



# Resource Recovery Plan

## Consultation Summary Report

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*Dated:* November 2021

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## 1. Introduction

The RDCK's first solid waste management plan, called a Resource Recovery Plan (RRP), was approved by the ministry in 1995. In 2010, the RDCK updated the RRP and has been implementing that plan over the past decade. The process to update the RRP again began in 2017 and resulted in the preparation of the 2021 RRP. This report describes the consultation process that was undertaken to support the development of the 2021 RRP.

The objectives of consultation were:

- Ensure a broad range of perspectives are considered during the development of an updated regional solid waste management plan.
- Provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input into future waste management programs and services.
- Increase support for solid waste management planning and programs.
- Ensure documentation provided gives sufficient information to enable stakeholders and the public to determine how their interests may be affected.
- Promote opportunities to learn about the RRP development and ensure that the stakeholders and the public has been given ample notice for the opportunities available to provide input.
- Ensure that proceedings and outcomes from the consultation process have been well documented and made available to the stakeholders and the public, so that they are able to see how the RRP addresses their comments or issues.

The consultation meets the requirements outlined in Section 27 of the *Environmental Management Act*, which requires that adequate public review and consultation of a solid waste management plan must be completed. In addition, the consultation process was designed to meet elector approval requirements for any borrowing of funds required to implement the plan once it is approved.

## 2. Consultation Program

The process to update the RRP was undertaken in three phases, with each phase having associated consultation activities. Figure 2-1 outlines the three-phase process.

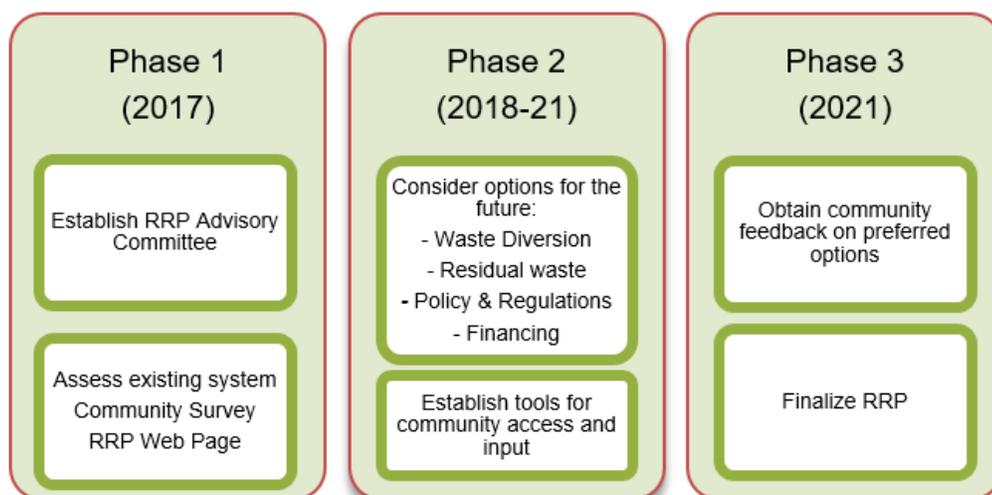


Figure 2-1: The Planning Process

The Consultation Program was prepared as part of Phase 1 and was reviewed by the Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee and the Joint Resource Recovery Committee (a sub-committee of the RDCK Board). A copy of the Consultation Program can be found in Appendix A.

### **3. Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee**

The role of the Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee (RRPAC), required by the BC Ministry of Environment, is to make recommendations to the RDCK Board of Directors on matters involving the development and implementation of the RRP. The Committee is the cornerstone of the Consultation Program and was in place throughout the planning process.

The RRPAC is a combined technical and public advisory committee and is comprised of the Chair of the RDCK Board of Directors, the Chairs of the West, Central, and East Sub-region Resource Recovery Committees, RDCK Resource Recovery staff, stakeholders such as government (member municipalities), waste management service providers, community members, and interested individuals from across the regional district. The terms of reference for the RRPAC are included in the 2021 Resource Recovery Plan.

