



# WHISTLER

## REPORT | ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

**PRESENTED:** August 17, 2021  
**FROM:** INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES  
**SUBJECT:** WHISTLER ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN 2021-2026  
**REPORT:** 21-096  
**FILE:** 604

### COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**That** the recommendation of the General Manager of Infrastructure Services be endorsed.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That** Council receive and endorse the Whistler Zero Waste Action Plan 2021-2026; and

**That** Council direct staff to implement the actions in the Whistler Zero Waste Action Plan 2021-2026, as attached as Appendix A to this Administrative Report to Council 21-096.

### REFERENCES

Appendix A – Whistler Zero Waste Action Plan 2021-2026

Appendix B – Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA) survey results summary

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to receive Council endorsement of the Whistler Zero Waste Action Plan that will be used to guide the community of Whistler for the next five years in taking action to further reduce the amounts of waste and associated greenhouse gas emissions generated in the community.

### DISCUSSION

#### Background

The community of Whistler has been committed to achieving Zero Waste since it closed its landfill in 2005. To help the municipality towards zero waste goals, the municipal solid waste program relies on guidance documents to manage its waste in a manner to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure waste generators pay the majority of cost to manage any collected waste. The documents currently relied upon are the Squamish Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Solid Waste Resource Management Plan (SWRMP), the RMOW Solid Waste Management Strategy (updated 2015), the 2013 Whistler Zero Waste Plan and more recently the new RMOW Official Community Plan (OCP) and the 2020 Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and its Big Moves Strategy.

Excluding provincial regulation, the SWRMP is the primary waste management guidance document created for the region. Each region was mandated by the province to have a waste management plan

so that every community inside the SLRD boundary could follow a similar path when managing their waste with the ultimate goal of no waste being sent to landfill for disposal.

In 2013 the municipal Council adopted its own Solid Waste Management Strategy. The strategy contains several recommendations to guide municipal staff with their program decision making, including:

- Restructure municipal solid waste service agreements
- Modification of compost infrastructure
- Update Bylaws
- Participate in new province-wide recycling programs
- Long-term financial reorganization of the solid waste utility.

All of these recommendations have either been completed or are still on-going.

The following is a summary of the progress made on the five recommendations that are also inline with the 2013 Zero Waste Plan.

#### Restructure municipal solid waste service agreements

The current municipal transfer station operating contract has an incentive to reduce disposal costs to the community. The operating Contractor is able to keep the revenues they receive for processing the recyclables collected from the community at the transfer station. In principal and historically this is an effective condition in the agreement, but in 2018 it has become more challenging because of shifts in global markets driving the value of recyclables down making it more difficult for the Contractor to sell the recyclables and recover their costs.

#### Modification of compost infrastructure

Recent initiatives have moved the community towards its Zero Waste goals by increasing the capacity at the compost facility. Beginning in 2017, a roof structure was constructed allowing for wood chips (needed for the process) to remain dry under cover. Less water content in the wood chips means more biosolids can be processed each day to meet the community needs. The biosolids processed at the compost facility are sold to local landscapers and used as a soil amendment.

#### Update Bylaws

Reducing waste can be done through educating the community on reduction and highlighting the importance of source separation. The Solid Waste bylaw adopted in 2017 makes it a requirement to separate waste into at least three “waste streams” - Recyclables, Organics and Landfill Waste (garbage). As a best practice, the minimum waste stream collection should be Plastics, Paper, Glass, Organics and Landfill Waste. Some residential and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) properties achieve this but in Whistler adequate collection space can be difficult to satisfy and these limitations can be very difficult to overcome. Absence of space for some properties has led to frustration, contamination and higher disposal costs. In 2017, to resolve some of the space constraints, a zoning land use policy was amended to allow for the construction or expansion of a waste collection area in a parking garage without the financial penalty for reducing parking space inventory.

Periodically amendments to the solid waste bylaw tip fee schedule balances the need to create incentives for waste generators to keep waste out of the landfill without increasing the risk of illegal dumping.

