

Quarterly information for residents by the Sunshine Coast Regional District.



## Let's talk trash

### How are we going to reduce waste in our region?

In the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), we can be proud of the job we have done in reducing waste so far. The Sunshine Coast stands out as one of the few regional districts in BC that has achieved a level of 50 percent waste diverted from landfills.

The SCRD is proposing programs in the draft Zero Waste Management Plan (ZWMP) that could see more than 69 percent of waste diverted by 2016. This saves valuable landfill space, better protects the environment and establishes a foundation for even greater waste reduction in the longer term.

Greenhouse gases are released in the form of methane as garbage rots in landfills. The ZWMP targets a greenhouse gas reduction of 4000 tonnes by 2016 through capturing methane at the landfill site and by diverting recyclable and organic waste from the landfill. This would be equivalent to removing 2600 vehicles from the road each year.

### The Zero Waste Management Plan's Goals

The existing plan was approved in 2005 and has helped us reach a target of 50 percent of waste diverted from our landfills. This plan update goes one step farther to consider specific actions to move towards Zero Waste and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Overarching goals for the plan include:

- Consistency with provincial and regional goals for greenhouse gas reduction, including those in the SCRD's Community Energy and Emissions Plan
- An environmentally sound waste management system, striving to achieve Zero Waste
- A financially affordable system, providing enough long-term disposal space
- A financially self-sustaining system, based on the principle of "user pay"
- A flexible system, responsive to the needs of the residents

### Your Opinion Matters

The SCRD is looking for feedback from residents and businesses about how we plan to manage our waste in the future, including proposed programs for recycling, food scraps, garbage collection and disposal.

On June 20 to 22 three **open houses** are being held across the region for the community to view display panels, talk to SCRD representatives, learn more about proposed programs and most importantly, let us know what you think.

Need more information? Simply go to [www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca) where you'll find background information, plan documents, open house locations and times and a community survey. **Fill out the survey for a chance to win \$100 in groceries** or email comments to [zerowaste@scrd.ca](mailto:zerowaste@scrd.ca) by Thursday, June 30, 2011.

## Q AND A ABOUT REGIONAL DISTRICTS

Q: What are regional districts?

A: Regional districts are federations of the municipalities and electoral areas that exist within their boundaries. There are five electoral areas and three municipalities in the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Except in a limited number of instances—related to provincially-mandated services such as solid waste management, emergency planning and general government administration— regional districts act only in response to the expressed needs, interests and instructions of their members. With few exceptions, regional districts derive both their legitimacy and authority to act from their member jurisdictions.

Q: Can municipalities or electoral areas be forced to participate in a regional district service?

A: With the exception of a few provincially-mandated services, member jurisdictions cannot be forced to participate in regional district services. In general, individual jurisdictions are free to choose which services, if any, they wish to enter (or initiate). Jurisdictions choose to participate in regional district services when it is in their best interest to do so.

Source: UBCM Communities in Partnership.

Whether you live in Pender Harbour, Gibsons, Sechelt, or West Howe Sound, local government is responding to your community's needs and planning for your community's future.



The Sunshine Coast is a community of communities creating a sustainable way of life through a collaborative decision making process. We are committed to an enhanced natural context, local control over local resources, a vibrant economy and an enriched cultural fabric.

To receive this information electronically, go to [www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca) and click on "Sign up for our newsletter".

Sunshine Coast Regional District  
1975 Field Road, Sechelt, BC V0N 3A1  
Phone: 604-885-6800 Fax: 604-885-7909  
[info@scrd.ca](mailto:info@scrd.ca)  
[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca)

