

July 24, 2013

Campbell River aims to host a new regional centre for composting

The City of Campbell River will issue a request for expressions of interest and proposals for a public-private partnership to develop a regional composting facility located at the City's Norm Wood Environmental Centre. City Council endorsed the plan at the July 23 meeting.

"The CVRD fully supports this and agrees to support and work with the City to explore the feasibility for a mutually beneficial regional-scaled organics management facility located within the Campbell River area, the construction of a transfer station at the Comox Valley landfill, and a ban on organics disposal at the regional landfills timed to support a new composting facility," says Councillor Mary Storry, who holds the Council portfolio for public works.

"The 2012 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan prioritizes the need to divert organics from the regional landfills as a key priority for the regional service areas," Councillor Storry adds. *"The plan also identifies Campbell River as a potential location for a composting facility to process organic waste from regional residents, institutions and businesses. All of the major communities within the regional service areas have expressed interest in curbside organics collection, and in order to make this a reality, the region requires a facility to process organics."*

The Comox Strathcona Waste Management Board is currently undertaking a small scale organics collection and processing pilot with the Village of Cumberland and Town of Comox.

"Private industry proponents have indicated strong interest in pursuing development of a regional facility, and this is our opportunity to encourage that facility to be built in Campbell River," adds Councillor Storry.

"We're looking for a proponent with proven technology who's willing to invest the capital in developing and operating a facility in Campbell River," says Councillor Larry Samson, who holds Council's environment portfolio. *"It's important to emphasize that this process would not bind the City to proceed with development of a facility, but would provide the opportunity to evaluate options and respond to the private sector's desire to move forward rapidly."*

Typically, about 35 per cent of a community's waste is diverted from landfill through curbside residential composting programs alone.

"The City is also due for an upgrade to its digester at Norm Wood Environmental Centre, and using a compost facility to process solid and liquid waste would save Campbell River millions of dollars on long-term capital expense and land acquisition requirements for future sewage treatment," adds Councillor Samson. *"We have approximately 10 hectares of land at Norm Wood Environmental Centre that could be made available for development of a compost facility. And we can contribute to a public-private partnership by committing to initiate a curbside organic collection program when our current waste collection contract ends."*

Development of a regional-scaled compost facility in Campbell River would provide a variety of opportunities for the City:

- Opportunity for significant waste diversion and an enhanced service for residents
- Increased trucking efficiency (trucks can haul other waste on their return route)
- Opportunity for biosolids composting – reducing need for land and plant upgrades
- Local job opportunities related to organics processing

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