
TO: Solid Waste Management Select Committee **MEETING:** September 10, 2020

FROM: Meghan Ebueza
Solid Waste Planner **FILE:** 5365-02

SUBJECT: Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Project Proposal – Waste Assessments

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board authorize entering into a contract with the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange to carry out Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional waste assessments across the Regional District of Nanaimo for a maximum value of \$24,750 from October to December 2020.

SUMMARY

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) allocates \$300,000 per year between 2019 to 2023 to the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE) to act as a research and recycling hub for hard to recycle materials. The NRE ceased operations of their facility in March 2018 and did not apply for funding in 2019 or 2020.

On August 17, 2020, the NRE submitted a proposal (Attachment 1) for funding in the amount of \$24,750 to carry out up to 15 waste assessments of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector, between October 1 and December 31, 2020. The NRE proposes to identify at least five different ICI businesses, ranging in size and purpose, across the RDN. Waste assessments will assess the waste stream and waste practices of an organization and identify diversion potential and barriers for waste reduction.

The proposal is consistent with the Zero Waste Recycling (ZWR) strategy set out in the SWMP. Furthermore, the RDN is working towards a Mandatory Source Separation Bylaw, targeted to be operative at the end of 2021, which includes a requirement for all businesses, multi-family and institutions facilities to have three waste disposal bins for recycling, organics and garbage. The NRE waste assessments will assist multi-family, businesses and institutional buildings with the transition to this new requirement.

BACKGROUND

The RDN has achieved significant gains in the removal of organics and recyclables from the waste stream since the introduction of ICI landfill bans, including organic waste in 2004 and metal and beverage containers in 2009. However, based on the 2012 waste composition study, there remains 68% of recyclables, including paper, plastic, organics, beverage containers,

metals and glass, in the total waste streams, 47% of which are from ICI sources. For this reason, the SWMP targets the ICI sector as it will have significant impact to the overall diversion of the waste stream. The NRE proposal supports strategies to advance the goals of the SWMP.

The RDN SWMP promotes Zero Waste by making funding available to target these materials with the following objectives:

1. Maximize waste diversion;
2. Encouraging non-profit and private sector innovation to develop markets and process; and
3. Improving convenience for recycling materials.

The RDN SWMP allocates \$300,000 per year between 2019 to 2023 to the NRE to act as a research and recycling hub for hard to recycle materials. The NRE ceased operations of their facility in March 2018 and did not apply for funding in 2019 or 2020.

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange – Waste Assessments

NRE has submitted a proposal (Attachment 1) for funding in the amount of \$24,750 to carry out up to 15 waste assessments for the ICI sector between October to December 2020.

The objectives of the NRE waste assessments are to:

- determine types and quantities of products in ICI waste streams as potential for diversion;
- prepare businesses to optimize bylaw incentives in the new SWMP; and
- identify ways for new programs to be implemented with the aim of increasing waste diversion in the RDN.

The NRE waste assessments are the first step in the process of assessing current ICI barriers to waste diversion and planning strategy for new diversion programs.

Deliverables

The NRE project will deliver to the RDN:

- Up to 15 waste assessments aimed at ICI organizations across sectors within the RDN.
- Each waste assessment will include:
 - waste categories, diversion rate, diversion potential, barriers, procurement options; and
 - qualitative data important to identification of barriers, best practices, and sector challenges.
- An aggregate report to include:
 - waste stream tonnages/volumes of garbage and recyclable products in selected waste streams;
 - organizational and industry-specific barriers to diversion and bylaw compliance;
 - best practices, innovations and successes;

- general and industry-specific RDN SWMP strategies to increase ICI diversion (such as education and/or enforcement strategies); and
- inventory of organizations and products appropriate for Circular Economy.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board authorize entering into a contract with the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange to carry out Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional waste assessments across the Regional District of Nanaimo for a maximum value of \$24,750 for October to December 2020.
2. Provide alternate direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The project proposal at \$24,750 is within the RDN 2020 approved budget, which has allocated \$300,000 for Zero Waste Recycling as part of the SWMP.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Stewardship - Achieve the 90% waste diversion target as per the Solid Waste Management Plan.

This program supports the 90% waste diversion target by supporting waste reduction initiatives and promoting increased waste diversion.



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August 17, 2020

Reviewed by:

- L. Gardner, Manager, Solid Waste Services
- J. Bradburn, Director finance
- R. Alexander, General Manager, Regional & Community Utilities
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

1. Nanaimo Recycling Exchange Project Proposal – Waste Assessments