



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Solid Waste Committee Meeting Agenda

November 5, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC

Conference call: 1-877-385-4099 Participant Id: 3069112#

Committee Chair: Director Rose

Vice-Chair: Director Goodings

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
2. Directors' Notice of New Business	
3. Adoption of Agenda	
4. Gallery Comments or Questions	
5. Adoption of Minutes	3
Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2020	
6. Business Arising from the Minutes	
7. Delegations	
8. Correspondence	
9. Reports	
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9.2. Agricultural Plastics Pilot in Partnership with Cleanfarms, ENV-SWC-023	10
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12. Item(s) for Information	
12.1. Terms of Reference	30

13. Adjournment



SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020

LOCATION Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC

ATTENDANCE **Committee Directors**

Director Rose, Electoral Area 'E' – Committee Chair
Director Sperling, Electoral Area 'C' – ex officio
Director Goodings, Electoral Area 'B'
(via teleconference)
Director Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek
Alternate Director Deck, District of Chetwynd
Director Zabinsky, City of Fort St. John
(via teleconference)

Directors

Director Ackerman, City of Fort St. John
Director Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D'
Director Fraser, District of Taylor
Director Michetti, Village of Pouce Coupe, 10:30 am

Staff

Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer
Tyra Henderson, Corporate Officer
Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Manager
Loryn Day, Solid Waste Coordinator
Suzanne Garrett, Recorder

1. CALL TO ORDER The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

2. DIRECTORS' NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS
None.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Alternate Director Deck,
That Solid Waste Committee adopt the September 3, 2020 Meeting Agenda:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Notice of New Business**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda**
4. **Gallery Comments or Questions**
5. **Adoption of the Minutes**
 - 5.1 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Minutes of July 2, 2020
6. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
7. **Delegation**
8. **Correspondence**
9. **Reports**
 - 9.1 Solid Waste Management Plan Survey and Update
 - 9.2 2020 Solid Waste Project Update
 - 9.3 Spring Clean Up 2020 Review
 - 9.4 City of Dawson Creek request – vermicomposting pilot support
 - 9.5 Chronic Wasting Disease Program Support
10. **New Business**
11. **Diary**
12. **Items for Information**
 - 12.1 Solid Waste Committee Terms of Reference
13. **Adjournment**



4. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS

None.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

5.1
July 2, 2020 SWC Meeting Minutes
MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Director Zabinsky,
That the Solid Waste Committee adopt the July 2, 2020 Meeting Minutes.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

7. DELEGATIONS

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

9. REPORTS

9.1
SW Management Plan
Survey and Update – ENV-
SWC-010

The Committee discussed the Solid Waste Management Plan Survey and Update, discussion points included:

- curbside recycling for rural residents is outside of the Plan
- may not happen for rural residents but gives the Regional District flexibility, it could take place in the future
- strategies allow opportunity for discussion, describes goals, if goal is not cost effective it does not occur
- the Plan identifies tools that could be utilized to achieve waste management goals
- draft plan lacks specifics, which the Ministry of Environment looks for, has the Ministry changed its parameters?
- curbside recycling for rural area will require creation of a service area and referendum (Other Vote)
- strategies give us the opportunity to explore, do not want to have to amend the Plan constantly once its approved. New strategies will need to be evaluated and proven to ensure it is economically viable and/or that there is a market
- Need to factor in “pandemic” and its effect on access to markets, what will it mean over the next 2 – 4 year period

MOVED Director Zabinsky, SECONDED Alternate Director Deck,
That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan timeline, and authorize two Special Committee of the Whole meetings, on October 1 and October 16, 2020, to review the updated strategies for the Plan; further, that a Solid Waste Management Plan, prepared by another regional district using broad, non-specific strategies be provided for information.

CARRIED

Opposed: Director Goodings

Staff were requested to revise a sentence in the report under “Communication Consideration” from:

“Final review of the preferred options of the RSWMP will be reviewed by PTAC for any final input prior to public consultation. From there, the draft public consultation plan will be reviewed for approval. Once approved, consultation is expected to take place over the winter months into 2021.”; to



9.1
SW Management Plan
Survey and Update ENV-
SWC-010 (continued)

“A final review of the revised preferred options of the RSWMP will be held with PTAC for any final input prior to the Regional Boards final approval. From there, the draft public consultation plan will be reviewed by the Regional Board for approval. Once approved, consultation is expected to take place over the winter months into 2021.”

9.2
2020 Solid Waste Project
Update – ENV-SWC-011

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Director Goodings,
That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report titled “2020 Solid Waste Project Update ENV-SWC-011” for discussion.

CARRIED

Staff noted, under Financial Considerations in the report, that the bulky waste pit project was presented as \$45,985.53 above the awarded contract cost; however, there was a miscommunication with the consultants on which contingency was being used. Under the original awarded cost, a \$40,000 contingency was present; therefore, the project was only \$5,985.53 over the awarded price.

9.3
Spring Clean Up 2020
Review ENV-SWC-012

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Director Zabinsky,
That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report entitled “Spring Clean Up 2020 Review – ENV-SWC-012” for discussion.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Zabinsky, SECONDED Director Bumstead,
That the Solid Waste Committee refer the report titled “Spring Clean Up 2020 Review ENV-SWC-012” to a future Regional Board agenda under Consent Calendar; further, that the report be updated to include the 2020 baseline tonnage for a two-week period before and after the 2020 Spring Cleanup Campaign.

CARRIED

9.4
City of Dawson Creek –
Vermicomposting Pilot
Support - ENV-SWC-013

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Alternate Director Deck,
That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report entitled “City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support ENV-SWC-013” for discussion.

CARRIED

MOVED Director Bumstead, SECONDED Alternate Director Deck,
That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the preparation of an information report for the next Solid Waste Committee meeting, outlining potential cost implications to the 2021 budget for implementation of a vermicomposting pilot project, in partnership with the City of Dawson Creek’s composting program, including infrastructure development of a pad area with leachate containment at the Bessborough Landfill.

