

DATE: May 16, 2019

FILE: 5360-04

TO: Chair and Directors
Comox Strathcona Waste Management
Board

FROM: Russell Dyson
Chief Administrative Officer

Supported by 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.

Recommendation from the Chief Administrative Officer:

None. This report is presented for information only.

Executive Summary

The CSWM Illegal Dumping Prevention 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 improve cooperation with other stakeholders, working to lessen the amount of illegal dumping across the service area.

This report covers the period April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 and provides comparisons with year one of the program.

The following are highlights noted from the program:

- We moved into the implementation of the second phase of the media campaign which focused on Strathcona Regional District (SRD), including the Campbell River area, showing improvements in coordinating and getting the message out;
- Data shows that the program is working across the CSWM areas with less sites located and increased online and word of mouth communications;
- The program has garnered interest from other regional districts such as qathet Regional District who is struggling with ideas on how to reduce and enforce in their area and requested feedback on how the CSWM program was developed;
- Coordination with forestry companies has continued to improve. Major companies have internal policies and procedures in place to assist us by documenting, reporting and cleaning sites found. Forestry companies have also bermed in some areas and posted notice of cameras;
- CSWM staff are assisting our smaller communities by advising on enforcement actions, issuing warning letters to suspected dumpers, continuing regular visits in

conjunction with CSWM solid waste staff to recycling and landfill operations and planning community clean up events (Appendix A);

- The data collected since the launch is extensive and now gives us a clear picture of the entire service area;
- Enforcement has been effective with numerous Municipal Ticket Information (MTI) (tickets) and warnings issued. To date, there has been no repeat offenders;
- Community clean ups in conjunction with Earth Week 2019 were organized for areas including Goose Spit, Quadra Island, Gold River and forest areas managed by Island Timberlands and Timberwest; and
- Volunteer groups and ATV clubs regularly promote the program on Facebook pages and discuss issues they see which often leads to suspected dumpers.

The program has also identified some issues:

- Even though we have a good working relationship with forestry companies, problems continue in areas such as McNaughton Creek Forestry Road and Duncan Bay Main off Strathcona Parkway, due to easy access and remoteness;
- The CSWM Service Area is vast, with many locations for potential illegal dumping. The McNaughton Forestry area is an example of leakage from the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) as items found routinely suggest this is a historic dump site for Bowser area residents;
- Community discussions often talk about illegal dumping being an issue related to a lack of curbside garbage pick-up in rural areas and increased tipping fees. These comments persist even though dumping occurs in areas where there is no tipping fee, residents with curbside pickup have been caught dumping, statically drywall dumping has not increased even though the costs to dispose has doubled since the diversion program started and mattresses being dumped has not decreased, even with fee changes and mattresses now being a recyclable item; and
- We are fortunate and remain dependent on volunteers for cleanup services which is a significant cost saving however directly linked to volunteers being available and remaining interested. There is a risk to the success of the program should the availability of volunteers diminish over time. Although the service continues to receive offers of assistance from residents and businesses that want to provide assistance.

Prepared by:

M. Dinesen

Michael Dinesen
Bylaw Compliance Officer

Concurrence:

A. Yasinski

Amanda Yasinski
Manager of Bylaw
Compliance

Concurrence:

S. Smith

Scott Smith
General Manager of
Planning and Development

Stakeholder Distribution (Upon Agenda Publication)

Member municipalities and Strathcona Regional District (via CSWM Advisory Committee)	
--	--

Background/Current Situation

The CSWM Illegal Dumping Prevention Program was launched on April 24, 2017.

Policy Analysis

At the January 9, 2017 meeting, the CSWM Board approved the CSWM Illegal Dumping Prevention 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 illegal dumping 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. Two videos that provide information about illegal dumping and ways to stop illegal dumping were created as well as significant cost savings realized through the partnership between CSWM and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC).

The 2019 budget for tipping fee waivers, education/communication, material development, and legal and office expenses is \$59,000. The costs for new signage and communications expenses, legal and office expenses were within the budgeted amount for 2018.

Legal Factors

No legal changes are proposed for the illegal dumping program in 2019.

Intergovernmental Factors

Regular discussions are held with municipal partners in both the CVRD and SRD, under the illegal dumping program. The CSWM service continues to offer support and guidance for implementing the program and administering the regulations and ticketing bylaws. Recently staff have begun assisting with remote community illegal dumping cleanups.

Interdepartmental Involvement

CSWM works closely with bylaw compliance to administer the illegal dumping program.

Citizen/Public Relations

Comments often received suggest that lower tipping and access fees at the waste management centres could significantly reduce illegal dumping. Editorials in local media since the launch have also highlighted this issue. Appendix B provides examples from the initial launch in 2017 and another commentary in 2019.

A review of the program was conducted with communications staff and confirms that the messaging has been successful especially with increased reporting in areas outside of the CVRD. The plan is to enhance the promotion of the actual costs of disposal of items being found dumped through our website as well as ways to dispose of items for free. In addition, more connection with online links to smaller community Facebook pages will be utilized to get the message out.

Amount of waste removed and jurisdictions affected

The areas most identified by illegal dumping based on complaints in year two were CVRD Area C, followed in order by City of Campbell River, CVRD Area A and City of Courtenay. In year one, the areas most noted for reported dump sites were CVRD Area C, Village of Cumberland and CVRD Area A. Access to remote timber company properties and location of landfills continue to be identified problem locations however there has been a shift of reports within municipalities.

We have seen increased reporting of illegal dumping from year one of the program within municipalities and across the SRD as the program has become more widely known through advertising, online chatter and word of mouth. We have also seen a decrease in reporting in the CVRD and Village of Cumberland areas since the initial start-up of the campaign. The following percentages are related to the occurrence of illegal dumping reports in each area:

- City of Campbell River – increased 83 per cent
- City of Courtenay – reports increased 60 per cent
- SRD (across all electoral areas) – increased 58 per cent
- CVRD (across all electoral areas) – decreased 18 per cent
- Village of Cumberland – decreased 69 per cent

The amount of illegally dumped waste removed from the service area during this reporting period was 21,530 kg (21.5 tonnes for a total of \$2,832.58 in waived tipping fees) in comparison to year one when data showed 64,400 kg (64.4 tonnes for a total of \$8,294.43 in waived tipping fees) removed. This represents less waste being dumped in the service area in year two of the program.

It should be noted that approximately 55 per cent of sites contain free and recyclable items. Items not recycled are a lost commodity. Using volunteers to collect illegally dumped material ensures that it is separated and recycled when possible.

Reports received and actions taken

During this reporting period, there was 107 new complaints of illegal dumping reported to the CSWM. These reports generated investigations resulting in three MTI tickets being issued and 10 warnings which equates to 12 per cent of sites having information which could be traced to someone.

In year one of the program, there were 125 new reports, three MTIs and 12 warnings. We have seen a decrease in reported sites while remaining on par with ticketing/warnings. To date no MTIs issued have been challenged in court.

The locations of dumping sites and types of material being dumped are attached to this report at Appendix C. The types of materials being found has not changed significantly.

The use and placement of temporary warning signs has been effective in generating witness information and spreading the word. We have redesigned the signage to put more emphasis on potential fines and to be more visible (Appendix D)

Attachments: Appendix A – Example of organized community clean ups
Appendix B – Illegal dumping in the media
Appendix C – Illegal dumping data – location and materials
Appendix D – Temporary signage



ILLEGAL DUMPSITE AND VILLAGE CLEAN-UP



SATURDAY, MAY 4 10:00 AM



MEET AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

This years Gold River Pitch in will include a clean up of several reported illegal dumping sites.

Gloves, pickers, garbage bags, etc will be provided.

We need volunteers with trucks for clean up at the illegal dumping sites. All material must be sorted at the site then taken to the depot & weighed. Lists of acceptable material will be provided at the meeting area. There will be no tipping fees on any material collected.

The village clean-up will follow the same format as previous years.

Choose your street/route, grab your gloves/bags and start picking.

FRIDAY, MAY 3



STEPHANIE VALDAL, SERVICES COORDINATOR
COMOX WASTE MANAGEMENT WILL BE DOWN
AT THE DROP-OFF DEPOT AT 10:00 AM FOR A
FEW HOURS TO LISTEN TO ANY CONCERNS OR
ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING SOLID WASTE
AND RECYCLING. COME OUT AND HAVE A CHAT.



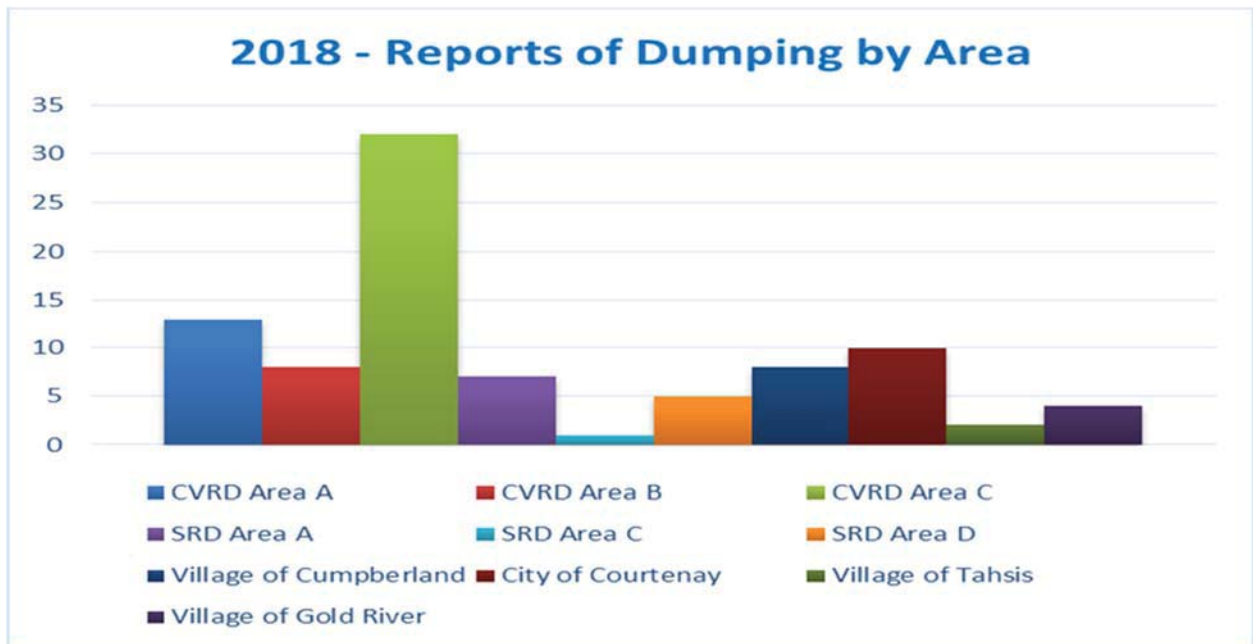
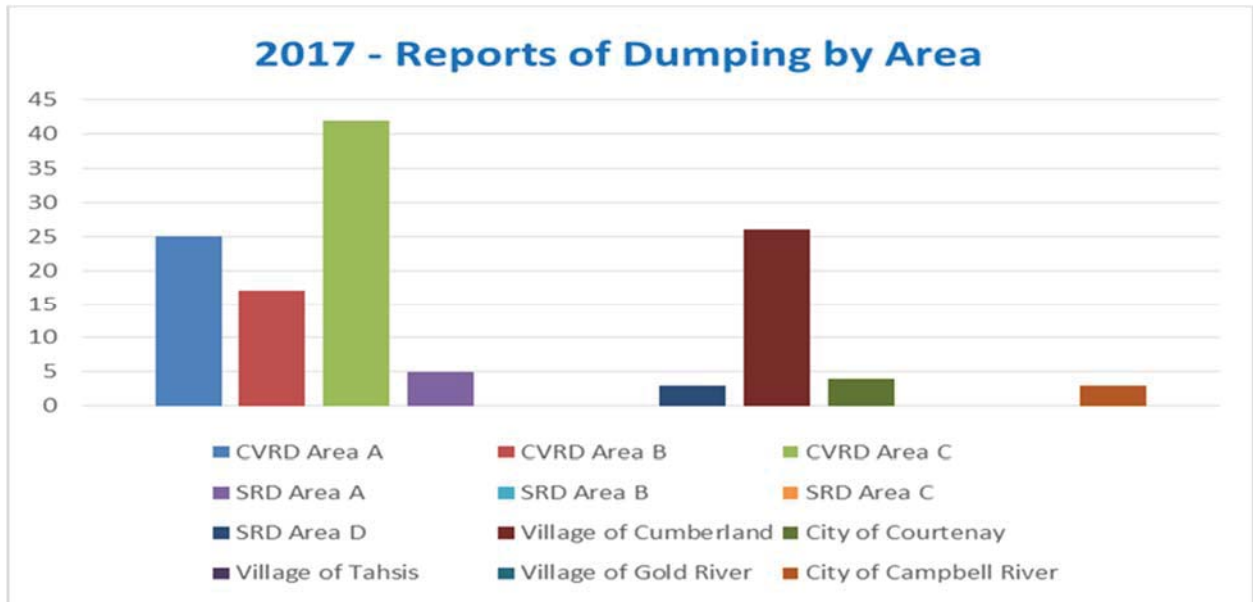
Come on out and take pride in our community

