

Solid Waste Management Environmental Indicators



The following indicators have been selected for the Solid Waste Category. For detailed information on each indicator, click on the indicator of your choice.

1. [Waste Buried](#)
2. [Waste Recycled](#)
3. [Hazardous Waste Collected](#)

(Source: Waste Reduction Office)

Waste Buried



Glenmore Landfill

The Regional Waste Reduction Office is an initiative of the City of Kelowna, Regional District of the Central Okanagan, and Districts of Peachland and Lake Country. It was formed in 1993 with the mandate to reduce waste disposed in local landfills.

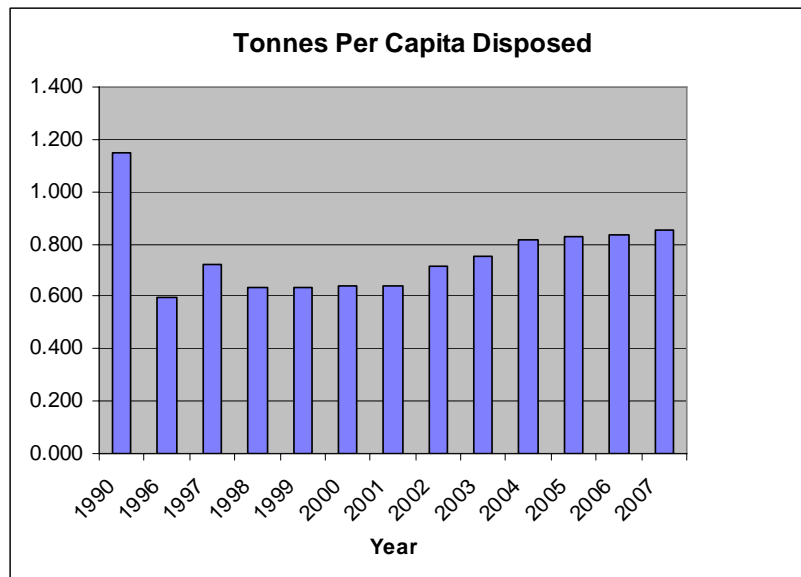
In 2007, garbage, yard waste, and recycling volumes all increased. This follows a trend throughout British Columbia and North America. Positive economic cycles and growth are accompanied by increased consumerism and consequently, increased waste production.

Status and Trends

The amount of waste disposed per capita rose slightly from .84 tonnes in 2006 to .85 tonnes in 2007. The amount of recycling collected in the residential program increased more significantly, but the biggest increase came from the amount of recyclables that were collected at the landfills.

For the first time, the WRO surveyed the private recyclers and provincial stewardship programs to establish a baseline for the total amount of recyclables collected. In 2007, about 146,000 tonnes of recyclables and compostables were collected and processed, not including asphalt and concrete, to achieve a 49% diversion rate. Our goal is to increase the amount of waste diversion from the landfill by 50 percent by 2011 and 65 percent by 2016.

The following graphs show the per capita disposal over the past 17 years and recycling since 1999. (Note: 1990 waste disposal data were estimated by MoE.)



Source: Waste Reduction Office, 2007

In October 2006, the Regional District of Central Okanagan Board and the Councils of the City of Kelowna and District's of Lake Country and Peachland received and approved submission of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan to the Ministry of Environment for final approval. In early 2008, the Ministry of Environment gave final approved to the plan.



Wood Chipping at Landfill

In 1991, the amount of waste buried equalled 1.2 metric tonnes for every man, woman and child. In 2003, the amount was 0.75 metric tonnes. Due to a strong economy and rapid growth the amount of material disposed in the landfills increased to 0.82 metric tonnes in 2006.

* Note: The volume of waste being disposed in landfills has been increasing the last several years, albeit at lower rates than previous years. This is an international trend that has been attributed to a variety of factors, such as a robust economy with record breaking construction. Additionally, the Regional District has experienced increased debris from unusual spring floods and violent summer storms. In 2003, the summer wildfires contributed significant amounts of ash and demolition waste.

Why is it important?

The benefits of reducing waste include conserving natural resources and energy. A recent study shows that using recycled materials saves between 35 and 90 per cent of the energy consumed to extract, refine and manufacture products from virgin materials. Recycling thus substantially reduces the releases of pollutants and toxins associated with energy production. Reducing waste also helps extend the life of the landfill and reduces the need to site a new landfill.

Landfills cost taxpayers millions every year.

What is being done?

At the Glenmore Landfill, materials such as recyclable cardboard, papers, batteries, metals, propane tanks, drywall, wood, tires, asphalt, concrete and yard and garden waste are segregated and processed for reuse. In 2006, landfill tipping fees were lowered for source separated waste like wood and metals versus mixed garbage. These efforts help reduce the amount of waste buried.

Additionally, the Regional Waste Reduction Office coordinates a variety of programs aimed at reducing garbage going to the landfill, including the new automated collection system, the annual Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste

Roundups, and social marketing education programs like Go Natural Garden Parties, the Community Litter Clean-up, WasteWise@Work, and various other public relations and education campaigns.



Automated Collection System

It's anticipated that in the spring of 2009, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and its local municipalities will begin phasing in an automated curbside collection system for garbage, recyclables and yard waste. This will see each home with curbside collection, receiving three specially designed wheeled carts: one for garbage, one for recycling and one for yard waste.

Local waste haulers have been facing challenges in the Central Okanagan in the last couple of years. In particular, the on-going labour shortage has impacted the hauler's ability to recruit and retain employees. (As it takes several weeks or months for an employee to

become familiar with new routes, many residents have had garbage, recycling and/or yard waste collections missed – some for weeks at a time.) This has resulted in an unprecedented number of complaints and frustration for the haulers – and the residents with missed collections.

Leading up to this, solid waste managers researched automated collection to determine if this system would help alleviate the haulers' staffing issues and work well for our communities. Part of the research included a 500 home and business pilot project in the fall of 2007 involving residents in Peachland, the Westside and Kelowna. The project tested how easy a variety of different sized carts were able to be used by residents in areas of steep terrain, narrow access roads and roadways, large yards, long driveways and those with minimal storage space. Participants were surveyed before the pilot project started and at the end. The results were overwhelming! More than 96% said they 'Highly Supported' the system.