood
Dave Polster
CVRD Director Phil Kent
CVRD Director Rob Hutchins
CVRD Director Lori Iannidinardo

Rodger Hunter (Co-Chair)
Kevin Visscher
Bruce Sampson
Bruce Fraser
Justin Straker
Judy Stafford
Larry George, Cowichan Tribes
John Morris, EDC

As Well As Full Agenda:

Director T. Walker
Warren Jones, CAO, CVRD
Brian Dennison, General Manager, Engineering and Environment Services
Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy Division

Full Agenda as Hard Copy

Director M. Marcotte
Director I. Morrison
Director L. Duncan

Agenda Cover Only:

Director G. Seymour
Director K. Kuhn
Director M. Dorey
Director B. Harrison
Tom Anderson, Manager, Planning and Development Services

Director T. McGonigle
Director D. Haywood
Director K. Cossey

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on February 18, 2010 at 5:55 pm.

PRESENT: Director Giles	Director Iannidinardo
Director Hutchins	Dave Polster
Roger Wiles	Bruce Sampson
Judy Stafford	Pete Keber
Bruce Fraser	Chris Wood
Rodger Hunter	Justin Straker
John Morris	Director Kent

ALSO

PRESENT: Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy
Tom Anderson, Manager, Planning & Development
Geoff Millar, Manager, Economic Development
Director Kuhn
Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary
Angela Evans, Sustainability Facilitator from Smart Planning for Communities (Fraser Basin Council)

ABSENT: Larry George, Kevin Visscher, and Brian Dennison, Manager, Eng & Enviro Department

Introductions of commission members to new members

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the January 14, 2010 Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**B BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

B1 Action items carried forward:

- i. Web pages are ongoing and nearing completion – only 2 pages left to have drafted.
- ii. Food Charter and agricultural matters will be at future meeting. The board adopted
- iii.
- iv.
- v. the Food Charter.
- vi. State of Environment Process: The consultants have provided 13 chapters, 150 pages. The sub-committee consisting of Judy Stafford, Roger Wiles, Rodger Hunter, Kate Miller,

Bruce Fraser and Justin Straker. Draft coming to this commission at next meeting March 18th.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Economic Development Report – Tom Anderson and Geoff Millar and Bruce Sampson, Chair

The Economic Development Committee will focus on updating their strategic plan in the direction CVRD wishes. Too many objectives, needs focus. Would like to support Regional Sustainable Strategic Plan and will have a working session with the Board to create more cross collaboration – great opportunities to open communication and work together on clean technology, agriculture, sustainability and environmentally economic ideas. Must have integration between us. Discussion ensued.

6:25 pm Tom Anderson and Geoff Millar left the meeting.

NB2 2010 Environment Commission work plan – Angela Evans, part of the Fraser Basin Council with a group called Smart Planning for Communities led a planning session for 2010 for and with the Environment Commission.

The work plan of 2009 was distributed for referral and several other pieces of reference material. Pete Keber went over the Draft Environmental Strategy for the CVRD.

Discussion on how have been doing from our goals of 2009:

1. *Has the Environmental Lens been applied?*
2. *Regional Sustainable Growth Strategy?* Perhaps a sustainability strategy is begun.
3. *Energy use and conservation?* Process underway with Regional Energy planning work.
4. *Inventory Mapping?* State of Environment report almost finished.
5. *Communicate, educate and advise community and board?* Process begun and on-going – focus is on the corporate communication first. Website developed and did one large workshop on climate change/action. More planned.
6. *Working group on forestry?* Not begun.
7. *Land use legislation – OCP's?* On-going – 3 reviews happening right now in the south end. Commission hasn't reviewed any of them but we have sent out the message to the Board – external to the commission.
8. *Energy, water, food and forestry are priorities?* CVRD Regional Energy strategy ongoing, external to the commission. Cowichan watershed board established – Cowichan Water Management Plan and South Cowichan

Water Plan are ongoing, external to the commission.

Is there any one thing to recognize? We have supported community groups and initiatives and have invited them to give presentations. How do we work together – regionally, provincially and federally?

- Forestry group –there was too much to do so didn't achieve goals on forestry. Worked on a few priorities. – Forestry will show up in the data from the State of the Environment report. Forestry was again brought up around water and watershed issues. But how do we keep forestry industry alive as well?

Summary:

- More education needed with commission's ideas to build understanding prior to asking for adoption from staff and Board as well as the public.
- Invite developers to share in decisions and learning.
- Commission should give presentations to the Board. Sub-committees with tasks had rewarding experience.

New Ideas: Next 2 years:

1. State of Environment report will show the way
2. Economy – not so stable. Needs to combine Economic strategy with Environment. People don't have so much money anymore. – we need jobs and what kind of economy will it be?
3. Gulf is growing between people who get it and those who don't, leading to paralysis
4. ALR – need to protect and use
5. Food - locally grown is fundamental
6. Energy
7. Water
8. Culture
9. **Urgency of Climate Change! *****
10. Price of gas needs to increase – not critical enough yet
11. Integrated Flood Management Plan - uses biodiversity, collaboration, small business, sustainability.
12. Change the way we do business
13. GMO's are detrimental to the food and export industries.
14. Consumerism – way too much materialism in our society.

New Tasks Priorities:

- Communicating
- Land Use – science or research based tools to show cost advantage to land use choices – what is the triple bottom line?

Tools we Need:

- Money
- Summer Student or consultant?

Budget requests:

- Additional \$20,000 for Commission projects

For future discussion:

What would make these meetings highly rewarding?

How do you want to see these meetings evolve?

CORRESPONDENCE None

INFORMATION

IN1 Echo Height Forest – The Conservation Opportunity

IN2 Ecostravaganza – Eco Fair June 5, 2010. Commission agreed to support the fair with \$50 contribution.

IN3 Acquisition Fund –

It was moved and seconded to request the Board to support a full allocation of the regional park land acquisition fund in the coming year.

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING March 18, 2010

ADJOURNMENT It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____



STAFF REPORT

R 1

ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

DATE: March 2, 2010 **FILE NO:** N/A
FROM: Harmony Huffman, Environmental Technologist
SUBJECT: CVRD Recycling and Waste Management – Annual Progress Report (2008)

Recommendation: N/A

Purpose: To update the Commission on recycling and waste management activities within the regional district for the 2008 calendar year, and to review the regional district's progress with regard to the implementation of its solid waste management plan.

Financial Implications: N/A.

Interdepartmental/Agency Implications: N/A

Background: This staff report is intended to supplement the summary of solid waste management plan implementation that was provided to the Commission in July, 2009.

The CVRD amended its' regional Solid Waste Management Plan in 2006. The CVRD's Environment Commission reviewed the plan at that time and continues to act as the public monitoring committee for the Plan's implementation. The preparation of an annual progress report by Recycling and Waste Management staff assists the Environment Commission in this role. The annual report documents the regional district's progress on implementation of the Plan, and also provides an analysis of regional waste disposal and recycling trends. The report is submitted on an annual basis to the Environment Commission, Engineering and Environmental Services Committee, and the BC Ministry of Environment.

Discussion: The layout of the 2008 Annual Progress Report (formerly "Waste Tracking Report") has been revised and updated. The new report contains two key sections, one providing an update on the status of various initiatives identified by the Solid Waste Management Plan, and another providing an overview and analysis of regional disposal and recycling figures. As in previous years, it is expected that this report will be completed during the spring/summer of the subsequent year for which the report is prepared (i.e. the 2008 report will be prepared for spring/summer 2009). However, the preparation of the 2008 report was delayed due to staffing shortages throughout 2008/09.