CARRIED

9.5
Chronic Wasting Disease
Program Support – ENV-
SWC- 014

MOVED by Director Bumstead, SECONDED by Director Zabinsky,
That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board provide support for the Provincial Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) program in Northeast BC by allowing access to wildlife carcasses brought into the Bessborough, Chetwynd and North Peace Regional Landfills from August 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

CARRIED



9.5
Chronic Wasting Disease
Program Support – ENV-
SWC- 014 (continued)

MOVED by Director Bumstead, SECONDED by Alternate Director Deck,
That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board waive tipping fees
for the disposal of sample materials associated with the Provincial Chronic Wasting Disease
program between August 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.

CARRIED

MOVED by Director Bumstead, SECONDED by Alternate Director Deck,
That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the
development of a marketing campaign to increase awareness and importance of Chronic
Wasting Disease (CWD); further that collaboration with First Nations, area Road
Contractors, Guides and Outfitters, and other related agencies be undertaken to increase
understanding of the significance of CWD in the region.

CARRIED

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Committee Terms of Reference.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Director Rose, Meeting Chair

S. Garrett, Recorder



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-021

From: Paulo Eichelberger, General Manager of Environmental Services Date: October 22, 2020

Subject: **2021 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Schedule**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the 2021 Solid Waste Committee meeting schedule be approved as presented, specifying one meeting per month on the first Thursday of the month, except July and August, which are omitted, and October, November, and December, which will be held the first Friday of each month to avoid conflict with Board meeting dates.

RECOMMENDATION #2

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the Solid Waste Committee Terms of Reference be amended from “the Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, on the first Thursday of every month” to “the Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, as included in the annual adoption of a Board meeting schedule; further, that the ability to reschedule meetings or call special meetings of the Committee when required, be added to the Terms of Reference as an authority of the Committee that does not required Board approval.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

As per the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) terms of reference, meetings are held monthly, on the first Thursday of each month. It is therefore proposed that the meetings scheduled for the SWC in 2021 be as follows:

- January 7, 2021
- February 4, 2021
- March 4, 2021
- April 1, 2021
- May 6, 2021
- June 3, 2021
- September 2, 2021
- October 8 [October 7, 2021 conflicts with the Board meeting]
- November 5 [November 4, 2021 conflicts with the Board meeting]
- December 3 [December 2, 2021 conflicts with the Board meeting]

The intent of cancelling the July 2nd and August 5th SWC meetings is to accommodate project work during the summer months of 2021. A draft calendar showing the aforementioned meeting dates (highlighted in yellow) is attached for reference.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the 2021 Solid Waste Committee meeting schedule be amended to specify meetings on the first Thursday of each month with the exception of July, which would be scheduled for July 2 to avoid the July 1st Statutory Holiday, and October, November, and December, which will be held the first Friday of each month to avoid conflict with Board meeting dates.
2. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Organizational Effectiveness

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None identified.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Once approved, meeting dates will be added the Regional District digital calendar system and invitations will be sent to all committee members. Meeting dates will also be added to the website calendar of events for the benefit of the public.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None identified.

Attachments:

1. Draft 2021 Solid Waste Committee Meeting Schedule

2021 DRAFT SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

BC Natural Resource Forum Jan 26-28, PG

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Special Budget, Feb 17, Dawson Creek

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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APRIL						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	

CoFi, Apr 7-9 Vancouver
Interprovincial, Apr 21, Dawson Creek

MAY						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Minerals N Conf, May 19-21, Kitimat
NCLGA, Date TBD, Prince George

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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FCM, Date TBD, Montreal

JULY						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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UBCM, Sept 13-17, Vancouver

OCTOBER						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NOVEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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28	29	30				

DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

	Solid Waste Days
	Annual Conference
	Statutory Holiday
	Board Meetings
	Potential Cancellation



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-023

From: Paulo Eichelberger, General Manager of Environmental Services Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: **Agricultural Plastics Pilot in Partnership with Cleanfarms**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend to the Regional Board to partner with Cleanfarms to fund an Agricultural Plastics Waste Characterization Study currently underway, at a cost of up to \$5,000.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend to the Regional Board to partner with Cleanfarms to develop and deliver a pilot agricultural plastics program, with each party paying 50% of the costs.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Cleanfarms is a non-profit environmental stewardship organization that helps to create programs that offer a tangible way to address agricultural waste management¹.

Recently, Cleanfarms has expanded their work in agricultural stewardship by developing agricultural plastics (ag-plastics) pilot programs in Alberta and Manitoba. Cleanfarms has received a grant from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the Canadian Agriculture Strategic Priorities Program (CASPP) to conduct a three year pilot programs across the country for the collection and recycling of agricultural plastics that are not currently being collected through existing Cleanfarms programs. Since there are no existing ag-plastics programs established by Cleanfarms in British Columbia, Cleanfarms reached out to staff about a partnership in developing and delivering such a pilot in the Peace River Regional District (PRRD).

Prior to a pilot program being developed, an Agricultural Plastics Waste Characterization Study must be completed, which provides the basis for estimated quantities to establish a collection program.

The waste characterization will look at the following materials:

- Bale wrap
- Silage plastic/bunker covers
- Twine
- Grain bags

The study is being performed by a third party organization who is interacting with area producers to understand what is being purchased and used in farming operations in the region.

¹ Current program is the collection of empty pesticide containers and livestock/equine medications, which is offered all over Canada.

At this time the pilot program is intended to be offered at three rural transfer stations, focused on collecting grain bags and twine. There is an opportunity to expand to other materials such as silage and bale wrap at a later date, pending the results of the waste characterization study.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Estimated costs provided by Cleanfarms for developing and running an ag-plastics program at three PRRD sites that focuses on grain bags and twine are shown below (Table 1). All program costs would be shared between Cleanfarms and the PRRD with a 50/50 Split, as the CASPP funding requires 50% cost sharing on all projects.