The RRPAC was established by sending a letter to all known stakeholders across the RDCK to inform them that the RRP amendment process has begun. Stakeholders included member municipalities, First Nations, solid waste management facilities, contractors and haulers, product stewardship groups, large waste generators, environmental organizations and community organizations. In the letter, stakeholders were informed of the key themes of the RRP, opportunities for input, projected timeline, and an invitation to join the RRPAC.

From 2017 to 2021, Committee members met regularly to review options prepared by staff and consultants and provide input on which options are most likely to succeed, as well as to provide suggestions and feedback on public and stakeholder consultation approaches.

Copies of the agendas, minutes and presentation materials for the RRPAC meetings are included in Appendix B

### **4. Phase 1 and 2 Consultation Activities**

This section describes the consultation activities beyond the RRPAC meetings that occurred as part of Phase 1 and 2 of the planning process.

#### **4.1 Municipality and Hauler Questionnaires**

A questionnaire was circulated to municipalities and haulers as a first step of the RRP development to obtain a greater understanding of the current status of solid waste management, specifically collection services, in the regional district. Questions around current waste and recycling collection practices, special programs, and interest in organics collection were asked. The findings helped inform the direction of the RRP with respect to identifying opportunities for improvement in the system and determining the existing barriers.

#### **4.2 Stakeholder Workshops and Follow-Up Consultation**

Stakeholder workshops were held to support the development of the organics waste diversion component of the RRP and the Industrial Commercial Institutional (ICI) recycling strategy. The workshops consisted of three facilitated meetings (listed below) to get input from individuals and organizations to ensure that the plans for organics diversion could be successfully implemented:

1. Municipal/First Nation waste managers and/or administrators.
2. Waste haulers and Major ICI waste generators (e.g. colleges, school districts, hospitals, resorts, grocers, food/beverage manufacturers).
3. Small scale solution providers (local businesses, individuals and organizations with an interest in providing small-scale organic waste diversion solutions).

At these meetings, successful experiences in other jurisdictions were presented, and the stakeholders identified and discussed what they saw as potential barriers and specific opportunities for success.

### 4.3 Public Communications

#### *Website*

To ensure a transparent planning process, good access to information and an opportunity for continual dialogue with the community, a webpage was established to make planning resources available to the public on an on-going basis. A dedicated webpage on the RDCK's website included:

- Reports and the draft RRP (e.g. technical memoranda on topic areas).
- RRPAC minutes and presentations.
- A "tell us what you think" link to a dedicated email address.
- Information on consultation events and other opportunities for input.

#### *Community Survey*

An initial community survey was undertaken to help gauge people's satisfaction with current waste management practices and identify what options they would like to see in the future. The survey was launched at the same time as release of the Resource Recovery Status Report, so that the public was able to familiarize themselves with existing services. The information from the survey was used to help identify resource recovery options to be considered. Additionally, the survey was an opportunity to inform the community of the launch of the planning process. The survey was made available online and in hard copy by request.

A variety of tools to increase awareness about the survey were used. These included:

- A media release that announces the planning process, the website and the survey.
- A significant draw prize to increase participation.
- Use of social media.
- Highlight and link to the survey on the RDCK's home page.

The results of this survey can be found in Appendix C.

#### *Organics Collection Workshops*

In February 2019, the RDCK held a municipal curbside organics collection workshop to provide the municipalities of Castlegar, Creston and Nelson with the information required to make an informed decision regarding implementation of curbside organic waste collection in their respective municipalities. As a result of this workshop, and in support of the regional district's application to the provincial Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP), each of the three municipalities provided RDCK with an Agreement in Principle (AIP) that they will collect organic waste by 2022 to supply feedstock to the new facilities.

In March 2020, the RDCK held another regional compost workshop with participation from the RDKB as well as the municipalities of Castlegar, Nelson and Creston. This networking session was designed to share and gather information, learn about what is being done elsewhere and discover potential synergies that will ensure the launch of successful municipal collection programs.

## 5. Phase 3 Consultation Activities

Phase 3 of the RRP planning process was the preparation of the draft plan and taking the RRP out to the public for consultation. The objectives of the consultation process were to create awareness of the content of the draft plan through a broad range of media, and provide opportunities to provide input on the RRP through multiple channels.

