

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** Loryn Day, Solid Waste Coordinator  
Peace River Regional District

**FROM:** Veronica Bartlett,  
Morrison Hershfield

**PROJECT No.:** 190397600

**RE: Memo:** Consolidation of strategies for inclusion in the  
Draft RSWMP – Part 2

**DATE:** October 5, 2020

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The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (the “RSWMP” or simply the “Plan”) has been undergoing review and amendment as part of the PRRD Strategic Plan. Through several meetings in 2020, the Public Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC)<sup>1</sup> and the Committee of the Whole (COW) has reviewed multiple strategies to be incorporated in the new Plan. During the summary review of these strategies and the draft Plan on August 13, 2020, concerns were expressed that Directors felt they had not been able to provide significant input to the plan to date.

At the SWC meeting on Sept 3, it was decided that in order to give Board Members adequate time to review and approve revised draft strategies, the COW will review the revised, consolidated strategies (based on feedback from the Board and SWC) in two parts, to be conducted at two special COW meetings in October 2020 (October 1 and October 16).

The Draft Plan presented to the Board on August 13 included 26 strategies. These 26 strategies have recently been consolidated into 16 strategies in total. The presentation on October 1 covered part 1 of 2 of the Plan content with the first 9 strategies. The presentation on October 16 covers the content of the remaining 7 strategies.

Table 1 identifies the proposed new strategies and how these refer to the strategy numberings in the Draft Plan previously discussed.

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<sup>1</sup> PTAC is a required stakeholder group consisting of members at large, waste haulers, agricultural and industry members, First Nations, municipal staff, private/non-profit groups. The purpose of PTAC is to provide input, feedback on the Plan review, and to provide input and recommendations to the Peace River Regional District on proposed programs and policies that would make up the updated Regional Solid Waste Management Plan.

*Table 1 Proposed strategies (#10 to #16) to consider for inclusion in the Draft RSWMP*

Proposed New Strategy	Original Strategy	Considerations for inclusion of strategy
<p><b>Strategy 10: Assess suitability of technologies for energy recovery for non-recyclables materials and residual waste</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assess feasibility of establishing a Regional Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) for non-recyclable materials and residual waste with potential to accept waste from neighbouring regions/province. If feasible, solicit interest from potential vendors and establish a process for evaluating and selecting a suitable technology or process.</li> <li>b) Undertake an assessment and comparison of waste management and disposal options in accordance with Ministry requirements.</li> <li>c) Consider out-of-region resource recovery facilities as potential future solutions for managing a portion of the Region's waste stream, as long as these options do not compromise local waste diversion initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>Implement energy recovery initiatives where feasible and consider best practices.</p>	<p><b>Strategy 14: Assess suitability of technologies for energy recovery for non-recyclables materials and residual waste</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assess feasibility of establishing a Regional Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) for non-recyclable materials and residual waste with potential to accept waste from neighbouring regions/province. If feasible, solicit interest from potential vendors and establish a process for evaluating and selecting a suitable technology or process.</li> <li>b) Undertake an assessment and comparison of waste management and disposal options in accordance with Ministry requirements.</li> <li>c) If an RERF is not feasible, consider out-of-region resource recovery facilities as potential future solutions for managing a portion of the Region's waste stream, as long as these options do not compromise local waste diversion initiatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserves landfill space, recovers energy from the waste stream, recovers some divertible materials and destroys contaminants in the waste stream.</li> <li>• Energy recovery more cost effective with economies of scale.</li> <li>• Waste to Energy (WTE) planning and capacity can be established only after considering the higher levels of the waste hierarchy (reduction, re-use and/or recycling) and does not impede these efforts.</li> <li>• Provincial guidance and requirements apply if the PRRD wants to pursue energy recovery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategy 11: Improve accessibility and efficiency of the solid waste network</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Regularly assess the efficiency of the waste</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 15: Review efficiency of the solid waste facility network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Regularly assess the efficiency of the waste management network and implement changes when cost savings are identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PRRD operates a vast network of solid waste facilities.</li> <li>• Majority of costs are associated with hauling, attendant and supervisor services and bin rentals.</li> <li>• Since 2016 PRRD has consolidated and upgrades sites</li> </ul>

