

What We've Heard So Far

In late 2019 the Capital Regional District led an extensive first phase of public engagement seeking feedback on the goals and strategies proposed for a new solid waste management plan to achieve a waste reduction target of 250kg per capita by 2030.

This feedback informed the development of the CRD's draft plan and led to the inclusion of an aspirational goal to surpass the provincial per capita disposal target by reducing the region's per capita rate by an additional third to 125kg per capita per year.

The CRD Board included this intention as a goal instead of adjusting the plan's overall target in recognition of the plan's nature as a living document. If the region quickly achieves or exceeds the plan's target, the CRD can amend its formal plan as necessary to accommodate, for example, new legislation, material bans or technology opportunities that would reduce the region's need to landfill garbage.

Target: Reduce waste by at least one-third

Currently:
380 kg
garbage per person
per year



By 2030:
250 kg
garbage per person
per year



Overall, there was a high level of support for all plan elements. Some actions—particularly those associated with ensuring Hartland Landfill is used as effectively and efficiently as possible—generated important questions from the community.

On Hartland 2100

Some residents expressed concern about the ongoing development of the landfill, particularly as it relates to tree removal and Mount Work Regional Park users.

Provincial legislation requires the CRD to provide a safe, secure and sustainable disposal option for solid waste now and in the future. If waste trends and population growth across the region continue along the path they're projected to, Hartland Landfill's active filling area will be at capacity by 2045—even sooner in the event of a major earthquake—yet the CRD is required to responsibly manage waste in perpetuity.

Additional land already within the Hartland property will need to be used for landfilling by approximately 2045 unless significantly more waste is diverted or a new technology for managing waste becomes available and economically feasible for the CRD. Hartland 2100 allows for this flexibility and the CRD will continue to investigate technology opportunities.

On tree removal

The Hartland 2100 design includes using a strip of land within the current landfill property for waste disposal starting approximately 20 to 25 years from now. Although this land has always been reserved for future landfilling, it was temporarily leased to CRD parks until 2019 in recognition that it wouldn't be required for landfill operations until at least 2020.

The Hartland 2100 design concept will require the removal of second-growth trees from this strip of land. Tree removal will begin in approximately 2030 to prepare this space for future landfilling unless the region significantly reduces its per capita waste rate or new technology for solid waste management emerges.

The development of this land will be offset by the reforestation program already in place for all closed areas of the landfill, including 20 acres of reforested land now that will have grown to 50 acres by 2040. These trees reduce the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the landfill through carbon sequestration.

On impacts to parks users

The strip of Hartland Landfill property that has been leased temporarily by CRD Parks has been used primarily by mountain bikers.

As the Hartland operating area develops, the mountain bike trails extending beyond Mount Work Regional Park will be impacted.

These temporary trails will continue to be accessible for the next 10 years, allowing time for consultation and construction of new or improved trails in permanent park land through the Mount Work management planning process. The CRD anticipates needing to permanently close these trails around 2030 and is already working closely with the South Island Mountain Biking Society on alternative options.

On relocating commercial access

The CRD is required to move the commercial access for Hartland Landfill to Willis Point Road by 2023 for a number of operational reasons, including safety considerations for landfill staff, commercial vehicles and residents accessing Mount Work Regional Park.

Due to its internal topography, the only viable route for trucks to safely access future filling areas will be from Willis Point Road to the north.

Some residents that live on Willis Point Road have expressed concerns about how this change will impact commute times and safety for road users. An independent traffic study was done to understand the implications of this change.

The findings of this study indicate that moving commercial access from Hartland Avenue to Willis Point Road will improve overall traffic safety in the area. As a rural collector street, Willis Point Road is designed for higher vehicle use than Hartland Avenue. Willis Point Road's current use is less than half of what it was designed for and this capacity is forecast to remain at least 20% below the typical threshold for this kind of road when landfill access is relocated to Willis Point Road.

Landfill-related trucks may impact commute times by up to 15 seconds but they will account for less than 15% of traffic on Willis Point Road and West Saanich Road when access to the landfill is moved.

The findings of this independent traffic study also indicate that moving commercial access to Willis Point Road will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2-3% as a result of shortening the steepness and length of trucking routes along internal roads.

On rock removal

During the first phase of consultation, some residents asked if mining activity occurs at Hartland Landfill.

There is no commercial mining activity at Hartland. A historical and ongoing activity, aggregate is extracted within the landfill operating boundary to create air space for waste. This rock is processed on site for use as a construction material for building internal roads and as a cover for portions of the landfill.

The CRD will not truck excess material offsite and is committed to storing rock for future landfill activities on site.

Residents are invited to participate in a second round of consultation until January 2021, including an online information session and the opportunity to provide detailed comments through the CRD website.

More information, including additional FAQs, is available at www.crd.bc.ca/rethinkwaste.

Updated November 2020

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