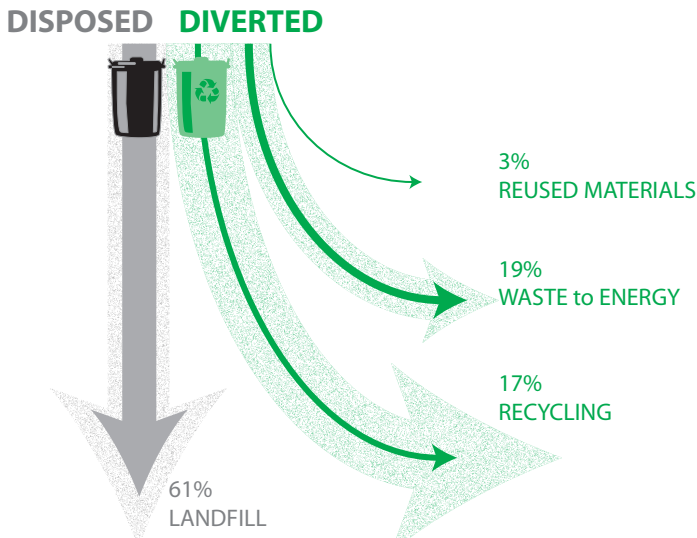


Destination Zero



Destination Zero Waste

The Sunshine Coast Regional District Board envisions a **Zero Waste region** – no waste, only resources. In the early 1990’s on the Sunshine Coast, all waste (except scrap metal) was sent to landfills. Since then, many improvements to services and monitoring have resulted in more than 39 % materials being diverted from landfills. ¹

In 2009 residents of the Sunshine Coast sent just over 13,000 tonnes of garbage to local landfills. In addition, over 8300 tonnes of material was diverted from landfills by SCRDR related programs in reuse, recycling, and recovery (waste to energy). Below are some actions that have helped the region improve solid waste management over the years.

¹ In 2009, 39% of materials handled by local government programs were diverted from landfills. This did not include private recycling programs, for which the SCRDR has no hard

data as private sector information is proprietary. Estimates of private sector hauling and recycling are represented as shaded arrows.

Destination Zero Waste: Sunshine Coast Milestones Passed Along The Way

early 1980s: SCRDR collects two 77-litre cans of garbage per household weekly, funded by taxation. Soft drink and beer bottle returns in place.

Mid 1980s: SCRDR provides grant to Sunshine Coast Recycling And Processing Society (SCRAPS) depot based recycling.

1989: 50% per capita waste reduction by 2000 target set by Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

1991: Car batteries return-to-retail program begins.

1992: 2 active Landfills: Sechelt and Pender Harbour. Scrap metal is recycled. All other garbage is landfilled. No tipping fees; no site supervision. BC Waste

Management Act requires Regional Solid Waste Plans.

1993: SCRDR initiates Solid Waste Management Planning process. Bear fence, weigh scale and environmental monitoring added at Sechelt landfill. SCRAPS and GRIPS diverting household recyclables. Good Samaritan Clean-Up Program begins for Illegal dump sites.

1994: Tipping fees begin at both landfills - Gypsum, tires, refrigerators and freezers separated for recycling. Paint Care Depot opens at Sechelt Landfill. Rechargeable batteries return-to-retail program begins.

1995: Sunshine Coast achieves 35% per capita waste reduction (since 1990). Bear fence added at Pender landfill. Yard and

garden waste now separate from landfill. Construction and Demolition wood waste chipped for use on-site

1996: Residential garbage collection now flat rate, user pay. “Sunshine Coast Solid Waste Management Plan” adopted and approved. Weigh scale and environmental monitoring added at Pender Landfill. Comprehensive tipping fees added at both sites. Pender Landfill wetland treatment area developed. Pharmaceuticals return-to-retail program begins.



1997: Comprehensive bottle return program begins. Solvents, flammables and pesticides return program begins at Sechelt landfill.

1998: 39% waste reduction per capita (since 1990). Launch of "One Can" program for residential garbage collection in SCRD (reduced by half), Sechelt and Gibsons. 'Share Sheds' begin at both landfills. Spring Clean-Up and Community Swap begins: annual until 2006.

