

Dear Mayor & Council,

As a resident who cares deeply about the environmental health and long-term sustainability of the Whistler community, I am writing to express my strong support for the steps RMOW staff are taking to implement the Zero Waste Action Plan (ZWAP). I commend their commitment and ongoing work, and I am encouraged by recent progress, particularly the recent amendments to the Solid Waste Bylaw presented to Council on June 10th.

I am especially supportive of the bylaw changes that:

- Improve options for addressing non-compliance in multifamily housing,
- Clarify banned materials to support proper sorting,
- Introduce revised wood waste definitions and a reuse pilot initiative,
- Require solid waste management plans for certain permits.

However, as highlighted by RMOW staff during the June 10th Council meeting, Whistler is not on track to meet its target of reducing landfill waste by 80% by 2030 (from 2019 levels), with 11,577 tonnes generated last year, a far cry from the 2,368-tonne goal. The update made it clear that no new technology is needed; rather, we must shift how we manage waste and engage the community to drive meaningful change.

This is where bold leadership from the Council is essential. We need you to continue empowering staff, supporting the Zero Waste Working Group, and pushing forward solutions that make it easier to do the right thing, and harder to do the wrong thing. These targets are critical for measuring progress and driving meaningful action. Falling short should inspire renewed effort, not reduced ambition.

To accelerate progress toward our zero waste goals, I urge Council to consider the following recommendations

- Introduce hauler licensing and data reporting for greater oversight;
- Require clear bags for landfill-bound waste to encourage source separation;
- Expand local recycling options for items like asphalt shingles, furniture, and hazardous waste;
- Implement “Pay As You Throw” systems to create financial incentives for waste reduction;
- Provide free tire drop-off at the transfer station;
- Extend solid waste management plan requirements to all new builds, major renovations, and rezoning applications;
- Align mixed waste contamination limits with Squamish’s 5% threshold.

Effective waste management is essential for meeting climate targets because it reduces potent greenhouse gas emissions, conserves resources, and supports low-carbon, circular communities that are key to a sustainable future. The Zero Waste Action Plan provides a realistic and community-driven roadmap to reducing waste and building local resilience. It deserves full implementation.

I appreciate your ongoing leadership and look forward to seeing Whistler continue to move toward its sustainability goals.

Sincerely,
Kris Shoup
Whistler