#### Participate in new province-wide recycling programs

To generate incentives that reduce the direct disposal cost to the residents of Whistler, the municipality participates in province-wide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) collection programs. EPR programs are funded by the product producers and importers that bring products into British Columbia. Producers that distribute or manufacture products sold in BC are responsible to fund a system that captures the product for recycling once it reaches the end of its life cycle use. These funded programs remove the direct disposal cost from the municipality. EPR programs are also accessible for Whistler residents through private businesses that collect recyclables under those programs.

#### Long-term financial reorganization of the solid waste utility

In recent years the waste management program has directed revenues collected each year to a solid waste reserve fund to reduce a reliance for funding on the municipal general reserve fund. This reserve amount is used to renew current or construct future waste infrastructure that is required to meet waste management needs.

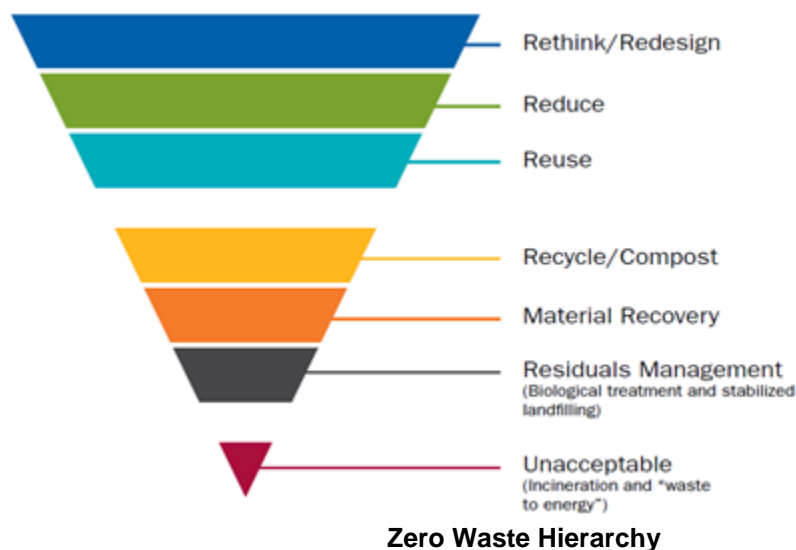
#### What is Zero Waste?

The concept of zero waste evolved out of the US, Europe and Asia prior to arriving in Canada, then in 2008 to BC ([Zero Waste BC](#)). Adopting the Zero Waste Action Plan means acknowledging the Zero Waste definition:

*"The conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of products, packaging, and materials without burning and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health."*

An important part of the action plan is the Zero Waste Hierarchy. The hierarchy needs to be considered and followed when making decisions on how to best manage the amounts of waste the community generates, while still providing the high level of service expected by the community. More information can be found at: <https://zerowastecanada.ca/zero-waste-hierarchy/#1494620096467-d3ad8bee-de15>.

**Figure 1 – Zero Waste Hierarchy**



#### Zero Waste Infrastructure

For the municipality, strata and ICI sectors, introduced zero waste infrastructure must be adaptable to make it easier for waste generators to change their behavior, effectively playing an important role when implementing new approaches to waste management. This means having enough space available for the properties zero waste collection program and using sign information that effectively directs users to make appropriate disposal decisions; this is a key step to being successful at collecting waste with little to no contamination present.

The following facilities are owned by the municipality and operated as waste drop off centres. To ensuring effectiveness, these waste collection sites must continue to meet the process capacity needs of the community when managing received waste.

### **Residential Depots**

A new Nesters (Exchange) Depot was opened in 2017 to provide a better waste drop-off service for the community. Material is received and eventually shipped to the Lower Mainland for recycling or to landfill. Specific changes were made to improve the level of service to the community, such as:

- Open seven days per week, twelve hours per day
- On-site attendant to help guide proper separation of materials
- Larger site to provide sufficient space for collection
- Secure site to mitigate bear issues and illegal dumping
- Improved signage
- Improved site lighting for the winter months
- Organics bin wash down station for non-winter months of the year
- Support EPR material recovery which includes electronics, refundables and household hazardous waste
- Next door you can purchase used items at the Whistler Community Services Society (WCSS) Re-Use-It Centre or visit an animal at the WAG animal shelter

The municipality also continues to operate a residential waste depot in Function Junction with similar but scaled down services compared to the Nesters depot. The Function Junction depot contains the WCSS Re-Build-It centre which is an important service to capture and resell construction, demolition and used furniture items. WCSS also offers a tool rental service from this location.