To register (trucks only) please call Jan @ 250-283-2251



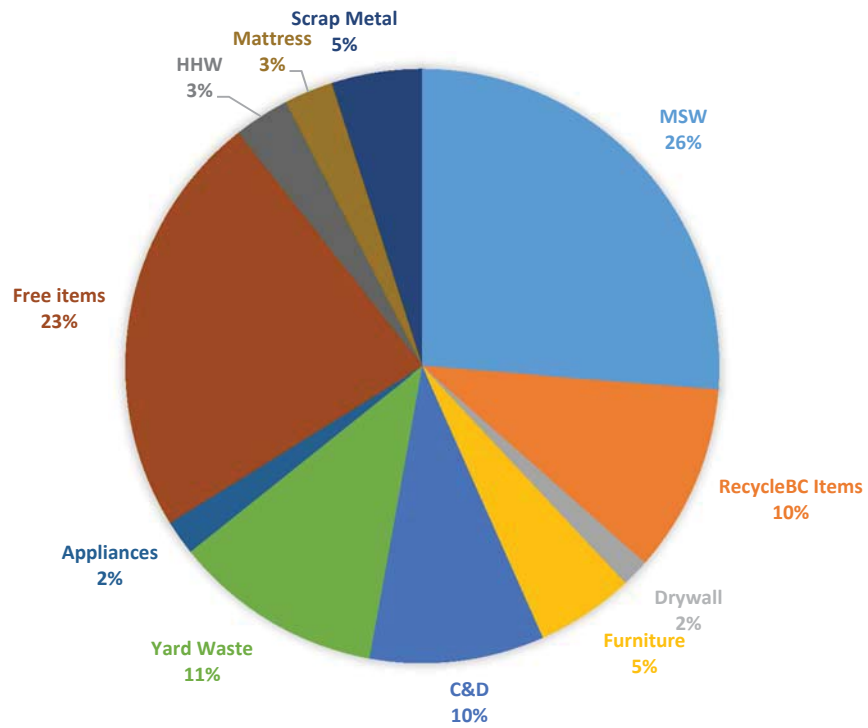
Comox Valley Record, March 14, 2019 by Black Press - Issue
<https://issuu.com/blackpress/docs/20190314041040969/10?r>
2019-03-15 8:34 AM - Screen Clipping

Appendix C

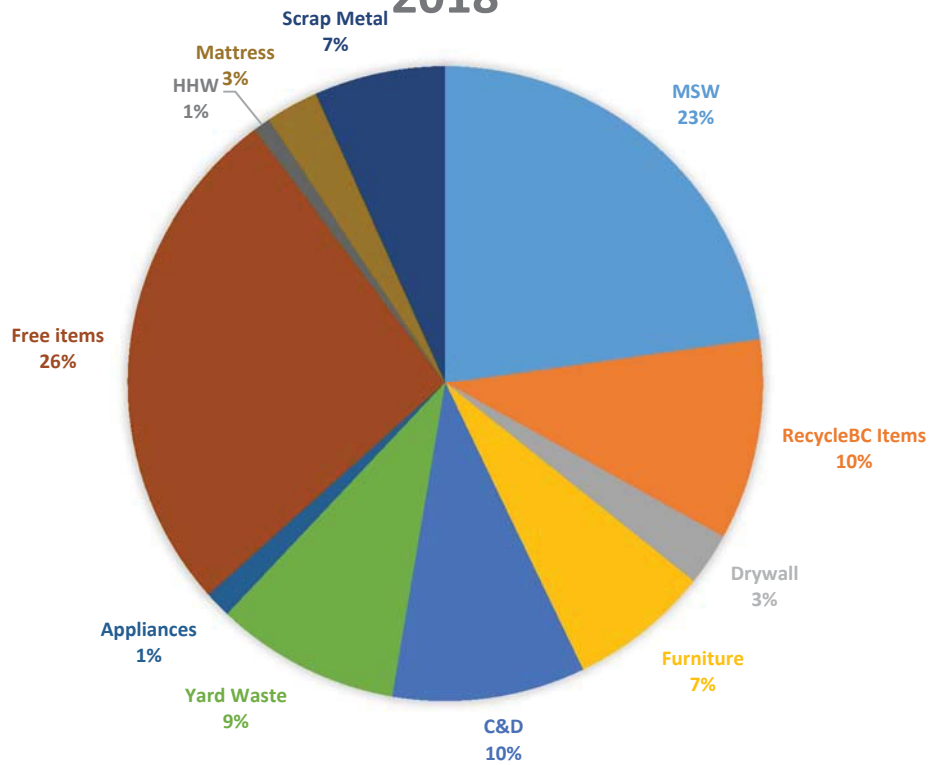


Appendix C

2017



2018



**ILLEGALLY
DUMPED
MATERIAL**



\$500 FINE



**Comox Strathcona
Waste Management**

TO REPORT VIOLATORS

cswm.ca/illegaldumping

CALL 1-800-331-6007

or 250-334-6016

CSWM BYLAW NO. 470