Some notable developments and key figures during 2008 include:

- Approximately 33,606 tonnes of waste was disposed of in the CVRD during 2008, representing a slight increase over 2007 levels of 31,441 tonnes. This increase can be attributed to the strong economic growth and booming housing market experienced during much of 2008, prior to the economic downturn.
- Per capita waste reduction rates did not improve in 2008, and in fact decreased from the 2007 rate (by 1.4%). The per capita waste reduction rate represents the degree to which residents have *reduced* their garbage since 1990. In 2008, this rate was 46.1%, falling short of the provincial goal of a 50% reduction from 1990 levels. Although the CVRD was not able to meet this goal in 2008, it did manage to achieve it during 2000, 2001 and 2002 (see Figure 2 in the attached report for more information).
- Evidence shows that the overall waste stream (i.e. waste plus recyclables) within the CVRD continues to grow, meaning that continued emphasis on reduction, reuse and recycling initiatives is needed in order to support the Zero Waste mandate and to reach the provincial goal of a 50% reduction in per capita disposal levels.
- Total recycling in the region reached 85,924 tonnes during 2008, giving the CVRD a regional recycling rate of 71.9%, meaning that 71.9% of the total waste produced within the region was recycled and not sent to landfill. This figure represents a slight decrease from the 2007 rate of 75%.
 - Note – this report also provides a correction to the 2007 recycling rate, which was originally reported to this Committee (on January 16, 2009) to be 68.2%, due to an error in calculations. The correct 2007 recycling rate of 75% is the highest rate ever achieved within the CVRD.
- The slight decrease in regional and per capita recycling rates indicated by the above figures is likely due to the economic downturn experienced during the latter part of the year and the corresponding decrease in commodity prices and household consumption.

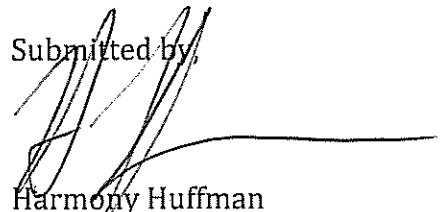
Regionally Significant Projects – Gas Tax funding of approximately \$1.2 million was also secured during 2008 for the development of several initiatives outlined by the Solid Waste Management Plan, including upgrades to the Bings Creek and Peerless Road Recycling depots, and the development of a new south-Cowichan “eco” depot (recycling depot). However, staffing shortages have resulted in delays to the implementation of these and other projects. Because the information in the 2008 report is somewhat dated, the Committee will be provided with a more thorough and up-to-date review of current solid waste management projects with the preparation of the 2009 Annual Progress Report, projected for completion in June/July, 2010.

Further details regarding projects and directions in solid waste management for 2008 are available in the attached report.

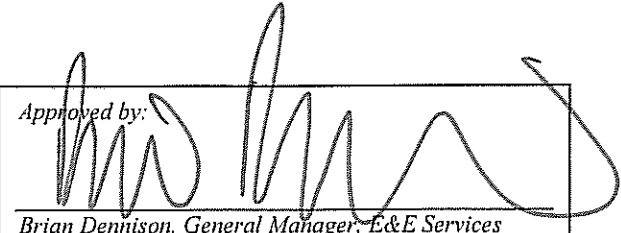
Submitted by,

Further details regarding projects and directions in solid waste management for 2008 are available in the attached report.

Submitted by,


Harmony Huffman
Environmental Technologist

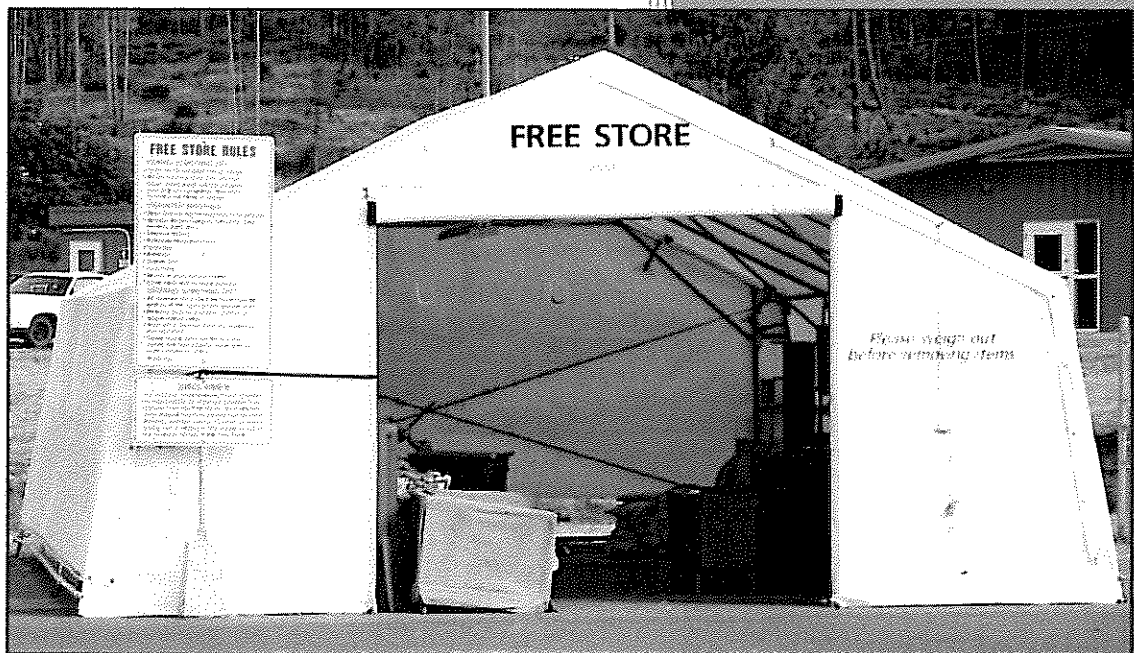
Approved by:


Brian Dennison, General Manager, E&E Services



C·V·R·D
**Recycling &
Waste
Management**

Annual Progress Report: 2008



Harmony Huffman, Env. Technologist
Kathleen Milward, Env. Technologist

March, 2010

Prepared for review by:
CVRD Environment Commission; and
BC Ministry of Environment

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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional recycling rates reached a historic high of 75% per person in 2007, but declined slightly in 2008 to 71.9%. Overall, approximately 85,000 tonnes of material was recycled within the CVRD in 2008. Per capita recycling volumes reached 1.2 tonnes per person in 2008, an increase of almost 2,000% over 1990 levels.

The proportion of waste going to landfill has declined significantly since 1990, with less than 30% of total waste going to disposal in 2008. However, the overall volume of waste produced continues to grow, while disposal rates have decreased in recent years. Figures show a 46.1% reduction in the per capita disposal rate for 2008 (over 1990 levels). While significant, this figure falls short of the provincially-mandated goal of a 50% reduction in per capita disposal rates.

Although the CVRD has been largely successful in implementing the mandates of its solid waste management plan, a great deal of work remains to be done if the goal of a 50% reduction in per capita waste disposal rates is to be achieved again. Implementation of initiatives described by the solid waste management plan including the introduction of residential food waste collection, addition of new products (such as electronic waste) to recycling programs, development of a new regional recycling depot, better enforcement of existing diversion bylaws, and increased education and communication with residents and the private sector, will be key elements in the CVRD's ability to reduce the volume of waste produced.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

In 1990 the provincial government required all regional districts to develop solid waste management plans, detailing how they would contribute towards the overall goal of a 50% reduction in waste disposal per person by the end of the year 2000 (as compared to 1990 levels). The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)'s first Solid Waste Management Plan was subsequently developed in October 1990 and received provincial approval later that year.

Since that time, the CVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan has undergone three major amendments as regional approaches to solid waste management have evolved. A significant change in recent years was the adoption, in 2002, of the Zero Waste mandate. In essence, this means that the regional district will direct its efforts towards eliminating waste on as many fronts as possible. Although the goal of Zero Waste may be difficult to achieve in the short-term, adopting this guiding direction in the approach to waste management has allowed the CVRD to make significant gains in terms of diverting waste from landfill.

Adopting the concept of Zero Waste also allows the regional district to look at waste management from a broader perspective, wherein the entire life cycle of a product can be considered. Approaches that allow the waste stream as a whole to be minimized, while viewing residual materials as valuable resources, advance the goal of Zero Waste and help to reduce the volume of material created and/or going to landfill. The most recent amendment to the solid waste management plan, completed in 2006, incorporates Zero Waste as a central tenant of regional solid waste planning, and provides the district with a comprehensive overview of waste management strategies and goals.

A key part of effective solid waste management planning is the ability to track the success of various waste management initiatives and goals. More specifically, a tracking and measurement system that shows the district's progress in reducing waste and implementing planned objectives helps to ensure the success of waste reduction initiatives and the ongoing effectiveness of waste management planning. The following report attempts to fulfill both objectives, the first section providing an overview of the regional district's progress to-date with regard to implementing its solid waste management plan, and the latter section providing a snapshot of the CVRD's status with regard to waste disposal and diversion levels. The report will conclude with an analysis highlighting strengths and weaknesses of the regional district's solid waste management plan implementation, and a discussion of future directions.

