

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CVRD approves expanded curbside collection service for all Electoral Areas

DUNCAN, BC – Following the adoption of the regional Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) back in 2018, including a three-stream curbside collection strategy for all electoral areas, on June 28, 2023, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Board passed a motion that the three-stream service that will be implemented in 2025 be fully public service.

While a public-private hybrid model had been previously considered as an option, several factors including the logistics, feasibility and union agreements determined that a single service provider was the best option for the region as a whole.

“This decision comes after seven years of consideration and planning, and will allow us to create an equitable service model that fulfills a primary objective of our Solid Waste Management Plan,” said Aaron Stone, Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “Regional decision-making can often be contentious. As a member of the Board since we began this process, I can say we certainly considered all of the diverse viewpoints we received from across our region over many years to reach this decision. Our future direction reflects a collective desire to divert a significant amount of the current waste we produce from landfills, as well as establishing the most cost-effective service for the greatest number of residents. The expansion of solid waste and recycling collection, and the addition of organics to our curbside services, demonstrates the strong commitment we have to meeting our defined waste reduction goals.”

The new service will see garbage, recycling and organics collection all corners of the regional district, including rural communities like Caycuse in the west, North Oyster in the north and Malahat in the south and ensures that currently underserved residents also receive collection.. The creation a single service provider was decided as an essential component to providing efficient service, as one split-body truck can pick up two waste streams at each household, reducing the number of trucks travelling to each neighbourhood.

“The Cowichan population is expected to continue to grow and change in coming years, and this decision will help reduce landfilling of organic waste material and also to reduce contamination of curbside recycling,” said Ilse Sarady, Senior Manager of Recycling and Solid Waste Management for the Cowichan Valley Regional District. “Today compostable materials make up 30% of the regional garbage going to landfill, and the expansion of this curbside service will take us on step closer to being able to fully ban organics from landfill disposal.”

The CVRD will continue to work with other regional districts to assess long-term plans for garbage disposal more locally. Due to the current lack of viable alternatives, garbage from the Cowichan Valley is transported via truck, barge and rail service to a super landfill in Washington State. An issue with the current long-distance transportation is the reliance on third-party, cross-border contractors, and increasing transportation interruptions due to the floods and fires associated with climate change.

Next, CVRD staff will present a report to the CVRD Board on the public consultation for the curbside service option. The CVRD Board also directed staff to continue discussions with Pan Disposal, a private waste collection service that has operated in the south end of the Cowichan region for many years.

Learn more about the [CVRD Solid Waste Management Plan](#), or the public engagement process for three-stream collection on the [Plan Your Cowichan project page](#).

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