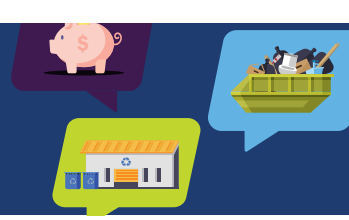


CSWM Solid Waste Management Plan BACKGROUND



The 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 Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) region.

The Process: In 2022, the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee (RSWAC) was established comprising of technical experts, First Nations, regional district staff & expert residents. Through 2022/23 they refined provincial goals to create waste management goals and guiding principles specific to our region. Between 2024/25, RSWAC developed eight strategies, each with accompanying actions, approximate costs and diversion potential. At each stage of the process, the community was consulted, feedback gathered and incorporated. In 2026, a draft Solid Waste Management Plan was ready to share, laying the path for the next 10 years of waste management in our region.

Timeline



1. Initiate the process
2022



2. Set the Plan Direction
2022-2023



3. Evaluate Options
2024 -2025



4. Prepare and Adopt the Plan
2026

Waste Reduction Strategies

1. Support Reuse

2. Encourage Repair

3. Education & Community Outreach

4. Support Multi-Family Waste Separation

5. Reduce Industry, Commercial & Institutional Waste

7. Equalize Access to Service

6. Reduce Construction, Renovation & Demolition Waste

8. Track Solid Waste



What is the Overarching Goal?

Produce Less Garbage & Divert More

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

What Could This Cost?

Elected officials have directed that the costs stay within 3-5% of CSWM's annual budget. All of the proposed actions have estimated costs to implement and the resource them. Wherever possible user-pay opportunities have been identified - those benefiting from the service or program would be directly funding it. The estimated cost increase per household would be \$7.50 per year for a home with an assessed value of \$670,000.

Diverting Waste Saves Money



Extending landfill life and delaying costly borrowing.



Reserving landfill space for true waste, not divertible organics or recycling.



Reducing methane emissions from decomposing organics in landfills.

How are we going to measure our success?

In collaboration with the RSWAC, municipal and First Nation partners, goals and targets have been created. They are achievable, have clear timelines and will demonstrate continuous improvement towards Provincial targets. A new plan monitoring committee will be established to help see these through.

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 services are financially sustainable and delivered equitably across the region, recognizing and leveraging the unique challenges and cultures of our rural and remote communities.