3.0 METHODOLOGY & LIMITATIONS

Data used in the preparation of this report is gathered by CVRD staff, on an annual basis, from regional district recycling depots, provincial stewardship program operators, and private recycling companies operating with the CVRD. Data is collected by a combination of the following: analysis of internal shipping and receiving reports, review of annual reports prepared by stewardship program operators, and phone/email surveys of private recycling or disposal companies operating locally. Once collected, data is tabulated and compared to regional population statistics to prepare the figures outlined in this report.

It should be noted that data collected from CVRD depots and provincial program operators is likely to have a higher degree of accuracy than data collected from private recycling companies, although staff attempt to verify data to the greatest extent possible. This is due to the fact that regional district depots and provincial stewardship programs have both staff and infrastructure (such as weigh scales) available to provide more sophisticated volume counts, whereas smaller or more rural operators tend to rely largely on estimations based on the previous year's figures (e.g. approximately 20% more material collected this year over last). Certain tools, such as a requirement that all facilities licensed under the CVRD's *Waste Stream Licensing Bylaw, 2004*, submit monthly material statements, have improved the quality of data received from private facilities. However, it is important to remember that certain factors, such as the addition of a new weigh scale, can influence the accuracy of figures from one year to the next.

For this reason, it is important to consider yearly trends rather than absolute numbers. Furthermore, given the inherent uncertainties in the tracking process, the key figure to consider when analyzing a region's progress on waste reduction is the amount of waste disposed, rather than the amount of waste recycled, as the former is the most rigorous and relevant to the waste reduction goal¹.

¹ Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC).

4.0 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The following section will provide a broad overview of the CVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and progress on its implementation. For ease of comparison, this section of the report borrows its structure from the SWMP itself. Appendix A of this report may be referred to for a more detailed implementation timeline for various initiatives described by the SWMP.

4.1 Regulations

In 2008 three bylaws regulated the CVRD's solid waste management system. Bylaw No. 1958 – *Cowichan Valley Regional District Garbage and/or Recyclable Materials Collection Bylaw, 1999* regulates the collection of curbside materials within all CVRD electoral areas. This bylaw was not amended in 2008.

Bylaw No. 2108 – *Solid Waste Management Charges and Regulations, 2000* regulates the operation of all CVRD recycling depots and transfer stations, while also outlining disposal bans and tipping fees. An important part of achieving diversion goals is effective enforcement of the disposal bans outlined in Bylaw No. 2108. Historically, enforcement has often been the responsibility of a seasonally-employed student, and is thus concentrated during the summer months. An increased enforcement presence throughout the year is needed in order to ensure that disposal bans are effectively enforced so as to increase the volume of material diverted from landfill.

Bylaw No. 2570 – *Waste Stream Management Licensing Bylaw, 2004*, regulates the management of all private and public facilities within the CVRD that manage municipal solid waste or recyclable materials. During 2008, six existing facility licences were renewed under the bylaw, while one application for a new facility licence was received. Staff responded in an enforcement capacity to at least eight separate violation incidents during 2008, all of which related to the illegal operation of unlicensed facilities. Each of these violations was successfully resolved on behalf of the CVRD, with one high profile case resulting in a \$10,000 settlement for the regional district. All investigation and enforcement activities were conducted in addition to the ongoing routine monitoring of existing licenced facilities.

Proposed Bylaw No. 2020 – *Landclearing Management Regulation Bylaw* has been in development for several years, and will regulate the open burning of large quantities of landclearing debris. This bylaw is anticipated for adoption and implementation during 2009.

4.2 Reduce

Waste reduction, the first "R" in the 5R management hierarchy, is a key component to the CVRD's approach to waste management. The CVRD relies primarily on education and communication initiatives to reduce the overall waste stream, which means reducing the total volume of material requiring disposal or recycling.

During 2008, two significant gains made in this area include the digitization of the CVRD's *Environmental Guide and Recycling Directory*, and the CVRD educational manual *Earth Issues, Our Lifestyles and the Environment*. Both documents offer extensive tips and information on reducing waste, with the latter manual targeted towards school-aged children, and designed for incorporation into academic lesson plans. Both documents are now available on the newly-redesigned CVRD website, along with information on Zero Waste, composting, air quality etc. Another significant achievement in 2008 was the signing of a contract with the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE) to provide educational classroom workshops free-of-charge to local schools. The NRE bases its workshops on material found in the *Earth Issues* manual, with topics including Zero Waste, Water Quality, Composting, Consumer to Conserver, Climate Change, and Green Washing. Working with the NRE has provided an excellent tool by which the CVRD can promote messages of reduction, reuse and recycling to homes throughout the region.

4.3 Reuse

The second "R" in the 5R hierarchy focuses on the reuse of materials. The economic downturn experienced in the latter part of 2008 provided a natural incentive for the reuse of materials as household incomes declined. CVRD initiatives such as the 'free store' offered at the Bings Creek Solid Waste Management Complex and Peerless Road Recycling Depot continued to be very popular with the public and encouraged the reuse of materials with remaining useful life.

4.4 Recycle

Recycling represents the third "R" in the 5R hierarchy, and also represents the most significant part of the CVRD's waste management strategy. Promotion of recycling opportunities remains a key part of regional waste management; initiatives undertaken in this area during 2008 include a continuation of daily advertisements (through both print and radio) regarding disposal bans and curbside recycling, and ongoing promotion of the free yard and garden drop-off initiative introduced in 2007. During 2008, this initiative resulted in the diversion of over 4,000 tonnes of yard and garden waste from landfill, an increase of almost 10% over 2007 figures.

During 2008 the feasibility of collectively tendering all regional curbside recycling collection contracts was also evaluated. Historically, curbside recycling services between CVRD electoral areas has varied widely, both in terms of service levels and cost to homeowners, with the result that contracts have been tendered separately by electoral area in the past. It was felt that a harmonization of all curbside contracts would result in not only a standardization of services throughout the region, but also a significant cost savings to most home owners. Unfortunately, the feasibility study conducted in 2008 indicated that the collective tender of curbside contracts was not practical at the time due to differing contract expiration deadlines and lack of an overall regional direction. It is hoped that this approach can be reevaluated during 2010, prior to the expiration of current contracts. An evaluation of the potential for integrating residential food waste collection with existing curbside programs is also planned for this time.

Commercial and multi-family residential units make up a significant proportion of waste generators within the CVRD and are typically under-serviced in terms of the availability of recycling and other diversion programs (e.g. composting). As a result, waste generated by these units typically contains a higher volume of recyclable materials than waste generated by single-family dwellings, which tend to be serviced by curbside recycling programs. Although the majority of commercial and multi-family units are within the jurisdiction of member municipalities, it is recognized that the waste they generate becomes the responsibility of the CVRD, and thus the CVRD has a vested interest in improving diversion rates for these units. To this end, further education and enforcement of the disposal bans outlined in Bylaw No. 2108 are needed, as is improved communication between regional district staff, commercial waste haulers, and the owners of commercial and multi-family units.

Two regional recycling depots, plus one recycling depot/transfer station represent a core portion of the CVRD's recycling program. These depots, particularly the flagship Bings Creek facility, are very popular with the public and a highly visible way for the CVRD to promote recycling initiatives. During 2008, the development of "free side" and "paid side" traffic streams at both the Bings Creek facility and Peerless Road Recycling Depot was evaluated and deemed feasible. BC Community Works – Gas Tax Funding was secured to implement these works (in conjunction with overall site upgrades) at the Peerless Road Depot, with works scheduled to begin in 2010.

BC Community Works funding was also received to develop an organics tipping area at the Bings Creek facility, adjacent to the existing tipping floor. However, implementation of this project has been delayed due to operational complications. In the interim, containers for the collection of residential organics have been installed at the Bings Creek facility, allowing both commercial and residential customers to drop off organic material. Residential customers are able to deposit up to five gallons per day of residential organic materials at no charge.

Other recycling initiatives successfully implemented in 2008 include: the bi-annual backyard composter sale, which provides all CVRD residents with an opportunity to purchase a backyard composter at a fraction of retail cost; and ongoing work with industry or non-profit stewardships organizations to increase the range of materials accepted for recycling. Of the recyclable materials currently accepted at CVRD depots, some notable diversion successes include the more than 4,000 tonnes of yard and garden waste, and more than 6,500 tonnes of wood waste, that were diverted from landfill during 2008.

