

RDN's Solid Waste Management Plan Recognized for Innovations

In the spring, prior to COVID-19, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) received good news from the Province: our Solid Waste Management Plan is approved. The Plan, which sets the ambitious target of 90 per cent waste diversion from the landfill was submitted to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy on July 3, 2018. On March 3, 2020, the RDN received approval from the Minister giving the Plan the green light.

Waste diversion has been at the forefront of the RDN's Solid Waste services since 1988 when the RDN's first Solid Waste Management Plan was approved. The 2018 amendment outlines a roadmap to achieving an unprecedented 90 per cent waste diversion rate through the continuation and enhancement of existing programs and the introduction of new, innovative programs supporting waste reduction initiatives and promoting increased waste diversion. Over the next 10 years of the Solid Waste Management Plan, the RDN will introduce new Zero Waste strategies including Zero Waste Recycling, Household Hazardous Waste, Mandatory Waste Source Separation, and Waste Hauler Licensing.

The RDN is achieving some of the highest waste diversion in Canada and was one of the first jurisdictions on Vancouver Island to move beyond recycling and adopt a Zero Waste approach to eliminating waste. The RDN's approach to Zero Waste has been featured by the CBC in the upcoming episode of Good People with Mark Sakamoto, Episode 5: Waste, which airs June 5, 2020.

To learn more about the RDN's Solid Waste Management Plan, visit <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/solid-waste-management-plan>.

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