



## ZERO WASTE: MAKING IT HAPPEN

Residents and businesses in the region have much to be proud of. Since we started tracking 36 years ago, we've reduced, recycled, diverted and composted more than 68% of the waste being landfilled. New programs like curbside recycling and the Green Bin food waste program have made it easier to extend the life of our landfill, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and create a local industry of recycling and composting that supports 190 jobs, adding more than \$17M to the local economy.

### THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

And yet there's more to be gained from our garbage. A recent review of our landfill shows there's still a fair amount of material in it, about 58%, that can be readily reused, recycled or composted. While there are many successful programs currently in place for single-family homes, like the Green Bin program for kitchen scraps, more can be done to improve recycling and composting opportunities for the commercial, construction and demolition, and multi-family sectors.

That's why the RDN is updating the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan to further reduce waste going to landfill, and to meet provincial regulations. The plan, once approved, will set our course of action for the next 10 years for reducing and managing our waste and recycling.

## ABOUT THE OPTIONS

These options were developed with input from a region-wide community advisory committee made up of reps from member municipalities, electoral areas, First Nations, residents, community groups, businesses, waste haulers and recyclers, and the general public. The plan has also been informed by an online survey, meetings with businesses and groups and technical support. Read on for key highlights of the major options being proposed.

**?** For a complete copy of the Draft Stage 2 plan, visit [www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp)

## Updating our Solid Waste Management Plan



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Here's how you can learn more and provide your feedback on the update of the region's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan:

- Visit: [www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp)
- Email: [zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca)
- Call: 250-390-6560 or toll-free 1-877-607-4111
- Mail: 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6N2

# PROPOSED OPTIONS TO GUIDE OUR JOURNEY

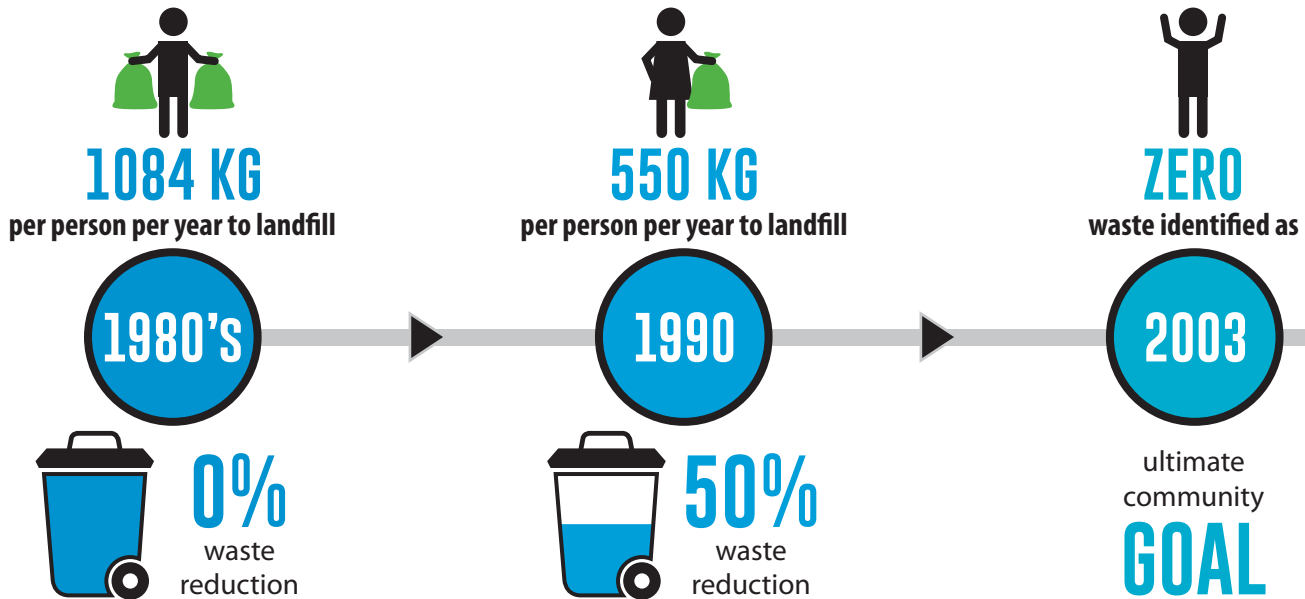
The following proposed options will help guide future waste reduction decisions



## SETTING A TARGET

**Proposed:** Set a target to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill by 90% by the year 2027, equal to an average per person disposal of 109 kg per year.