4.5 Recover

Representing the fourth "R" in the 5R hierarchy, recovery refers to the ability to derive, or 'recover', some value from materials that cannot be reduced, reused, or recycled. These residuals often comprise the bulk of what ends up in a landfill. Today, recovery often implies the use of technology to recover energy from waste.

In 2008, a joint feasibility study conducted with the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), examined residual waste management technologies (i.e. gasification, refuse derived fuel, and waste-to-energy) and their applicability within the CVRD and RDN. The study projected a disposal cost of approximately \$100 per tonne if the RDN and CVRD were to combine their waste streams and invest in recovery technology. While this represented a realistic cost for the CVRD, which during 2008 was paying about \$110 per tonne to export waste, it represented a significant cost increase for the RDN, which subsequently decided not to move forward with a recovery facility at this time. The study also showed that the CVRD alone does not possess the economies of scale to justify an investment in new technology, thus the CVRD has continued to export waste to landfill for the time being.

4.6 Residual

The final "R" in the hierarchy refers to the management of residuals, materials for which no higher use can be found. Since 2001 the CVRD has exported its residual waste to an out-of-region landfill, owing to the lack of local disposal options. For several years, waste was trucked to a landfill in Cache Creek, BC, operated by Wastech Services Ltd. The CVRD's waste export ceiling, imposed by the Cache Creek landfill, was 29,500 tonnes during 2007 and 2008. However, in October 2008 the CVRD redirected its waste away from Cache Creek on account of the landfill nearing capacity, concerns related to future access, and rising costs.

As a result, residual waste from the CVRD is now being shipped to the Roosevelt Regional (Rabanco) Landfill located in Washington State, USA, and operated by Allied Waste Services. Under a three year contract which will expire in 2011, waste is transported from the CVRD Bings Creek facility in intermodal rail containers and barged to the mainland, where it makes the rest of the journey via rail.

This arrangement holds two significant advantages for the CVRD over the previous arrangement with Cache Creek: the combination of trucking, shipping and rail used to transport waste to the Roosevelt Landfill creates less of a carbon footprint than the previous transport arrangement which relied solely on trucking; and, unlike the Cache Creek Landfill, there is greater certainty regarding access. It is important to note, however, that at \$110 per tonne disposal cost, waste export provides a built-in incentive for the CVRD to constantly reduce the volume of waste produced, as less waste shipped means greater savings for regional taxpayers. It is anticipated that several planned initiatives including: the introduction of organics diversion in both residential and commercial waste streams; enhancing recycling opportunities for the commercial and multi-family sector; providing convenient access to regional recycling depots; and the expansion of industry stewardship programs and reduced packaging initiatives, will all help to reduce the volume of waste produced within the CVRD.

This report will now turn to an overview of regional progress with regard to waste management and diversion. Reviewing disposal and recycling trends allows the strengths and weaknesses of the CVRD's solid waste management plan, and its implementation, to be highlighted. An analysis of these strengths and weaknesses will follow.

5.0 WASTE DISPOSAL

THE GOOD NEWS...for the Region: The CVRD, on average, is disposing of far less waste than it did in 1990 (Figure 1). At that time, more than 90% of waste produced was going to landfill; in 2007, less than 30% of waste produced went to disposal.

...for Residents: CVRD residents have reduced the amount of waste disposed of, per person, by at least 50% (over 1990 levels) in the years 2000, 2001, and 2002 (Figure 2). Per capita disposal levels have declined from more than 0.75 tonnes per year, to about 0.42 tonnes per year (Figure 3).

The CVRD offers some of the most progressive recycling programs in the country, which enjoy a high rate of public participation. This, combined with a strong local recycling industry, has meant that the volume of waste generated has remained relatively stable in recent years, despite strong economic growth and a steadily growing population (Figure 4).

THE BAD NEWS...for the Region: Waste disposal rates are no longer declining overall, and in 2008 even increased slightly over the previous year (Figure 1). And despite the overall decline since 1990, almost 30% of all waste produced is *still* going to disposal. While strong housing starts throughout much of 2008

Figure 1: Regional Disposal Rate

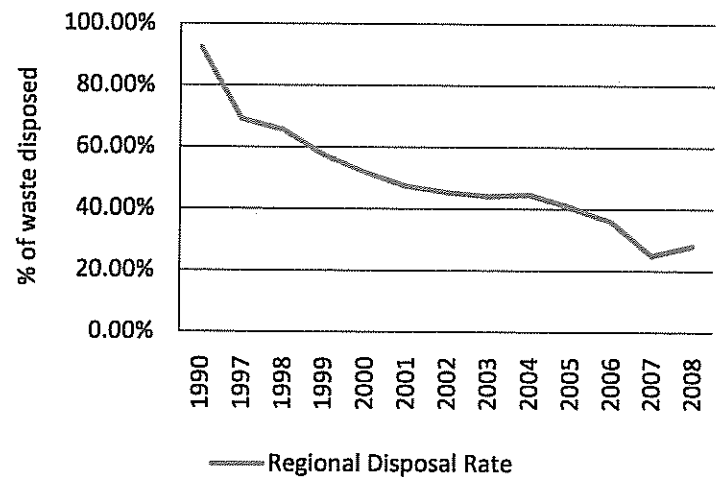
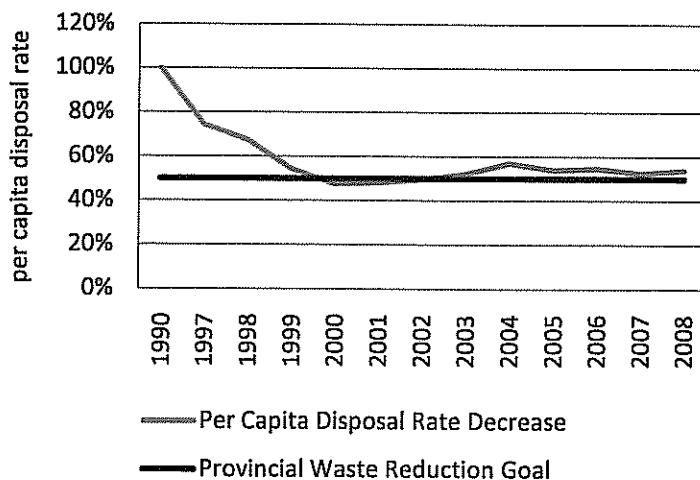


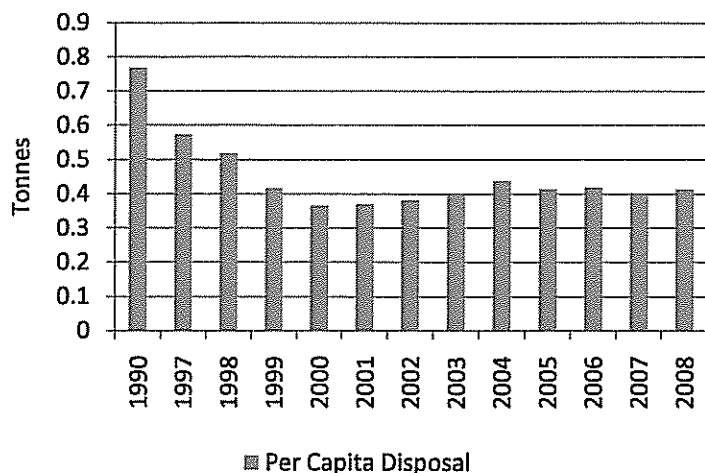
Figure 2: Per Capita Decrease in Waste Disposal Rate



may have played a role in the increase, the general stabilization of rates over the past few years (Figure 4) may also indicate that existing recycling programs have reached capacity and that participation in regional programs such as curbside collection has begun to level-off.

...for Residents: Since 2000, per capita waste disposal rates have leveled off or risen slightly (Figure 2). This indicates that, despite increasing opportunities to recycle, people continue to produce *more* waste overall rather than *less* waste, even though they are recycling more of it. Significant work remains if the provincial goal of a 50% reduction from 1990 levels is to be achieved again, and the Zero

Figure 3: Per Capita Waste Disposal



Waste mandate further pursued.

