

**DATE:** March 2, 2021

**FILE:** 5360-04

**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: Year-end Review of the Comox Strathcona Waste Management Illegal  
Dumping Prevention Program**

### **Purpose**

To provide an update to the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board on progress and data collected for the CSWM Illegal Dumping Prevention Program (Program).

### **Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:**

This report is presented for information only.

### **Executive Summary**

The Program is based on education and enforcement and is focused on being proactive, increasing the risk to offenders and reducing the reasons and excuses for illegal dumping. We continue to work with lessons learned to reduce the amount of illegal dumping across the service area.

This report covers the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 and provides comparisons with previous years.

The following points were noted:

- Data shows that the program is working across the CSWM area with a slight decrease in sites being found due to increased online and word of mouth communications and effective advertising on how to properly dispose of items.
- On average, staff receive seven reports of sites found per month. In 2020, 58 reports were within regional district areas and 34 reports were within municipalities.
- Data indicates over half of dump sites contain items that would be free to dispose of, or recycle.

Prepared by:

***M. Dinesen***

Michael Dinesen  
Bylaw Compliance Officer

Concurrence:

***A. Yasinski***

Amanda Yasinski  
Manager of Bylaw  
Compliance

Concurrence:

***M. Rutten***

Marc Rutten, P.Eng.  
General Manager  
Engineering Services

**Government Partners and Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)**

Member municipalities and Strathcona Regional District (via CSWM advisory committee)	✓
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**Background/Current Situation**

The CSWM Program was launched on April 24, 2017. An extensive database documents any reported illegal dump sites. To date, 386 reports have been entered from across the CSWM service area.

Community clean ups were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, however many residents conducted their own clean ups and the number of waiver requests was consistent. There was no identified spike in illegal dumping noted due to reduced access to facilities as a result of COVID-19 restrictions.

**Policy Analysis**

At the January 9, 2017 meeting, the CSWM Board approved the Program and on June 8, 2017, Bylaw No. 470 being “Comox Strathcona Waste Management Illegal Dumping Regulation Bylaw No. 470, 2017” a bylaw to regulate illegal dumping of waste throughout the CSWM service area was adopted.

**Financial Factors**

The Program is a component of the CSWM Financial Plan and operations. The program includes a communications plan promoting awareness of illegal dumping and opportunities for the public to provide insight.

The 2021 budget for tipping fee waivers, signs and materials is \$22,000. This does not include education or communications expenses. The costs for new signage and communications expenses, legal and office expenses were within the budgeted amount for 2020. Staff will continue to monitor the budget and adjust it as required. The use of volunteers to collect and deliver waste to the landfill maximizes the available budget. Rather than spending money on labour and trucking, the service can focus on waiving fees, which maximizes the amount of material we can remove from the environment.

**Legal Factors**

No legal changes are proposed for the illegal dumping program in 2021.

**Regional Growth Strategy Implications**

The Program works towards achieving many of the goals set out in the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) Regional Growth Strategy, including those associated with the environment and ecosystems, public infrastructure and public health.

**Intergovernmental Factors**

Regular discussions are held with municipal partners in both the CVRD and Strathcona Regional District (SRD) under the Program. The CSWM service continues to offer support and guidance for implementing the Program and administering the regulations and ticketing bylaws.

**Interdepartmental Involvement**

CSWM works closely with bylaw compliance to administer and enforce the Program. The ability to issue municipal ticket information (MTI) and warnings as an enforcement tool has been effective and to date there has been no repeat offenders. However, the MTI system does have challenges with the need to locate and personally serve tickets. The CVRD is also currently taking steps to introduce an alternative ticketing system which will allow for the use of bylaw notices to reduce costs and time, avoid unnecessary attendance of witnesses if the matter is disputed and eliminate the requirement for personal service of tickets.

**Citizen/Public Relations**

In 2020 staff did not note any editorials in local media regarding illegal dumping, however, bylaw staff conducted a radio/TV interview to answer questions regarding potential spikes in illegal dumping due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A review of the Program was conducted with communications staff which confirms that the messaging has been successful. Outlines that depict the actual costs to dispose of items has been promoted on the CSWM website as well as ways to dispose of items for free. Despite the increase in fees for the mattress diversion program, the service has not noted an increase in mattresses being illegally dumped.

Co-ordination with forestry companies has continued with sharing of information to assist us by documenting, reporting and cleaning sites found. Volunteer groups and ATV clubs promote the program on Facebook pages which often leads to suspected dumpers.

Amount of waste removed and jurisdictions affected

The areas most identified by illegal dumping based on complaints in 2020 were CVRD Area C, followed in order by City of Courtenay, SRD Area D and City of Campbell River.

Across the CSWM, there were 105 reports of illegal dump sites in 2018, 94 reports in 2019 and 92 reports in 2020. (Appendix A)

The amount of illegally dumped waste collected and properly disposed of from the service area during this reporting period was 23,190 kg (23.2 tonnes for a total of \$3,027.00 in waived tipping fees) in comparison to 2019 when data showed 28,880 kg (28.9 tonnes for a total of \$3,687.23 in waived tipping fees) removed from the environment. This represents a decrease of illegally dumped material.