### **Transfer Station**

The municipality operates a transfer station that receives waste from residents and ICI operations in and around Whistler. Recyclables received at the transfer station are processed and transported to the Lower Mainland for recycling. Landfill waste is loaded onto large trailers, then transported to the Campbell Hill landfill located in Cache Creek.

### **Compost Facility**

The facility continues to receive biosolids from the RMOW and from other communities located within the SLRD. Like the transfer station, revenues used to operate and maintain the facility are generated through tip fees received from these communities. The facility generates a compost material that is bought each year by landscapers who use the material as a soil amendment. The RMOW continues to recycle residential yard waste and fuel thinning material at the facility. Yard Waste collected at the residential depots, and from tree service contractors are received at the facility. Forestry contractors working for the Cheakamus Community Forest program also bring material to the facility. Chipped wood material is used as a carbon source in the compost process and as it's a benefit, it is received

with no tip fee charged to encourage contractors to bring the material to the facility instead of burning it at their worksite, which was the traditional manner of disposing of this material.

#### Closed Landfill

The RMOW closed its landfill in 2005 and instead constructed the transfer station to manage waste for disposal. The landfill was enclosed with a high-density polyethylene liner and had a gas extraction system installed to capture and burn methane generated by the decomposing waste. Carbon dioxide, which has a much lower GHG impact, is released instead of methane due to the operation of the flare station.

#### Park Streetscape Waste Collection program

The RMOW Parks Streetscape waste collection program has been updated to collect organics separately from other waste and recycling. With the addition of organics bins and new decals, visitors to the parks will have better information to guide them with their disposal options. The goal of this program is to collect park waste with no contamination. This year as part of the summer experience program waste ambassadors will be stationed on weekends at Whistler's major parks to assist and educate visitors on the importance of proper waste management. Updates to the Village Streetscape program are being planned by municipal staff.

#### **Zero Waste Reality**

Since the last update to the Whistler Waste Management Strategy in 2015, staff continue to work with the community to reduce program gaps identified in the Whistler Zero Waste Plan. COVID 19 had significantly reduced the amounts of waste material received at the municipal facilities, but there is an expectation that waste volumes will return to pre COVID levels as travel restriction ease in the coming future.

#### Performance Indicators – Diversion vs Per Capita

Two key performance indicators that are typically used gauge success are annual per capita waste generated and the annual waste diversion rate. The per capita waste generated is a calculated value based on the amounts of waste generated by each person in the RMOW each year, and the diversion rate is the total amount of waste generated each year that was diverted away from the landfill and reused, recycled, or composted.

The per capita waste generation rate reflects the amount of waste produced by the community of Whistler each year divided by the total population (population equivalent) which includes all visitors to Whistler. It is an easy metric to use to see year to year change but can be skewed by changes in the economy and by large amounts of waste generated by a particular sector within the community and does not necessarily reflect residential or other sector efforts to reduce waste. The province has a maximum waste generation target of 350 kg/person of landfilled waste per year, a number that was reached by the community of Whistler for the first time in 2019. Total landfilled waste in 2019 was at its second lowest (after 2011) at 11,851 tonnes.

