

LET'S TALK TRASH!

A Newsletter of the Central Coast Regional District



The CCRD has drafted a new solid waste management plan and wants to know what you think about it.

What is a solid waste management plan?

Each Regional District in BC is required to have a solid waste management plan which is a long term vision of how we intend to manage our solid waste system now and into the future. Solid waste refers to the garbage and recycling generated by our homes, businesses and institutions like schools. The current plan for the Central Coast Regional District (CCRD) was approved by the Province in 2004. Over the last six months the CCRD has drafted an updated solid waste management plan that describes how to improve and maintain our solid waste system – that is, how we recycle, compost, reuse and dispose of the waste we all generate.

The Plan covers the whole of the Bella Coola Valley and its roughly 2,000 residents, including those in Electoral Areas C, D and E. The implementation time frame is from 2017 to 2026.

It's a draft. We need you to help us finalize it!

This plan was drafted with input from members of the community that sit on the CCRD's Solid Waste Advisory Group. The participation of the Nuxalk Nation, local businesses, environmental interests, and representatives of institutions such as the school board and hospital ensured that the Plan was drafted with broad community interests in mind. Now it's your turn to help us finalize the solid waste management plan.

This newsletter summarizes what's in the draft plan. After reading it, we hope you will take a few minutes to complete the on-line survey to provide your feedback on the draft (available February 1 to 18, 2017). You could even win a **prize** for completing the survey! There is a draw prize for a \$100 gift certificate from a local retailer or restaurant of your choice. There are other ways to provide your feedback on the draft plan, too:

- Send us an email to pwm@ccrd.bc.ca
- Write to us at: CCRD SWMP Input, Box 186, Bella Coola, BC, V0T 1C0

Be sure to provide your feedback by February 18th at the latest. After February 18th, we will be reviewing all of the input received with the Solid Waste Advisory Group and determining if, based on receiving your feedback, any revisions to the Plan are required. We will also be selecting one name at random from the survey participants to win the \$100 gift certificate. It could be you!

What are the goals of the new plan?

1. Increase participation in recycling and reuse
2. Undertake improvements at the landfill to meet the BC Landfill Criteria

What's Inside

- ✓ What's proposed for recycling and reuse
- ✓ Improving your Free Store experience
- ✓ Landfill Improvements
- ✓ How will we pay for it?
- ✓ The Stats on our Trash

What's proposed to improve Recycling and Reuse in the Bella Coola Valley?

There are lots of opportunities to recycle in the Bella Coola Valley, but many homes and businesses opt not to recycle, and this uses up our landfill space, an important community resource. The Regional District wants to increase participation in recycling by:

- **Increasing awareness** through expanded communication and education programs
- **Contracting a part time Waste Diversion Educator to work with school children and Thorsen Creek Eco Depot customers** to increase their awareness of the many recycling and reuse options available.
- **Distribute blue recycling boxes to all homes in the Valley.** In addition to being a handy place to store recyclables, the box is a visual reminder to participate in recycling. The plan is to distribute the boxes through the Eco Depot.

The Free store is used by many people in the community and is a great way to pass along gently used goods to others. However, right now it is a constant mess and requires valuable staff time to keep it clean. The Free Store is also a community resource that could be better maintained by those who use it. So, the proposed plan is to construct a new and improved Free Store at the Thorsen Creek Eco Depot that will be inside, have more storage and have better lighting.

The Waste Diversion Educator will also be on hand in the early days of the new Free Store to encourage users to follow a Free Store Code of Conduct that will improve the user experience for everyone (see sidebar). We all have a role to play in keeping this place of “new to you” treasures clean and safe for all.

With food scraps and yard waste being roughly one quarter of what we landfill, composting represents a big opportunity to reduce the amount of waste landfilled and an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with landfilling. The draft plan proposes that **a feasibility study to assess the potential of a community composting operation** at the new Eco-Depot and Transfer Station where businesses and residents can drop off food scraps (including meat, bones, grains and dairy – which we can't compost at home), yard waste and non-recyclable paper (tissues, paper towels) for composting.

To support the recycling, reuse and composting enhancements proposed above, **three significant policy initiatives** are recommended:

1. For products and packaging that can be readily recycled (such as cardboard, beverage containers, household recyclables, tires, batteries, paint, pesticides, fuels, and solvents), the disposal of these items as garbage will be restricted.
2. Gradually increase user fees on non-household garbage disposal to encourage the use of available recycling and composting services. This revenue could assist in covering the new costs associated with improving our solid waste management system.
3. If a financially sustainable arrangement can be made to have cardboard from businesses be recycled along with the cardboard from homes (residential recycling is funded through an organization called Multi-Material BC), a restriction on the disposal of cardboard in the garbage will be enacted.

What's proposed to improve the landfill?

BC introduced new Landfill Criteria in 2016 that will require several actions by the CCRD associated with the operation of the Thorsen Creek landfill site as funds become available to do so. These actions include:

1. Undertake a Landfill Criteria Conformance Review
2. Prepare a filling plan and final landfill closure plan.
3. Prepare a Design, Operations and Closure Plan (DOCP) to guide the landfill operations and outline the progressive closure strategy with the landfill lifespan in mind.

Tips for an Improved Free Store experience.

1. Bring only clean, gently used goods for deposit at the Free Store. Puzzles with pieces missing and the jeans you wore to paint your house shouldn't be left at the Free Store.
2. Please put items you wish to leave at the Free Store on the shelves, unless directed otherwise by site staff
3. Please refold and put items back on the shelves that you don't want.
4. If you notice something unsafe in the Free Store area, please notify staff.
5. Share stories of your Free Store favourite finds with your friends. Getting cool, new (to you) things for free is worth bragging about!

Happy reusing!



4. Undertake a hydrogeology and hydrology assessment that will include a drilling program and the installation of monitoring wells to provide a better assessment of the potential impacts that the landfill may have on ground or surface water
5. Improve stormwater management at the site by constructing an interim cover system on the crest of the landfill and improve drainage to shed water away from the landfill
6. Purchase a portable scale to track the weight of materials transferred to disposal
7. Purchase an excavator, bulldozer, wheel loader and horizontal grinder, if required
8. Lease or purchase a roll-off truck and purchase roll-off bins to service the Eco-Depot and Transfer Station



How is waste management paid for and how will we pay for improvements proposed in the new Plan?

The Nuxalk Nation has a financial agreement with the CCRD that partially funds the solid waste system and enables them to participate in the CCRD’s solid waste service. Tipping fees on non-household waste and property taxes also fund the solid waste service. In 2016 the solid waste management service is funded through property taxes and the provincial basic grant (53%), Nuxalk Nation contribution (40%), EPR revenue (3%) and user fees (4%).

To be able to undertake the programs and projects identified in this plan, particularly those actions associated with the landfill, the CCRD will need to obtain significant grant funding and/or assistance from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Federal/Provincial Grant Programs.

The Stats on Our Trash

We don’t have scales at our landfill to give us an exact record of how much we dispose of each year, but based on data from similar BC communities, we estimate that we dispose of 450 kg per capita annually, including garbage from residential, commercial and construction/demolition sources. For the Bella Coola Valley, with an estimated population of 2,000, that means we landfill or burn roughly 900 tonnes each year. Lots of people in our Valley have jumped on the recycling bandwagon. Between the recycling services available at the Thorsen Creek Waste and Recycling Centre and at the Bella Coola Recycling Depot, last year we recycled 478 tonnes, equivalent to 35% of all the waste generated in the Valley.

The new transfer station/eco depot

Exciting things are underway at the Thorsen Creek Waste and Recycling Centre! Our new Eco Depot, located across the road from the landfill entrance, is being built and should be open by the summer (see the concept design below). This awesome new site will make it easier and safer to recycle, reuse and dispose of your garbage. It will also free up space at the landfill site so that site improvements can be made to the landfill and we can utilize this resource more efficiently.

What do we throw away as garbage?

This pie chart show what a typical BC community throws into their landfill. Note how much of it can be recycled or composted!