The communication tools employed during the Phase 3 consultation process were:

- Newsletter sent to all homes in the RDCK and distributed to community locations.
- Promotional videos.
- Presentation (recorded and posted online for viewing).
- Posters on community bulletin boards and at Resource Recovery facilities.
- Print advertising.
- Media engagement (solicit interviews with local media).
- Social media (postings and boosts).
- Media releases.
- Updated RRP webpage.
- Direct mail-out to large ICI waste generators, relevant business associations and neighbouring regional districts.
- Presentations to Municipal Councils.
- Letters to First Nations with offer to meet and/or provide a presentation.
- Online questionnaire (with an option to complete it by telephone). Draw prize offered to boost participation.
- Dedicated telephone number.
- Dedicated email address.
- Municipal council meetings.

Examples of the Phase 3 communications can be found in Appendix D.

The results of the consultation process were summarized in two technical memoranda that can be found in Appendix E. These memoranda were reviewed by the RRPAC. Based on a review of the input received, the RRPAC recommended that no changes to the RRP were necessary and that the feedback would be valuable to staff during the implementation of the plan.

The memos on the consultation results and RRPAC recommendation were then presented to the Joint Resource Recovery Committee (JRRC), which is a committee comprised of Board members that provides oversight to the RDCK's Resource Recovery service. At this meeting, the JRRC supported the recommendation of the RRPAC.

## 6. First Nations Consultation

Within the boundaries of RDCK, only the Lower Kootenay Band (LKB) has reserve lands; including those to the west of the Creston Landfill that have seen groundwater quality impacts from landfill leachate migration. RDCK and LKB have engaged for many years regarding the development of the Creston Landfill. The updated (2021) RRP identifies an on-going need to engage with LKB on the landfill's boundary expansion.

LKB was invited to participate on the RRPAC but did not end up joining. As part of Phase 3 consultation, a letter was sent to LKB that outlined the components of the draft plan, provided a link to the draft plan, and an offer to meet and/or present the draft Plan to LKB. This letter was followed up with a phone call with staff where relevant components of the RRP were discussed. A meeting between LKB Chief & Council, LKB staff, and LKB Director of Operations; and the RDCK Board Chair, East Resource Recovery Committee Chair, RDCK CAO, General Manager of Environmental Services and the Resource Recovery Manager ensued November 5, 2021, to review the updated RRP. The RRP was summarized in a presentation, including the main themes, actions and details specific to the Creston Landfill.

First Nations known to have traditional territories within the RDCK were also invited to participate on the RRPAC. Letters outlining the components of the draft plan were sent again once the draft plan was ready for consultation. Form letters were received back from two First Nations indicating that a fee would be required in order for these First Nations to review the draft plan. No other specific request for engagement or feedback on the RRP was received. As there are no predicted impacts to these non-resident nations as a result of the RRP, no further action to consult was taken.

## 7. Plan Implementation

After the RRP is approved by the minister, the RRPAC will monitor the implementation of the RRP and make recommendations to increase its effectiveness.

## 8. Appendices

**Appendix A:** Resource Recovery Plan Consultation Program

**Appendix B:** Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee

- Agendas, Minutes and Presentations

**Appendix C:** Phase 1 Survey Results

**Appendix D:** Examples of Phase 3 Communications

- Newsletter
- Media Release
- Newspaper Ad
- Social Media Post

**Appendix E:** Phase 3 Consultation Memoranda

- Consultation Results on the Draft RRP
- Regional Curbside Collection Service Consultation Results

## Appendix A: Resource Recovery Plan Consultation Program



### Resource Recovery Plan Amendment – Public Consultation Program

#### 1. Overview

The RDCK is developing a Resource Recovery Plan Amendment. The process involves developing possible options and costs for managing waste in the RDCK for the next 10 years. The solid waste management planning requirements include public and stakeholder consultation to ensure the proposed programs are suitable and will meet community needs for the future. The following provides an overview of a proposed approach to public and stakeholder consultation.

#### 2. Consultation Goals

- Ensure a broad range of perspectives are considered during the development of an updated RRP.
- Provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input into future waste management programs and services.
- Increase support for solid waste management planning and programs.
- Ensure documentation provided gives sufficient information to enable stakeholders and the public to determine how their interests may be affected.
- Promote opportunities to learn about the RRP development and ensure that the stakeholders and the public has been given ample notice for the opportunities available to provide input.
- Proceedings and outcomes from the consultation process have been well documented and available to the stakeholders and the public, so that they are able to see how the RRP addresses their comments or issues.