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<p>management network and implement changes when cost savings are identified.</p> <p>b) Regularly review the need to consolidate sites and replace unmanned disposal sites with manned transfer stations with diversion options where deemed suitable in order to improve waste management services.</p> <p>c) Undertake a pilot to provide 24 hr access for free disposal of bagged household garbage at a transfer station and implement at more sites if deemed feasible.</p> <p>d) Assess the feasibility of a rural curbside collection service that is funded by its users.</p> <p>Implement initiatives where feasible and consider best practices.</p>	<p><b>Strategy 16: Improve accessibility to waste management services</b></p> <p>a) Regularly review the needs to consolidate sites and replace unmanned disposal sites with constructing manned transfer stations with diversion options where deemed suitable in order to improve waste management services.</p> <p>b) Undertake a pilot to provide 24 hr access for free disposal of bagged household garbage at a transfer station and implement at more sites if deemed feasible (Links with Strategy 24 to harmonize residential rates). Implement initiative across the wider network of facilities.</p> <p><b>Strategy 20: Assess Suitability of offering curbside collections in rural areas</b></p> <p>a) Assess the feasibility of rural curbside collection service and implement if feasible</p>	<p>to provide a better level of service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public survey (Fall 2019): Residents wanted better access to waste diversion programs, facilities.</li> <li>Opportunities to review efficiencies and level of service provided throughout the Region.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategy 12: Monitor the PRRD's three active landfills to continually assess long-term disposal options</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <p>a) In parallel with operating the Chetwynd Landfill, complete a review of the options available for long term disposal, as the Chetwynd Landfill is nearing capacity.</p>	<p><b>Strategy 17: Close Chetwynd Landfill and establish a transfer station</b></p> <p>a) In parallel with operating the Chetwynd Landfill, complete a review of the type and size of transfer station required to transfer waste to other facilities including reviewing transfer / transport options. Once the requirements for the transfer station have been confirmed by the review, proceed with</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Chetwynd Landfill is nearing capacity, with approximately 10 years remaining.</li> <li>Future options need to be reviewed soon.</li> <li>PRRD has become aware of some external factors that may impact the North Peace Regional Landfill</li> </ul>

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<p>b) In parallel with operating North Peace Regional Landfill, continue to monitor external influencing factors and plan for changes if deemed necessary.</p> <p>c) In parallel with operating the Bessborough Landfill, continue to monitor and plan for changes if deemed necessary.</p> <p>d) If any changes to any of the active landfills are deemed necessary, proceed with most suitable option(s) which could include final closure, establishment of a transfer station, continuing operation as a landfill for demolition and land clearing waste, expansion of the landfill, and/or relocation of the landfill to an alternative site.</p> <p>Implement design/procurement for disposal options as necessary and consider best practices.</p>	<p>procurement to establish transfer station prior to landfill closure.</p> <p>b) Consider options to continue to operate as a landfill for demolition and land clearing waste.</p> <p><b>Strategy 19: Continually review the risks to North Peace Regional Landfill and close if deemed necessary</b></p> <p>a) Continue to monitor risks to North Peace Regional Landfill and plan for early closure if deemed necessary. If landfill closure is deemed necessary, the PRRD will proceed with closure according to provincial regulation.</p>	
<p><b>Strategy 13: Develop an illegal dumping strategy</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <p>a) Consider establishing an inter-agency working group to develop an illegal dumping strategy aimed to improve tracking, identification of problem areas, and/or assessing accessibility to solid waste facilities to reduce the number of illegal dumping incidents.</p> <p>b) Promote public outreach to prevent illegal dumping and how to report</p>	<p><b>Strategy 18: Develop an illegal dumping strategy</b></p> <p>a) Establish an inter-agency working group and develop an illegal dumping strategy aimed to improve tracking and reduce the number of illegal dumping incidents.</p> <p>b) Prepare and implement strategy including assess illegally dumped materials, identify problem areas, assess accessibility to transfer stations, improve public outreach and enforcement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illegal dumping is an ongoing issue for the Region where many rural areas have significant distances between transfer stations and landfills.</li> <li>• Frequent public abuse of unmanned transfer stations.</li> <li>• The PRRD wants to continue existing initiatives aimed to prevent illegal dumping. (e.g. seasonal clean-up events, replacing unattended sites with attended facilities, providing education and promotion of current recycling and disposal options and optimizing operating hours at transfer stations).</li> </ul>