It should be noted that approximately 57 per cent of sites contain free and/or recyclable items. Items not recycled are a lost commodity and are potential environmental hazards, as some electronics contain hazardous wastes such as mercury and lead. Using volunteers to collect illegally dumped material ensures that recyclables are separated and properly recycled.

Reports received and actions taken

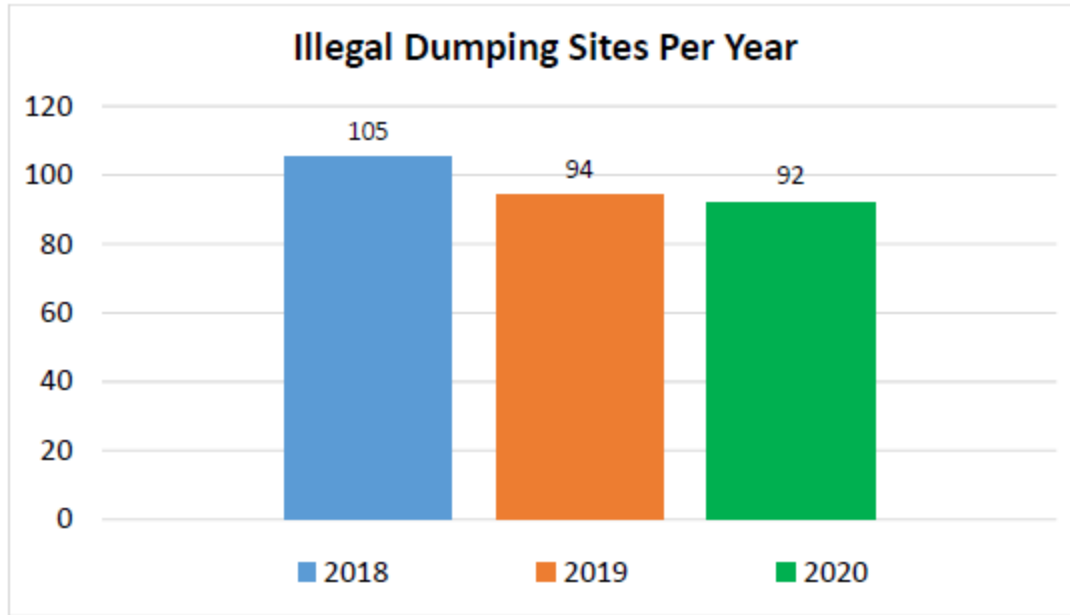
During this reporting period, there was 92 new complaints of illegal dumping reported to the CSWM. These reports generated investigations resulting in one MTI being issued and six warnings which equates to 13 per cent of sites having information traced to someone.

The locations of dumping sites and types of material being dumped are attached to this report in Appendix B. The types of materials being found has not changed significantly, however, a reduction in the reports of large sites containing construction waste was noted indicating that companies previously involved in this activity are aware of the proactive approach to enforcement.

The use and placement of warning signs has been effective in generating witness information and spreading the word (Appendix C).

Attachments: Appendix A – “2018-2020 reports to CSWM”  
Appendix B – “Illegal dumping location and materials”  
Appendix C – “Signage”

