

News Release

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CVRD launches community engagement on a three-stream curbside collection service in electoral areas

Duncan, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) has launched an engagement process for a proposed three-stream curbside collection service, inviting community members to share ideas and learn more about waste disposal.

“We are excited to listen and learn from our communities about their ideas, priorities, concerns, and preferences so we can create a service that best meets the needs of residents throughout our diverse region,” said Lori Iannidinardo, CVRD Board Chair and Director of Area D, Cowichan Bay. “Making sure that everyone has equal access to organics, recycling and garbage collection is a high priority to reduce landfill waste and keep the curbside recycling free from contamination of non-recyclables.”

Based on feedback and ideas shared during the initial engagement process, CVRD staff will design curbside collection options to meet the community’s needs. The CVRD will then seek community feedback on these options in late 2022. In early 2023, CVRD staff will present a recommendation to the CVRD Board for a decision on how to best implement three-stream curbside collection in the electoral areas. The 2018 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) identified a need for the regional district to ensure that all Electoral Area residents have access to similar services to those offered to residents living in CVRD municipalities.

“With a growing regional population, limited landfill capacity on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, and in the face of climate change, it is very important that we reduce landfill disposal,” said Melissa Tokarek, Manager of Policy and Planning for Recycling and Waste Management. “We know that about 30% of the garbage going to landfill right now is organics that could have been composted locally instead of exported to a landfill in Washington State.”

As per the 2018 SWMP, the region is committed to significantly reduce garbage disposal by the year 2030. In 2021, the CVRD region landfilled over 42,000 tonnes of garbage, which is more garbage than ever before. Following the implementation of a three-stream service for electoral area households, the CVRD will work with member municipalities to ensure that all residents in multi-family buildings also have access to organics, recycling and garbage services. This will be done before the CVRD bans organics from garbage disposal, as per the objectives of the regional SWMP.

The public engagement process will take place from May 9 to June 6, 2022, and there are five ways that community members can participate and share ideas and insights:

1. Complete the online survey, which will be open from May 9 to June 6, 2022
2. Register to participate in a 30-minute phone interview
3. Sign up to participate in a virtual focus group in your Electoral Area
4. Participate in a virtual community circle
5. Share your insights and feedback with CVRD staff curbside@cvr.bc.ca

To learn more visit: www.planyourcowichan.ca/curbside-collection

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