



Regional Board Report

Information

To: Regional Board
From: Associate Director of Development and Engineering Services
Date: November 28, 2024
Subject: 2024 Solid Waste Management Update

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To provide the Board with the Solid Waste Management Plan 5-year effectiveness review and other solid waste management updates for 2024.

Executive Summary:

The [RDCO Solid Waste Management Plan \(SWMP\)](#) is a 10 year plan of Solid Waste guidance for the Regional District. With 5 years of work completed, the SWMP and its initiatives are nearing completion, and staff are pleased to report that the Region has achieved the waste diversion goal of 50% diversion.

Major initiatives that are underway or completed include:

- Transition to direct service with Recycle BC
- Re-evaluation of organic diversion opportunities (Food Waste Program)
- Public education and promotion materials pertaining to waste reduction and recycling
- Investigation of policy options to encourage [multi-family recycling](#)

In 2024, the Waste Characterization study confirmed that single family homes can divert 31% of their waste into existing recycling or drop off programs. Additionally, 44% of residential waste is compostable bringing the overall diversion potential to 75%. When paired with the existing curbside program and the future (target 2026) food waste collection program, this will enable residents to divert almost 75% of their existing curbside garbage cart 'at curbside' within the next two years should the current major initiatives be completed.

The RDCO must renew its solid waste management plan by December 31, 2030, and is mandated by the Provincial Environmental Management Act in British Columbia. This legislation requires regional districts to develop and update Solid Waste Management Plans to ensure they reflect current needs, market conditions, technologies, and regulations. Regular updates are essential for the RDCO to comply with provincial regulations, environmental standards, and best practices in waste management, as well as to adapt to changing waste management needs and priorities within the region.

Given the progress on current initiatives, it is recommended that the RDCO update the plan after implementing curbside food waste collection. The success of this program will significantly alter our regional waste profile, necessitating updates to the plan to realign priorities and address other areas of diversion potential, such as construction and demolition waste.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board receive the 2024 Solid Waste Management Update Report from the Associate Director of Development and Engineering Services dated November 28, 2024, for information.

 Respectfully submitted by: Cynthia Coates, Supervisor, Solid Waste Services

Report Approved by: Travis Kendel, Associate Director of Development and Engineering Services

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |

Background:

In British Columbia, a Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is the guiding document developed by regional districts and approved by the Province to manage municipal solid waste. The RDCO’s current SWMP was submitted to the Province in 2018 and received final provincial approval February 2020. The SWMP requires that the RDCO conduct a 5-year effectiveness review and submit it to the Province by December 31, 2024.

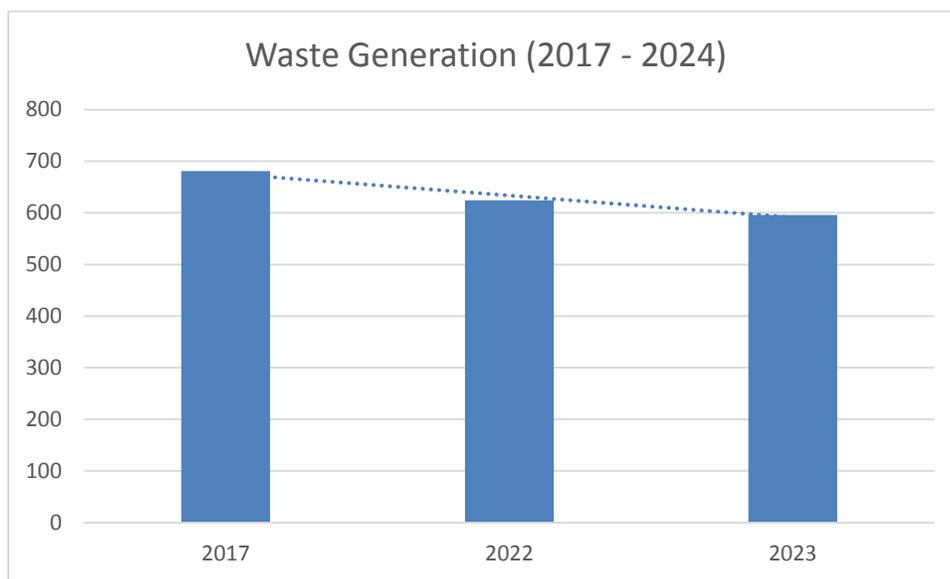
The SWMP includes goals, areas of focus, and specific measurable targets. These are summarized in the table below:

Table 1 - SWMP Goals, Areas of Focus, and Targets

RDCO SWMP Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero waste – all of our discards are regarded as resources • Citizens are actively engaged in behaviours that reflect the waste management hierarchy (i.e. reduce, reuse, then recycle); and • Make it easy for residents and businesses to make the right decisions
RDCO Areas of Focus (24 Initiatives)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduction and reuse 2. Recycling 3. Recovery and residual waste management 4. Illegal dumping 5. Wildlife and waste management; and, 6. Policy and land use planning related to waste management <p>Added by the Province:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Five-Year Effectiveness review submitted to Ministry by December 31, 2024. 2. Re-evaluate organic waste diversion opportunities and assess effectiveness of maintaining landfill gas collection and use at the landfill. A report to be submitted to the ministry by December 31, 2030.
SWMP Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste diversion rate of 50% by 2022 • Average municipal solid waste disposal rate of 600 kilograms per capita by 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At start of SWMP (2017): 681 kg/person

As the RDCO approaches the fifth year within the approved SWMP, 24 total SWMP initiatives 17 have been completed, 6 are in progress, and 1 has not started. With the initiatives underway or already completed, this has supported Regional Waste Reduction to below our Waste Diversion target of 50%.



Highlighted Initiatives

Initiative	Status
Evaluate transitioning curbside recycling to Recycle BC	Complete - direct service will begin in May 2026
Re-evaluate organics diversion opportunities	Complete – Feasibility study complete in 2022
Public awareness and recycling education	Complete and on-going – AI pilot, pop-up depots, book recycling program, full time Waste Ambassadors
Investigate policy options to encourage recycling related to multifamily and industrial, commercial, institutional (ICI) sectors	In progress – Multifamily recycling study and tool kit complete. Bylaws and mandatory space allocation not yet complete.
Investigate opportunities to process and recycle construction and demolition (C&D) materials	In progress – completed Construction, Renovation & Demolition Market Capacity Assessment

Require all contractors for construction and demolition (C&D) project to develop waste management plans to meet specific recycling targets	Not started
Investigate opportunities to process and recover energy from C&D projects.	Completed – Biomass Inventory Study

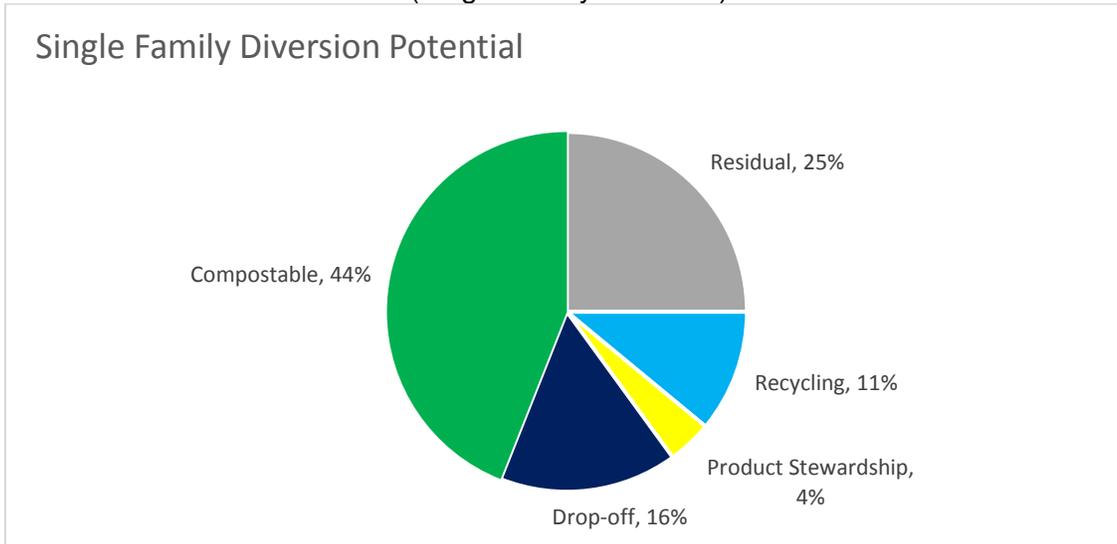
The financial impacts of completing the remaining initiatives contained in the SWMP (including those in progress) was estimated to be \$85,000 (in 2016 dollars). Based on inflation over the past 8 years, this equates to approximately \$112,000 in 2024.

The RDCO must renew its solid waste management plan by December 31, 2030. Given the progress on current initiatives, it is recommended that the RDCO update the plan after implementing curbside food waste collection.