## Appendix A

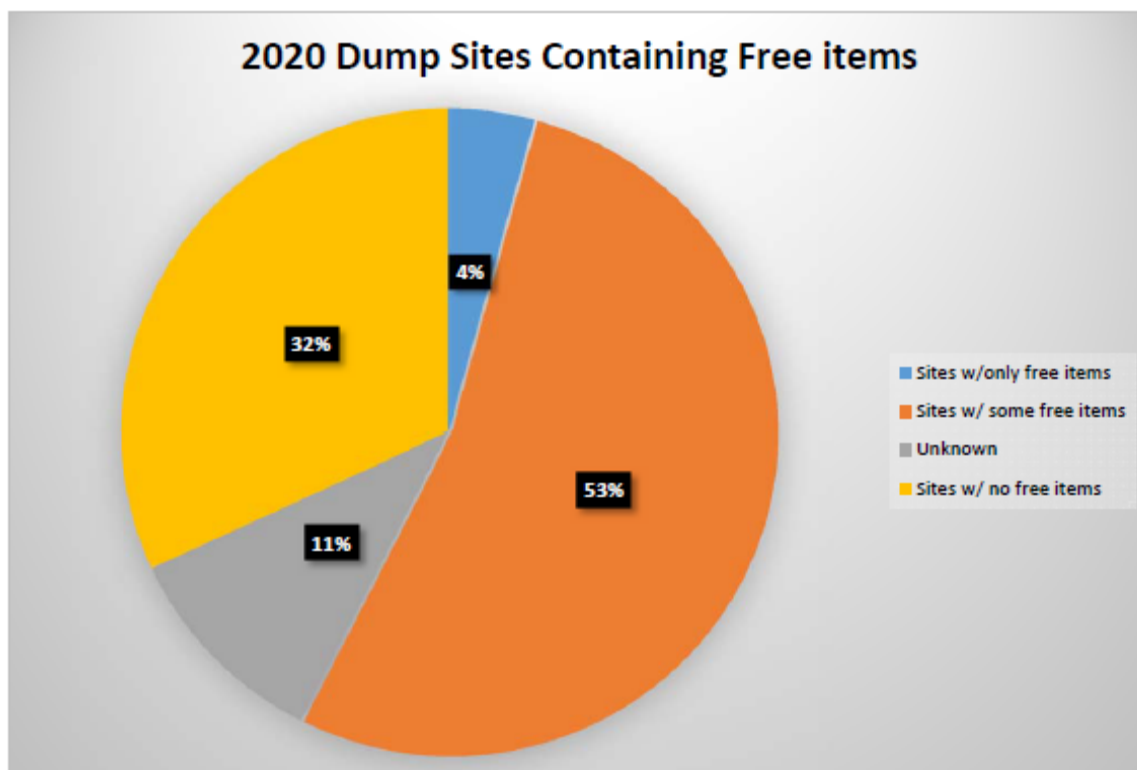
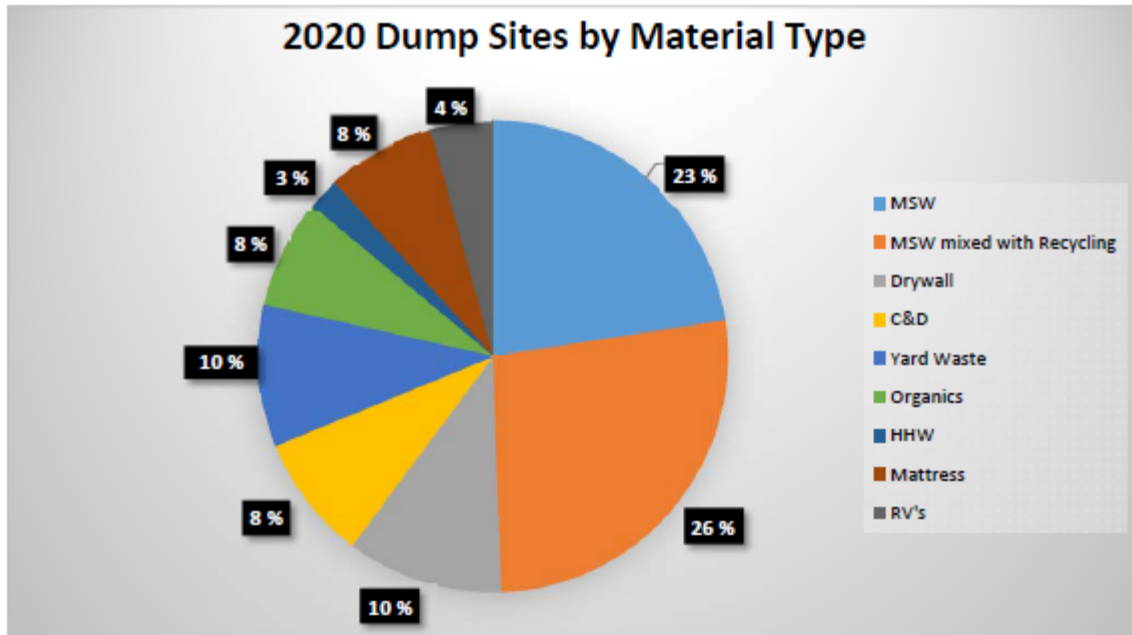


## Appendix B

2020 Illegal Dumping Site Location Reported	No. of reports	% of reports within the CSWM	2019 (in comparison)	No. of reports
City of Courtenay	14	15%	Courtenay	10
CVRD	40	44%	CVRD	31
SRD	18	20%	SRD	21
Town of Comox	2	1%	Comox	2
City of Campbell River	11	12%	Campbell River	19
Village of Cumberland	7	8%	Cumberland	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

2020 Illegal Dumping Reports		
CVRD Area A	9	10%
CVRD Area B	11	12%
CVRD Area C	20	22%
SRD Area A	5	5%
SRD Area C	1 (Quadra Island)	1%
SRD Area D	12	13%
City of Courtenay	14	15%
Town of Comox	2	2%
City of Campbell River	11	12%
Village of Cumberland	7	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Appendix B



Appendix C

**ILLEGALLY  
DUMPED  
MATERIAL**



**\$500 FINE**

**TO REPORT VIOLATORS**  
**[cswm.ca/illegal dumping](http://cswm.ca/illegal dumping)**  
**CALL 1-800-331-6007**  
**or 250-334-6016**

  
**Comox Strathcona  
Waste Management**

CSWM BYLAW NO. 470