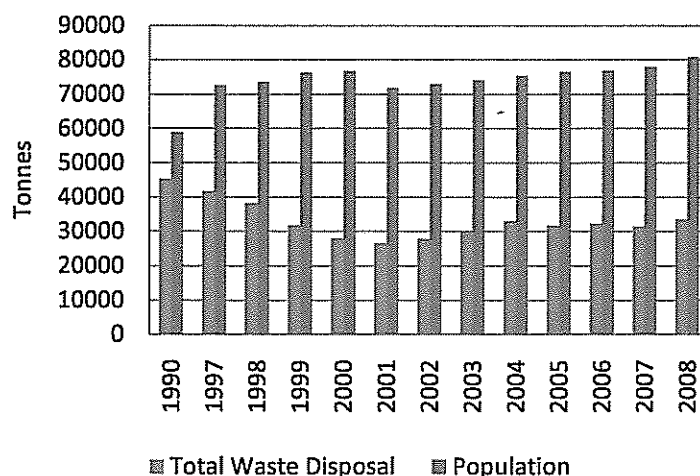
SOLUTIONS: Continued education will help new residents of the Cowichan Valley to fully participate in existing recycling programs, while effective enforcement of existing diversion bylaws will also provide an added incentive for current residents to participate in recycling and reduce their waste disposal needs. Education and enforcement initiatives should target multi-family dwellings in order to ensure that residents are able to fully participate in existing recycling programs.

Given the region's growing population, a continued expansion of recycling programs is also needed if a continued expansion of the

waste stream is to be avoided. Introduction of new programs such as the collection of residential organics at curbside, or expansion of existing programs to collect electronic waste, are two examples of programs that will divert a greater portion of what is currently considered waste. Other initiatives to minimize the waste stream include a continued emphasis on the first two "Rs" of the recycling hierarchy, "reduce" and "reuse".

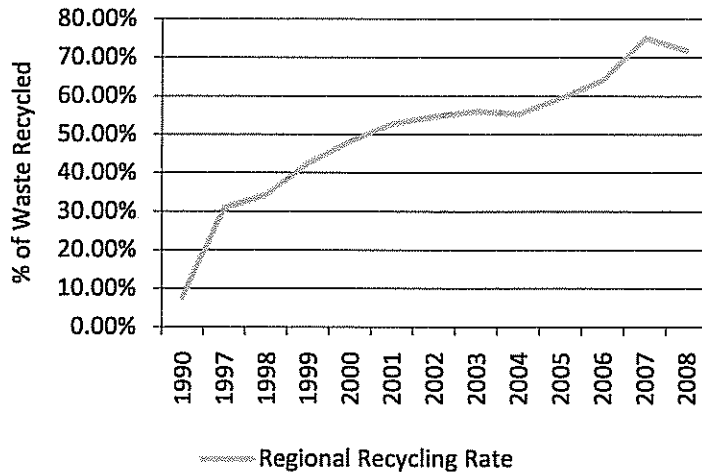
Planned initiatives including expanding the capacity of existing recycling programs, providing recycling options for new products such as electronic waste or organic materials, and targeting all sectors (commercial, institutional, residential) will result in greater opportunities for waste diversion amongst residents and private business. Effective enforcement of waste diversion bylaws will also help to ensure that recyclable materials are not included in the waste stream. The introduction of new recycling programs, such as provincial initiatives that reduce the quantity of packaging used in the manufacture of products will help to combat the volume of waste produced in a consumer-oriented society.

Figure 4: Regional Waste Disposal



6.0 WASTE DIVERSION

Figure 5: Regional Recycling Rate



THE GOOD NEWS...for the Region: Regional recycling rates have increased dramatically since 1990 (Figures 5 and 6). Thanks to record high commodity prices during 2007 and the first part of 2008, the recycling industry was able to collect and divert more waste than ever before – resulting in diversion levels reaching more than 75% in 2007!

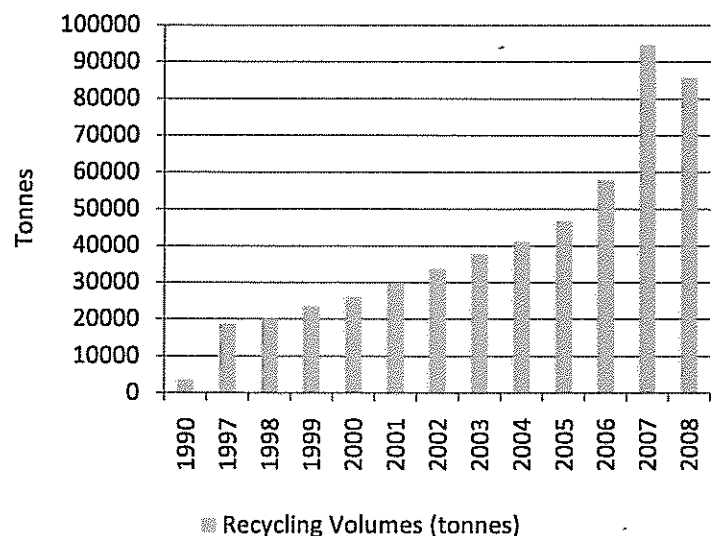
...for Residents: CVRD residents are recycling a lot more than they did in 1990, which resulted in per capita recycling rates rising to more than 1.2 tonnes per person in 2007 (an almost 2,000% increase since 1990) (Figures 7 and 8).

THE BAD NEWS...for the Region: After

peaking in 2007, regional recycling rates dropped during 2008 to 71.9% (Figure 5), likely due to the global economic downturn and a corresponding decrease in commodity prices. For the local recycling industry, dramatic declines in commodity prices effectively put business on hold, with many operators stockpiling materials until markets improved. Although most recycling programs within the Cowichan Valley were able to continue during this downturn, private operators and recycling contractors saw a significant decline in their revenues. A slowing of activity in all sectors, particularly construction, also reduced the volume of materials being generated – leading to a decrease in both recycling volumes as well as in total waste produced.

...for Residents: Despite rapid increases in previous years, per capita recycling levels also dropped sharply in 2008. Again, this decrease can likely be attributed to the global economic downturn that took hold during the latter half of the year, as declining consumption levels and dropping commodity prices led to a decrease in the volume of material entering the recycling stream.

Figure 6: Regional Recycling



SOLUTIONS: Recycling programs will always be at least partially subject to global commodity prices, and thus vulnerable in times of economic downturn. During boom times, a strong focus on recycling initiatives will help to keep diversion levels strong as consumption levels rise along with household incomes.

During down times, there is a natural incentive to reduce and reuse which can result in a decrease to the volume of recyclables entering the regional system. For local governments, a willingness to accommodate private operators where possible, and ensuring that recycling programs remain convenient and low cost, will allow residents to continue good recycling habits. On a broader scale, the volume of materials recycled will continue to grow as the waste stream grows, but only by implementing recycling programs for *new* materials (such as residential organics or electronic wastes) will a larger proportion of the waste stream be diverted.

Figure 7: Per Capita Recycling Rate Increase

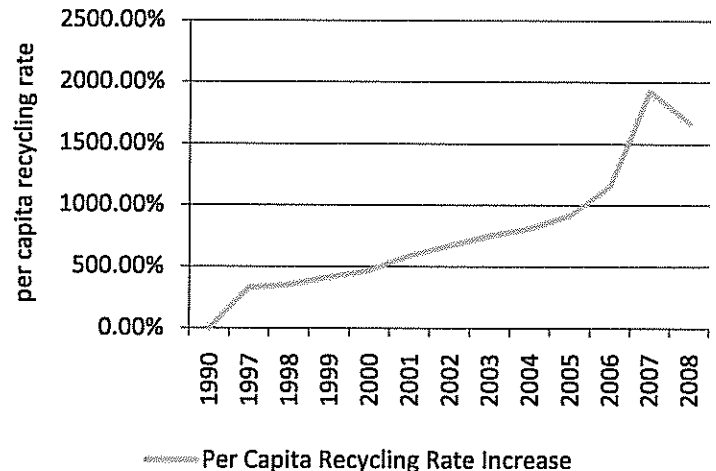
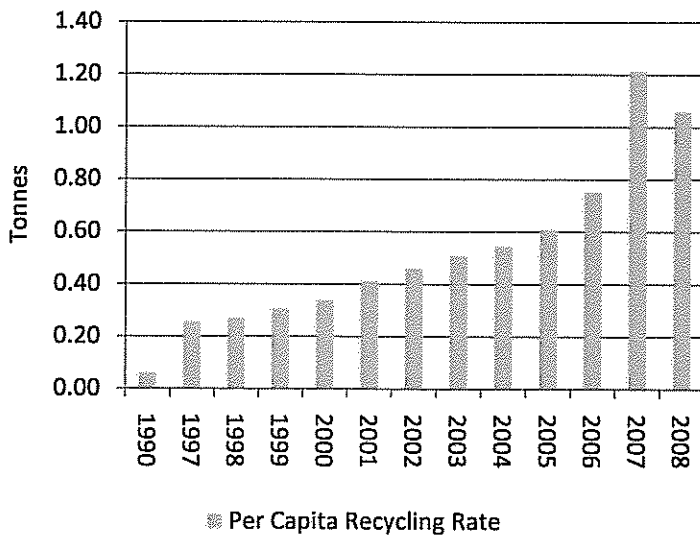