Figure 2 – Landfilled Waste & Per Capita Disposal Rate

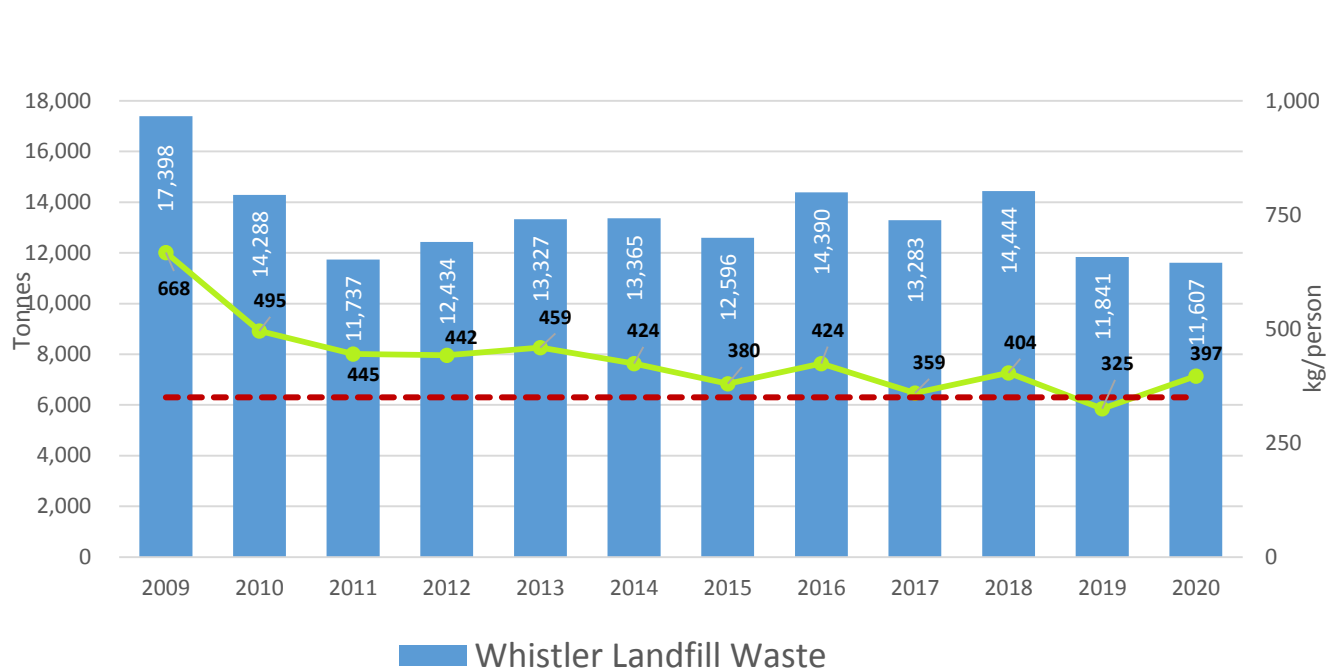
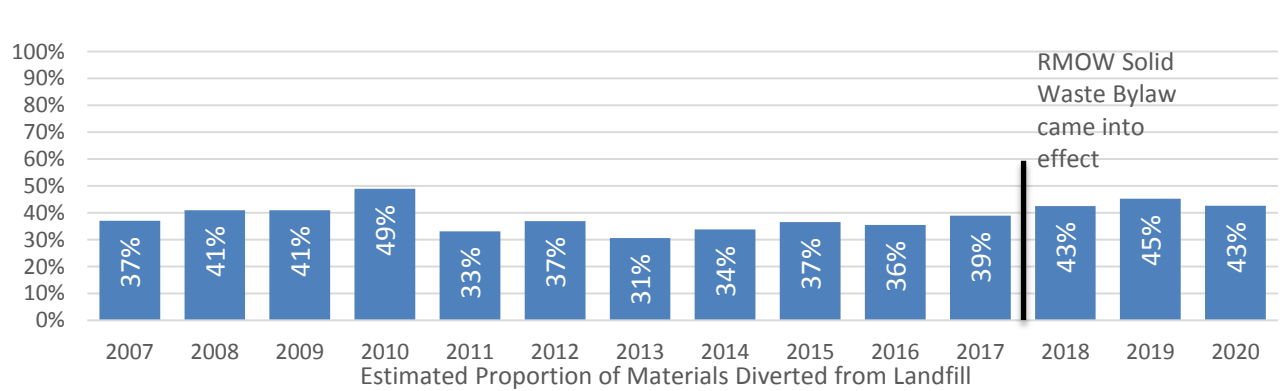