Table 1.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	
Ag-Waste Characterization Study	\$10,000.00				
Communication		\$7,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	
Collection		\$35,020.00	\$37,900.00	\$43,280.00	
Administration		\$8,755.00	\$9,475.00	\$10,820.00	Total
Estimated Expense Total	\$10,000.00	\$51,275.00	\$49,375.00	\$56,100.00	\$166,750.00
PRRD Costs (50%)	\$5,000.00	\$25,637.50	\$24,687.50	\$28,050.00	\$83,375.00
Total Estimated Revenue from the Sale of Twine and Grain Bags		\$13,000.00	\$15,500.00	\$18,000.00	\$46,500.00
PRRD Revenue		\$6,500.00	\$7,750.00	\$9,000.00	\$23,250.00

The initial estimate from Cleanfarms to operate the pilot at three PRRD Transfer Stations is approximately \$26,150 annually. Combined with an estimate of \$10,500 for renting bins to collect the material, the total annual estimated cost to the PRRD for the pilot \$36,650 or \$12,216 per site.

Once the waste characterization study is complete, more detailed program costs can be calculated to reflect estimated tonnage in the PRRD and materials that would be targeted. There are several factors that could affect program costs such as access to balers, hauling, and market costs.

The cost of the 2020 Waste Characterization study totaling \$5,000 can be split operationally between the three sites that will receive the pilot. At this time the proposed locations are Cecil Lake TS, Prespatou TS, and Rolla TS due to the predominantly agricultural nature of the surrounding areas.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

A communications plan will be developed as part of developing the collection program to provide outreach to the public.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Cleanfarms is working with the neighbouring regional districts of Fraser Fort George and Bulkley-Nechako, which may present opportunities for partnership and further reduction of costs.



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-022

From: Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services

Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Solid Waste Committee receive the report entitled “Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper,” for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Province of B.C. legislates the management and diversion of recyclables through the “BC Recycling Regulation”. Under the regulation:

1. Producers are responsible for collecting and processing recyclables as part of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) via the eco-fees charged at point of sale.
2. Household recyclables are covered off under EPR only from residential sources, meaning that there is an additional cost to consumers for the recycling of products used by commercial entities.

The Province of BC has released the attached policy intentions paper for consultation, which will inform a new version of the Recycling Regulation, and is providing opportunity for feedback. As per the paper, the Province is considering the addition of product types, such as mattresses and single-use propane bottles, as well as expanding the categories for electronic products¹ and packaging/printed paper (PPP) beyond residential sources.

Responses to the Ministry’s questions have been compiled and are attached for the Committee’s consideration.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board authorize submission of applicable comments which reflect how recycling works in the PRRD to the province regarding the “Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper.”
2. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

¹ Currently includes multimedia devices such as computers, smaller copiers, television, modems, phones, etc.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Costs for processing recyclables in our region outside of an EPR program is \$2,000,000 annually (approximately 16% of the Solid Waste Budget, which is currently \$12,300,000).

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Feedback will be submitted online via the Ministry website.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The proposed changes to the Recycling Regulation could affect the capture of household recyclables by bringing the bulk of the material under EPR and significantly reducing recycling processing costs for the PRRD.

The deadline for submission of comments is November 20, 2020, however the Ministry will accept responses beyond this date and utilize them in consideration of the proposed changes to the regulation. The Ministry has stated in its paper that the proposed changes will be part of a multi-year strategy, but does not specify a timeline.

Attachments:

1. Recycling Regulation Policy Paper –Comments for MoECCS
2. Provincial Recycling Regulation – Policy Intentions Paper



Recycling Regulation Policy Intentions Paper:
PRRD Comments for the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy

The following comments and questions from the MoECCS are broken into sections as per the Policy Intentions Paper released on September 12, 2020. Deadline for submission of comments is November 20, 2020:

New Schedule for Mattresses - The ministry is currently evaluating the opportunity to add more products to the Recycling Regulation, including mattresses and foundations.

Q: Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to add mattresses and foundations to the regulation?

1. Noted that the paper reflects rural regions of BC where “cost of recycling is too high and mattresses are being landfilled.” EPR for this material must reflect true regional costs of processing and any eco-fee applied must have the same consideration.
2. Paper cites \$40 per mattress to recycle – how is this rate calculated?
3. This EPR program must apply to all sources (industrial, commercial, institutional AND residential).

Q: Are there exemptions to this new product category that you believe should be considered?

1. Exemptions for this product category should not be considered in order to ensure that consumers have a place to drop off mattresses, regardless of type. Exemptions in certain EPR programs can result in customers frustrated with being turned away from drop-off locations. Instances of illegal dumping may also result from such exemptions.

Update Existing Schedules and Product Categories –

The ministry is currently evaluating the opportunity to add more products to the Recycling Regulation, including the Residual Product Category, Schedule 2 (currently includes paint, solvents, gasoline, pesticides, and pharmaceuticals)

Q: Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to regulate more product types?

1. Regulating additional residual products will provide more options for people in the rural areas where there currently are no takeback programs.
2. Recommend that this expanded EPR program must accept materials from all sources (industrial, commercial, institutional AND residential). Allows for more efficient collection and economies of scale while supporting true diversion from landfills.

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1230 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

Q: What product types should be prioritized for regulation?

1. Product types listed must include the smaller volumes used by households to provide accessibility and prevent risk of illegal dumping.

Q: Do you have comments or suggestions on how to clearly define/classify product categories in the regulation that are user friendly?

1. No comment.

Q: Are there product types you believe should be exempt from the regulation, beyond products such as cleaners that are intended for use down the drain?

1. The product types covered must include both residential and ICI sources to allow for economies of scale and promote access to rural populations.

The ministry is currently evaluating the opportunity to add more products to the Recycling Regulation, including Schedule 3, the Electronic and Electrical product category.

Q: Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to regulate more electronic and electrical products, including batteries?

1. No comments.

Q: What product types should be prioritized for regulation?

1. No comments.

Q: Are there product types you believe should be exempt from the regulation and may be better managed through alternative policy approaches?

1. The concern with exempting products is that there is a risk that if an individual is unable to drop off a broken/obsolete piece of electronics, this will result in illegal dumping. There has to be an option for the consumer to bring back the product, no matter what.
2. Policy updates must match the updated recycling regulation.