#### 3. Key Strategies

##### 3.1 Board of Directors Communications

In order to keep the Board of Directors (and indirectly municipalities and electoral areas) informed on the development of the RRP, a regular committee report will be presented at all (JIRC) meetings. Each report will provide an update on the RRP's progress, outline the next steps and announce consultation events and activities.

Plan strategies for individual topic areas will also be presented to the Board of Directors at JIRC meetings throughout the RRP development.

The draft Plan will be presented to the JIRC for approval in advance of taking it out for public consultation. The results of the consultation process will also be presented to the JIRC, along with any proposed revisions to the RRP, based on the feedback received. The final version of the RRP will require approval of JIRC before submitting the RRP to the BC Ministry of Environment.

### **3.2 Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee (RRPAC)**

The role of the Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee (RRPAC), required by the BC Ministry of Environment, is to make recommendations to the RDCK Board of Directors on matters involving the development and implementation of the RDCK Resource Recovery Plan. The Committee is the cornerstone of the public consultation plan and will be in place throughout the planning process.

The RRPAC is comprised of the Chair of the RDCK Board of Directors, the Chairs of the West, Central, and East Sub-region Resource Recovery Committees, RDCK Resource Recovery staff, and community members such as: government (member municipalities and First Nations), waste and waste diversion service providers, environmental organizations, community interest groups (business associations, school districts), waste producers and interested individuals from across the regional district.

Committee members meet regularly to review options prepared by staff and consultants and provide input on which options are most likely to succeed, as well as to provide suggestions and feedback on public and stakeholder consultation approaches.

The RRPAC will meet at key points during the development of the RRP to review documentation such as reports, scenarios and strategies, after these documents have been discussed by the Board of Directors at JIRC meetings.

### **3.3 Notification to Interested Parties**

A letter was sent to all known stakeholders across the RDCK to inform them that the RRP amendment process has begun. Stakeholders as identified in the Ministry of Environment Solid Waste Management Planning guideline include: provincial agencies, neighbouring regional districts, member municipalities, First Nations, solid waste management facilities, contractors and haulers, product stewardship groups, large waste generators, environmental organizations and community organizations.

In the letter, stakeholders were informed of the key themes of the RRP, opportunities for input, projected timeline, and an invitation to join the RRPAC.

### **3.4 Municipality / Hauler Questionnaire**

A questionnaire was circulated to municipalities and haulers as a first step of the RRP development to obtain a greater understanding of the current status of solid waste management, specifically collection services, in the regional district. Questions around current waste and recycling collection practices, special programs, and interest in organics collection were asked. The findings will help inform the direction of the RRP with respect to identifying opportunities for improvement in the system and determining the existing barriers.

### **3.5 Stakeholder Workshops and Follow-Up Consultation**

Stakeholder workshops are planned in the development of the organics strategy and the Industrial Commercial Institutional (ICI) recycling strategy. The workshops will consist of three facilitated meetings to get input from individuals and organizations that will ultimately be key to the successful implementation of the strategy. At these meetings, the objectives of the strategies and successful experiences in other jurisdictions will be presented. More importantly, the stakeholders will be engaged in discussions that will identify what they see as potential barriers and specific opportunities for success.

The following stakeholder meetings are planned:

1. Municipal/First Nation waste managers and/or administrators.
2. Waste haulers and Major ICI waste generators (e.g. colleges, school districts, hospitals, resorts, grocers, food/beverage manufacturers).
3. Small scale solution providers (local businesses, individuals and organizations with an interest in providing small-scale organic waste diversion solutions).

Follow up meetings may occur with specific stakeholder groups during the development of the RRP strategies, with the aim to obtain options for a specific industry, to further develop concepts which will form the RRP and to explore barriers to success.

