



TO: Patrick Donaghy
Operations Manager

DATE: December 9, 2019

FROM: Maura Walker

SUBJECT: Shortlisted Options to Reduce the Amount of Waste Landfilled

This memo provides a proposed shortlist of waste minimization options for inclusion in the draft RSWMP. The selection of options was done with input received from the RSWMP advisory committee at their meeting on December 5, 2019. The key focus areas for waste minimization are:

- i. Promote reduction and reuse
- ii. Food waste diversion
- iii. Maintaining (and possibly improving) current high level of participation in recycling and low level of contamination
- iv. Improving access to recycling for multi-family buildings/properties
- v. Lobbying for additional items to be incorporated into the Recycling Regulation (i.e. expanding EPR)

Reduction and Reuse

There was general agreement and enthusiasm from the advisory committee for building awareness of reduction and reuse through events and campaigns that would encourage behaviours that minimize waste. The specific recommendations are:

1. **Continue to allow for recovery of reusable items and materials received at 7Mile and continue to see additional opportunities for reuse.** As appropriate and as opportunities are identified, this approach could be expanded to other RDMW recycling depots.
 2. **Increase support to self-management of organic waste** (backyard composting, grasscycling, digesters) through the provision of low cost composters/digesters, information displays and the provision of workshops. Education should emphasize how to manage organics in a manner that is “Wild Safe.”
 3. **Undertake a campaign that targets reduction of “avoidable” food waste** utilizing available campaign materials (e.g. Love Food, Hate Waste). Avoidable food waste is food that could have been eaten at some point. (Unavoidable food waste include egg shells, coffee grounds, banana peels, etc.)
 4. To encourage edible food to be eaten rather than thrown away and to assist in feeding hungry people within the community, **identify and address barriers to the donation of food by businesses and institutions.**
 5. **Enhance the profile of organizations involved in the reuse, repair and rental of goods**
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6. **Encourage a reuse mindset through hosting and/or supporting reuse events** (e.g. community swaps, repair cafes).
7. **Develop regional campaigns to encourage reduction and reuse behaviours** (e.g. use of reusable bags and refillable mugs, green giving, etc.). Campaign materials can be sourced from other local governments that have already developed effective communication tools.
8. **Develop a fund that could seed local circular economy projects.** Create a fund, possibly with other community partners, where individuals, businesses, community groups and non-profit organizations, could apply for funding to assist with establishing initiatives that contribute to a local circular economy. Such initiatives could include:
 - Repair cafes
 - Gleaning programs (tree fruits and nuts, food gardens/fields)
 - Initiatives that link food waste generators with potential users
 - Upcycling workshops
 - Exchanges/swaps
 - Lending libraries (tools, toys, dishware, etc.)

Organic Waste Management

Organic waste diversion saves landfill space, reduces landfill gas and leachate generation and contributes to tackling climate change. The Province's Clean BC Strategy calls for 90% of organic waste to be diverted from landfills and turned into renewable resources by 2030.

A step-wise approach to organic waste diversion (as separate from the organic waste *reduction* options listed above) is proposed:

1. **Maintain the use of variable tipping fees** to encourage the source separation of yard waste and fine garden waste (yard waste that does not require grinding)
2. **Continue to compost yard waste at 7 Mile Landfill** (currently as part of the biosolids composting program).
3. **Assess the capacity of 7 Mile to have an expanded composting operation to include food waste, including associated capital and operating costs.** This initial step would determine if there is a need to source organic waste processing capacity through an RFP or other means.
4. **Target the diversion of ICI food waste first.** Large organic waste generators in and around Port McNeill and Port Hardy would be encouraged to source separate their food waste through an attractive tipping fee (relative to the garbage tipping fee). It is expected that this ICI-sourced food waste would be incorporated into the existing composting activity at 7 Mile. To some extent, this limited volume of food waste is a means of testing the ability to manage this feedstock at 7 Mile.



5. **After one year, organic waste from large generators would become a controlled waste.** This would mean that garbage from a large generator that is not separating their food waste could be subject to punitive tipping fees (e.g. double the regular garbage tipping fee). This policy tool is currently used to encourage businesses to recycle cardboard.
6. **Add residential organic waste to the composting operation.** Once food waste composting capability and capacity is confirmed, residential/small business collection programs can be added in. Begin with communities in the vicinity of 7 Mile with curbside collection services in place *and* who are keen to add organic waste to their collection program. These “early adopter” communities will be the proving ground for other applicable communities. RDMW could work closely with these communities and the local hauler in the design of the collection program, and potentially assist with identifying grant opportunities.
7. **Install food waste drop off depot location(s).** If there is demand from residents and businesses prior to the implementation of an additional curbside program for organic waste, a drop-off bin for organic waste can be added to the residential drop off area at 7 Mile, and/or at the Port McNeill transfer station (to be emptied into the curbside collection vehicle for transportation to the composting area).
8. **For remote communities that express an interest in organic waste diversion, RDMW could assist them in assessing the potential for establishing local composting facilities** for yard waste, or commingled food and yard waste.
9. **Explore the opportunity for large generators to receive carbon-offsets based on the food waste diverted from the waste stream.** This would give generators extra incentive to implement environmentally responsible practices.