2000: 47% waste reduction per capita (since 1990). RFP and award five year contracts for recycling depot services to: SCRAPS; GRIPS. Household recycling drop-off now at landfill. The market for glass recycling crashes – glass is still collected and used for drainage projects in place of gravel. Annual Islands Clean Up Program begins.

2002: Asphalt roofing diversion begins (currently asphalt roofing is ground and used as landfill cover).

2003: SCRD assumes interim operation of south coast recycling after SCRAPS declares bankruptcy. Motor oil, containers and filters return program begins.

2004: Annual Spring Clean-Up Coupon Program begins in Pender Harbour. Free Green Waste programs begin at both landfills. Free Green Waste program begins in Gibsons.

2005: "SCRD Revised Solid Waste Management Plan" adopted, including Zero Waste goal and definition.

2006: Hide-a-beds are now separated at the landfill for recycling. Milk containers return program begins. Curbside collection of

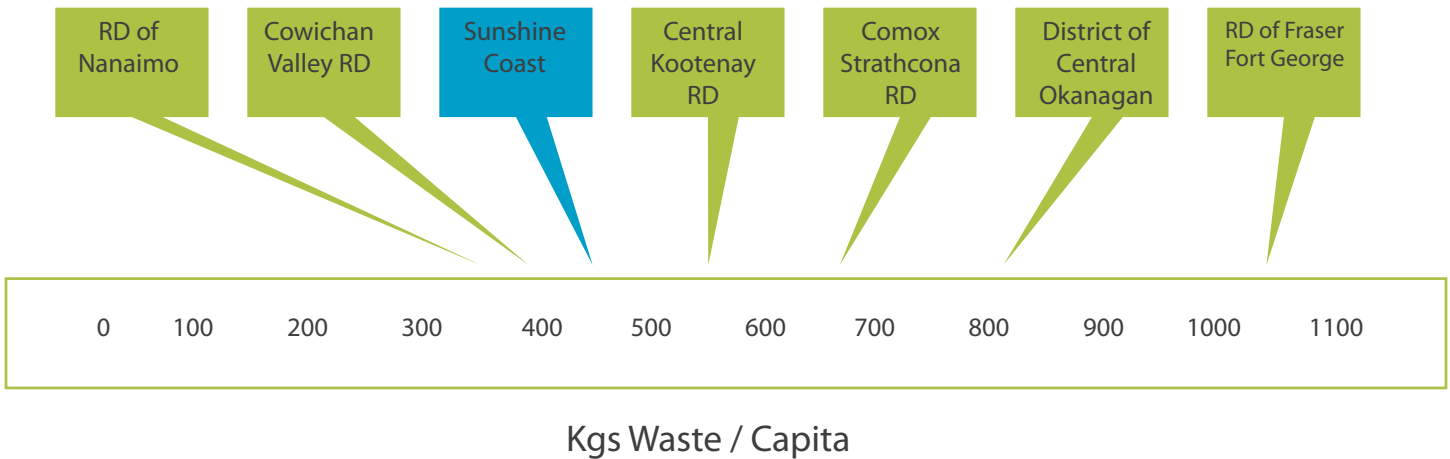
recyclables begins in the District of Sechelt.

2007: SCRD secures \$1.08 million for infrastructure to mitigate Green House Gases from landfill. Tire return-to-retail program begins. Spring Clean-Up replaced by Clean-Up Coupon Program: one free load at the landfill.

2008: 48% waste reduction per capita (since 1990). SCRD Recycling Service Review completed: curbside recycling and depot enhancements recommended.

2009: Solid Waste Management Plan Update initiated, scope to include detailed Zero Waste and residuals management action plan. Styrofoam recycling begins in Gibsons. Electronic Waste return depot opens in Gibsons.

In 2009, on average, each individual on the coast sent 450 kilograms of garbage to the landfill or, 1.2 kilograms of garbage per person, each day. How does this compare to other communities?



While the Sunshine Coast is reusing and recycling more than ever before, we have room for improvement. Recyclables and organics (kitchen and yard trimmings) are the two biggest components of residential garbage – they are the next focus in the region's Solid Waste Management Plan, for getting to Zero Waste. To find out more, watch for the upcoming Zero Waste fact sheet: "Garbage, Recycling and Climate Change."