### **3.6 Public Communications**

#### ***Website***

To ensure a transparent planning process, good access to information and an opportunity for continual dialogue with the community, a webpage will be used to make planning resources available to the public on an on-going basis. A dedicated webpage will be made on the RDCK's website and will include:

- Reports and the draft Plan (e.g. strategy reports on topic areas).
- RRPAC minutes and presentations.
- A "tell us what you think" link to a dedicated email address.
- Information on consultation events and other opportunities for input.

#### ***Community Survey***

An initial community survey is planned to help gauge people's satisfaction with current waste management practices and identify what options they would like to see in the future. The survey will be launched at the same time as release of the Resource Recovery Status Report, so that the public can familiarize themselves with existing services. The information from the survey will be used to help identify resource recovery options to be considered. Additionally, the survey is an opportunity to inform the community of the launch of the planning process. The survey will be made available online and in hard copy by request.

In order to gain an understanding of the communities' needs and wants, it would be important to use a variety of tools to increase awareness about the survey. These include:

- A media release that announces the planning process, the website and the survey.
- A significant draw prize to increase participation, for example the prize could be the choice of a composter, or a \$50 gift certificate to a favourite local restaurant.
- Use of social media.
- Highlight and link to the survey on the RDCK's home page.

#### ***Organics Workshop***

Three public meetings (one in each Sub-region) are planned in the development of the organics strategy, after the stakeholder meetings have been held, and after potential scenarios have been presented to the JRRRC. At these meetings, potential scenarios will be presented and successful experiences in other jurisdictions will be

presented. The workshops will serve to give adequate notice of the scenarios that have been proposed with background opportunity, and present an opportunity to obtain meaningful input from the public on the potential scenarios before they are drafted into a the form of a strategy.

### ***Ongoing Promotion***

Effective promotion of the opportunities for public input and the RRP contents is key to obtaining adequate public participation. It is important to use a variety of tools to increase awareness and encourage people to participate. Tools used will include:

- Website and Facebook page updates and link to online survey, etc.
- Email distribution to stakeholders outlining opportunities for input and updates on process.
- Distribution of hard copies of newsletters / posters to key locations to promote consultation opportunities, as well as to provide information on the process and how to provide feedback.
- Newspaper and radio advertising of the community survey and draft Plan review.
- Media releases to all media (radio, newspaper, websites) to increase interviews and media coverage.
- Collaboration with other RDCK services to include display materials for public meetings and events. Include offer to sign up for email project updates.
- Promotion at special events (e.g. Household Hazardous Waste events).
- Signage at landfill and transfer station facilities.

## **4. Draft Plan Public and Stakeholder Consultation**

Consultation with the public and stakeholders when the draft Plan has been developed is intended to provide an opportunity for people to review the draft Plan and provide their feedback on the proposed options. Obtaining and considering public and stakeholder feedback ensures that the final version of the RRP is broadly accepted.

The stakeholder and public consultation activities for the draft Plan should be tailored to the content of the draft Plan, such as who is affected, how controversial are the proposed actions, and what the financial implications are.

The details of the draft Plan stakeholder and public consultation process will be drafted when the strategy development phase is nearing completion.

## **Appendix B: Resource Recovery Plan Advisory Committee**

Agendas, Minutes and Presentations  
2017 – 2021

## **Appendix C: Phase 1 Survey Results**

- Feedback Survey: Draft Resource Recovery Plan dated Monday, June 28, 2021
- Resource Recovery Plan Consultation Results – RRP Advisory Committee Meeting dated July 13, 2021

## Appendix D: Examples of Phase 3 Communications



# Resource Recovery Plan

June 2021

## What's Inside

- ▶ The Resource Recovery Plan – What's it all about?
- ▶ The Path to Zero Waste
- ▶ The Organic Waste Diversion Strategy
- ▶ Managing Garbage Responsibly
- ▶ The Cost of Waste Management
- ▶ Exploring the possibility of curbside collection in our smaller communities



## Less is more >

### Services + Solutions for Reducing Waste

#### A New Plan in the Making

Check it out. We've drafted a new plan for recycling, composting and landfilling in the RDCK over the course of the next decade.

We're calling it a Resource Recovery Plan, because when 'waste' products can be used for something else, such as growing food, they then become a 'resource'. Before we finalize the plan, **we want your input**. Please take a few minutes to review this newsletter and complete our feedback survey.

