

the wet and heavy organic waste from generating Green House Gas (GHG) when it slowly decomposing in a low oxygen environment. To provide the incentive to do this, the RMOW keeps the food scrap organic tip fee lower than the landfill waste tip fee.

The Solid Waste Management Strategy was created to help reduce solid waste costs primarily through keeping waste out of the landfill and relying less on disposal. This can be done through education but the waste management program must also be able to respond to change in the community. The program does this by having effective service agreements in place, periodic bylaw amendments to ensure municipal policy does not impede community disposal goals, and by participating in new initiatives such as province-wide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) collection programs which removes the direct cost to the community to dispose of a recycled product.

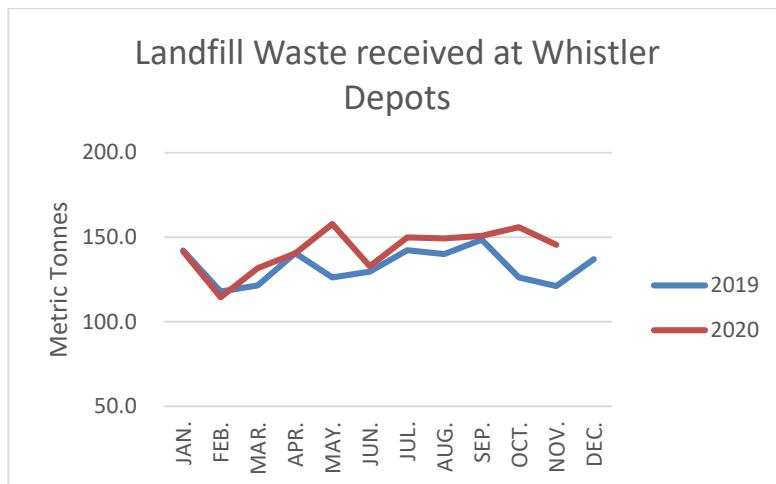
The 2013 Whistler Zero Waste Plan supports the SLRD plan which focuses on initiatives to reduce the amount of waste generated which reduces GHG because you're no longer transporting and processing collected waste.

The municipality operates two residential waste depots, a transfer station and compost facility (both located in the Callaghan Valley). Material is received, sorted when possible, and loaded into containers to be shipped to Lower Mainland recyclers or to the Campbell hill landfill located in Cache Creek.

The tip fees charged at the transfer station were last updated in 2019. Different tip fees rates are charged for different types of waste coming into the facility. Different rates are used to incentivise waste reduction and diversion while balancing the risk of increasing illegal dumping around the community because some waste producers feel the costs are too high to dispose of their waste responsibly. Aligning tip fees with other local community's waste management programs lowers the risk of waste moving up and down the highway from one community to another for disposal.

Discussion

Depots

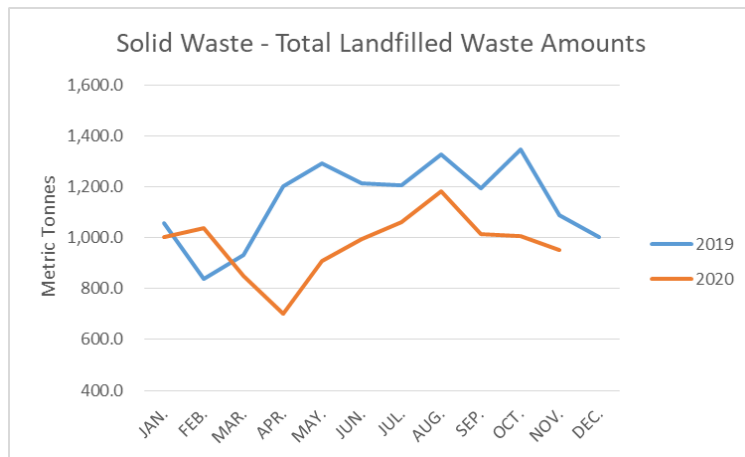


The municipality operates two waste collection depots in town that were constructed to service primarily single family homes and small strata developments, as no curb side collection service is offered in Whistler. The depots collect seasonal waste like Christmas trees, yard waste (during the

non-winter months of the year) landfill waste, organic food scraps, scrap metal, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recyclable material such as printed paper and cardboard, glass bottles and jars, foam packaging, mixed containers, plastic bags and film and other flexible packaging. Refundable containers, electronics and household hazardous waste are also collected at the Nesters depot.

