

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Summary of Public Survey Results

A public survey was conducted between June 25 and July 15, 2012. A total of 755 responses were collected on topics including recycling, compost and waste. The following summary provides some key insights.

RECYCLING AT HOME

The most common method of recycling at home in the region is curbside recycling, followed by the use of drop off locations such as depots or retail outlets (approx. 50% of respondents). Of the materials being recycled at home, paper, pizza boxes, glass, tin and plastic were the most common, followed by juice boxes and Polycoated cartons.

Stewardship programs are in place for many products sold in the Province, such as tires and paint.

From the list of applicable items provided, respondents were most familiar with where to dispose or recycle the following: batteries, paint, medications, small appliances electronics, and refundable beverage containers. Those items that respondents were less familiar with include: smoke alarms, mercury thermostats, used gasoline and anti-freeze.

In terms of standard recyclable materials, respondents were most familiar with where to recycle items including plastic bags, large appliances, and scrap metal. They were less familiar with items such as oil and bicycle tires.

Overall, more than 80% of respondents indicated that they were neutral or satisfied with recycling services (residential sector). Suggestions for improvement included increased services and education, and decreased perceived cost.

RECYCLING AT WORK

75% of respondents indicated that there is recycling in their workplace, with paper cardboard and beverage containers being the most common materials recycled. Of those who do not have access to these services, the main reasons included a lack of leadership, the investment required, and the presence of apathy. Respondents indicated improvements could be made including incentives, cost reductions and increased education.

ORGANICS AND COMPOST

Composting at home or dropping off organics at a depot are the most common methods used by respondents. More than half of the respondents indicated that they put kitchen scraps in their household garbage, while 40% of respondents indicated that they compost in a backyard digester.

More than 40% of respondents feel neutral or satisfied about their composting services, while 54% indicated an awareness of the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre (GVCEC). Reasons for not visiting the centre include a lack of awareness of service, and the lack of need for the service. Suggestions for enhancing composting services included the expansion of pilots beyond Oak Bay and View Royal, expanded services, drop off locations in each municipality and the provision of incentives.

GARBAGE AND WASTE REDUCTION

The majority of respondents indicated municipal collection as the primary method of garbage disposal, followed by a quarter of respondents using private collectors (Langford for example). Respondents' familiarity with our local landfill included reading about it in the newspaper or having used the garbage drop off or recycling area at the facility.

More than 90% of respondents indicated that they were neutral or satisfied with garbage services (residential sector). Respondents indicated that while garbage services are adequate, yard waste services could be improved.

Overall areas for improvement were suggested as follows:

- combining recycling and garbage collection
- reducing cost through a regional service provision
- Increase education on what is acceptable waste

Respondents most commonly practice waste reduction as follows:

- using reusable bags
- donating items for reuse
- repairing items whenever possible

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Respondents currently get information about Capital Regional District (CRD) programs such as waste reduction, recycling, composting and garbage disposal through word of mouth, newspaper, radio and the CRD Website.

84% of respondents are neutral or satisfied with the quality of information received and feel increased education and increased use of media and communications would be beneficial.

DEMOGRAPHICS

A larger percentage of participation in Saanich, Victoria, JDF, and on Salt Spring Island with lesser participation rates in the Peninsula municipalities. More than 50% of the respondents have two or less residents in their homes.