Figure 8: Per Capita Recycling



7.0 DISCUSSION & ANALYSIS

The overall volume of waste disposed by the CVRD has decreased significantly since 1990. However, 2008 figures suggest that this downward trend may have stabilized, and further, that that regional disposal volumes have tended to increase slightly in recent years. These findings are reflected at the per capita level, with figures indicating a slight increase in per capita disposal rates during 2008. These trends are similar to those found in neighboring jurisdictions including the Regional District of Nanaimo and the Capital Regional District. Factors that may have influenced these trends include:

- High saturation levels and strong public participation in existing curbside recycling programs, which have resulted in a gradual leveling-off of the waste reduction achieved. If curbside recycling programs are to continue to play a significant role in reducing both regional and per capita waste, they must expand to accept additional materials, such as food wastes.
- During 2008, housing starts within BC remained strong, despite the beginnings of an overall decline nationally². In the Cowichan Valley, new construction maintained a steady pace for a large portion of the year, although numbers began to decline during the autumn in conjunction with the global economic downturn³. As construction and demolition wastes comprise a significant portion of the waste stream (between 15% and 20%⁴), the steady growth in the local housing market for the majority of 2008 may have been a strong contributor to the volume of local waste produced.
- The region continued to experience moderate population growth during 2008, with local populations increasing by about 1.5%⁵. Population growth (and the associated growth in consumption), in combination with the gradual leveling-off of participation rates in curbside recycling programs, also likely played a role in the slight increase to waste disposal rates.

As may be expected, given the regional decline in waste disposal volumes, regional recycling rates have skyrocketed in recent years with rates reaching a high of 75% in 2007, although declining slightly in 2008. The dramatic increases in recycling volumes seen in 2007/08 can likely be attributed to a booming global economy and record high commodity prices (for example, high steel prices led to more than 35,000 tonnes of metal being diverted within the CVRD alone⁶), while the global economic downturn experienced during the latter half of 2008 likely resulted in the corresponding drop in recycling rates.

Nonetheless, regional recycling rates have remained strong through the year at 71.9%. Some factors that have likely influenced this figure, and the slight decline in recycling rates from 2007 to 2008, are discussed below:

23

² Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

³ Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC.

⁴ Figures based on waste composition study prepared in 2004 for Regional District of Nanaimo by Gartner Lee Ltd.

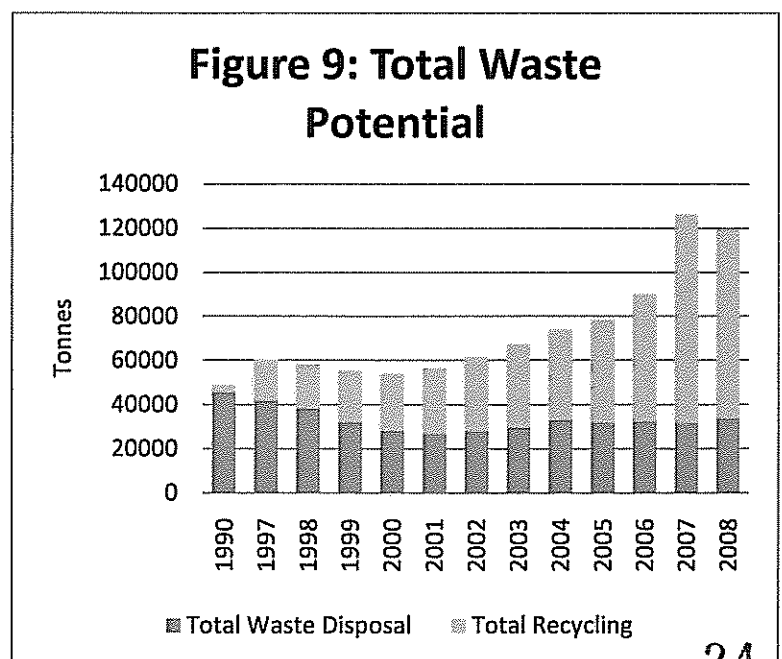
⁵ BC Stats.

⁶ Estimate derived from CVRD Waste Tracking Database, 2008.

- A strong local recycling industry exists within the CVRD, allowing the regional district to access convenient and relatively low cost recycling programs for many materials.
- High metal prices have allowed the CVRD to fund many of its free recycling programs, encouraging residents to recycle rather than dispose of waste at the relatively high cost of \$130 per tonne tipping fee for garbage.
- The introduction of new recycling programs also helps to maintain high diversion rates, thus the introduction in 2007 of free yard and garden recycling likely helped to push recycling rates higher during that and subsequent years, while also reducing incidents of disposal by way of open burning.
- A residential 'free store' (now offered at two regional disposal facilities) has proven to be very popular with customers, allowing reusable items to be diverted from the waste stream and picked up for free by interested customers.
- During the economic downturn experienced during the latter part of 2008, the CVRD was able to implement several options that allowed regional recycling programs to continue at full capacity, these included:
 - Allowing private recycling facilities to temporarily stockpile materials (until markets improved); and
 - Allowing recycling companies to temporarily defer payments to the regional district.

Together, these initiatives helped regional recycling rates remain strong despite fluctuations in global commodity prices and a steady increase to the region's population. However, more work is needed if diversion levels are to increase for an ever-growing waste stream.

Figure 9 shows regional disposal rates as compared to regional recycling rates. As we can see, recycling rates have increased dramatically in relation to disposal rates in recent years. However, Figure 9 also shows us that, overall, the total waste stream has also increased dramatically in recent years, reaching a historical high of more than 120,000 tonnes in 2007.



Although the CVRD has historically been successful in reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, it is apparent that recycling initiatives will have to be strengthened and expanded if waste disposal levels are to further decrease. The truly telling figure in this analysis is the per capita waste disposal rate (Figure 2). As we can see from Figure 2, per capita disposal rates decreased at least 50% from 1990 levels during 2000, 2001, and 2002, but since that time have begun to rise again. This means that, despite significant increases to recycling rates, people are still producing *more* waste than they used to, thanks largely to increased spending power and the wide availability of consumer goods. If this trend is to be reversed, recycling programs must remain strong and be expanded wherever possible. As described in the first section of this report, increasing recycling rates amongst commercial and multi-family units, while providing accessible and low cost recycling programs for a wide range of materials, are a key focus of the regional district's solid waste management plan. Initiatives planned for upcoming years include the implementation of a residential food waste collections program, the introduction of Provincial stewardship programs for several electronic waste items, and the expansion of commercial organics collection programs.

Education will also play a key role in keeping local diversion rates strong. Educational initiatives should focus on reduction and reuse, the first two "R's" of the 5R hierarchy, in an effort to reduce consumption levels and the waste stream as a whole. Programs designed for school-aged children introduce the concepts of reduction, reuse and recycling at an early age, and provide good avenue by which information can be transmitted back to homes and to the larger family. Working with educational providers such as the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, and providing the educational manual *Earth Issues* to local groups at no charge, are core aspects of the CVRD's current educational approach to waste diversion. The area will be further expanded in future by providing more educational information online, making increased use of forums such as newspaper and radio to provide information to residents, and targeting key areas (such as multi-family dwellings) with recycling and diversion information.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The Cowichan Valley Regional District has made significant progress with regard to waste diversion over the past several years. The regional recycling rate has increased dramatically, and although it decreased slightly in 2008 over the previous year, is still very high at 71.9%. Waste disposal rates have decreased overall since 1990, although the per capita waste disposal rate is no longer declining, indicating that people continue to produce more, rather than less, waste overall. While progress was made on implementation of the regional solid waste management plan in 2008, the introduction of major new initiatives (such as residential food waste collection) in upcoming years will likely play a significant role in helping to reduce regional waste disposal volumes. Ongoing programs, such as providing education and outreach to local residents and businesses, along with consistent enforcement of waste diversion bylaws, will also help to reduce waste disposal volumes.