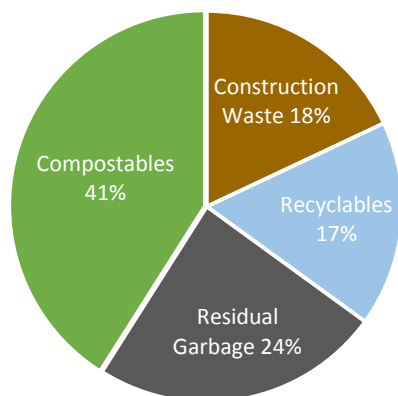
Figure 3 – Waste Diversion Rate

The diversion rate is an effective performance measure to understand the percentage of waste diverted from landfill disposal relative to the total amount of waste that was generated each year.



#### Figure 4 – ICI and Strata Landfill Waste Composition

A 2019 waste audit at the transfer station indicated that Whistler still sends recyclables to the landfill each year primarily from multi-family residential strata and ICI properties. Although the amount of waste to landfill has been decreasing, more can be done to remove these recyclables.



The adoption of Solid Waste Bylaw 2139, 2017 prohibited materials that could be recycled from being disposed of into the landfill waste stream. To encourage source separation a “Mixed Waste” (loads containing more than 25% by volume or by weight of recyclables) tip fee was introduced to incentivise waste producers to separate their waste and minimize waste stream contamination. The incentive comes from the “Mixed Waste” tip fee amount being twice the amount compared to a “Landfill Waste” tip fee charged on uncontaminated loads. Tip fees are reviewed by staff each year to ensure rates stay in line with what other SLRD communities are charging at their disposal sites, and that the rate reflects the true cost to dispose of the materials. These decisions are balanced with the potential risk of seeing more illegal dumping occurring in and around the community because rates are perceived to be too high. To minimize tip fee costs, the amount of waste generated will need to be reduced and the waste that is generated will need to be properly sorted into respective waste streams before arriving at the transfer station for disposal. Due to high contamination rates more effort is required to remove recyclables out of the landfill waste stream. Post collection sorting at the transfer station shifts the cost of capturing recyclables to the municipality which will lead to higher fees paid by its users.

Staff work with the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE) to develop educational information for the website and hold workshops where the material is reviewed and discussed amongst the attendees. In the past, workshops were held to educate multi-family residential strata properties and commercial businesses. The goal for the workshops is to educate these groups on disposal best practices and changes to municipal policy. Some workshops were put on hold due to COVID19, but it is anticipated that they will return in the coming months.

In-school learning programs continue to educate students on the importance of reducing the waste we generate as a society and to recycle as much as possible, minimizing the amounts of waste going to landfill each year. The school program is supported by the SLRD, District of Squamish and the RMOW. In 2019 AWARE was able to hold 76 workshops visiting elementary and secondary school classrooms to share information with students. It is important to developing these “waste hero’s” early so that they will continue to bring awareness into their households, driving waste reduction and social behaviour

change in the community. Due to COVID19, AWARE transitioned the program online so as to not miss the opportunity to share.

Solid waste staff participate in the Planning Department's Development Permit referral process by providing feedback to applicants on their submitted design drawings for new builds or renovations of multi-family and commercial projects. Feedback is given on waste collection room designs to ensure that the design is appropriate for the intended use. It is important that the designers ensure there will be enough space allocated for waste and recycling, that containers can be accessed by hauling service providers, and that wildlife cannot access the waste being collected.

A recent amendment to the Business Licence application process requires food service providers to submit a Solid Waste Management Plan as part of their application. The RMOW provides a plan template for the applicant to use when completing their plan. Submitted plans are reviewed by staff and feedback is given to the applicant directly to ensure they understand their responsibility, and what the expectation is for keeping waste out of the landfill. This additional step in the application process can set the applicant up for success when managing their waste and complying with solid waste bylaw requirements.

