Comox Strathcona Waste Management

Memo

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
Waste Composition Studies
June 20, 2019

TOPIC

- Waste composition studies are a tool used by solid waste professionals to quantify materials being disposed of in the waste stream.
- Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Board of Directors and staff rely on information provided in these studies to make decisions regarding solid waste policy development and program performance.
- Understanding how these studies are completed and how to interpret the results will benefit the CSWM Service for determining policy, bylaws and services levels moving forward.

BACKGROUND

A waste composition study was completed on materials destined for the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre and the Campbell River Waste Management Centre over two weeks in 2017. Results from that study were presented at the March 8, 2018, CSWM Board meeting.

2017 CSWM Waste Composition Study – Staff Report and Final Report from AET Group Inc.
2017 CSWM Waste Composition Study - link to reports

KEY POINTS

- Our 2012 Solid Waste Management Plan indicated that waste composition studies would be an indication of how successful our diversion programs and policies were, and indicate where enhancements can be made.
- The 2017 CSWM study was the first one ever completed by the service, and will form the baseline by which we measure future regional diversion initiatives.
- Examples of significant program changes that would be measurable in a regional study are:
  - Regional composting facility for curbside and ICI organics;
  - Policy changes to encourage construction and demolition material reuse and sorting in the private sector; and
  - Introduction of new extended producer responsibility programs for ICI packaging or textiles.
- The composition of our waste at a regional level is important to know to assist companies evaluating the energy potential available in the waste stream in order to assess the viability of energy from waste projects.
- Waste composition studies have statistical limitations in their use and caution should be used when "drilling down" into the data by geography, or material stream.