The ministry is currently evaluating the opportunity to add more products to the Recycling Regulation, including expanding Schedule 5 – Packaging and Paper Product Category beyond residential sources (applies to the RecycleBC program).

Q: While EPR for ICI packaging and paper has been suggested by some stakeholders, there are also other approaches that have been advanced for commercial business waste management. Do you have comments or suggestions on EPR or alternative policy approaches that address the need for greater diversion from landfills and to better manage ICI materials?

1. Increasing diversion of ICI materials from landfills is currently not practical for many businesses located in rural regional districts which is why said businesses default to bringing materials to the landfill. There are also challenges with increasing tipping fees to make

businesses prioritize waste diversion as there is a cost threshold where businesses may choose to send their waste across provincial borders because it is cheaper to do so.

2. Some rural regional districts collect 50% - 75% of packaging and printed paper from ICI sources and bale/transport those materials to market at their cost. To make EPR more practical, recyclables from all sources must be included to achieve economies of scale for collection in remote, rural areas.
3. Given the lack of access to EPR for remote, rural areas, the inclusion of ICI packaging and printed paper should be given higher priority.

Q: Are there sources of ICI waste that should be the primary focus for better management, such as food services, office buildings, or sports stadiums?

1. Construction and demolition companies generate large amounts of waste with very little sort before delivering to landfill in remote rural areas.

Marine Debris in B.C. – End-of-Life Management of Lost Fishing Gear- This Intentions Paper also provides further opportunity for people to provide feedback on approaches to improve fishing gear collection and management.

Q: Do you have comments or suggestions on policy approaches to better manage fishing gear?

1. N/A for the PRRD.

Implementation (of update to Recycling Regulation) - The ministry will review all consultation comments and feedback to inform the development of a multi-year strategy, including further outreach on proposed priorities.

Q: To help inform the development of the multi-year strategy, do you have comments or suggestions on what product categories outlined in this Intentions Paper should be prioritized for regulation?

1. Packaging and Printed Paper for ICI materials need to be top priority.
2. Soft Agricultural Plastics (Twine, bale wrap, silage film, feedbags) – while not outlined in the paper, this material is challenging to deal with and no program exists in BC with subsidy.

1 INTRODUCTION

Historically, local and Indigenous governments and taxpayers have carried the burden of waste management costs with little incentive for producers to either provide consumers with convenient recycling options or produce more durable and easily recyclable packaging and products.

Since 2004, B.C. has regulated many products through Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) under the [Recycling Regulation](#)¹ (the regulation). EPR requires producers (manufacturers, distributors and retailers) of designated products to take responsibility for the life cycle of their products, including collection and recycling. This shifts the responsibility from local and Indigenous governments and taxpayers to the producers and consumers of products.

By making regulated producers accountable, EPR programs reduce waste by incentivizing producers to design products that are durable and more recyclable in order that material and components can be recovered for future use instead of going to disposal. EPR is one of the key pillars that supports a circular economy approach to waste management where resources are continually conserved and reused as raw materials. Although B.C. is the North American leader with over 20 EPR programs already in place, more can be done to support B.C. communities and protect the environment.

Expanding Recycling and Recovery

By regulating even more products, EPR can further reduce local and Indigenous governments' waste management costs, make recycling more accessible for consumers with province-wide collection networks, grow B.C. recycling businesses, incent innovation, and create job opportunities.

The ministry is asking for feedback on adding more products to the Recycling Regulation to be recovered and recycled by producers, including:

- Mattresses
- Moderately hazardous products
- Electronic and electrical products and batteries
- Packaging and paper products beyond residential sources

The [CleanBC Plastics Action Plan](#)², released in 2019, received significant feedback from local governments, Indigenous groups and a range of stakeholders expressing a desire to expand EPR. To find out more, see the [Plastics Action Plan What We Heard Report](#)³.

While many products are already covered by EPR, given B.C.'s successful experience, we are now ready to do more and will develop a multi-year strategy, including further outreach, on proposed priorities. Through the release of this Intentions Paper, B.C. is engaging on expanding EPR by including more products under the regulation and other waste reduction policy approaches to ensure that these items are managed responsibly.

Instructions on how to provide comments are provided on the last page of this Intentions Paper and should be submitted by November 20, 2020.

¹ Recycling Regulation - http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/449_2004

² CleanBC Plastics Action Plan - https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/436/2019/08/CleanBC_PlasticsActionPlan_ConsultationPaper_07252019_B.pdf

³ Plastics Action Plan What We Heard Report - <https://cleanbc.gov.bc.ca/plastics>

2 RECYCLING REGULATION

The regulation sets out the requirements for EPR in B.C., giving producers the flexibility to find efficient and innovative ways to meet regulated outcomes that prevent waste disposal, improve recycling, and support reuse and resource recovery. Producers often come together to form agencies that operate recycling programs on their behalf.

Producers are also responsible for managing and funding their recycling programs, leading to cost-effective business decisions and market-driven solutions. These costs can be covered directly by producers or passed along to consumers through product pricing or applying an additional charge, such as an “eco-fee”.

Reuse, recycling, and remanufacturing creates more jobs than traditional waste disposal and supports a resource-efficient economy⁴. Regulating the management of post-consumer products leads to increased material recovery rates from waste streams, creating economies of scale to better support B.C.’s growing recycling sector and secondary markets. There are substantial economic and environmental benefits from EPR programs operating in B.C. A report commissioned by the ministry in 2016⁵, found that EPR in B.C. created over 900 jobs, and in one year: the value of recovered materials was over \$46 million; 160,000 tonnes of material was diverted from landfill; and greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by over 200,000 tonnes (CO₂e).

3 EXPANDING RECYCLING AND RECOVERY

New products and packaging are added to the regulation through the addition of new or amended Schedules and associated Product Categories. The ministry is currently evaluating the opportunity to add more products through changes to regulation. These products could include:

- Adding mattresses and foundations as a new product category.
- Expanding the residual product category to include more moderately hazardous products, such as single-use propane canisters.
- Expanding the electronic and electrical product category to include more items, such as electric vehicle batteries.
- Expanding the packaging and paper product category beyond residential sources.

3.1 New Schedule for Mattresses

Every year in B.C., approximately 200,000 used mattresses and box springs are recycled by local and Indigenous governments, recycling businesses, and retailers, with inconsistent levels of material recovery depending on how and where they are processed. Though highly recyclable, the large size of mattresses makes them challenging and expensive to manage, costing up to \$40 per unit to recycle. In more remote and rural regions of B.C. where the cost of recycling is too high and in certain urban areas

^{4/5} Assessment of Economic and Environmental Impacts of Extended Producer Responsibility Programs Operating in B.C. - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/recycling/recycle/res/2014_assessment_of_economic_environmental_impacts_of_extd_producer_responsibility_programs_bc.pdf

where storage space is limited, mattresses are still being landfilled. Mattresses in landfills damage machinery and take up landfill space costing local governments up to \$340,000 annually in landfill costs alone. Having producers take responsibility for mattresses would provide convenient, free collection services to residents and businesses, replacing the patchwork of recycling options with province-wide coverage.

Jurisdictions in the United States have seen success by regulating producer responsibility for mattresses, which is credited for helping to grow their mattress recycling sector. The recycling infrastructure to manage mattresses is already in place in B.C. with capacity to process more. Adding a new Schedule within the regulation would ensure more consistent standards for recycling all the materials found in mattresses (and foundations or box springs). Most are made of steel, wood, fabric, and foam, while other types such as air mattresses, and camping pads are comprised of plastics. Although regulating other furniture is not part of this consultation, producer responsibility or alternative policy approaches for these items may be considered in the future.

Supporting local and Indigenous governments and British Columbians with more recycling

- Disposal fees and transportation challenges are major reasons why residents illegally dump their used mattresses in alleyways and wilderness areas.
- In Metro Vancouver alone, approximately 10,000 mattresses are abandoned each year, costing municipalities up to \$1.5 million to manage.

Questions:

- Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to add mattresses and foundations to the regulation?
- Are there exemptions to this new product category that you believe should be considered?

3.2 Update Existing Schedules and Product Categories

3.2.1 Schedule 2 - Residual Product Category

Most products in the Residual Product Category are intended to be used or consumed; however, when households and businesses have residual amounts of product, safe recycling and disposal options are needed. Although many products are already regulated and responsibly managed by producers, including paint, solvents, gasoline, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, and other products, there are gaps in the regulation. Safe management is needed for a broad range of other problematic products, as well as the containers that may be contaminated. These products may include:

- Compressed gas in canisters - fuel and helium
- Fire extinguishers
- Pool and spa chemicals
- More pest control and rodenticides
- Fertilizer and weed control
- Automotive additives and touch-up paint
- More paint, sealers and adhesives
- Bear spray and flares
- Veterinary medicine for pets
- Medical syringes

Unregulated products have resulted in high waste management costs to local and Indigenous governments, and unsafe disposal, such as pool chemicals causing landfill fires and fuel canisters being illegally dumped in curbside recycling, parks, and at marinas. One B.C. regional district reported that the

safe collection and recycling of unregulated materials, such as these, costs approximately \$400,000 each year. Capturing more materials will ensure producers safely manage these products and reduce costs for local and Indigenous governments.

Developing clearly defined product categories in the regulation that capture a broad range of product types will be complicated. Other jurisdictions have also faced challenges when classifying residual products in a manner that allows consumers, retailers and collection facility staff to easily understand what is regulated. For this reason, this consultation provides the opportunity to make suggestions on defining product categories that are comprehensive but remain user-friendly.

Supporting B.C. Businesses

Product Care Recycling, an EPR agency representing obligated producers that safely recycles and manages paint and other regulated wastes (pesticides, gasoline) invested approximately \$9 million to build and operate a modern facility in Delta with 34 employees.

One option to identify products intended for regulation is to use existing warning symbols required on product labels – flammable, corrosive, toxic (poison), and explosive. However, within the residual product category we will also need to capture additional products that are not labelled with these warning symbols on the packaging, but consumers generally consider hazardous and require proper disposal. For example, mineral spirits and furniture strippers may be formulated with different chemicals resulting in different labeling requirements.

Questions:

- Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to regulate more product types?
- What product types should be prioritized for regulation?
- Do you have comments or suggestions on how to clearly define/classify product categories in the regulation that are user friendly?
- Are there product types you believe should be exempt from the regulation, beyond products such as cleaners that are intended for use down the drain?

3.2.2 Schedule 3 – Electronic and Electrical Product Category

From flashlights to fridges, most consumer electronic and electrical products, along with batteries and lightbulbs, are already regulated in B.C. and managed responsibly by producers. However, the rapid adoption of new trends and emerging technology has led to gaps in product coverage, such as e-cigarettes, vapes, motorized yard decorations, large drones, photovoltaic (solar) panels, and electric vehicle batteries.

Modernizing to keep up with trends

The growing inconsistency between regulated and unregulated products causes confusion for consumers and retailers, adds waste management costs for local and Indigenous governments, and creates inequitable requirements for the producers of similar products. Streamlining the regulation will help eliminate regulatory gaps and provide for better oversight.

B.C.'s experience has demonstrated that legally obligating producers drives proper management and responsible recycling. For example, regulated producers use recycling facilities in B.C. that adhere to leading safety and environmental standards for processing electronic and electrical products. This level

of oversight and diligence is also needed for managing batteries used in new products/applications, including everything from singing balloons and light-up shoes to golf carts and cars. Comprehensive battery management is needed to safeguard workers from fire risks associated with improper disposal in the garbage, residential curbside recycling, or the scrap metal industry.

The intention is to regulate additional electronic and electrical products as well as items that are used with these products, including electrical cords and printer cartridges. Consideration will also be given to exempting products, such as escalators or elevators and other large-scale fixed installations, that may be better managed through alternative policy approaches. Regulated producers in B.C. currently operate nine programs for electronic and electrical products under Schedule 3, covering thousands of products. For more information please visit the B.C. [Electronics and Electrical Recycling](#)⁶ website.

