

DATE: September 01, 2020

FILE: 5360-20/Gold River

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board

Supported by Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

R. Dyson

**RE: Comox Strathcona Waste Management removal of non-recycling bins –
Gold River**

Purpose

To recommend the removal of two non-Recycle BC bins in the Village of Gold River (the Village), located at the Village's arena and Shell gas station, on Muchalat Drive.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

THAT the Comox Strathcona Waste Management non-Recycle BC bins located within the Village of Gold River be removed, effective October 31, 2020.

Executive Summary

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board (Board) considered the [CSWM depot update](#) staff report on November 14, 2019, that recommended the removal of unstaffed, non-Recycle BC bins in Campbell River and the Comox Valley. The service operates two CSWM non-recycle BC bins located in the Village which were not included in the November report for consideration. It is now the recommendation of staff to have these bins removed in order to maintain consistency across the service.

The Village transfer station has a full service Recycle BC depot open from 10:00 am to 2:45 pm Wednesday to Sunday.

Key benefits of the Recycle BC program include:

- Full producer responsibility program for the collection of residential packaging and paper.
- Recycle BC depots collect additional acceptable materials that are not offered at non-Recycle BC bins including glass, foam packaging, film and flexible packaging.
- The program is a rigorous processes demanding verified results, commitments to transparency, and a steadfast focus on environmental outcomes.
- The benefit to the service is that the program covers all the processing and transportation costs from the depot.
- The service receives financial incentives for all of the material collected at the depot opposed to having to pay a tipping fee to process the material collected at the non-Recycle BC bins.

The main challenges of these two non-Recycle BC bins are:

- High levels of contamination (approximately 18 per cent compared to 3.5 per cent for our Recycle BC depots) due to no attendant being present to control the product, and the bins being open and accessible to the public 24/7.
- A shifting global market for recyclables, resulting in challenges and lack of transparency to determine if materials outside of the Recycle BC stream are being recycled in a responsible or ethical manner (CBC Marketplace investigation).
- The condition and use of these bins are not reflective of CSWM standards and are not consistent with services offered in other communities.

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Background/Current Situation

The CSWM service operates two unstaffed, non-Recycle BC bins in conjunction with the Village for the collection of cardboard, paper, plastic containers, glass and metal cans. The bins are located at the Village's arena and Shell Gas Station on Muchalat Drive. Both areas are accessible twenty four hours per day, seven days per week. The bins collect approximately seventy tonnes of material annually. The material is highly contaminated much like the other unstaffed bins provided by the service.

The service provides a full Recycle BC depot less than 1.5 kilometers to either of the current two bin locations within the Village and utilization of the Recycle BC program by residents is the recommended means to recycle. The recycling markets are challenging and Recycle BC program has been able to secure end markets for materials collected when others cannot. The Village transfer station is a designated Recycle BC depot opened five days per week. The transfer station offers other product stewardship recycling options for residents including paint, oil, batteries and household appliances.

Recycle BC was created as an incentive based extended producer responsibility program to encourage diversion and support recycling service delivery. The more Recycle BC achieves diversion targets within depot systems already in place, the more efficient the program will be and the more incentives available to go back into the recycling programs.

Recycle BC also audits the chain of custody to ensure materials handled within the stewardship program are recycled as intended. Materials collected from the non-Recycle BC bins do not include a chain of custody to guarantee the material is recycled. A shifting global market for recyclables, resulting in challenges and lack of transparency to determine if materials outside of the Recycle BC stream, are actually being recycled in a responsible or ethical manner ([CBC Marketplace investigation](#)) and not landfilled in a developing country.

Options

The Board has the following options:

1. Status quo – continue to operate the two non-Recycle BC bins as is;
2. Close the CSWM bins located at the Village's arena and Shell gas station, on Muchalat Drive.

The recommendation to close the two non-Recycle BC bins has not been taken lightly and staff understand the importance the Board has put on providing the opportunity to conveniently recycle. The changing markets for recycling have impacted the importance of clean products. As such, option 2 is recommended.

Financial Factors

The operational costs to operate the non-Recycle BC bins including the tipping fee and transportation is approximately \$31,000 per year. The material collected at these bins cannot be placed with the Recycle BC material, therefore the service receives no incentives for this material and is currently paying \$16,000 in tipping fees to process the recyclables.

Intergovernmental Factors

CSWM staff will work closely with the Village to ensure residents are aware of the closures and their alternatives for recycling.

Citizen/Public Relations

Communication including signage and local advertisements will be posted at the two non-Recycle BC bins in advance to advise residents depots are closing. The communication will include information on the benefits of using the Recycle BC depot for their recycling. By using these programs residents ensure that their material is actually recycled and will therefore be diverting a larger volume of material than if continuing to use CSWM two non-Recycle BC bin areas.