2020 started out being a typical waste collection year until Covid 19 impacted the community which changed how much waste was being generated. Although the community seemed quieter, with people spending more time at home the residential landfill waste volumes received at the depots increased compared to 2019.

Transfer Station



Unlike the volumes received that the depots, the amount of waste collected at the transfer station is less compared to 2019. The impact Covid 19 had on the Hotel and Restaurant sector is the most likely reason for this decrease.

This autumn, a new disposal contract was put in place that changed the disposal location for the residual waste collected at the transfer station. Waste is now being transported via B-train (two trailer) transport truck to the Campbell Hill landfill located in Cache Creek. The new B-train configured trucks will allow for more waste material to be compacted into each truck, reducing the number of trucks leaving the transfer station each year. The municipality and the transfer station contractor continue to look for ways to recover more recyclable material from the landfill waste stream, reducing the amount of waste requiring transport and landfill disposal. Currently yard waste, clean and dirty wood waste, metal, and large appliances, glass, bicycle - car and light duty truck

Solid Waste Program Update and Tipping Fee Increase

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tires, mattresses, non-hazardous gypsum (drywall), car batteries and non-hazardous paints are recycled at the transfer station.

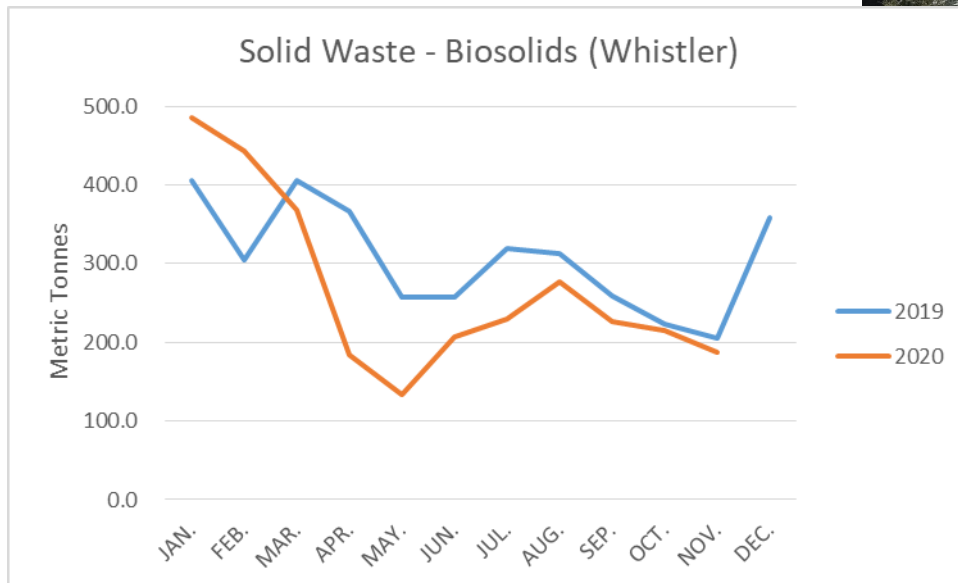


The transfer station operator looks for opportunities to identify poorly disposed of waste however, a fire occurred this year inside the residential landfill waste and gypsum collection tent that resulted in damage to the structure's vinyl cover. No cause of the fire was determined but it is not uncommon to have fires at transfer stations because of improper disposal of materials such as linseed soaked rags or old lithium batteries that still hold a charge. The structure was replaced through municipal insurance. To reduce the opportunity for poor disposal of hazardous waste to occur, municipal staff are proposing to introduce a clear bag policy next year which will make it more difficult to illegally dump this type of waste at the municipal facilities.