9.0 WORKS CITED

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APPENDIX A: Solid Waste Management Plan - Updated Project Timeline

Year*	Initiative	Status	Comments	Projected Completion
2007	Commission report on feasibility of employing new and emerging technology for residual waste stream	Complete	A report was jointly commissioned with the Regional District of Nanaimo in 2007.	-
	Redevelop west side of tipping area at Bings Creek to accommodate cardboard compactor, free store and hazardous materials	Complete	The hazardous waste building at Bings Creek has been expanded to offer storage for a wider range of items, including product care materials, fluorescent tubes, batteries etc. The expanding building will also accommodate the new free store location. The new cardboard compactor was installed in 2007.	-
	Develop closure plan for Koksilah Road ash landfill	In progress	Staff are currently working with representatives from both Cowichan Tribes and INAC to develop a closure plan for the Koksilah Road ash landfill. It is anticipated that a closure plan and cost-sharing arrangements will be developed over the next several months.	2010
	Initiate development of South-end depot	In progress	Consultation with regional landowners, area directors, architects and other stakeholders continues.	2010
	Initiate planning for upgrades to Peerless Road and Meade Creek depots	Complete	Planning for upgrades to Peerless Road depot has begun and funding secured (see below). Upgrades to the existing Meade Creek depot are not planned as it is hoped that the facility may be relocated to a more centralized area. Relocation of the facility will provide increased ease of use for residents, while reducing travel times and costs associated with servicing.	-
	Identify replacement disposal facility for Cache Creek landfill	Complete	The CVRD has been exporting waste to the Roosevelt (Rabanco) Landfill in Washington State since fall 2008. Staff continue to investigate alternative means of regional waste disposal.	-
2008	Develop closure plan for Peerless Road ash landfill	In progress	CVRD Board Resolution no. 9-313.4 of June 10, 2009 resolved that a loan authorization bylaw for approximately \$1,800,000 be approved for a five year period to cover the cost of ash landfill remediation at Peerless Road, Koksilah Road, and Meade Creek, use of these funds was approved by Alternative Approval Process completed December, 2009. Closure planning continues.	2010
	Redevelop Peerless Road Recycling Drop-off Depot	In Progress	Funding for upgrades to Peerless Road depot have been secured from BC Community Works – Gas Tax funding. Construction will begin once closure plan for onsite ash landfill has been prepared.	2010
	Evaluate feasibility of implementing Environmental Management System	Delayed	Low staffing levels have precluded the evaluation of an Environmental Management System at this time.	2012
	Phase out Multi Bin program	Delayed	Phase out of Multi Bin program has been delayed until the new South-end depot is constructed, in order to prevent an interruption of service to area residents.	2011
	Implement residential food waste collection service	In progress	Implementation of residential food waste collection service has been delayed due to higher than anticipated costs. Program and cost structures will be revisited during 2009/2010 for implementation in spring 2011.	2010
	Develop food waste tipping area at Bings Creek	In progress	Development of a food waste tipping area at Bings Creek has been delayed due to operational complications. However, BC Community Works – Gas Tax Funding has been secured to develop a food waste tipping area in the onsite transfer building; staff are currently attempting to schedule construction around the existing workload. Construction is anticipated to begin within the next several months.	2010

*Projected year for completion, as per section 2.9 of SWMP, 2006.

APPENDIX B: Waste Tracking and Recycling Figures

Table 1: Waste Disposal Figures (all figures in metric tonnes unless otherwise indicated)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Year	Population	Disposal to Private Facilities	Disposal to CVRD Facilities	Total Waste Disposed ⁷	Per Capita Disposal Rate ⁸	Per Capita Disposal Rate Decrease ⁹
1990	59,059	11,000	29,500	45,475 ¹⁰	0.770	-
1997	72,691	11,249	30,571	41,820	0.575	25.3%
1998	73,735	10,500	27,823	38,323	0.520	32.5%
1999	76,386	7,747	24,164	31,911	0.418	45.7%
2000	76,820	4,675	23,413	28,088	0.366	52.5%
2001	71,998	4,919	21,780	26,699	0.371	51.8%
2002	73,129	3,060	24,881	27,941	0.382	50.4%
2003	74,260	3,275	26,487	29,762	0.401	48.0%
2004	75,392	5,125	27,987	33,112	0.439	43.0%
2005	76,523	4,225	27,556	31,781	0.415	46.1%
2006	76,929	5,204	27,112	32,316	0.420	45.4%
2007	78,060	3,593	27,948	31,541	0.404	47.5%
2008	80,936	5,328	28,278	33,606	0.415	46.1%

⁷ Sum of columns 2 and 3.

⁸ Column 4 divided by column 1.

⁹ Per capita rate decrease divided by per capita base year rate (1990).

¹⁰ Includes 4,975 tonnes of alternative waste disposal (e.g. backyard burning etc.) during 1990.

Table 2: Recycling Figures (all figures in metric tonnes unless otherwise indicated)

	1	2	3	4
Year	Population	Total Recycling ¹¹	Per Capita Recycling Rate	Per Capita Recycling Rate Increase ¹²
1990	59,059	3,661	0.06	0.00%
1997	72,691	18,691	0.26	333.33%
1998	73,735	20,019	0.27	352.50%
1999	76,386	23,566	0.31	414.19%
2000	76,820	26,107	0.34	466.41%
2001	71,998	29,817	0.41	590.23%
2002	73,129	33,769	0.46	669.62%
2003	74,260	37,877	0.51	750.10%
2004	75,392	41,173	0.55	810.20%
2005	76,523	46,730	0.61	917.78%
2006	76,929	57,975	0.75	1156.03%
2007	78,060	94,891	1.22	1926.03%
2008	80,936	85,924	1.06	1669.38%

¹¹ Figures represent all private, governmental and non-profit recycling.

¹² Per capita rate increase divided by per capita base year rate (1990).

Table 3: Waste and Recycling Comparison (all figures in metric tonnes unless otherwise indicated)

	1	2	3	4	5
Year	Total Waste Disposed ¹³	Total Recycling ¹⁴	Total Waste Potential ¹⁵	Regional Disposal Rate ¹⁶	Regional Recycling Rate ¹⁷
1990	45,475	3,661	49,136	92.55%	7.50%
1997	41,820	18,691	60,511	69.11%	30.90%
1998	38,323	20,019	58,342	65.69%	34.30%
1999	31,911	23,566	55,477	57.52%	42.50%
2000	28,088	26,107	54,195	51.83%	48.20%
2001	26,699	29,817	56,516	47.24%	52.80%
2002	27,941	33,769	61,710	45.28%	54.70%
2003	29,762	37,877	67,639	44.00%	56.00%
2004	33,112	41,173	74,285	44.57%	55.40%
2005	31,781	46,730	78,511	40.48%	59.50%
2006	32,316	57,975	90,291	35.79%	64.20%
2007	31,541	94,891	126,432	24.95%	75.05%
2008	33,606	85,924	119,530	28.12%	71.90%

¹³ Column 4 of Table 1.

¹⁴ Column 2 of Table 2.

¹⁵ Sum of columns 1 and 2.

¹⁶ Column 1 divided by column 3.

¹⁷ Column 2 divided by column 3.

Dyan Freer

To: Dyan Freer
Subject: RE: teaching staff & others about sustainability

From: Angela Evans [mailto:aevans@fraserbasin.bc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2010 9:42 AM
To: Gerry Giles; Kate Miller
Cc: 'Suzanne Smith'
Subject: teaching staff & others about sustainability

Dear Gerry & Kate,

It was good to meet with you again during your workplan session for the Environmental Advisory Committee. I hope we managed to get enough accomplished that evening to meet your needs.

The conversation led us to see that the committee needed to build capacity on how to communicate sustainability effectively with citizens and decision-makers in the Region. At the time I mentioned the upcoming webinar by The Natural Step Canada on Feb 24th. I have confirmed that both the recording and the Powerpoint is online now but your organization must be a member of the Natural Step Exchange (a good value at \$100 we are discovering). This way, your members can log in to see many past presentations, or participate live (up to a maximum number). I didn't know if your organization is already a member, but if you do sign on the session is Number 11 and "York Region Sustainability" is in the title. While the session is focused on how they educate staff, several of the resources they used could be most useful when considering the public too.

The website is at <http://www.naturalstep.org/sv/canada/exchange> .

I am copying Suzanne Smith of North Vancouver City too as they may be engaging in some staff education this coming year as part of their OCP update.

