

# ACRD Solid Waste Management Plan BACKGROUND

September 2024

The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District is working to update their Solid Waste Management Plan – a long-term plan that will outline how waste is reduced and materials are properly managed throughout the region. This plan includes in municipalities, electoral areas and First Nations communities.



## PROCESS TO DATE

The SWMP Plan Update kicked off in Spring 2023 and has achieved key milestones.



**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** The advisory committee created meaningful principles to guide decisions and planning.



**GOALS AND TARGETS:** The advisory committee set goals and targets to support the guiding principles.



**ENGAGEMENT:** The public has engaged and provided feedback that has helped guide the process.



**STRATEGIES:** Eight draft strategies have been developed to guide solid waste management planning ahead.

This backgrounder gives an overview of these key pieces, and the timeline to come.

Learn more at:

[letsconnectacrd.ca/swmp](https://letsconnectacrd.ca/swmp)

## TIMELINE

**SPRING/SUMMER 2023**

SWMP Initiated Meeting

**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Project Kick Off and PAC Introduction Meeting

**OCTOBER 2023**

PAC Meeting #2: System Overview & Guiding Principles  
Public Survey #1: Managing Your Waste

**NOVEMBER 2023**

PAC Meeting #3: Survey Results, Options  
Brainstorm, Guiding Principles

**FEBRUARY 2024**

PAC Meeting #4: Guiding Principles  
PAC Meeting #5: Options, Best Practices

**SPRING/SUMMER 2024**

PAC Meeting #6: Options and Evaluation  
PAC Meeting #7: Target and Goal Setting by Strategy

**FALL 2024**

PAC Meeting #8 - Target and Goal Setting  
Finalization and Engagement Planning  
Public Engagement on Draft Strategies and Actions

**WINTER 2024/2025**

Draft Plan Developed

**WINTER 2024/2025**

Public Engagement - Draft Plan Review

**SPRING 2025**

Draft Plan submitted to Province





## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ACRD guiding principles use the Nuu-chah-nulth Sacred Principles as a framework for addressing respect, taking care, and recognizing everything is one for people and the land.

### 1. ?iiasaak (iisaak) / Utmost Respect

Personal and collective respect for the community and its people, traditional knowledge, the natural world, the metaphysical world, and other peoples and communities.

- a. We are responsible and accountable for how we make, consume, dispose of things in a fiscally responsible way.
- b. We are leaders in how we provide solutions to address waste reduction, diversion and solid waste management strategies.
- c. We protect and regenerate the natural environment lands and natural systems.

### 2. ?u?aaluk (u-aa-lhuk) / Taking Care of

In this context, this is about taking care of present and future generations, as well as taking care of self and the resources provided by the land and the natural world.

- a. We are creating a community that prioritizes using the waste prevention hierarchy to manage materials and products – through system and behaviour changes that set norms and habits and add convenience.
- b. We support circular economy and low carbon footprint approaches for rethinking and redesigning products for durability, reuse and recycling.
- c. We ensure the costs and benefits of change are distributed equitably among communities and across generations.

### 3. hišuk ?iš cawaak (Hish-uk ish ts'a-waak) / Everything is One

A notion of the interconnected, interdependent, and reciprocal relationship between the people, the land, and the wider world(s) in a physical, spiritual, and social sense.

- a. We think across systems, places and generations to deliver accessible, equitable and inclusive outcomes.
- b. We recognize the connections between wasting valuable resources disposed of as garbage and other environmental, social and economic issues, including climate change and biodiversity.
- c. We use a collaborative approach for education, advocacy to work across generations and build trust.
- d. We recognize the wide range of social situations, geography and other factors that influence perspective and should inform how education offering and programs may need to be adapted.





## GOALS AND TARGETS

The ACRD goals and targets for the plan support the guiding principles and measure plan success.