Compost Facility



Wood grinding



The Callaghan compost facility continues to receive organic waste primarily from Whistler, the District of Squamish, and small amounts from other communities within the SLRD. The amount of Biosolids processed at the facility was down compared to 2019. The impact Covid 19 had on the number of visitors able to visit Whistler was the most likely reason for this decrease in volume.

The composting process uses chipped wood material as a source of carbon absorbed by the bacteria and fungi, and used as a bulking agent critical for ensuring adequate air flow through the composting mixture. The facility receives this wood waste from community yard waste collection, local FireSmart fuel thinning programs and from the Cheakamus Community Forest land management program.

New Solid Waste Technician and Waste Coordinator

This year starting in February, a new Solid Waste Technician joined the municipal team to provide support to the solid waste program. The technician is responsible for managing outreach programs and for providing key waste reduction and disposal messaging to the community through social media, community events and through committee and working groups; providing best practice information on what's possible to reduce the amount of waste we generate as a community each year.

Next year a Waste Coordinator is planned to be hired to maintain municipal waste facility maintenance programs, to respond to operational issues and to develop capital improvement plans ensuring the facilities can adapt to new waste handling best practices or to government policy amendments.

Some of the outreach initiatives that the solid waste team has been working on are outlined below.

Community Outreach and Communications

Municipal waste management pages continue to be updated to provide current information to the community on waste disposal and recycling best practices. These can be found here:

<https://www.whistler.ca/services/waste-management>

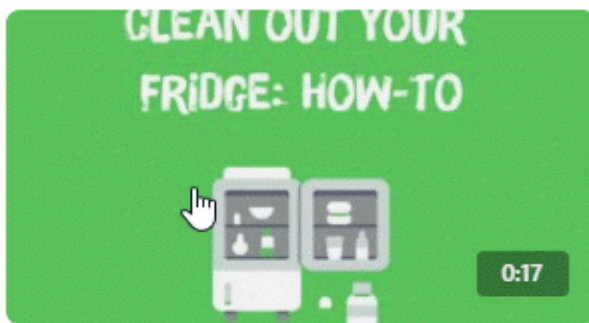
Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW)

LFHW is an online campaign aimed “to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste”. This campaign was first introduced in the UK and has since expanded to communities in Canada and now to Whistler. The RMOW began participating with this campaign last year with a goal to reduce the amounts of food waste generated in the community. This LFHW material along with material produced by staff will be seen throughout the year in the community which includes informing riders on local transit.



Online Social media Communication

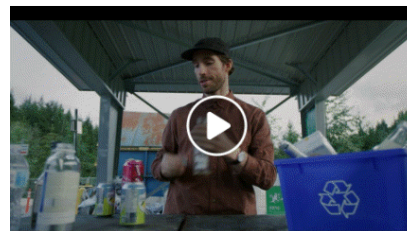
A total of 45 social media posts were created this year with over 54,000 views to date. The goal of the posts is to inform the community about campaigns such as waste reduction week held every year in October or changes to existing services such as yard waste disposal, or information on how not to create waste, which is the first and most important step in keeping waste out of the landfill.



It's National Clean Our Your Fridge Day! ...

Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) shared a video from the playlist [How To Be A Good EcoCitizen Videos](#). November 25 at 9:13 AM · 🌐

Did you know one thing we can do to help the environment is to watch our waste footprint. That means not littering and making sure to put waste in the right bins – in Whistler we separate the different types of recycling, separate food waste and organics for composting and try to reduce the amount of garbage destined for landfill. Remember though, the best thing to do is try avoid creating waste in the first place!... [See More](#)



Whistler Today Newsletter Zero Waste Tips

This year, zero waste tips have been included in the Whistler Today newsletter. These simple tips inform the community on how we can reduce the amount of landfill waste we generate each year. For example, information on how to properly dispose of your pumpkins at Halloween, or how to clean your reusable mask instead of using a disposable mask, or instead of using that plastic film wrap or plastic bag you choose to instead try a reusable beeswax wraps to cover your sandwich.



| VIEW ONLINE



| VIEW ONLINE | VISIT WEBSITE

Zero Waste Tip

Did you know aluminum foil is recyclable? But before you recycle it, you can wash it and use it again.

