



# Media Release

February 28, 2025

For immediate release

## RDCK pilots new cooking oil recycling program at the Creston Landfill

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is set to pilot a program to divert used cooking oil from sewers and landfills to produce a higher end-use product.

The project is in partnership with Leduc Industrial Inc., a Cranbrook-based business that provides cooking oil collection services for commercial businesses, restaurants and residents in Creston and the surrounding area. Leduc will collect the recovered cooking oil from the Creston Landfill and convert it into a safe, non-toxic concrete release agent for the construction industry.



The program is set to commence March 15, 2025, and will run until October 31, 2025, at which point RDCK Staff will report to the RDCK Board of Directors on its effectiveness and make recommendations on continuing and/or expanding into other areas of the RDCK.

A 2024 survey of both food service businesses and institutions providing commercial food services within the RDCK found only 60% of those surveyed were using cooking oil collection services for disposing of their cooking oil. Some of the barriers to proper disposal were attributed to a lack of storage space and/or the availability of a proper disposal service. It is likely that much of this cooking oil is being dumped with garbage or down the drain, which creates problems such as damage to landfill equipment, sewer system blockages and overflows, and polluting of groundwater and rivers.

Ferdinand Schmidt, the Director of Infrastructure Services for the Town of Creston, agrees this pilot program is beneficial for both the Town of Creston and the RDCK's Landfill Operations, and encourages residents and

businesses to dispose of oil and grease responsibly. "Simple actions, such as recycling cooking oil instead of pouring it down the drain, can significantly protect our wastewater infrastructure and the environment."

RDCK Resource Recovery Manager, Amy Wilson, feels this program will also benefit solid waste operations. "This program will be a win for everyone. Not only will this oil get a second life as a product for the construction industry, it will also help our landfill operations. Sometimes customers place used cooking oil in with their garbage, and I get there aren't a lot of disposal options, but cooking oil can damage equipment and increase fire risk. Add to that greenhouse gases, like methane, which are generated any time an organic waste is landfilled."

Disposing of used cooking oil is free of charge to residents in the Creston area, with a limit of 10 Litres per day. Disposals will be supervised by landfill staff, to ensure contaminants are kept out. This is strictly for used cooking oil, the likes of motor oil, hardened bacon fat, and antifreeze will not be accepted. Disposals can be done during regular business hours at the Creston Landfill.

For more information visit [www.rdck.ca/cookingoil](http://www.rdck.ca/cookingoil).

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

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**For further information, please contact:**

**Uli Wolf**

General Manager of Environmental Services  
Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Tel: 250.352.8163  
Email: [uwolf@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:uwolf@rdck.bc.ca)

**For media enquiries:**

**Dan Elliott**

Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Tel: 250.354.3476  
Email: [delliott@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:delliott@rdck.bc.ca)