Depending on the event being planned, a Special Event Solid Waste Management Plan application may be required to reduce the amount of waste generated by the event. Where waste is generated, steps need to be taken by event organizers to have infrastructure and resources in place during the event to divert material away from the landfill.

The RMOW supports AWARE and their Zero Waste Station program at the Farmers Market promoting waste education and diversion to businesses operating at the market and to the visitors attending the market.

Municipal staff look for opportunities to advocate for policy change such as expanding EPR programs to capture more waste recyclables while reducing direct costs to the municipality to manage the waste. In 2020, the Province of BC solicited feedback from the RMOW and other communities in the province on future EPR programs. The items that are being considered for EPR were mattresses, moderately hazardous products, electric products such as electric vehicle batteries and solar equipment and non-residential packaging and paper products. Currently both municipal depots receive and process material through the RecycleBC program. Nester's depot also benefits from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service that collects most other EPR materials - household hazardous waste, light bulbs, fire alarms and other electronics, paints and refundable containers. Staff also responded to an online request for feedback from the Federal Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change regarding a single use plastic ban initiative. Seeing a change in policy at the Federal or Provincial level simplifies the response by local governments to manage waste related issues.

Aligning with the Zero Waste Action Plan is the development of a Sea to Sky Food Recovery and Redistribution Strategy. This project addresses the Zero Waste Action Plan vision, zero waste goal, and descriptions of success. It also supports the strategies and actions identified in the Zero Waste Action Plan's "Organics, food and food packaging" material and product category. The Sea to Sky Food Recovery and Redistribution Strategy is being led by WCS Engagement + Planning (formerly Whistler Centre for Sustainability), in collaboration with a Task Force comprised of food distribution organizations, food industry representatives, and local and First Nation governments, and is based on research, engagement with food stakeholders in the Sea to Sky region, and food bank clients.



The RMOW continues to promote waste reduction and diversion through regular social media posts and regular contributions to weekly community news letters. The RMOW website also hosts solid waste disposal page: [whistler.ca/services/waste-management](https://whistler.ca/services/waste-management), where everyone in the community can access disposal best practice information, assisting them in making the best decision possible when disposing of their waste materials.

The RMOW has added staff resources to the municipal waste management team by approving the addition of a permanent full-time Solid Waste Technician. Since 2018 the position was classified as a term position, but in 2021 the position was made permanent. The Solid Waste Technician focuses on community outreach and has been working to promote the waste management program through:

- Community engagement and promotion
- Education – Stakeholder workshops, community groups
- Social media messaging which includes messaging on local public transit
- Answering questions from local residents
- Working with other communities to ensure that waste management is consistent throughout the Sea to Sky region
- Promote of EPR programs
- Participating in online symposiums discussing various waste related subjects to inform and ensure the municipal waste management programs are aligned with current best practices.

In 2021 a Waste Operations Coordinator was hired to oversee the operations of waste facilities owned by the municipality. The facilities include the Waste Transfer Station, Compost Facility, Residential Depots, and the Closed Landfill and this person will be responsible for ensuring these facilities can effectively operate in a manner that supports waste management best practices.

## Zero Waste Committee

In 2019, a Zero Waste Select Committee of Council was formed that included stakeholder involvement similar to what was done when the 2013 Whistler Zero Waste Plan was developed. Committee meetings are facilitated by WCS Engagement + Planning and waste management issues in various business sectors have been discussed during Committee meetings with a goal to develop this Zero Waste Action Plan. Five committee meetings were held with members of Whistler's business groups. Whistler Blackcomb, the Hotel Association of Whistler, the Restaurant Association of Whistler, WCSS, the SLRD and RMOW were represented at the table.

## Zero Waste Action Plan

Working together, the Committee established a Zero Waste Vision and Goals for the community of Whistler to use, to dramatically reduce the volume of waste generated each year while still maintaining a high level of service associated with being a world class resort community.