Zero Waste Tip

Instead of plastic sandwich bags and saran wrap use reusable cotton sandwich baggies or beeswax wraps. If you don't want to get rid of plastic sandwich bags, wash them and reuse them!

Continuous Improvements

Streetscape

The municipality manages streetscape waste that's collected in municipal parks and along the village stroll. To collect more waste, reduce litter and keep waste stream contamination as low as possible, municipal park streetscape collection bins were updated this year with new decals to provide guidance on what waste goes where. Compost material collection was also added to parks to keep that material from going to the landfill. Six new bins with decals were installed at locations where the number of existing bins was limited. Those new bins collect compostable waste separately with the goal to minimize contamination of the other wastes bins. In total thirty bins received new decals with an additional fifty-five bins remain to be decaled in the spring of 2021.

Changes are also coming to the Village by adding three stream collection (Landfill waste, Recyclables, Compostable). New decals will be installed that will be similar to what is occurring in the parks.



New

Extended Producer Responsibility program

Beginning the start of 2021 the municipality will be participating in the Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable program (MARR). This new Extended Producer Responsibility program is funded through administrative program fees that are charged on new appliances when sold in BC. This will remove the direct cost paid at the transfer station when an appliance containing an Ozone Depleting Substance such as a fridge or air conditioner is dropped off for recycling. The current tip fee of \$25 will be removed with the Solid Waste Bylaw Amendment. Staff continue to participate in conversations with the Provincial Government to support more EPR programs for items like mattresses and other textiles like carpet.

Zero Waste Select Committee of Council

A Zero Waste Committee of Council was formed in 2019 and despite Covid, the Committee continued to meet virtually to continue the work in developing an updated Zero Waste Action Plan. Committee members represent the Construction, Hotels and Restaurant sectors, as well as environmental awareness and citizen members of the community. Local governments also sat in attendance. The Committee is being facilitated by the Whistler Centre for Sustainability. The Zero Waste Action Plan will highlight strategies and required actions needed to reduce the amount of waste generated each year, diverting more away from the landfill.

Tip Fee Increases

Solid Waste Amendment Bylaw (Tipping Fees) No. 2305, 2020

To effectively address changes in how certain types of waste are managed, tip fees charged at the transfer station need to be periodically updated. Increasing tip fees can create more incentive for waste producers to divert more waste from the landfill, it also provides a balance between the revenues received and the costs to dispose of recyclables and other residual waste. Keeping tip fees in-line with other local communities also prevents collected waste from being transported up and down the highway when waste handlers are looking for the most economical way to dispose of their waste.

The tip fees proposed for change under this bylaw amendment are outlined below. A summary table is also provided to show a comparison of increases against existing tip fees.

Landfill Waste

The tip fee for landfill waste is to be increased to \$190 per tonne, to remain in line with the tip fee charged by the District of Squamish at their landfill. Making this change minimizes the risk of waste generated in Whistler from being transported down to Squamish or vice versa, waste coming to Whistler. This change also attempts to narrow the gap between the actual cost of disposing landfill waste and the tip fee collected from waste producers, while balancing the disincentive for illegal dumping.

Mixed Waste

The tip fee for loads that have more than twenty five per cent contamination (landfill waste mixed with recyclables or compost) will be increased to \$425 per tonne to stay in line with the tip fee charged by the District of Squamish. This change increases the incentive for waste producers to source separate their waste before it arrives at the transfer station, sustaining current operational costs, and keeping more waste out of the landfill.

