COAST
WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Regional District of Nanaimo

Updates

October 2008

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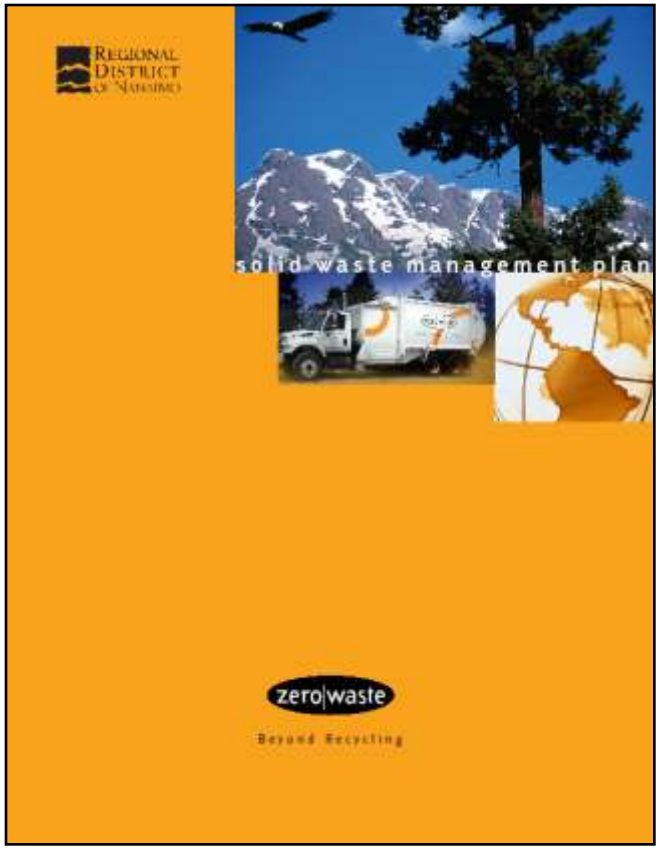
Meeting the Zero Waste Plan goals

- Organics Diversion
- Re-tendering for collection contract
- Possible changes to what we collect
- Waste Stream Management Licensing
- Disposal bans compliance
- Illegal dumping clean ups

Solid Waste Management Plan

- Mandated by Province (EMA)
- RDN SWMP
  - Prepared 1988
  - Amended 1996 – 3R's Plan
  - Amended 2004
- Zero Waste Plan (75%)
  - Demand Management
  - WSML Bylaw
- Residual Waste Management Plan
  - Disposal infrastructure - supply



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Zero Waste Plan – On-Going (2004)

- ☑ Compost Education Program
- ☑ School Education Program expanded in 2008
- ☑ Zero Waste Promotion & Education
- ☑ Illegal Dumping Program
- ☑ Expanded Disposal Bans
  - ☑ Commercial Food Waste
  - ☑ Yard Waste
  - ☑ Stewardship Products
  - ☑ Wood Waste

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Zero Waste Plan – Ongoing (2004)

- ☑ Waste Composition Study
- ☑ WSML Technical Assistance
- ☑ Curbside Food & Yard Waste Collection Study
- ☑ Yard Waste Composting at RDN Disposal Facilities
- ☑ Residential Curbside Garbage Collection & Recycling Collection

Organics Diversion

- 2004 Board approves Zero Waste Plan
  - Organics diversion required to meet 75% goal
- 2005 Board approves Organics Diversion Strategy
  - Commercial Food Waste Diversion
  - Residential Food Waste Diversion

Commercial Food Waste Ban

- April 2005, Board approves ban on landfill disposal of commercially generated food waste.
- International Composting Corp (ICC) is to be receiver of diverted food waste.
- Tonnages of waste diverted have climbed to a peak of 400 tonnes (May 2007).
- In 2006, over 4,170 tonnes was received at ICC.

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Commercial food waste ban

Sustaining the land, saving the landfill

- Current focus is on grocery stores & restaurants - back end
- Since 2005 more than 11,000 tonnes diverted
- Update of 2005 database, including site visits, underway
- A program newsletter is being sent to all on database (650+)
- Expansion of residential collection will assist with profile of commercial program

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Residential Food Waste Diversion

- June 2005, Board directs staff to implement a pilot project to collect food waste from the residential sector.
- A field test is designed to cover three collection routes over a six month period.
- Funding was sought through Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Green Municipal Fund.
- In January 2007, a grant of up to $90,000 was approved to cover 50% of estimated project costs.

Residential Food Waste

- 1,985 homes on three routes (mix of demographics including a rural route)
- Three partnering jurisdictions
  - Regional District
  - City of Nanaimo
  - Town of Qualicum Beach
- 12 month pilot project started October 2007

What is collected, and when?

- Target materials include cooked and raw food wastes and non-recyclable paper (kitchen towel, paper plates etc).

- Collection schedule is -
  - Food Waste weekly
  - Garbage and Recycling on alternate weeks

Week 1 – Food waste & garbage

Week 2 – Food waste & recycling

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What have we learned?

- Participation is running at 75% +/-
- Set out weights range between
  - 2.0kg/week (Cedar) to
  - 2.7kg/week (Nanaimo)
- 230 tonnes has been sent to ICC since Oct 2007
- Diversion rates range from 55% (Cedar) to 68% (Nanaimo)

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More things to ponder…

- Large split packer trucks do not suit all routes
- One bag/can garbage limit per collection (every two weeks) is a challenge for some
- Having a “one stop drop” is important for the City of Nanaimo
- Plastics contamination happens

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Participant feedback

- 456 responses (23% response rate) to first direct mailed survey
- 80% noticed a difference in the amount of garbage they put out
- The cost, availability and performance of compostable bags was a big concern
- 300+ responses to second survey (closed Oct 28)
- 98% say “Yes this should be offered region-wide”

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Next steps …

- Collection of food waste will continue on the three pilot routes beyond the twelve month project window
- The Regional Board has directed RDN staff to include options for food waste collection in next collection contract tender
- Planning is underway to investigate how best to implement this across the region and partnering municipalities

The Collection Contract

- Current contract will be extended a further year (April 2009 – March 2010)
- Staff are drafting the tender package for new contract
- Tender will be issued by the end of 2008

- New contract will be awarded April 2009
- Start of new contract April 2010

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Possible additions and deletions

- Food waste collection ✓
- Yard waste collection options ?
- Glass in the blue box ?

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Waste Stream Management Licensing

- 5 licenses issued to date
  - International Composting Corporation
  - Porter Wood
  - Steel Pacific
  - Vancouver Island Recycling Centre
  - Nanaimo Wood Waste Recyclers
- 7 applications in process
- Looking to increased information sharing with other RD's on this process

Disposal Bans

- Banned materials include-
  - Corrugated cardboard
  - Recyclable paper
  - Metal
  - Tires
  - Gypsum
  - Batteries
  - Commercial organics
  - Wood waste
  - Electronics

Ban Compliance

- Violation Notices followed up with hauler and/or generator

- 2007 – 72 Violation Notices issued
- 2008 – 265 issued to end September

- Increase reflects changes implemented January, 2008

- Improvements evident – only 17 Violation Notices issued in Sept from 633 inbound loads

Eliminate, Extend, Prevent & Sustain

Illegal Dumping

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Observe, Record, Report

- When names are located, individuals are contacted and clean up is directed
- Contractor clean up for sites with no identification found
- Signage posted
- Website reporting format
- Profiled in recent Zero Waste newsletters

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