In the previous plan, the community lent its support to Zero Waste as the ultimate waste reduction goal and reducing waste going to landfill by 70% as the milestone. Currently we are at 68% which is equal to landfilling an average of 347 kg per person per year. We know that 90% is a big number but we believe that with the combination of programs proposed in this draft plan and your continued support, we can all make this work.



## FROM HERE TO HERE

How can we get to a 90% waste reduction goal?



Current = 68%



Goal = 90%

Enhance existing education and enforcement programs

Introduce new regulations

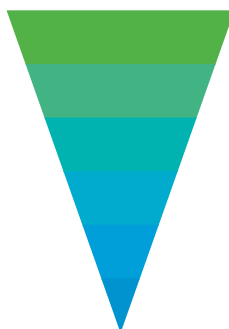
Collaborate with and convince governments, manufacturers and others to reduce waste

## DEFINING ZERO WASTE

**Proposed:** Adopt the Zero Waste International Alliance (ZWIA) definition:

*Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.*

*Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.*



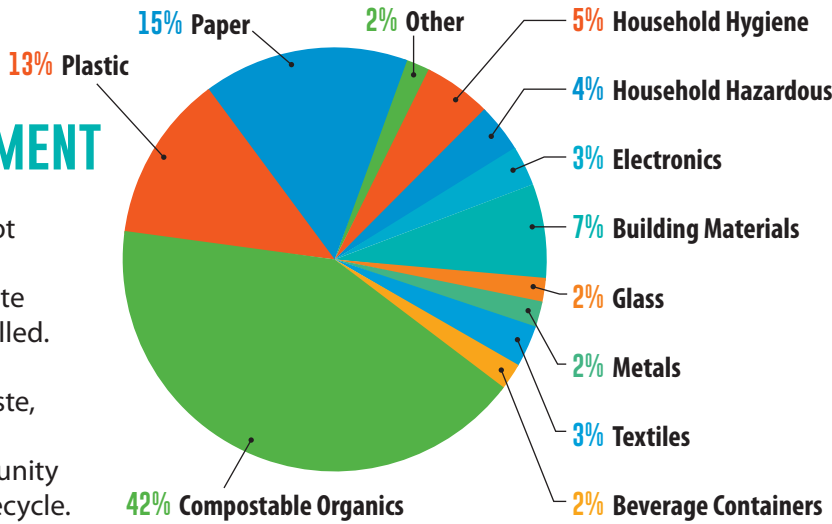
### ZW Hierarchy of Highest & Best Uses

- Reduce, Refuse & Return
- End Subsidies for Wasting
- Product & Packaging Redesign
- Clean Production & Takebacks
- Reuse, Repair & Remanufacture
- Recycle, Compost & Digest
- Regulate (Bans, Biological energy recovery, landfills with pre-processing)
- Not OK: Incineration, Bioreactor Landfills



# ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Here's a snapshot of the types of commercial waste still being landfilled. This, along with multi-family waste, represents the greatest opportunity to reduce and recycle.



# OPTIONS FOR GOING GREENER

**Proposed:** Provide for Household Hazardous Waste Events.  
**Cost:** \$80,000 – \$100,000  
**Proposed:** Be a Voice for Change. Advocate for the Federal and Provincial government to make changes that encourage manufacturers to take more responsibility for the 'end-of-life' of products they make or sell, and for preventing waste in the first place.



# PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR ALL SECTORS

**Enhance Existing Education, Awareness and Enforcement.**  
 Increasing education and awareness programs will help ensure people are using the right recycling, composting and reusing programs. This also includes enforcing the rules and making sure people are following the bans on landfilling materials that can be recycled, composted or taken elsewhere.



## PROPOSED:



Enhance existing education, awareness and enforcement programs to help multi-family and commercial sectors improve their food waste and recycling programs.

**\$100,000** education

Enhance existing public education for Zero Waste and waste reduction (includes public events, school and community presentations, advertising for campaigns, social media and more).



