



**Noba Anderson, Director
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Dear Fellow Solid Waste Management Board of Directors
May 29th, 2018

On March 8th, this board received a 2017 Waste Composition Report which revealed that Cortes Island had the highest organics component in the waste stream of any other community in the region. I have since been thinking on this and speaking with community members and included the article to the right in my most recent Regional Director newsletter.

If this waste audit is reflective of reality (which I still struggle to believe, but must be) then we truly need to look at measures to remove organics from the Cortes waste stream. There may be creative options for local composting of the material and the SRD may be able to expand its curb-side collection program to include organics pick-up.

I would be most grateful if staff could take a further look at this situation and return to the board with a report including options for Cortes organics diversion. In speaking with our CAO, I understand that staff would like to undertake this work and would appreciate the board's support to do so. To that end, I would respectfully request that the board pass the following resolution.

THAT, following up on the 2017 Waste Composition Report, staff be directed to investigate ways to divert compost from the Cortes waste stream, and bring back a report for the board's consideration.

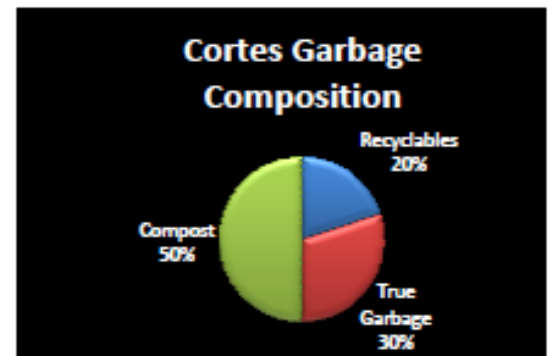
Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Noba Anderson, Regional Director

Really Cortes?!?!

Are we an eco-minded, garden-loving community?



"Human society sustains itself by transforming nature into garbage."

Mason Cooley

I was SHOCKED to learn that we on Cortes throw more organics in the trash that any other community in the whole Comox-Strathcona region! 50% of our trash is organic! What?! Only 30% of our garbage was actually trash while the remaining 20% was recyclable. The compost and recyclables portion of Cortes trash was higher than any other audited community! And this was in September and October 2017, not peak summer, so we can't blame the tourists...

That is, if you believe a trash audit conducted by the Regional District Solid Waste Service...

Cumberland takes the gold star with only 12% recyclables and 10% compost in their waste stream.

For the regional waste composition report [click here](#)
So... now what? You tell me.

**More education? Personal garbage audits?
Compost collection? Theatre of the absurd?
Leave it alone – it's all good? Uh...?**