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<p>occurrences and continue to support clean up activities.</p> <p>Implement strategy, where feasible and consider best practices.</p>		
<p><b>Strategy 14: Develop an emergency debris management plan</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop an Emergency Debris Management Plan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 21: Develop an emergency debris management plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Develop an Emergency Debris Management Plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural disasters can cause debris that needs to be managed to protect human health, conserve disposal capacity, and minimize or prevent environmental impacts</li> <li>• Debris can significantly influence solid waste quantities.</li> <li>• The PRRD has identified the need to develop an emergency debris management plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategy 15: Set limit on acceptable recycling cost and implement other management methods as necessary</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish cost threshold when alternative lower cost options (e.g. landfilling) are pursued until recycling is no longer cost prohibitive.</li> </ul> <p>Implement cost threshold if deemed feasible.</p>	<p><b>Strategy 26: Set limit on acceptable recycling cost when other management methods are considered</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Establish cost threshold when alternative lower cost options (e.g. landfilling) are pursued until recycling is no longer cost prohibitive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority for stewardship organizations to take more responsibility for recycling in rural communities.</li> <li>• High recycling costs to manage materials not funded by EPR programs.</li> <li>• As a last option, the PRRD can set an upper limit for acceptable recycling costs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategy 16: Continually assess financial model used to fund the solid waste system</b></p> <p>This can include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assess cost recovery model to implement tipping fees and taxation that fully funds the solid waste management system.</li> <li>b) Investigate and pilot the waiving of tipping fees for sorted residential waste at transfer stations and landfills. Implement system-wide if deemed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Strategy 22: Assess cost recovery through tipping fees and taxation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Assess cost recovery model to implement tipping fees and taxation that fully funds the solid waste management system.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategy 24: Harmonize residential rates for disposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Investigate and pilot the waiving of tipping fees for sorted residential waste at transfer stations and landfills. Implement system-wide if deemed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the last few years, a typical operational budget for solid waste management services has ranged from \$11 to \$14 million annually.</li> <li>• The 2019 operational budget for solid waste management is approximately \$11 million.</li> <li>• Revenue to fund the solid waste management services comes mainly from tipping fees and taxation.</li> <li>• First Nation communities pay a \$50 per household fee in lieu of taxes.</li> <li>• Any new programs or facilities, such as a Regional Waste to Energy facility, will result in</li> </ul>

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<p>feasible and fund disposal via taxation.</p> <p>c) Review waste disposal fees paid by First Nation communities in lieu of taxes and adjust to align with PRRD's Regional residential disposal rates.</p> <p>d) Incentivize residential waste diversion by increasing disposal fees on unsorted wastes.</p> <p>Implement cost recovery options where feasible and consider best practices.</p>	<p>feasible and fund disposal via taxation.</p> <p>b) Review waste disposal fees paid by First Nation communities in lieu of taxes and adjust to align with PRRD's Regional residential disposal rates.</p> <p><b>Strategy 25: Incentive residential waste diversion by increasing disposal fees on unsorted wastes</b></p> <p>a) Provide education and enforcement to support bylaw implementation.</p>	<p>increased costs to the PRRD.</p>