Supporting CleanBC - Electric vehicle batteries, charging equipment, and solar panels

The CleanBC plan and initiatives are supporting the use of electric vehicles, charging equipment, and solar (photovoltaic) systems, which will also necessitate safe reuse and recycling systems for when they are no longer functional.

Electric Vehicle Batteries

Many hybrid and electric vehicles on the road are nearing end-of-life and require safe disposal. However, unlike other vehicle components that are already regulated and responsibly managed by producers, including lead-acid batteries, tires, oil, and antifreeze, a reliable province-wide electric vehicle battery recycling system is not yet developed to meet current demand and anticipated growth. Approximately 50,000 electric vehicles are already on the road in B.C. and by 2040 all new light-duty cars and trucks sold in B.C. will be [Zero Emission Vehicles](#)⁷.

Electric vehicles use specialized batteries that range in weight and chemistry, making them challenging to safely handle and manage – a B.C. recycling company reports that these batteries are labour intensive and costly to process, with over 100 different configurations to date. Vehicle producers are continually redesigning batteries for better performance. Under producer responsibility, recycling costs are reflected in the vehicle producers' design and manufacturing choices, providing an incentive to make batteries that are easier to disassemble for recycling and reuse in applications such as residential and commercial energy storage in communities that may need back-up power. With emerging technologies being developed globally, this opportunity may further support reuse of electrical vehicle batteries in B.C.

Supporting B.C. Businesses

B.C.'s recycling companies have become leaders in processing waste electronics and batteries for recycling. These companies improve safety, protect our environment, and create jobs in B.C. Currently, producer responsibility programs support four facilities located in Delta, Chilliwack and two in Trail.

This has resulted in:

- Over \$13.2 million invested in technology, equipment and infrastructure.
- Over 150 jobs, with many entry level workers gaining valuable skills and training.

⁶ B.C. Electronic and Electrical Recycling - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/recycling/extended-producer-responsibility/electronics-and-electrical>

⁷ B.C. Zero-Emission Vehicles Act - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/transportation-energies/clean-transportation-policies-programs/zero-emission-vehicles-act>

Producers need to safely manage their batteries and ensure that the responsibility and costs do not default to local and Indigenous governments and vehicle dismantlers. Over time, there will also be a greater need to help B.C.'s residents and businesses properly manage charging stations at their end of life. For more information on electric vehicles and charging stations refer to the [CleanBC - Go Electric Program](#)⁸.

Solar Technology

Solar technology has a broad range of uses from camping equipment and household rooftop panels to freestanding off-grid power generation systems. Although solar panels are recyclable, producers need to establish collection and recycling programs for homeowners and communities, particularly rural and remote, that otherwise will have limited options to divert from disposal. The recycling industry may benefit from our proximity to Washington State, where producers will be launching their reuse and recycling programs next year.

Questions:

- Do you have comments or suggestions on the intention to regulate more electronic and electrical products, including batteries?
- What product types should be prioritized for regulation?
- Are there product types you believe should be exempt from the regulation and may be better managed through alternative policy approaches?

3.2.3 Schedule 5 - Packaging and Paper Product Category

Residential packaging and paper products

In 2014, B.C. led the nation by being the first province to make producers fully responsible for managing residential packaging and paper products. Being first required a lot of work, with extensive consultation and collaboration taking place with numerous stakeholders. Today, producers successfully operate an efficient province-wide recycling system that collects and manages over 186,000 tonnes of material each year. Most materials are collected through curbside programs, from multi-family residence, or a network of more than 200 recycling depots across B.C. Most beverage containers are managed under the deposit-refund system with different regulatory requirements.

Supporting B.C. Businesses

[Recycle BC](#)⁹, a producer-funded agency, collects 41% of all plastic packaging from the residential stream, while nationally the collection rate of all plastic packaging is estimated to be 23%¹⁰. Additionally, more than 98% of plastics collected by the Recycle BC program, remain in B.C., with a local end-market in Metro Vancouver.

⁸ CleanBC - Go Electric Program - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/electricity-alternative-energy/transportation-energies/clean-transportation-policies-programs/clean-energy-vehicle-program>

⁹ Recycle BC - <https://recyclebc.ca/about-recyclebc/>

¹⁰ Economic Study of the Canadian Plastic Industry, Markets and Waste - http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2019/eccc/En4-366-1-2019-eng.pdf

Transitioning from the patch work of local and Indigenous government funded programs to a standardized system has improved the supply of clean recycled plastics for re-manufacturing. As a result, B.C. businesses have invested in infrastructure and processing capacity, with more materials continuing to be recycled here, while recycling programs across the rest of North America have been heavily impacted by diminishing export markets.

Packaging and paper products beyond residential sources

Currently, packaging and paper products beyond the residential stream are independently managed and not obligated under the regulation. There are a number of different sectors where these products are found, such as office buildings, warehouses, stadiums, grocery stores and food services, institutions, and agricultural applications. To inform any future decision making, we need to better understand how these products are diverted from landfills for urban and rural areas, and the recycling rates for the broad range of different material types generated from these sectors - collectively referred to as the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector.

Through the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan engagement process, local governments, Indigenous Nations and a range of stakeholders expressed a desire to expand EPR to include ICI generated waste and recyclables. These groups noted that the ICI sector is a large contributor to overall waste in B.C.

While packaging and paper products from the ICI sector is not regulated under EPR legislation in North America, the European Union has developed a Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive mandating members meet targets for recovery and recycling of all packaging waste. To date, Austria, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany, have passed laws requiring producers, predominantly of industrial and commercial packaging, to fund collection, sorting and recycling. In Germany, for example, producers are responsible for collecting and managing materials at restaurants, hotels, hospitals, educational facilities, sports stadiums, cinemas, and museums.

