



Resource Recovery Plan Amendment Public Consultation Program

Overview

The RDCK is developing a Resource Recovery Plan Amendment. The process involves developing possible options and costs for managing waste in the RDCK for the next 10 years. The solid waste management planning requirements include public and stakeholder consultation to ensure the proposed programs are suitable and will meet community needs for the future. The following provides an overview of a proposed approach to public and stakeholder consultation.

Consultation Goals

- Ensure a broad range of perspectives are considered during the development of an updated regional solid waste management plan.
- Provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input into future waste management programs and services.
- Increase support for solid waste management planning and programs.
- Ensure documentation provided gives sufficient information to enable stakeholders and the public to determine how their interests may be affected.
- Promote opportunities to learn about the Plan development, and ensure that the stakeholders and the public has been given ample notice for the opportunities available to provide input.
- Proceedings and outcomes from the consultation process have been well documented and available to the stakeholders and the public, so that they are able to see how the Plan addresses their comments or issues.

Key Strategies

Board of Directors Communications

In order to keep the Board of Directors (and indirectly municipalities and electoral areas) informed on the development of the Plan, a regular committee report will be presented at all (JRRC) meetings. Each report will provide an update on the Plan's progress, outline the next steps and announce consultation events and activities.

Plan strategies for individual topic areas will also be presented to the Board of Directors at JRRC meetings throughout the Plan development.

The draft Plan will be presented to the JRRC for approval in advance of taking it out for public consultation. The results of the consultation process will also be presented to the JRRC, along with any proposed revisions to the Plan, based on the feedback received. The final version of

the Plan will require approval of JRRC before submitting the Plan to the BC Ministry of Environment.

Resource Recovery Public Advisory Committee (RRPAC)

The role of the Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee (RRPAC), required by the BC Ministry of Environment, is to make recommendations to the RDCK Board of Directors on matters involving the development and implementation of the RDCK Resource Recovery Plan. The Committee is the cornerstone of the public consultation plan and will be in place throughout the planning process.

The RRPAC is comprised of the Chair of the RDCK Board of Directors, the Chairs of the West, Central, and East Sub-region Resource Recovery Committees, RDCK Resource Recovery staff, and community members such as: government (member municipalities and First Nations), waste and waste diversion service providers, environmental organizations, community interest groups (business associations, school districts), waste producers and interested individuals from across the regional district.

Committee members meet regularly to review options prepared by staff and consultants and provide input on which options are most likely to succeed, as well as to provide suggestions and feedback on public and stakeholder consultation approaches.

The RRPAC will meet at key points during the development of the Plan to review documentation such as reports, scenarios and strategies, after these documents have been discussed by the Board of Directors at JRRC meetings.

Notification to Interested Parties

A letter was sent to all known stakeholders across the RDCK to inform them that the Plan amendment process has begun. Stakeholders as identified in the Ministry of Environment Solid Waste Management Planning guideline include: provincial agencies, neighbouring regional districts, member municipalities, First Nations, solid waste management facilities, contractors and haulers, product stewardship groups, large waste generators, environmental organizations and community organizations.

In the letter, stakeholders were informed of the key themes of the Plan, opportunities for input, projected timeline, and an invitation to join the RRPAC.

Municipality / Hauler Questionnaire

A questionnaire was circulated to municipalities and haulers as a first step of the Plan development to obtain a greater understanding of the current status of solid waste management, specifically collection services, in the regional district. Questions around current waste and recycling collection practices, special programs, and interest in organics collection were asked. The findings will help inform the direction of the Plan with respect to identifying opportunities for improvement in the system and determining the existing barriers.

Stakeholder Workshops and Follow Up Consultation

Stakeholder workshops are planned in the development of the organics strategy and the Industrial Commercial Institutional (ICI) recycling strategy. The workshops will consist of three

facilitated meetings to get input from individuals and organizations that will ultimately be key to the successful implementation of the strategy. At these meetings, the objectives of the strategies and successful experiences in other jurisdictions will be presented. More importantly, the stakeholders will be engaged in discussions that will identify what they see as potential barriers and specific opportunities for success.

The following stakeholder meetings are planned:

1. Municipal/First Nation waste managers and/or administrators.
2. Waste haulers and Major ICI waste generators (e.g. colleges, school districts, hospitals, resorts, grocers, food/beverage manufacturers).
3. Small scale solution providers (local businesses, individuals and organizations with an interest in providing small-scale organic waste diversion solutions).

Follow up meetings may occur with specific stakeholder groups during the development of the Plan strategies, with the aim to obtain options for a specific industry, to further develop concepts which will form the Plan, and to explore barriers to success.

Public Communications

Website

To ensure a transparent planning process, good access to information and an opportunity for continual dialogue with the community, a webpage will be used to make planning resources available to the public on an on-going basis. A dedicated webpage will be made on the RDCK's website and will include:

- Reports and the draft Plan (e.g. strategy reports on topic areas)
- RRPAC minutes and presentations
- A "tell us what you think" link to a dedicated email address
- Information on consultation events and other opportunities for input

Community Survey

An initial community survey is planned to help gauge people's satisfaction with current waste management practices and identify what options they would like to see in the future. The survey will be launched at the same time as release of the Resource Recovery Status Report, so that the public can familiarize themselves with existing services. The information from the survey will be used to help identify resource recovery options to be considered. Additionally, the survey is an opportunity to inform the community of the launch of the planning process. The survey will be made available online and in hard copy by request.

In order to gain an understanding of the communities' needs and wants, it would be important to use a variety of tools to increase awareness about the survey. These include:

- A media release that announces the planning process, the website and the survey;
- A significant draw prize to increase participation, for example the prize could be the choice of a composter, or a \$50 gift certificate to a favourite local restaurant;
- Use of social media; and
- Highlight and link to the survey on the RDCK's home page.

Organics Workshop

Three public meetings (one in each Sub-region) are planned in the development of the organics strategy, after the stakeholder meetings have been held, and after potential scenarios have been presented to the JRRC. At these meetings, potential scenarios will be presented and successful experiences in other jurisdictions will be presented. The workshops will serve to give adequate notice of the scenarios that have been proposed with background opportunity, and present an opportunity to obtain meaningful input from the public on the potential scenarios before they are drafted into the form of a strategy.

Ongoing Promotion

Effective promotion of the opportunities for public input and the Plan contents is key to obtaining adequate public participation. It is important to use a variety of tools to increase awareness and encourage people to participate. Tools used will include:

- Website and Facebook page updates and link to online survey, etc.
- Email distribution to stakeholders outlining opportunities for input and updates on process
- Distribution of hard copies of newsletters / posters to key locations to promote consultation opportunities, as well as to provide information on the process and how to provide feedback
- Newspaper and radio advertising of the community survey and draft Plan review
- Media releases to all media (radio, newspaper, websites) to increase interviews and media coverage
- Collaboration with other RDCK services to include display materials for public meetings and events. Include offer to sign up for email project updates.
- Promotion at special events (e.g. Household Hazardous Waste events)
- Signage at landfill and transfer station facilities

Draft Plan Public and Stakeholder Consultation

Consultation with the public and stakeholders when the draft Plan has been developed is intended to provide an opportunity for people to review the draft Plan and provide their feedback on the proposed options. Obtaining and considering public and stakeholder feedback ensures that the final version of the Plan is broadly accepted.

The stakeholder and public consultation activities for the draft Plan should be tailored to the content of the draft Plan, such as who is affected, how controversial are the proposed actions, and what the financial implications are.

The details of the draft Plan stakeholder and public consultation process will be drafted when the strategy development phase is nearing completion.