

News Release

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CVRD and PAN Disposal reach agreement focused on regional waste diversion

DUNCAN, BC – The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) and PAN Disposal (PAN) have reached a mutually agreeable resolution to support the implementation of three-stream curbside collection in CVRD Electoral Areas.

PAN currently provides manual curbside garbage and food waste collection to Cobble Hill, Cowichan Bay, Mill Bay and Shawnigan Lake households. PAN will continue to provide its customers with the same level of dedicated service until the new three-stream service starts in June 2025. The new service will provide eligible households in all nine electoral areas and the Malahat First Nation, per the Nation's request, with:

- alternating, bi-weekly recycling and garbage collection;
- weekly organics collection (combined yard and food waste); and
- monthly glass collection

This three-stream service model is becoming the standard across British Columbia. It is the model that has been in place for many years in CVRD municipalities, as well as in the Capital Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo. The CVRD is currently working to finalize key project timelines and information on the date for delivery of bear-resistant totes, kitchen waste catchers, and glass collection bins will be shared with the public in the spring of 2025.

"While we have been working to catch up to provide a more comprehensive service to an increasing number of regional residents, PAN has filled a much-needed service gap in the south end for years - we want to recognize their efforts and how they have supported regional waste diversion objectives," said Ilse Sarady, Senior Manager at the CVRD Recycling and Solid Waste Management Division. "We are also excited about the next chapter. As a local government, we can provide curbside services at cost to residents. Provincial grant funding has also enabled us to procure bear-resistant organics totes for all customers."

Until the new service is up and running, the CVRD and PAN will collaborate on communication and operational strategies to minimize confusion and service disruption for existing PAN customers.

"While it has been challenging to adjust to the concept of this new government-mandated service, we have reached an understanding with the CVRD team. We have worked in waste management for years, and we know the importance of diverting waste appropriately. We are optimistic that the new three-stream service will help in the continuing work of reducing the region's landfill waste." said Andrea Davis, co-owner of PAN.

The three-stream service is an integral part of the CVRD's Board and Ministry of Environment-approved Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). The SWMP outlines the strategies and commitments to divert household garbage from landfills. Garbage generated in the CVRD is exported 700 km to a landfill in Washington State because the CVRD's landfill was deemed "full"

in the late 90s, and a new landfill site could not be found nearby. As landfills are filling up across BC, providing households with a convenient way to separate recyclable and compostable materials from their garbage is a key strategy to reduce landfill waste. Currently, organics represent 30% of the garbage that ends up in landfill. While the intent is to minimize garbage disposal, residents will also receive garbage collection to help keep recycling and organics clean from contamination.

The three-stream service will also support waste diversion tools such as landfill bans on recyclable and compostable materials in the near future. After the three-stream program has been implemented, the CVRD will look at regulatory tools to enhance waste diversion from multi-family buildings, commercial businesses and institutions. Similar work is underway in other jurisdictions, where the municipal and regional districts establish diversion objectives through regulation, and private waste collectors provide services to multi-family buildings, businesses and institutions.

Questions about the new CVRD curbside collection services should be directed to the CVRD by phone at 250-746-2540 and email at curbside@cverd.bc.ca.

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