

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public comment sought for new regional Solid Waste Management Plan

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District recently completed a new draft Solid Waste Management Plan and will be seeking community input in the coming weeks. The Plan sets out new waste reduction targets for the region and proposes strategies for managing municipal solid waste over the next 10 years, with a long-term vision of 25 years. Residents will have opportunities to provide input at a series of community open houses, an online survey and on PlaceSpeak. CVRD staff will also be attending community events in coming weeks to raise awareness and receive feedback on the draft Plan.

“We can be proud that the Cowichan Valley has one of the lowest waste per capita ratios in British Columbia, and we will continue efforts to lessen our environmental footprint whenever possible,” said Jon Lefebure, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “This public consultation process will allow residents to learn more about the existing system, and to influence the region’s vision for managing waste and recycling.”

A Plan Advisory Committee (PAC), composed of representatives from the public, industry, businesses, the non-profit sector, Cowichan Tribes and government, has met numerous times since March to discuss gaps within the current waste management system and ways to improve the region’s waste diversion. Strategies recommended by the PAC look at ways to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill focusing on key areas such as reducing food waste, and important initiatives like combating illegal dumping.

“Public input is important to ensuring that the Solid Waste Management Plan reflects the goals and needs of the region over the next two decades,” said Tauseef Waraich, Manager of the Recycling and Waste Management Division at CVRD. “We look forward to hearing from residents as we create a long-term vision for how waste and recyclables should be managed on a regional basis.”

Open houses will be held across the region on the following dates and times:

- **Lake Cowichan** – Wednesday, August 29 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cowichan Lake Recreation Centre Multi-Purpose Hall (311 S Shore Road)
- **Cobble Hill** – Tuesday, September 11 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Cobble Hill Farmer’s Institute Hall (3550 Watson Avenue)
- **Saltair** – Wednesday, September 12 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Saltair Community Centre (3850 South Oyster School Road)

To learn more about the Solid Waste Management Plan process, review existing documents and engage online visit: <http://www.cvrd.bc.ca/swmp> or <http://www.placespeak.com/swmp>

For more information, please contact:

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