### Goals

- 1. Social Equity and Local Economy:** Provide inclusive (equitable and accessible) opportunities across all solid waste systems and programs in ways that provide local economic benefits through social procurement.
- 2. Environmental:** Avoid impacts from solid waste collection and disposal facilities that negatively impact local ecosystems.
- 3. Education:** Create effective and accessible education to all audience types to promote waste reduction and diversion services and programs.
- 4. Economic:** Make financially responsible decisions using waste reduction and diversion initiatives to offset more costly disposal systems over time.

### Target

The ACRD aims to take care of people and the land by using resources wisely. The ACRD encourages community members to reduce, reuse and recycle to get the most out of their products and reduce their carbon footprint.

To measure progress towards goals, the ACRD disposal target is 350kg per person per year to landfill by 2035, which aligns with the provincial disposal rate target.



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The public has been invited to participate throughout the process and has been responsive. From active members of the Public Advisory Committee to strong participation in surveys, their feedback has helped to guide the process.

In Fall 2023, we asked people across the region to share details about how they manage their waste, what services they use and how satisfied they are. We also asked them to rank the considerations that should be top priority for planning. These rankings have helped to guide the Advisory Committee throughout the planning process.



Effectiveness at  
Waste Reduction



Cost to  
Residents



Degree of  
Waste Diversion



Public Advisory Committee members touring the West Coast landfill, learning about available diversion options.

The next round of engagement - presenting strategies and collecting feedback - will be held in Fall 2024.





## WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

With the foundations of guiding principles and public priorities to guide them, the Advisory Committee has identified eight strategies, with suggested actions.

### 1. Foundational Strategy – Plan and Implement Education and Behaviour Change Programs Across Strategies 2-8

- 1a. Develop Education and Behaviour Change Strategy and Implementation Plan
- 1b. Implement Waste Reduction and Diversion Education and Behaviour Change Program

### 2. Establish/Expand Resource Recovery Centres and Eco-Depots

- 2a. Establish West Coast Infrastructure and Services
- 2b. Expand Alberni Valley Infrastructure and Services
- 2c. Expand Bamfield and Salmon Beach Infrastructure and Services (Remote)
- 2d. Support Indigenous Eco-Depots

### 3. Develop Business and Organization Zero Waste Program

- 3a. Develop and Implement Policy Tools for Waste Minimization and Diversion
- 3b. Create Education Materials, Business Recognition and Engagement Events (core)
- 3c. Initiate Training and Mentoring Support for Businesses and Organizations (enhanced)
- 3d. Provide Zero Waste Innovation Grants / Incentives
- 3e. Expand Civic Site Waste Minimization and Diversion Initiatives to Lead by Example

### 4. Establish Organics Management Infrastructure and Operations in Remote and Indigenous Communities

- 4a. Establish Bamfield and Salmon Beach Transfer Station Organics Management
- 4b. Expand Indigenous Organics Management

### 5. Establish Multi-Stream Diversion Programs

- 5a. Expand Rural Single Family Diversion Opportunities
- 5b. Develop Multi-Family Recycling and Composting Collection
- 5c. Establish Public Space Multi-Stream Recycling
- 5d. Support Zero Waste Events

### 6. Reduce, Reuse and Divert Construction and Demolition (C&D) Material (Built Environment)

- 6a. Promote 'Resource Smart' Building Design, Deconstruction and Home Relocation
- 6b. Support Policy for C&D Materials Management – Onsite Construction
- 6c. Expand Infrastructure and Services C&D Materials Management – ACRD Solid Waste Management Facilities

### 7. Expand Other Material and Product End of Life Management

- 7a. Expand Hazardous Materials Collection (non-Extended Producer Responsibility [EPR])
- 7b. Incentivize Large Item Management
- 7c. Enhance EPR Program Access and Usage
- 7d. Develop Disaster Debris Management Plan
- 7e. Deter illegal dumping and support Oceans Plastic Management

### 8. Ensure Proper Residual Management

Manage residuals responsibly for each watershed.

- 8a. Develop Long Term Disposal Options AV
- 8b. Complete Landfill Capital Projects
  - 8bi. Complete Landfill Capital Projects AV
  - 8bii. Complete Landfill Capital Projects WC