**\$40,000**

Enhance education and enforcement for construction and demolition waste to help ensure waste is sorted for reuse, chipping, composting or recycling before being landfilled.

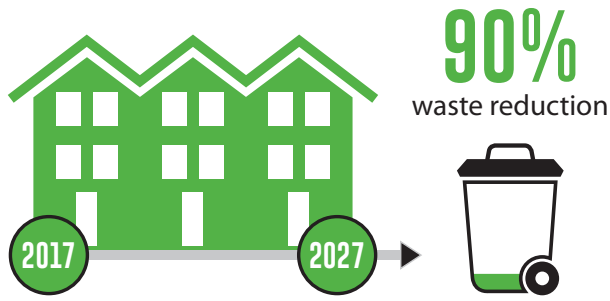
**\$20,000** education

**\$20,000** enforcement

**COST ESTIMATE: \$100,000** enforcement

# BUILDING ON SUCCESS

## Two Key Options for Multi-Family, Commercial, Construction and Demolition Waste.



In addition to enhancing education, enforcement and assistance for multi-family and commercial, there are two key options being proposed.

**New regulatory tools, like requiring haulers to make sure the waste they collect is separated for recycling or composting and that their customers have recycling or food waste programs in place, can help us better manage our waste to the benefit of our residents and businesses and help us reach 90%!**

### 1 Separating at the source: Keeping recyclables and food waste out of the dumpster.

A Waste Source Separation Regulation is a potential tool that can help ensure recyclables and compostables don't end up being landfilled. This proposed regulation would require all existing and new commercial, institutional and industrial businesses to have recycling collection.

This option would include multi-family apartments and condos as they are not currently included in the residential collection programs provided by the RDN or member municipalities.

**Proposed:** Introduce regulation that requires waste generators to separate garbage from recycling and food waste, and for recycling and composting bins. This would require approval by the Province.

### 2 Getting help: Enlisting waste haulers as licensed partners in doing it right.

Some commercial (including multi-family), construction and demolition waste gets hauled out of our region to less expensive landfills that don't require waste to be sorted for recycling or composting. In 2014, 8% or 4,300 tonnes of waste left the region that could have been landfilled or recycled locally. In future, without this revenue to operate our landfill, we may need to raise tipping fees or taxes to maintain our landfill and our waste reduction programs.

Enlisting Waste Haulers as Licensed Partners would help ensure every business or multi-family building has a recycling and food waste composting program. This would not only help prevent waste from being hauled out of region to less expensive private landfills, it would also help ensure that we take responsibility for our own garbage by making sure we recycle or compost it locally. It could also offer an economic incentive for the private sector to provide more waste management services locally, improving convenience for recycling.

**Proposed:** Introduce a regulation that requires waste haulers to be licensed agents of the RDN, responsible for ensuring their customers have a system in place for recycling and composting, including collecting and remitting a fee if not. This would require approval by the Province.

**Cost (Options 1 & 2):** If the Province approves either of these concepts, further work is needed to develop the program in consultation with waste haulers and other interested parties. Costs would include administration, education and enforcement as identified.

## AN EYE ON THE FUTURE



**Monitoring options for leftover waste**  
Zero Waste is our ultimate goal, yet for the foreseeable future we will always need a place for the residual waste we cannot reuse or recycle. Our landfill has capacity until 2040 at current landfilling rates. Depending on the speed and success of this plan, our landfill could last an additional 10-15 years.

**Watching for emerging technologies**  
In keeping with the adoption of the Zero Waste definition, the recommended focus remains on separating waste for reusing, recycling and composting before sending to landfill. Of the new and emerging technologies reviewed, a mixed-waste sorting facility comes closest to this goal.

**Proposed:** Continue to monitor these emerging technologies and options for collaboration with other local governments or interested parties that are consistent with the adopted Zero Waste definition and the waste reduction hierarchy.

## NEXT STEPS



Watch for more opportunities to provide your feedback on this plan. Once the updated plan is presented and approved, a detailed implementation schedule will lead the way for future programs. For more information or the detailed version of this Draft Stage 2 Plan, simply visit our website at [www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp](http://www.rdn.bc.ca/swmp)