The ICI sector is complex and may require a measured, phased approach that considers the diversity of the sector. For example, waste diversion from the backend of a grocery store in the greater Vancouver area is very different than waste diversion from a remote mining site. When policy tools, such as extended producer responsibility, are evaluated, it will be important to consider what this may look like for the sub-sectors involved and the different management needs and economic impacts. Through this initial consultation, the ministry is soliciting feedback on approaches to ensure greater waste diversion from landfills and better recycling outcomes, along with more information to fully understand the related waste management challenges in B.C. for the ICI sector.

Supporting B.C. Businesses

- B.C. has seen significant investments by recycling businesses, particularly around the residential packaging and paper program.
- In 2014, this induced \$20 million in capital investment, including a new plant to process plastic containers, with a further \$25 million investment in 2020 for enhanced sorting of packaging, cardboard and paper allowing for greater access to local markets.
- The province-wide collection system for packaging and paper has also helped reduce contamination rates, which helps retain the value of materials and allows access to downstream markets.

Questions:

- While EPR for ICI packaging and paper has been suggested by some stakeholders, there are also other approaches that have been advanced for commercial business waste management. Do you have comments or suggestions on EPR or alternative policy approaches that address the need for greater diversion from landfills and to better manage ICI materials?
- Are there sources of ICI waste that should be the primary focus for better management, such as food services, office buildings, or sports stadiums?

4 MARINE DEBRIS IN B.C – END-OF-LIFE MANAGEMENT OF LOST FISHING GEAR

Lost or abandoned fishing gear in the marine environment from commercial fisheries, aquaculture, and recreational fisheries, such as long lines, nets, traps, and floats, is a significant source of marine pollution in B.C. These items harm our marine environment and impact the fishing and tourism industry, threatening the health and economies of coastal communities throughout the province.

Local governments, Indigenous Nations and environmental organizations have long-raised concerns about the need to more effectively manage lost fishing gear found in our coastal waters and shorelines, and as a result, Premier Horgan asked Sheila Malcolmson, Member of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia for Nanaimo, Special Advisor for Marine Debris Protection and Parliamentary Secretary for Environment to find solutions to the issues of abandoned vessels, marine debris, and marine-sourced plastics. Parliamentary Secretary Malcolmson met with interested parties affected by marine debris including coastal local governments, Indigenous Nations, industry, and environmental organizations, to understand the issue and discuss potential solutions. Based on this ongoing initiative, an initial [What We Heard on Marine Debris in B.C.](#)¹² report was released in February 2020.

Supporting B.C. Communities

While we continue to develop a long-term approach to manage lost fishing gear, B.C. has launched the [Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund](#)¹¹.

This helps small ship tour operators, Indigenous Nations, local communities and others participating in a multi-million dollar clean-up of the shores of the central coast, creating jobs and supporting coastal communities as they recover from the COVID-19 economic downturn impacting tourism.

Parliamentary Secretary Malcolmson's work to date shows that abandoned or lost fishing gear presents a unique set of problems not generally encountered when managing recovery and recycling programs for used fishing gear and other more consumer-facing products. As a result, solving these challenges may require different solutions for the different types of fishing gear and marine debris including multiple and complementary policy approaches. Given the complex and unique challenges associated with managing lost fishing gear, this Intentions Paper builds upon Parliamentary Secretary Malcolmson's initial engagement work by providing further opportunity for a broad range of interested stakeholders to provide feedback on approaches to improve fishing gear collection and management.

¹¹ Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative Fund - <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020ENV0045-001613>.

¹² What We Heard on Marine Debris in B.C. - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/waste-management/zero-waste/marine-debris-protection/marine_debris_what_we_heard_report_final_web.pdf

Question:

- Do you have comments or suggestions on policy approaches to better manage fishing gear?

5 ASSURING COMPLIANCE

The ministry promotes compliance among regulated producers by ensuring they are aware of their regulatory requirements resulting from any changes to the regulation. Compliance promotion will be consistent with past outreach efforts, which included developing and sharing information and educational materials with regulated parties and industry associations.

The ministry's approach to assuring compliance includes a range of tools and actions from written advisories to administrative monetary penalties. Compliance and enforcement is informed by the [Compliance Management Framework](#)¹³ and [Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure](#)¹⁴, which considers the compliance history for the regulated party and the significance of the impact from the non-compliance occurrence.

6 IMPLEMENTATION

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy welcomes your input regarding potential products for inclusion in the Recycling Regulation, or other policy initiatives to minimize waste. The ministry will review all consultation comments and feedback to inform the development of a multi-year strategy, including further outreach on proposed priorities, see below.

Question:

- To help inform the development of the multi-year strategy, do you have comments or suggestions on what product categories outlined in this Intentions Paper should be prioritized for regulation?

All comments received through webinars, meetings, mail or email by November 20, 2020 will be compiled for review by ministry staff.

Please visit the [B.C. Extended Producer Responsibility](#)¹⁵ website for more information and the online [Intentions Paper Feedback Form](#)¹⁶. Any future updates will also be posted to this website.

¹³ Compliance Management Framework - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/research-monitoring-and-reporting/reporting/reporting-documents/environmental-enforcement-docs/compliance_mgmt_framework.pdf

¹⁴ Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Procedure - https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/research-monitoring-and-reporting/reporting/reporting-documents/environmental-enforcement-docs/ce_policy_and_procedure_2018.pdf

¹⁵ B.C. Extended Producer Responsibility - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/recycling/extended-producer-responsibility/recycling-regulation>

¹⁶ Intentions Paper Feedback Form - <https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/574734?lang=en>

7 PROVIDING FEEDBACK

Please submit comments to the ministry by November 20, 2020.

The ministry welcomes comments on the information and proposals outlined in this Intentions Paper, and has provided the following opportunities for feedback:

- By completing the online [feedback form](#)
- Email your comments to: ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca
- Mail your comments to:
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy –
Recycling Regulation Amendments
PO Box 9341 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

The ministry will conduct a series of webinars in October, 2020. The webinars will review the information contained in this Intentions Paper and provide an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. If you are interested in participating in a webinar, please contact the email: ExtendedProducerResponsibility@gov.bc.ca

All comments received through webinars, mail or email by November 20, 2020 will be reviewed before developing an outreach strategy, amending the regulation, or pursuing other policy approaches.

All submissions will be treated with confidentiality by ministry staff and contractors when preparing consultation reports. Please note, however, that all submission with opinions and identifiers could be made public if a Freedom of Information request is made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Thank you for your time and comments.



REPORT

To: Solid Waste Committee

Report Number: ENV-SWC-024

From: Gerritt Lacey, Solid Waste Manager

Date: November 5, 2020

Subject: Vermicomposting Pilot for the Bessborough Landfill

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Solid Waste Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the establishment of a three year vermicomposting pilot beginning in 2021 at the Bessborough Landfill.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Staff has been exploring the potential to establish a second vermicomposting pilot that would be located at the Bessborough Landfill (BBLF)¹. This pilot was described at the September 3, 2020 Solid Waste Committee (SWC) meeting in the report titled "City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support".

The intention of the second pilot would be to establish an organics diversion program in the region, starting in the South Peace. Feedstock would come from the City of Dawson Creek yard and garden waste program, as well as restaurants and residents that are interested in participating. As incentive for participation, tipping fees would be waived for sorted organic material received at the landfill.

Staff has had some initial high level discussions with City of Dawson Creek staff regarding their yard and garden program. It is estimated that approximately 200 tonnes of yard and garden material will come from the City of Dawson Creek program and another 100 tonnes will come from residents and restaurants making a total of 300 tonnes for each year of the pilot.

Currently, vermicomposting does not fit in the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR). Therefore a Work Plan created by a qualified professional will need to be developed that explains how material will be handled to gain Ministry approval.

To establish a vermicomposting pilot at the BBLF staff would work through the following steps:

1. Register the BBLF in accordance with the provincial Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR).
2. Work with a qualified professional (QP) to develop a Work Plan for the site.
3. Submit the Work Plan to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECCS) to obtain acceptance of a deviation to the OMRR.
4. Develop a handling pad, complete with leachate collection.
5. Establish contract rates for handling material with the current contracted onsite staff.
6. Establish contract rates with a vermicomposting consultant.
7. Develop a communication pamphlet outlining the program requirements.
8. Provide education and outreach to area residents and businesses.

¹ An initial vermicomposting pilot was established at the North Peace Regional Landfill.

9. Transport worms from the North Peace Regional Landfill (NPRLF) to BBLF.
10. Bring processing material in and monitor in accordance with the work plan.

This pilot provides the opportunity to expand on the work conducted to date and build organics processing capacity in the region. Pending the success of this pilot and approval from the MoECCS, the proposed work can be expanded upon to make organics processing permanent in the region.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Solid Waste Committee defer the establishment of a vermicomposting pilot at the Bessborough Landfill in favour of issuing a Request for Proposal for composting services.
2. That the Solid Waste Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Responsive Service Delivery

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Estimated costs for the pilot project are included in the table below:

	2021	2022	2023
QP Work plan for OMRR	\$15,500		
Pad Development	\$25,000		
Worm Transportation	\$5,000		
Operating Staff costs	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$22,000
Consultant costs	\$13,500	\$18,000	\$12,000
Testing		\$2,500	\$2,500
Total Estimated Annual Cost	\$81,000	\$42,500	\$36,500
<i>Potential Lost Revenue for 300 tonnes of organics</i>	<i>\$27,500</i>	<i>\$27,500</i>	<i>\$27,500</i>

If approved, staff will incorporate these estimates into the draft 2021 Financial Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Staff will coordinate with the City of Dawson Creek to secure the supply of feedstock from their garden and yard waste collection site, and work with the PRRD Communications Department on public education materials.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

At this time collection will be on a volunteer basis. If there is increased public interest, there may be opportunity in year two to offer collection sites around the City of Dawson Creek or the region.

Based on the [Waste Composition Audit](#) conducted in 2017-18, organics represents 30.6% of the entire waste stream.

External Links:

Sept. 3 SWC Meeting - City of Dawson Creek Request – Vermicomposting Pilot Support – See [Item 9.4](#)



Solid Waste Committee Terms of Reference

1. Background:

- 1.1 The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) developed a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan that was approved in 2009. The Plan addresses three key areas:
- Greater efficiency of programs and services.
 - Greater focus on reducing, reusing, and recycling to protect our environment.
 - Greater focus on sustainable management to protect future generations.

2. Role of the Committee:

- 2.1 With the understanding that Solid Waste Management is a regional function and represents our largest single budget item; the goals of the Solid Waste Committee (SWC) is to act as an advisory committee for the Regional District solid waste management function and identify concerns and issues that may arise.

3. Structure of the Solid Waste Committee:

- 3.1 Members: The SWC will consist of five (5) Board members as appointed by the Chair and will consist of:
- Director from the City of Dawson Creek, or alternate director;
 - Director from the City of Fort St. John, or alternate director;
 - Director from the District of Chetwynd, or alternate director;
 - Director from Electoral Area 'B', or alternate (Electoral Area 'C' Director);
 - Director from Electoral Area 'E', or alternate (Electoral Area 'D' Director);
 - PRRD Board Chair, as ex-officio member;
 - Appropriate Regional District staff person – non-voting.
- 3.2 The meetings will be chaired by a Committee member elected by the Committee participants on an annual basis.
- 3.3 In the absence of the Chair, a member elected Vice-Chair by the Committee on an annual basis will chair the meetings.

4. Meetings:

- 4.1 The Committee shall meet on a monthly basis, on the first Thursday of every month;
- 4.2 Meetings will be open to the public;
- 4.3 Items for the regular agenda must be provided to Administration one (1) week prior to the scheduled meeting;
- 4.4 The PRRD Board Chair will be given a copy of all Committee meeting agendas.

5. Procedures:

- 5.1 Quorum – at least one-half of the members of the Committee;
- 5.2 Voting – all options and recommendations shall be determined by majority vote, with recommendations and options being forwarded to the Regional Board for consideration and action.

Date Committee Established		Board Resolution #	
Date TOR Approved by Board	May 26, 2016	Board Resolution #	RD/16/05/20 (26)
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	
Amendment Date		Board Resolution #	