Angela Evans, MCIP
Sustainability Facilitator, Vancouver Island
Smart Planning for Communities
Fraser Basin Council
250-858-6209

Smart Planning for Communities Webpage
www.smartplanningbc.ca

social well-being supported by a vibrant economy and sustained by a healthy environment

The Natural Step Exchange Canada

ACCELERATING CHANGE TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY



"The Natural Step Exchange is providing a truly invaluable resource...Being linked to other practitioners who are working through challenges and are willing to share both successes and setbacks is not only helpful, but essential."

Sally Caudill, Town of Canmore

We invite your organization to join The Natural Step Exchange.

The Natural Step Exchange is the space where sustainability leaders, champions and practitioners exchange best practices, stories, and resources. It is a place for you to find support from a strong peer network that fosters sharing and learning among those who are implementing sustainability solutions.

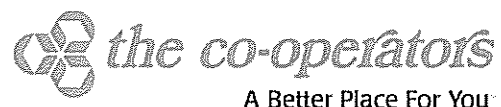
The Natural Step Exchange will provide a variety of peer exchange opportunities, resources and guest lectures based on input and direction from its members. Already we have hosted a variety of events ranging from intimate member-only dialogues to large-scale webinars with guests such as Lorrie Vogel from Nike on Sustainability Innovation.

The Natural Step Exchange will be a vibrant, self-sustaining, cross-sector learning forum that represents a growing movement for change to advance the practice of sustainability in Canada. Starting in 2009 with 42 individual and organization members, it will continue to grow and achieve a critical mass of municipalities, large and small businesses, NGOs, academic institutions and young leaders.

We invite you to be a part of it.

For more information, please contact:
Saralyn Hodgkin
Director, The Natural Step Exchange Canada
shodgkin@naturalstep.ca
613-748-3001 x 234

Thank you to our 2010 lead Exchange sponsor, The Co-operators.



"Being part of this network allows me to meet people in similar roles, challenged by similar issues which in itself is a valuable resource. It's a great support network, one I would be lost without. "

Tracy Lydiatt, Hatch Associates Pty Ltd.

Member Benefits

The Natural Step Exchange is coordinated by The Natural Step Canada with input from its members. In 2010 The Exchange will offer:

Peer exchange opportunities

- **Sustainability dialogues** are member-only cross-sector online dialogues on topics relevant to members. Dialogues will showcase member initiatives to highlight best practices and challenges, focus on specific topics, invite sustainability experts as guest lecturers, or open Q&A sessions.
- **Listserv** for members to connect directly to share resources and find answers to pragmatic questions.
- **In-person events** will foster learning and relationships through local gatherings. Given the current economic climate, feedback from members about reduced travel budgets, and our desire to do things well, we will organize in-person events only if they make sense to members and can be properly resourced. We remain optimistic and open to member suggestions.

Member-only website

- **Online resource library** for members to access and share their tools, research, templates, reports and recordings of guest lecturers.
- **Member directory** to help members establish contacts and facilitate relationships with each other.

Additional benefits

- Any staff member of your organization has the opportunity to take advantage of The Exchange offerings. It is not limited to one person.
- Your organization may use The Natural Step Exchange logo to publicly identify as a member.
- Members receive discounted rates on all courses offered by The Natural Step.

Membership Criteria

The Exchange welcomes members who want to advance the practice of sustainability within their organizations and communities. What makes this network unique is the **shared understanding of sustainability** amongst its members – those who are interested in or are using The Natural Step Framework or a comparable rigorous approach to sustainability. Those who fulfill a number of the following criteria are invited to become members of The Natural Step Exchange:

1. People and organizations who have worked with The Natural Step Canada
2. People and organizations who have used/are using The Natural Step Framework
3. People and organizations who have attended Natural Step event(s) and/or had some exposure to The Natural Step Framework (framework for strategic sustainable development)
4. People and organizations who have been supportive of our work and/or have partnered with us on projects
5. People and organizations who are committed to sustainability and are using an approach that is compatible with The Natural Step Framework, and/or
6. People and organizations who are sustainability experts and thought leaders

List of 2009 Organization Members

In our 2009 pilot year, there were 32 organizations and 10 individual members of The Exchange. Here is a list of the organization members:

Acadia University, Arthur Irving Academy for the Environment	Landmark Group of Builders
Bell Aliant	Town of Markham, ON
Biosphere Institute of the Bow Valley	Momentum
Broad Reach Innovations	Oakville Sustainability Initiative
Town of Caledon, ON	Town of Olds, AB
Canadian Business for Social Responsibility	Region of York, ON
Town of Canmore, AB	Resort Municipality of Whistler, BC
Collingwood Environment Network	Shambhala Institute
Community Foundations of Canada	Sherbrooke University
The Co-operators	Town of Stratford, PEI
District of North Vancouver, BC	Strathcona County, AB
EcoStride Group	Urban Systems
Halifax Regional Municipality, NS	Town of Wolfville, NS
iNova Credit Union	Whistler Centre for Sustainability
International Centre for Sustainable Cities	Ziptrek Ecotours Inc.
Just Us! Coffee Roasters Co-op	

"Of particular value to us is the ability of this network to bring together people representing diverse sectors (business, education, government) yet having the common goal of advancing sustainability within their organizations. A very powerful undertaking."

Elaine Hanson, Founder Oakville Sustainability Initiative

Membership Costs

Memberships run January 1st - December 31st, 2010. All memberships will be pro-rated to the appropriate quarter if registering throughout the year.

Membership for Organizations	Price	Details
BUSINESSES & MUNICIPALITIES		Up to 5 seats for any staff to attend any online dialogues or experts at one time. Access for all staff to the listserv. Access for all staff to access the member-only resource library and directory.
Large \$30 million+ revenue or over 200,000 population	\$1,500	
Medium \$3-\$30 million revenue or 20,000-200,000 population	\$1,000	
Small \$3 million or less revenue or under 20,000 population	\$500	
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS	\$500	

If you would like to see the membership offerings and prices for individuals, please request an Individual Membership Package or see our website for details.

Recommendations for Food Security for the CVRD Environment Commission 2010-2011

From Cowichan Green Community

Policy:

1. Ensure that 80% of all food purchased for staff, committee, and council meetings be local.
2. Require that all new developments adhere to LEED's Gold Standard.
3. Put an immediate moratorium on land leaving the ALR – and prohibit ALR land shifting.
4. Support mandatory GMO labeling on all foods.
5. Prohibit removal of any existing fruit and nut trees.

Rezoning:

1. Allow for residents to sell vegetables produced on their own property, from their property.
2. Allow residents to 'landshare' for the purposes of growing vegetables.
3. Support rezoning applications that would facilitate processing facilities.

Funding:

1. Support the "BC Farm to School" pilot project in 2 schools in 2010, and 6 in 2011.
2. Support the "Farmer Market Coupon" program for 25 families in 2010 and 50 in 2011.
3. Support the creation of a "Virtual Farmers Market."

Resources:

1. Provide free community space for a permanent indoor/outdoor, year- round Farmers Market.
2. Set up a mechanism for a "Farmland Leasing" program.
3. Set up one pilot project for "Alternative Land Use Services" for 2010, and 3 for 2011.

Tax Shifting and Incentives

Implement Green Tax incentives that would be allocated to:

- a. Residents who turn their lawns into gardens
- b. Residents who join a car-share
- c. Residents who plant fruit trees
- d. Developers who join a car-share

Institute a 'Bad Tax' for:

- a. Multi-car households
- b. ??

Dyan Freer

To: Kate Miller
Subject: RE: Earth Day Newsletter

From: CrowdJ8@parl.gc.ca [mailto:CrowdJ8@parl.gc.ca]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2010 12:25 PM
To: CrowdJ@parl.gc.ca
Subject: Earth Day Newsletter

Hello,

I am the Parliamentary Assistant to Member of Parliament Jean Crowder, Nanaimo-Cowichan. We will be issuing an Earth Day newsletter to the riding this spring, highlighting sustainability and environmentally friendly initiatives. I would like to select a few Earth Day (April 22nd) events in the Nanaimo-Cowichan region for inclusion in this newsletter. Would your organization be able to provide some information on any Earth Day related events you may be hosting or promoting?

If so, please forward a brief summary of your event (25-50 words), the time, location and contact info. The creation of this newsletter is time sensitive and as such I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible so that I might include your event.

Thank you very much,

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