



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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REPORT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Members, Environment and Parks Standing Committee File No.: RECY 1.23

FROM: Laura Zapotichny, General Manager of Environmental Services

DATE: August 2, 2024

SUBJECT: Recycle BC Update

SUMMARY: Purpose: For Information
Attachments: Backgrounder
Previous Reports:
 1. Item 5.1, April 2024
 2. Item 6.3, February 2024

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT the report dated August 2, 2024, regarding "Recycle BC Update" be received for information.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

ISSUE(S):

At the April 2024 Board Meeting, the Board agreed to the offer from Recycle BC to operate three principal depots at the Quinn Street Regional Recycling Depot, the Valemount Regional Transfer Station, and the Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station and Select Waste Landfill. The Chair and Corporate Officer were authorized to execute the contractual agreement with Recycle BC by signing the Master Service Agreement and Statement of Work with Recycle BC.

With the contractual agreements signed, Environmental Services Administration (ESA) has been working on meeting the operational needs of each site with an anticipated opening of the Recycle BC program on September 16, 2024.

There are several key areas that must be addressed before the program can begin, including but not limited to: education and signage, collection and storage, training of site attendants and infrastructure.

Recycle BC will be providing the initial signage for each site as well as all the informational brochures and pamphlets for site users. Once the sites are operational, ESA will determine if additional signage is required. Recycle BC is working on an informational update to be released to the public and site users to be supplemented with advertising by the RDFFG.

Collection of the recyclables will be in 'megabags' that are stored in refurbished metal containers, provided by the RDFFG. The megabags are supplied by Recycle BC. At the Quinn Street Regional Recycling Depot, two forty-yard roll off containers will be supplied by Recycle BC for cardboard and mixed paper product, as it is anticipated that the greatest volume of material will be collected at this site and under those waste streams.

ESA is working with Recycle BC to develop training for contractors and staff. ESA will be providing on-going support and training to site attendants once the program begins.

One of the largest pieces of onboarding Recycle BC has been ensuring that the proper infrastructure is in place for the program start date of September 16, 2024. This includes machinery and/or equipment to move full megabags of recyclables and storage for tools, equipment and filled megabags.

The Committee is not being asked to make any decisions at this time. Environmental Services Administration will be in attendance to answer questions.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

1. *Environmental Management Act*
 - establishes the requirement for regional districts to undertake solid waste management planning; and
 - provides authority for the Minister to regulate extended producer responsibility (product stewardship) initiatives.
2. *Recycling Regulation 449/2004*
 - establishes implementation of extended producer responsibility (product stewardship) programs in British Columbia.
3. 2015 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan
 - establishes stewardship programs as waste management tool; and
 - maintain multi-material drop depots as residential recycling services.
4. RD-23-22: Extended Producer Responsibility Programs
 - establishes a framework that defines the Regional District's role in providing waste diversion collection services for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs.
5. Waste Reduction Services Establishment Bylaw No. 2901, 2014
 - establishes the sub-regional service which supports the delivery of the multi-material recycling program.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- Climate Action
 Economic Health
 Indigenous Relations
 Strong Communities
 None – Statutory or Routine Business

SERVICE RELEVANCE:

The Regional District provides solid waste services for the entire Regional District of Fraser-Fort George including waste diversion opportunities and is committed to supporting waste diversion strategies outlined in the *2015 Regional Solid Waste Management Plan* including the opportunity to receive funding through designated EPR organizations.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The Multi-Material Recycling Service program is funded from the 3305 - Solid Waste and the 3307 - Waste Reduction budgets.

Expenditures required to facilitate program startup and ongoing operational costs once the principal depots are launched are covered by these budgets. Given the temporary pause in recycling services as of May 31, 2024, there is sufficient funding to redirect to the required expenditures.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

N/A

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendation:
 - report will be received.

COMMENTS:

Environmental Services Administration continues to work with contractors, staff and Recycle BC to ensure the three principal depots are ready for the start of the program on September 16, 2024. This includes ensuring that staff and contractors are trained, signage and infrastructure is in place and the public is informed of the opening of the three Recycle BC depots.

Once the three principal depots are operational, Environmental Services Administration will work with Recycle BC for additional principal depots in 2025 as well as identifying the locations where satellite depots may be located.

Respectfully submitted,

“Laura Zapotichny”

Laura Zapotichny
General Manager of Environmental Services

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BACKGROUNDER

Recycle BC is the not-for-profit stewardship agency that is responsible for residential packaging and paper product recycling throughout British Columbia. Recycle BC ensures packaging and paper product is collected from households and recycling depots, sorted and responsibly managed and recycled.

There are three locations that are set to become principal depots on September 16, 2024. The Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station and Select Waste Landfill (Mackenzie), the Valemount Regional Transfer Station (Valemount) and the Quinn Street Regional Recycling Depot (Quinn Street).

Environmental Services Administration (ESA) has been working on meeting the operational requirements to ensure these sites are able to receive recycling material starting on that date.

Mackenzie:

With the approval of the Recycle BC program, the recycle bins that had been in the town centre were removed on May 31, 2024. There have been concerns from residents about accessibility to recycling services, as the Recycle BC program requirements dictate that the program is operated from the Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station.

ESA is proposing an hour increase to the site. The site currently is open five days a week: Sunday through Thursday, 9am – 5pm. The proposed hour change would see the site open Monday through Friday, 9am – 5pm, Saturday and Sunday, 9am – 3pm and open from 9am – 4pm on the following holidays: Easter Monday, Victoria Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day. Opening the site seven days a week provides flexibility for residential users and increases access to the site by 14 hours per week, year-round.

To meet the infrastructure needs of Recycle BC, ESA will be relocating a second skid-steer from the Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill site. This piece of equipment is required to move full megabags that are on skids (wooden pallets).



The megabags will be in refurbished recycling bins, with proper signage for residential users. Once the megabag is full, staff will 'tag' the bag, and then set it aside in a C-Can purchased for storage of these materials until pick up can be arranged by the approved Recycle BC hauler.

The long-term plan for the Mackenzie site, is to replicate the Bulkley-Nechako Regional District's Quonset-style hut recycling depot, which will include a covered, sheltered area for residents to do their recycling as well as storage for full megabags. This will be reflected in the 2025 budget, with implementation in late spring/early summer 2025.



The RDFFG will continue to operate the cardboard compactor at the Mackenzie site as a recycling option for commercial customers.

Valemount:

At this time, ESA is not proposing any hour changes at the Valemount Regional Transfer Station.

The long-term plans with the Valemount site include the closure of the old landfill site, which will necessitate the relocation of the metal and yard and garden recycling areas to a newly logged and cleared area adjacent to the transfer station bin area. When that new area is ready, the intention is to make this the permanent site for managing the Recycle BC program, including a Quonset-style hut as pictured above.

The Regional District is currently engaged with the Simpcw First Nation and the Ministry of Forests to obtain a cut permit to begin this work. Pending the ongoing engagement, ESA anticipates a potential start date of the Valemount rural landfill closure project in mid-summer 2025.

Before the start date of September 16, 2024, ESA is working on a staging area for the bins that will house the megabags at the site. These bins will have all five recyclable streams in them for residential usage. This includes the relocation of the swap shed and better lines of site for the site attendants, as well as ease of access for residential users of the site.

ESA has secured a storage container for full megabags, as well as a rental agreement for a small skid-steer for usage on the site and is repurposing an ATV-type multi-purpose vehicle for staff usage on the site. These pieces of equipment will help the staff to complete waste screening, customer service delivery and site management.

The RDFFG will continue to operate the cardboard compactor at the Valemount site as a recycling option for commercial customers.

Quinn Street:

The Quinn Street Regional Recycling Depot has historically been the location within Prince George that sees the highest volume of recycling collected. ESA anticipates this trend to resume when the site begins to accept Recycle BC products on September 16.

The site is currently open seven days a week, Sunday through Saturday, from 9am – 5pm from April 1 to October 31. ESA is proposing that the site maintain these hours of operation year-round. Opening the site seven days a week provides flexibility for residential users and increases access to the site by 16 hours per week, from November 1 to March 31 each year.

The Quinn Street site is currently operated by a contractor. The term for the Caretaker Services contract began on January 1, 2024. In meeting with the current contractor, they are prepared to hire additional staff to meet the requirements of the Recycle BC program as well as ensure that the proper equipment needed to manage the product is on site.

If the hour change is approved for the Quinn Street site, ESA will work with the current contractor to secure a proposed scope change to the current contract. This additional expense will be presented to the Board at the September 2024 meeting.

Other

Recycle BC will be providing the initial signage for each site. If additional signage is required, then the RDFFG will have to purchase them. Recycle BC will also provide megabags, bag 'tags,' and educational materials for staff and contractors to give out to users. Recycle BC is also working on public messaging for the anticipated depot opening on September 16, 2024.

ESA will continue to support and train staff and contractors on materials accepted, sorting of materials and contamination.