Bulky Items

This waste stream is comprised of mostly large furniture. There is no EPR program for bulky items and this material is difficult to recycle, usually being disposed of with the landfill waste. This amendment increases the tip fee for Landfill Waste so the Bulky Items tip fee should also reflect the higher tip fee of \$190 per tonne.

Biosolids

The increase in the tip fee to \$185 per tonne is to more accurately reflect the variable costs of processing material collected at the compost facility.

Clean Land Clearing Wood Waste

There are costs to grinding up “raw” land clearing material received at the compost facility. The tip fee increase to \$100 per tonne reflects the cost to mobilize large chipping equipment to the facility while balancing the risk of material being illegally dumped. Clean wood waste is required for the compost process to produce a quality soil amendment that is sold each year to local landscape companies.

Dirty Wood Waste

Due to changes in the disposal market for Dirty Wood Waste, which is wood that is stained or glued and that is not compostable, an increase in tip fee to \$150 per tonne is required at this time to cover the increased cost of disposal. This tip fee increase is still more cost effective for waste producers in comparison to the alternative which is to send the material to the landfill and pay those higher tip fees.

Large Appliances with Refrigerant

With the introduction of the MARR EPR program a tip fee of \$25 per appliance will be removed as it is no longer required. The cost to dispose of “large appliances with refrigerant” will be covered by the MARR EPR program Administrative Program Fee.

Gypsum Board

Due to challenges with the disposal of non-hazardous drywall, the costs to handle and dispose of this waste type is expected to rise in 2021. Tip fee costs are also expected to increase in other communities close to Whistler. In response to these changes it is proposed to increase the tip fee of gypsum (drywall) to \$310 per tonne.

Figure 1.

A comparison between the existing rates and the proposed increased tip fees. Proposed changes are high-lighted:

Solid Waste Type	Current tip fee	Proposed tip fee
Minimum Charge at the Transfer Station	\$5 per vehicle	\$5 per vehicle
Biosolids	\$150 per tonne	\$185 per tonne
Clean Land Clearing Wood Waste: Unchipped Chipped	\$80 per tonne Free	\$100 per tonne Free
Clean Yard Waste Unchipped Chipped	\$30 per tonne Free	\$30 per tonne Free
Dirty Wood Waste	\$135 per tonne	\$150 per tonne
Bulky Items	\$170 per tonne	\$190 per tonne
EPR Recyclable Materials (except tires)	Free	Free
Landfill Waste (including construction waste)	\$170 per tonne	\$190 per tonne
Mixed Waste (waste stream with more than 25% recyclables)	\$375 per tonne	\$425 per tonne
Organics (food scraps or food waste)	\$75 per tonne	\$75 per tonne
Mattresses	\$20 each*	\$20 each*
Recyclables	Free	Free
Large Appliances with refrigerant with no refrigerant	\$25 per unit Free	Free Free
Passenger and Light Truck Tires	\$10 per tire \$25 per tire with rim	\$10 per tire \$25 per tire with rim
Gypsum Board	\$290 per tonne	\$310 tonne
Invasive Species and Noxious Plant matter	\$30 per tonne	\$30 per tonne
Hazardous Waste	Not Accepted	Not Accepted
Unsecured Loads	\$30 per load	\$30 per load
Septage A – All liquid Waste delivered via meter at the WWTP except as identified in “B” and “C” below	\$30.00 per cubic meter	\$30.00 per cubic meter
B – Septage delivered from residential septic tanks within the RMOW	\$2.75 per cubic meter	\$2.75 per cubic meter
C- Aerated holding tanks within the RMOW as approved under RMOW Bylaw No. 551, Septage from RMOW Transfer Station and Whistler Compost Plant	\$1.50 per cubic meter	\$1.50 per cubic meter

The minimum charge for Solid Waste disposal at the Municipal Transfer Station is \$5 per load (with the exception of any material or item indicated as FREE) and there is a maximum of five mattresses tipped at any one time.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Official Community Plan

Community Vision-Environment-GHG Emissions

When reviewing waste management, staff consider GHG reductions not only through waste reduction, recycling programs and material reuse, but also through the transportation of waste over the long-term.