The Zero Waste Action Plan is based on current Zero Waste Alliance best practices and was a result of the year and a half long process involving research, committee meetings, and public stakeholder engagement. During this period, five committee meeting were held with invited members whose knowledge contributed to the development of the plan. In addition to committee meetings, additional engagement was completed with sector stakeholders.

A Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA) survey was created by the committee's Build Environment representative and completed by association members. The goal of the survey was to determine what the degree of knowledge was by the group when it came to the management of their

waste and with the municipal waste program. Despite COVID19, virtual one-on-one interviews were also completed by WCS Engagement and Planning (WCS) to explicitly gather information from each committee member to identify challenges their respective sectors faced when managing their waste. Interviews were also held with businesses that operate in Whistler to provide an opportunity to voice their concerns and frustrations when managing their waste. In addition, feedback was also received by the committee from other hotel association and restaurant association representatives.

## Definitions of Zero Waste:

*Zero Waste action means: "Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use.*

*Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them.*

*Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health."*

## What is in the Action Plan?

The Zero Waste Action plan is an update to the 2013 plan that includes new strategies and actions, and is organized into four material and product categories and also notes sector responsibility. The **All materials and Products** section represents strategies and actions that apply to all waste generators in the community. The remaining sections are specific to each sector, **Build Environment** represents the construction industry; **Organics, Food and Food Packaging** represents the food service sector and **Consumer Products and Packaging** represents the retail sector.

Similar to the 2013, plan the new plan will focus on implementing strategies and actions that reduce the amounts of waste generated each day in Whistler. Community leaders will need to work together and develop an understanding of the waste they're generating by using solutions guidance tools to educate themselves, then to demonstrate to others on what can be done to reduce the amounts of waste being generated. In part of developing any new program any stakeholders creating waste needs to understand what they're creating, why they feel they need it, and to determine whether waste can be avoided by changing how things are done or substituting items to a more sustainable, perhaps even reusable product.

The next step is to develop ways to consistently track information that will become useful to measure any change relative to the zero waste adopted targets. The municipality will continue to collect data on the different material types received at the transfer station and depots but will look to other organizations to generate and provide their own waste information so we as a community have a better understanding on what waste is being generated.

Unlike previous plans, the Zero Waste Action Plan contains targets the community can work towards and achieve:

- 80% reduction in landfill waste by volume and weight from 2019 levels by 2030.
- Per capita landfill waste generation rate consistently below 350kg per person per year by 2025
- 95% reduction from 2007 levels in waste sector GHG emissions by 2030 (CECAP Big Move #6)
- Zero contamination of all waste streams by 2030
- 95% of organic waste diverted from landfill by 2030.

It is expected that the Whistler Zero Waste Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every five years (next in 2026) to ensure it continues to align with community needs. Initiatives will be developed, planned and implemented to continue the process towards zero waste.

Indicators that could be measured by waste generators are:

- Total landfilled waste (tonnes)
- Landfilled waste per person (tonnes)
- Materials diverted from landfill (tonnes, %) = reused, recycled, composted
- Total materials used (tonnes) = disposed + recycled + composted
- Greenhouse gases (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)
- Hazardous waste diverted from landfill (%)
- Household hazardous materials (tonnes)
- Organics sent to the composter (tonnes)
- Number of stores offering refills or packaging free options
- Costs per tonne of each waste stream
- Edible food waste recovered and redistributed by food program providers
- Landfill waste composition audit results (outputs for planning)

If the various sectors work together with other community stakeholders the amount of waste sent to landfill each year will be reduced and the community will achieve its zero waste goals.

## **POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Official Community Plan**

#### **12.3.1 Goal Move progressively toward zero waste.**

The recommendations in this report directly align with OCP Goal 12.3.1 and all of the associated Policies, especially Policy 12.3.1.1.

##### **12.3.1.1. Policy**

Continue to pursue Whistler's *Zero Waste goal* endorsed in 2005 and continue to monitor and update Zero Waste indicators, objectives and goals.

## **Other Relevant Policies**

### Community Energy Climate Action Plan

Monitoring waste management GHG emissions is a SLRD SWRMP requirement for the RMOW to manage. Landfill-related GHG emissions are comprised of emissions from the waste shipped to the landfill as well as from the combined emissions from the closed Whistler landfill and the current landfill. Landfill-related GHG emissions make up 2% of the community's overall emissions amounting to approximately 2,400 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e in 2019. Activities related to solid waste management are an important lever in reducing GHG emissions. These activities may represent an important proportion of the SLRD's contribution to climate change.

### Solid Waste Bylaw 2139, 2017

Incentives to reduce or divert waste materials can be created through amendments to the Solid Waste Bylaw. Minimum three stream separation, minimizing conflict with wildlife, enforcement of the bylaw, and general regulation will be required to move the community towards achieving a "Zero Waste Community" designation.

## **BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

Municipal waste facilities are funded by both tip fee revenue paid by users delivering waste to either the transfer station or the compost facility. These revenues pay for the processing and disposal of the received waste. An annual solid waste fee is collected to fund the depot operation programs.

Different tip fees rates are charged for different waste materials coming into the facility. Contaminated loads are charged a higher disposal rate to create an incentive to reduce any contamination and to set aside reserve funds to allow for future program growth. Balancing the tip fees rates with the risk of illegal dumping is the goal to incentivise behaviour change to reach waste reduction and diversion targets. 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.

Reducing waste generated by the community removes the effort and costs to manage the waste and needs to be the first actionable step in the zero waste process. As we move towards zero waste goals, provincial EPR programs must be expanded to remove more of the disposal cost burden from the residential and ICI sectors of the community. Without EPR the municipality will need to find ways to recycle material which will most likely increase tip fees paid at the transfer station.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION**

Zero Waste Committee member input was key to developing the new Zero Waste Action Plan. In addition to information that was learned during committee meetings, a stakeholder survey was completed with members of the CHBA (Appendix B), to gather information on what local contractors know about waste disposal and to identify what their biggest challenge is to reducing the amounts of waste sent to landfill.

Interviews were also held with individual committee members and businesses that regularly experience difficulties with managing their waste. The results of these engagements were used to inform the committee and were incorporated into the Zero Waste Action Plan.

Once the Zero Waste Action Plan has been endorsed by Council, municipal staff will move forward, continuing to engage with the community to develop actions that will reduce the amounts of waste generated each day.

**Figure 5 – Zero Waste Plan Schedule**

Phase /Stakeholder group	Timeline / Tactic	Objectives
Phase 1: Formation of Zero Waste Select Committee of Council	December 2019 – present: Individual meetings.	Identify issues within various sectors of the community. Gather expert advice and feedback on draft document identifying impacts and potential challenges. Develop strategies and prioritize actions.
Phase 2: Zero Waste Action Plan adoption.	July 2021: Presentation to Council	Adoption by Municipal Council, Implement Strategies and Actions.
Phase 3: Ongoing Community engagement.	July 2021 forward: Engage Zero Waste Action Plan Strategies	Engage the community to move towards Zero Waste targets which includes developing and post online educational tools, holding education workshops, advocating for policy change,

## SUMMARY

The community of Whistler has been committed to Zero Waste since it closed its landfill in 2005. To guide the municipality towards those goals the municipal solid waste program relies on guidance documents to ensure waste is managed effectively in a manner to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure waste generators pay the majority of costs to manage collected waste.

The Zero Waste Action Plan is an additional tool the community can use when planning to reduce the amounts of waste generated each year, on our way to becoming a zero-waste community. The RMOW has had a long-standing waste management program to manage the waste it generates. In the past that waste was delivered to our own municipal landfill but now the waste is transported out of town for disposal.

To improve the information used to make waste management decisions, the municipality will rely on waste generators to provide the information needed to make informed waste management decisions. Reducing the amount of waste generated by the community, using products that are easily reusable, recyclable or compostable while minimizing contamination is an objective the community must embrace to reach zero waste targets.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Tucker  
MANAGER OF TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE MANAGEMENT  
for  
James Hallisey  
GENERAL MANAGER OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES