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## Regional Solid Waste Management Plan approved

Over the past year the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has been reviewing its Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan is the plan that lays out how we will recycle, compost and dispose of our garbage for the next 10-20 years. The previous plan was approved in 2009, and as part of the monitoring and evaluation component of the plan, there is an obligation to review and update the plan every five years to ensure that it reflects current needs.

As part of the review, the Regional District hosted a series of online surveys to get feedback from the public, presented to municipal councils and First Nations and met directly with key stakeholders to get more feedback.

The plan aims to reduce the total amount disposed from 840 kg per capita in 2014 to 570 kg per capita, while increasing the amount of waste diverted from the landfill from 300 kg per capita to 570 kg per capita.

The plan keys on actions and initiatives in the following areas

- Reduction and reuse
- Residential diversion
- Organic waste diversion
- Industrial, commercial institutional waste (ICI) diversion
- Construction and demolition waste (C&D) diversion
- Extended producer responsibility
- Promotion and Education
- Illegal dumping

Some of the recommendations in the new plan include:

- Establishing campaigns to encourage waste reduction behaviours, like using cloth shopping bags, refillable mugs, and reducing the amount of food waste we throw out
- Setting residential garbage can limits and garbage cart fees at levels that encourage residents to use local recycling and composting opportunities
- Implementing residential curbside recycling collection in Mackenzie, Valemount and McBride if/when funding for this service becomes available from organizations like Multi-Material BC
- Encouraging more recycling by businesses and multi-family buildings (e.g. apartments and condos), restrict the disposal of recyclable materials in the garbage
- Assessing the feasibility of reusing and recycling components of the waste generated by construction and demolition activities
- Developing a region-wide strategy to tackle illegal dumping

“We’re excited to have a plan in place that provides the blue print for how we handle waste in our region, and sets ambitious but realistic targets for waste reduction and diversion. We were pleased to engage the public, our partners and stakeholders in developing this plan and look forward to a continued partnership and we move to implementation,” says Rachael Ryder, Waste Diversion Program Leader for the Regional District.

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