Residential Recycling

The recommended options associated with residential recycling are:

1. **Maintain current financial signals to encourage recycling over disposal.** This includes garbage can limits and every other week collection of garbage.
2. **Increase outreach to residents** to raise and maintain awareness of the recycling services available in the community, tackle emerging issues, and ensure residents are aware of program changes. Outreach could include:
 - Annual newsletter sent to property owners
 - Regular article in local newspapers
 - Display booth at community events
 - Direct engagement with residents using eco ambassadors (see Education and Outreach recommendations)
 - Recognition programs (contests, rewards)



3. Once Recycle BC is willing to pay incentives for **additional homes to be added to the curbside recycling** collection service, revisit provision of curbside service in densely populated areas in areas currently without this service (based on community interest).
4. Work with municipalities that provide curbside recycling collection to **add single-family equivalent multi-family residences to the collection service** (e.g. townhomes, mobile homes).
5. Work with municipalities to **conduct a needs assessment for recycling at the remainder of multi-family buildings**.

Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Recycling

To maintain current levels of ICI recycling and support future ICI diversion initiatives:

1. **Continue to use differential tipping fees** to provide a financial incentive for commercial waste generators and haulers to source-separate their waste materials for diversion.
2. As markets for recyclables improve and expand, RDMW should **extend the designation of “controlled waste” to other materials** to reinforce RDMW’s expectation that divertible materials will be source-separated (like was done for cardboard).
3. **Lobby the Province to include ICI-generated packaging and papers as a schedule in the Recycling Regulation** (similar or the same as one for residential packaging and papers).

Construction / Demolition (CD) Waste Diversion

The following are the recommended actions to reduce the quantity of waste from construction, renovation and demolition projects that is sent to landfill.

1. **Continue to provide CD waste management information**, including information on recycling and reuse options, as well tipping fees and disposal bans. Hard copies of this information can be given to all persons applying for a building permit, distributed by local waste haulers, as well as posted at building material suppliers, hardware stores, and community centres. Electronic versions should be downloadable from regional district and municipal websites. This information should be updated annually. Include short case studies demonstrating the financial benefits from source separating CD waste.
2. **Expand the definition of “controlled waste” to include clean wood waste and asphalt shingles**. Consider adding other components that are readily recyclable, such as metal.
3. **Lobby to have construction materials as part of an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program**. Encourage the Province to follow through with their EPR strategy that includes placing construction materials under the Recycling Regulation (i.e. requiring the manufacturers and retailers to establish a collection and processing program across BC).



Education and Outreach

The following options are recommended to enhance promotion and education in general:

- a. **Work collaboratively with other key stakeholders** to provide the opportunity to benefit from economies of scale and better leveraging of public dollars. Working collaboratively can support municipalities and First Nations without dedicated solid waste or communications staff, and provide a more consistent message and brand identity for use by all parties. This could be achieved through developing an inter-agency communications strategy on an annual basis that identifies the outreach projects for the year, along with the associated tools, participants, roles and responsibilities.
- b. **Shift use of traditional print media to use of on-line media**, including apps, to take better advantage of the extensive use of smart phones by the public as a means of conveniently sourcing relevant, up-to-date information. There may be value in creating a multi-purpose app for North Island local government notifications and information (waste management, parks and recreation, emergency, etc.), where residents can sign up for appropriate “push notifications” or can find information related to local government services. Because not all areas of RDMW have cell service or good internet, for the time-being there will still be a need to provide some waste management information in hard copy.
- c. **Implement an educational outreach program targeting school children** that focuses on the waste management hierarchy and individual responsibility. Targeting students can influence longer-term effectiveness as students bring home new ideas and practices that can impact others in the household.
- d. **Hire eco-ambassadors to do community outreach** / direct community contact in the summer months (May through August). The ambassadors can engage people on maximizing their waste management behaviours, as well as on other RDMW fronts (invasive species, water conservation, etc.) through door to door visits, staffing information booths at community events or other high profile locations, and engaging local media. The eco-ambassadors could also undertake recognition programs.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

The following are the recommended actions associated with EPR.

1. **Lobby the province to include ICI packaging and papers, mattresses, construction materials and textiles in the Recycling Regulation.**
2. **Continue to work to improve EPR in BC by participating in organizations that are active in this area**, such as Coast Waste Management Association, AVICC and BC Product Stewardship Council.