

Summary of presentation given to Comox Strathcona waste management board of directors on April 14, 2016

An integral component of the Fraser Valley Regional District's (FVRD) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) includes the establishment of Mixed Waste Materials Recovery (MWMMR). MWMMR facilities employ a sophisticated combination of manual, mechanical and optical sorting to remove recyclable or compostable material not removed through source separation, and that would otherwise be disposed of. In other words, MWMMR facilities sort through the contents of garbage bags, or dumpster trash, to recover a greater amount of divertible material. MWMMR facilities allow communities to focus in on waste streams that are left untapped by existing and expanding recycling options, such as waste from multi-family units and the ICI sector.

The FVRD will ensure that MWMMR serves to complement continued growth in traditional source separation efforts in our region as we must encourage the transition to a culture that habitually source separates. Correspondingly, optimal operation of a MWMMR facility is obtained when wet organics have already been substantially removed before arriving at the facility. The relatively low cost of MWMMR facilities compared to landfills and incineration facilities, high job creation, higher diversion, and their environmentally benign nature make them a necessary and strategic part of our integrated solid waste system.

The FVRD will establish policy and regulations to support a level playing field and will work to encourage private sector investment, innovation and competition and will set required and enforced diversion targets for the disposal industry.

The FVRD is open to partnerships with other regional districts and municipalities outside our region that may be looking to maximize material recovery from waste before disposal as they progress toward Zero Waste and are looking for alternatives to incineration of recyclables and waste. By working together with the private sector, and taking advantage of economies-of-scale, we could demonstrate a true Zero Waste management system in this province.