Chapter 6 Economic Viability

Current Reality - The municipality is committed to being fiscally responsible and at the same time must continue to invest in waste reduction programs and infrastructure to manage residual waste with the goal of keeping more waste out of the landfill.

6.1.1. Objective – Ensure capital reserves and borrowing ability are maintained at levels sufficient to fund future infrastructure construction or replacement.

6.4.1.1 Policy - Support the user-pay approach to municipal services while taking into consideration affordability measures and the policies of this OCP.

Chapter 8 Health, Safety and Community Wellbeing

8.6.1.2 Policy - Ensure planning and decision making is aligned with the community's articulated Community Vision and OCP goals.

Chapter 10 Climate Action and Energy

10.5.1.3 Policy - Ensure that strategic directions related to climate change risk management and climate change adaptation objectives are routinely considered in decision-making processes and well-integrated with the CECAP. Staff understand the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions when managing municipal waste programs.

Chapter 11 Transportation

11.5.1.4 Policy - Explore strategies to enable more efficient movement of goods to, from and within Whistler.

Other Relevant Plans

SLRD Solid Waste Resource Management Plan – Monitoring greenhouse gas emissions.

Activities related to solid waste management are an important lever in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These activities may represent an important proportion of the SLRD's contribution to climate change. Incentivising the community to reduce the amount of waste generated each year will reduce landfill disposal costs and will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, either from the reduction of raw materials required to produce the product, to the handling and disposal of the generated waste which includes organics, once it's no longer needed.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

Reducing the amount of waste generated lowers both the effort and expense to managing the residual waste after the product or packaging is no longer needed.

Setting appropriate tip fees helps balance revenues and the expenses required to manage the collected waste and levies the cost directly to the people in the community that generate the waste.

Tip fees were last increased at the end of 2019 and costs to manage and dispose of waste have increased since then. Tip fees on those selected wastes, if approved by Council, will be charged at the Transfer Station beginning January 1, 2021.

A portion of revenues received by the solid waste program are set aside in solid waste reserves to fund future capital and operating expenses (instead of relying on the municipal general fund). The Solid Waste Reserve funds continue to grow towards the levels that are required by the replacement cost of the waste management assets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The Zero Waste Committee engages stakeholders from major waste generating sectors of Whistler. Working together to inform those sectors on how to reduce the amount of waste they generate each year will be a big part of moving the community towards Zero Waste goals.

Outreach initiatives have occurred regularly throughout the year to inform, and to educate the community on why waste reduction and recycling is important.

If the proposed changes are approved by Council, new tip fees will be posted at the transfer station truck scale and on the municipal website. <https://www.whistler.ca/services/waste-management/garbage/waste-transfer-station>

SUMMARY

The municipal solid waste program relies on documents such as the SLRD Solid Waste Resource Management Plan, the RMOW Solid Waste Strategy and the RMOW Zero Waste Plan to guide staff in their operational decision making. One of the actions staff can take to achieve waste reduction goals is to continually educate the community on best practices to reduce the total amount of waste generated and especially focus on the portion of the waste stream that requires landfill disposal each year.

Although Covid impacted the community of Whistler, collection programs at the depots, transfer station and compost facility continued. Efforts also continued this year to educate visitors and residents on the importance of waste reduction and why it's important to understand what waste we generate as a community.

A way to create incentives to reduce waste and to keep it out of the landfill, is to increase the tip fee for landfill waste disposal while keeping fees on recyclables lower or in the case of EPR programs, to remove the direct cost at the transfer station completely. Balancing tip fee costs with the risk of illegal dumping needs to be considered. Staff also need to balance tip fee rate changes with what is going on in other local communities to minimize materials migrating up and down the corridor.

Respectfully submitted,

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for

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