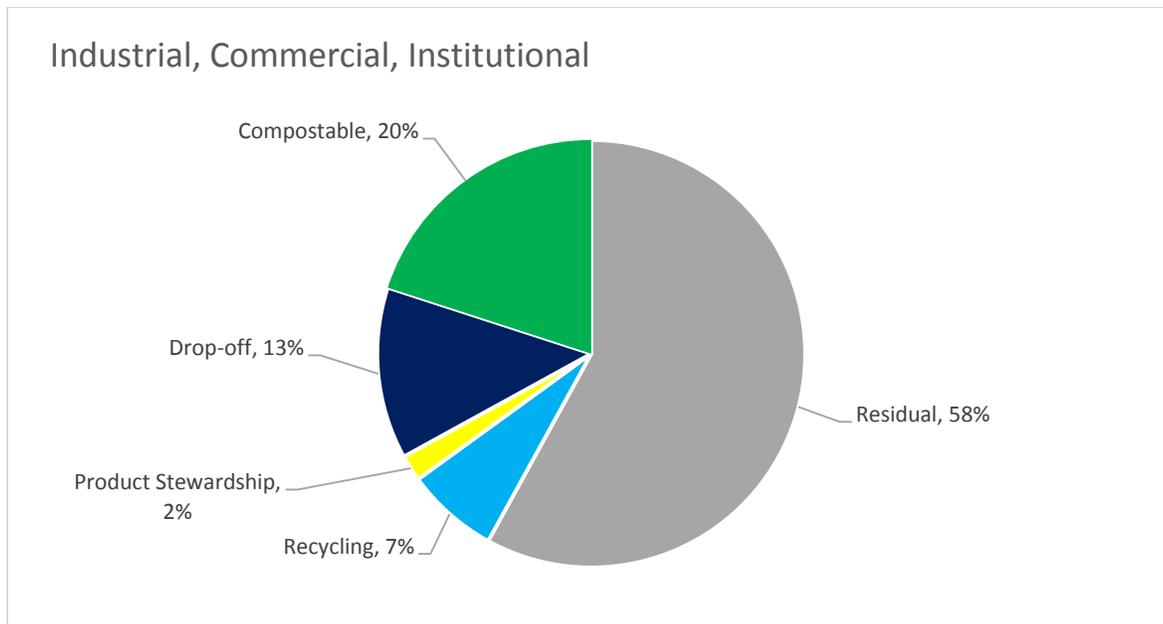
2024 Waste Composition Study Preliminary Results

The RDCO has conducted several waste composition studies over the years (2010, 2013, 2020/2021) to better understand disposal habits by sector (residential, commercial, construction and demolition and residential self-hauling). The RDCO hired Tetra Tech to complete a spring and fall 2024 waste composition study for loads arriving at the Glenmore Landfill. Preliminary results from the spring 2024 audit are provided in the below charts which illustrate the diversion potential of material currently being thrown into the waste stream (i.e. material that can be diverted either through a composting program or an existing recycling program).

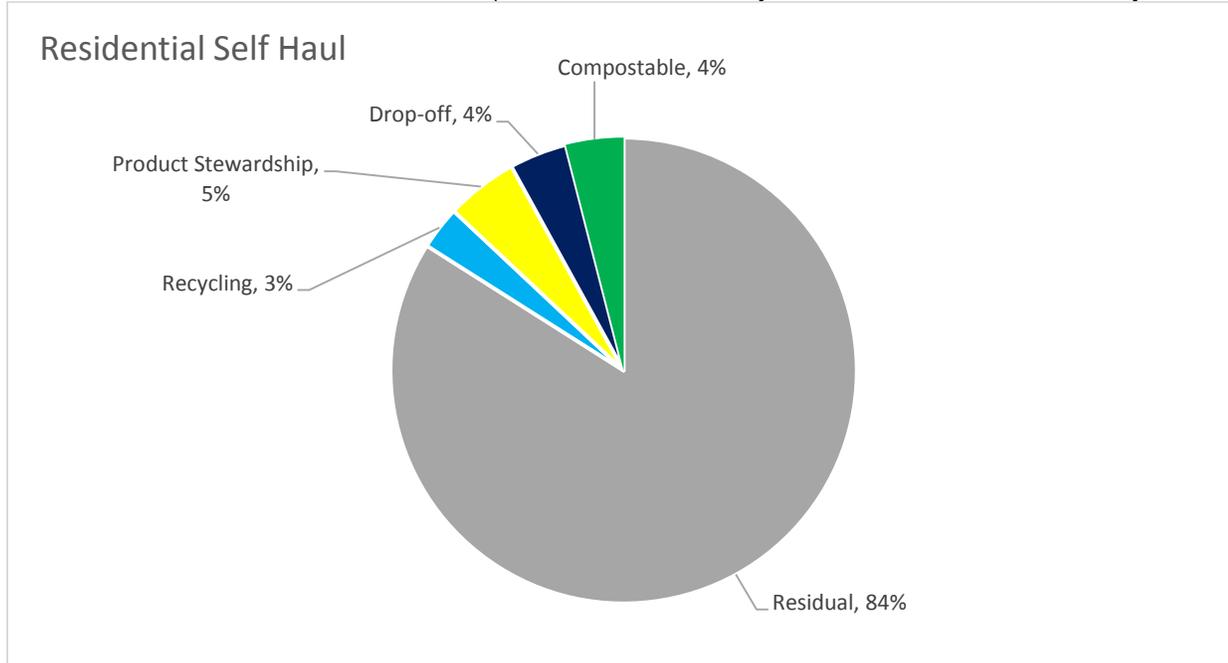
Residential Diversion Potential (Single Family Curbside)



Industrial, commercial and institutional diversion potential



Residential Self Haul Diversion Potential (material hauled directly to landfill or transfer stations by residents)



Overall, single family homes can divert 31% of their waste into existing recycling or drop off programs. Additionally, 44% of residential waste is compostable bringing the overall diversion potential to 75%. For the commercial sector, waste diversion for 22% can be re-directed as recyclables, and 20% could be diverted as compostable with an overall diversion potential of 42%.

Residential self-haul (i.e. Transfer Stations) data suggests that as previously reported in other years, Electoral Area residents and other transfer station users appear to have the best rates of composting and recycling.

Curbside Glass and Flexible Plastics Update

In British Columbia, the responsibility for managing residential paper and packaging waste falls to the producers of those materials. This is known as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Companies that produce or import residential packaging and printed paper (PPP) are responsible for the collection, recycling, and disposal of these materials once they become waste. This includes items like newspapers, cardboard, plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, flexible plastic packaging and foam packaging.

Recycle BC is the organization that helps producers meet their obligations under the Recycling Regulation of BC. Recycle BC manages the collection and recycling programs, ensuring that the materials are processed properly and efficiently. The RDCO and its member municipalities have been collecting paper and packaging on behalf of Recycle BC since 2014. This is done through curbside collection as well as operation of depots for depot only material such as glass, flexible plastics and foam packaging. Starting May 1, 2026, Recycle BC will be providing direct service to residents in the Central Okanagan.

Recycle BC has recently confirmed that starting in May 2026, the direct service they will be providing to central Okanagan residents will include the collection of glass and flexible plastics at the curb. This is an enhancement of recycling services for Okanagan residents.

The 2026 roll-out of curbside flexible plastic and glass collection, paired with the existing curbside program and the future (target 2026) food waste collection program will enable residents to divert almost 75% of their existing curbside garbage cart at curbside within the next two years.

WildsafeBC Programming

The British Columbia Conservation Foundation was founded in 1969 to promote and assist in the conservation of fish and wildlife. In 1998 the BCCF adopted a leadership role in the Bear Aware program (Now WildsafeBC) to provide programs to residents in communities across the province to reduce human and wildlife conflicts.

In 2018 and 2019, West Kelowna, Peachland and RDCO Electoral Area West (curbside homes) contributed funding to establish a WildsafeBC Coordinator on the westside of the lake. In 2020, the program was expanded for the WildsafeBC Coordinator to cover the entire region with a focus on attractant management related to curbside collection. The coordinator provides education through events and bin checks and supports overall regional efforts to reduce negative waste and wildlife interactions. This includes working with local governments to deploy signage in neighbourhoods where there is an active bear, and support with the enforcement of bylaws to protect bears and other wildlife.

The WildSafeBC Coordinator starts work in late spring and completes work by end of November. Over the years, bears have been coming out of hibernation earlier and earlier possibly warranting a year-round coordinator in the region. This would enable a coordinator to work through the winter preparing for when bears begin to enter the region in early spring.

Conclusion

The RDCO is halfway through the 10-year SWMP and has completed 17 of 24 initiatives. Another 6 initiatives are progressing well, many over 50% complete and only one initiative that is yet to be started. The RDCO is currently advancing significant regional waste diversion programs, such as curbside food

waste, curbside glass and curbside flexible plastics. If successfully implemented, these programs will significantly alter our regional waste profile, necessitating updates to the SWMP to realign priorities and address other areas of diversion potential, such as construction and demolition waste.

Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

The RDCO is required to conduct and submit to Ministry of Environment a SWMP 5-year effectiveness review by December 31, 2024.

Attachment(s): 1. Solid Waste Management Plan 5-year Effectiveness Review
 2. PowerPoint Presentation