Solid waste management in the RDCK has evolved from burning and dumping, to our current modern system designed to meet stringent regulatory requirements and the needs of our vast region. The system has many moving parts including municipal and private collection services, recycling depots, transfer stations, and landfills; take-back programs for everything from beverage containers to lightbulbs to small appliances; plus taking care of yesterday's messes to make sure they don't pose a risk to the environment.

Ideally, only when it can't be Reused, Repurposed or Recycled is it garbage for landfilling; every new solution is a step in this direction. Indeed, Less is More.



**Read** the draft plan.  
**Respond** to the survey.  
**Learn** more at [rdck.ca](http://rdck.ca)



# Less is **more** >

Services + Solutions for Reducing Waste



## We want your input.

### Read the draft plan.

We've drafted a new Resource Recovery Plan for recycling, composting and landfilling in the RDCK. Plus we're exploring the possibility of Curbside Waste Collection in smaller communities.

### Respond to the survey.

Complete the survey by June 27, 2021 to enter to win a \$100 gift certificate to a local business of your choice.

**Learn more at [rdck.ca](https://rdck.ca)**

**rdck.ca**

Phone: 250.352.1576 | Email: [RRP@rdck.ca](mailto:RRP@rdck.ca)

## Post Preview

Actions ▾



**Regional District of Central Kootenay**

June 4 · 🌐

RDCK Media Release - The Regional District of Central Kootenay has drafted a new plan for recycling, composting and landfilling. Read the Resource Recovery Plan Draft and take the survey.

<https://www.rdck.ca/.../the-regional-district-of-central-koot...>



Less is  
**more** >

**Services + Solutions for Reducing Waste**



**Read** the draft plan.  
**Respond** to the survey.  
**Learn** more at [rdck.ca](https://www.rdck.ca)



**Before they finalize the new plan, the RDCK is seeking community feedback through an online survey that has been posted on the RDCK website. — Submitted**

The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is in the final stages of updating its Resource Recovery Plan (RRP); a blueprint for how to reduce, reuse, recycle and manage waste in this region over the next 10 years.

In a media release Tuesday, RDCK calls it a Resource Recovery Plan, because when 'waste' products can be used for something else, such as growing food, they then become a 'resource'.

Foul play not suspected after human remains of missing man found in West Arm Provincial Park

Greening Up — The Month When Everything Changed

'Log Jam' protest interrupts traffic Friday in Nelson

[MORE](#)

## Opinions

Op/Ed: National Environment Week

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12:36 PM 2021-06-02

Check out this video introducing the Draft Resource Recovery Plan.



# Less is more >

**Services + Solutions for Reducing Waste**

Draft Resource Recovery Plan  
On-Line Presentation  
June 2021

Draft Resource Recovery Plan

[rdck.ca](http://rdck.ca)

Home Services Waste & Recycling Resource Recovery Plan

Browse Subtopics

- Building Inspection
- Bylaw Enforcement & Dog Control
- Cannabis
- Community Planning
- Economic Development
- Emergency Management
- Environmental Initiatives
- Fire Services
- Land Use & Planning
- Mapping (Geospatial Services)
- Parks
- Recreation & Parks Planning
- Recreation & Parks Projects

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## Resource Recovery Plan

**Our Goal** is to **reduce disposal**

490 kg  
to  
360 kg  
per person per year

**Related Links**

- Recycle BC - What Can I Recycle?
- Where Can I Recycle?
- What Happens to My Recycling - Blog
- Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)
- Household Hazardous Waste Round-Up Events
- Free Seasonal Yard & Garden Waste Tipping Programs
- Backyard Composting

3

YouTube CA RDCK RRP

Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) Resource Recovery Plan - Less is More

45 views • 26 May 2021

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Regional District of Central Kootenay

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## **Appendix E: Phase 3 Consultation Memoranda**

- July 6, 2021 Technical Memorandum re: Results of Consultation on the Potential for a Regional Curbside Collection Service prepared by Maura Walker & Associates, Environmental Consultants.
- July 15, 2021 Technical Memorandum re: Results of Consultation on the Draft Resource Recovery Plan prepared by Maura Walker & Associates, Environmental Consultants.