

Hartland Happenings

Issue 5

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Composting Initiative Moves Forward

Recently, the issue of commercial composting has been undergoing some exciting developments, both provincially, and here in the capital region. On Monday, February 4, the provincial government approved the long-awaited *Organic Matter Recycling Regulation*, providing a framework for composting operations to function in BC. Then, two weeks later, on February 13, the CRD Board passed a motion to, in principle, make the CRD-owned Willis Point site (located adjacent to the landfill) available to the private sector for composting. The size and extent of the facility have yet to be determined.



WILLIS POINT COMPOSTING AREA AT HARTLAND LANDFILL

Currently, the CRD processes about 3,000 tonnes of yard waste a year at the Willis Point site. However, a recent analysis of the material coming into the landfill indicated that about 38,500 tonnes of organic waste could be diverted annually through composting. If this diversion materializes, it would be good news for the citizens of the region. With the increase in diversion comes an increase in the life span of the landfill by about 11 years, avoiding the prospect of finding another site locally (if it's even possible), or the costly alternative of shipping our waste out of the region. With a move to this kind of composting, it's predicted that our diversion rate would increase to close to 60% and the landfill wouldn't be full until 2059. Of course, the question of what we will do with our garbage after then still remains, but at least we'll have nearly 60 years to find the answer.

With the provincial regulations now in place, the CRD can focus on completing its current draft composting bylaw. Two years in the making, the new regulation will outline environmental and technical requirements that must be met by any operator providing composting services in the capital region. The bylaw is tentatively scheduled for adoption in spring of 2003. Composting facilities will have one year from CRD Board adoption to fully comply with the bylaw.

Concurrent with the bylaw finalization, the next stage of the Willis Point project will now get underway: the development of a work plan and decision process. On the 17th of April, the CRD Solid Waste and Recyclables Collection and Handling Evaluation Committee (SWRCHEC) will meet to provide direction on the work plan.

Yard and Garden Waste Composting Continues

At its meeting of February 20, the CRD SWRCHEC committee approved that the yard and garden waste receiving area continue to be located at Hartland until at least the end of September. The issue of using the Willis Point entrance will be reviewed again at the October SWRCHEC meeting.

Batteries and Mercury Accepted at Recycling Area

Three new receptacles have recently been added to the recycling area at Hartland for the collection of dry-cell batteries, rechargeable batteries and mercury-containing products. As is the case for all materials collected at the recycling area, a \$2 per visit user charge applies when dropping off these new materials.

Batteries

Residents may drop off old batteries, up to the equivalent of one shoebox-full per visit. All types of general-purpose and special-use household batteries are accepted, including:

9-volt, AA, AAA, C, D, and lantern-size batteries (in single-use and rechargeable styles)

button-style batteries typically used in watches, hearing aids, calculators and other small electronics

rechargeable nickel-cadmium (Ni-Cd), nickel metal hydride (Ni-MH), lithium ion (Li-ion) and small sealed lead (Pb) batteries

Products Containing Mercury

Residents may drop off household mercury-containing products, up to the equivalent of one shoebox-full per visit, including:

thermometers

thermostats and heat switches

other mercury-containing products

For further information regarding the collection of batteries and mercury-containing products, please call the CRD Hotline at 360-3030.

Landfill Gas Partnership

Recently, the CRD and the British Columbia Buildings Corporation (BCBC) signed a partnering agreement to work together towards the installation of a landfill gas utilization facility at Hartland. The facility will use the gas to create electricity, estimated at 2 megawatts, to be earmarked for BCBC's new Vancouver Island Technology Park on Markham Road.

At the end of March 2002, a request for proposals will be publicly advertised for the private sector to build, own and operate the power generation facility. Plans call for the CRD and BCBC to evaluate the proposals over the summer, negotiate with and select the successful proponent by the fall, and commission the facility some time in 2003.

One important component of the project that benefits the community is the creation of a sustainability fund. The CRD and BCBC will each contribute 10% of their revenues from the project towards this fund to be used to provide grants to private-sector companies and agencies working in the field of alternative energy and sustainability projects.

New Column Provides Update on Environmental Services

Beginning last month, a new column in the News Group community papers began providing residents of the region with information on some of the more interesting or impacting activities of CRD Environmental Services.

“Environmental Update” comes out on the second or third Friday of each month, and will cover topics

ranging from activities of the CRD's Building Inspection division, to initiatives regarding solid and liquid waste management. Plans call for at least three columns each year to be dedicated to updating residents on recent developments affecting Hartland landfill. Pick up a copy of any of the six “Weekend Edition” papers each month for your own copy of Environmental Update.

We appreciate your input! Please forward your comments or questions to Brenda Phillips, Manager Environmental Education, phone: 360-3048, fax: 360-3079, email: bphillips@crd.bc.ca or mail: Capital Regional District, PO Box 1000, 524 Yates Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6.

Hartland Happenings is a publication of the Capital Regional District that is produced several times per year for distribution to residents living near Hartland landfill.