

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION  
Solid Waste Management Plan  
June 20, 2019**

**TOPIC**

- The Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is considered the strategic plan for the Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Service and provides the long term vision and policy for waste management activities.
- The 2012 SWMP addressed providing full service solid waste management to the entire region, with a focus on recycling and diversion and on meeting the current regulations and guidelines for waste management in BC.
- The SWMP is considered the social license for projects and initiatives within the service area and provides the ascent for long term borrowing requirements.

**BACKGROUND**

The CSWM service has been diligent in constructing new infrastructure that meets *Environmental Management Act*, including closing historical landfills, gas collection and flaring, a new engineered lined cell and leachate treatment facility at the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre. As we move forward, we continue to address the remaining historical landfill closures, increase recycling rates and achieve a regional organics facility to reach the SWMP desired goals and objectives.

Links - [Comox Strathcona Waste Management – History & Overview - staff report 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan](#)

**KEY POINTS**

- The plan was updated in 2012.
- The MoE recommends that regional districts update their SWMP every 10 years, to ensure the document changes and grows with the needs of the community.
- Implementation of the waste minimization components of the Plan presented are to achieve a waste diversion rate of over 70%, primarily through:
  - Increasing access to recycling at multi-family buildings;
  - Increasing the amount of waste recycled by industrial, commercial and institutional activities; and
  - Increasing diversion of organic waste, with a focus on diversion of food waste.
- The effectiveness review was completed in 2018 and the plan continues to be implemented with a focus on:
  - Closure of CSWM landfills in compliance with MoE requirements;
  - Increased diversion of organic waste;
  - Continued optimization and development of recycling programs to achieve 70 per cent diversion or greater;
  - Investigation of increased environmental controls; and
  - Further monitoring of Waste to Energy technologies.
- A SWMP update would occur in 2022; the budget is currently \$530,000. First Nation and stakeholder consultation over a vast area contributes significant costs.

Comox Strathcona Waste Management manages over 100,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees a number of diversion and education programs for the Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts.