

Castlegar Focus Group Session and Open House

October 25, 2004

Attendance:

Perspective	Focus Group
Project Team	Laurie Gallant - Footprint Julia Roberts - Footprint Chris Bullock - Western Bioresources Ron Mickel RDCK
Hauler	Ron Armbruster
Local Organics Diversion	Karl Kistner Ed Sorenson from Sorenson Excavating Craig Sapriken Fiona MacKay – Celgar (Open House only)
Institution	[Rick Korens – School District No.8]
Business	
Resident	
Local Gov't	Gord Turner (Councilor for Castlegar) Rick Korens (Mayor of Salmo) [Ron Armbruster]
Tourism/Econ. Dev't	Bernie Krueckl Marlene Krueckl Warren Scown (Kootenay Savings Credit Union)

Focus Group Agenda

1. Welcome and session overview
2. Introductions – name and perspective
3. Project overview and key decisions
4. Video: On the Road to Zero Waste: Nova Scotia
5. Service Levels: Collection System Options
6. Supporting Education and Policy
7. Economics: Business Structure and Cost Recovery Options
8. Decisions and Next Steps.

WHAT WE HEARD

PROJECT COMPONENT	DATA	CONCERNS	SOLUTION
General	<p>Municipal election 2005.</p> <p>Enough feedstock in valley to support a central facility.</p> <p>Draft timelines are 2006 for businesses, 2007/8 for residents.</p> <p>Business=grocery stores, restaurants etc.</p> <p>There is compostable collection at Ootischenia landfill.</p>	<p>Project timelines may be affected by municipal elections – more education needed if new individuals elected.</p> <p>Will there be a phased approach to project?</p> <p>How will project be funded?</p>	<p>Phase in feedstocks that are harder to obtain.</p> <p>Start residential programs early to get taxpayer input, and justify public \$.</p>
Service level		<p>New system should not be more expensive.</p>	<p>Focus on convenience.</p> <p>Depots need to be staffed, need convenient hours including Sundays.</p> <p>Easy system will encourage participation.</p> <p>Combine new service with curbside pickup of other recyclables or an attended recycling depot. Depot good idea for rural areas. Use trucks with divided compartments to collect recyclables and compost. Could alternate: organics/recycling one week, garbage next week.</p> <p>Use clear bags.</p>
Ownership/ Operation	<p>Is Miller system in Nova Scotia private? Edmonton owns and operates a compost facility that was originally built by a private enterprise.</p> <p>7 to 9 ha area needed for our compost facility to serve Castlegar/Nelson/Trail.</p> <p>Public facility could be eligible for federal or</p>	<p>Not really a business opportunity. Needs industry/government subsidy.</p> <p>Only a public facility could run without Celgar material.</p>	<p>Referendum on funding compost facility?</p> <p>Public ownership/ private operation probably most feasible for one large centrally located plant.</p> <p>Government could build and lease to private operator, could be lease to own, or gov. could contract out operation. Could pay a diversion credit.</p>

Composting Paradigm Project – A Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary Zero Waste Initiative

	<p>provincial funding. Municipalities can fund projects at low interest thru municipal bonds. RD landfills are operated by private contractors. Spokane build a compost facility that is privately run – cheaper than an incinerator.</p>		
Cost Recovery	<p>Queanbeyan, Australia’s City to Soil project successfully used a credit/reward system to motivate higher levels of clean resource recovery. How did Edmonton system work? May be landfill savings from shorter opening hourse, reduced cover costs, reduced investment today for closure and costs of new landfill if organics removed. At present we are not putting aside \$\$ for future landfill closure costs. In Europe there are severe fines for not following recycling rules. Costs to build and operate increase with higher quality compost. Grade C compost can be used for landfill cover. Volumes and water can be reduced by basic composting.</p>	<p>Don’t think taxes will go down – will probably go up. Collection costs will increase in municipalities but landfill costs won’t decrease. If Celgar’s waste is re-classified, they will be able to market it themselves and the material may never be available for this project. Could we compost municipal biosolids, clean wood, landscaping brush.</p>	<p>Start project with readily available wastes, then add smaller feedstocks (eg. Celgar, business food waste). Generate \$ to fund expansion. Charge for picking up organics, but charge more for garbage pickup. Charge fees for whatever is collected. “Credit” for what is collected towards end product purchase. Municipal bonds. Avoided landfill costs (closure etc) can be used to calculate project finances. Use cash incentives to encourage conservation mentality. Markets for compost include: golf courses, farms, organic growers. Calculate savings by extending landfill life. Tipping fees for private haulers bringing material to central facility.</p>
Supporting education and policy	<p>Backlash dies down in 6 months or so. No bans in RDCK.</p>	<p>People might rebel if we are too heavy-handed (eg. Illegal dumping).</p>	<p>Community program needed. Don’t be too heavy-handed. Education rather than</p>

	<p>Composting deterrents are drop off charges and short/inconvenient operating hours. Cardlock system at Canex landfill – only open to public 2 days/wk; considering cardlock for Ootischenia. Cities don't own landfills; have to work with RDs to implement solutions. Some people may be subsidizing others.</p>	<p>Hard to enforce ban. How will you get away with not picking up garbage that has more than 10% organics? What does a resident gain by dividing up his garbage?</p>	<p>enforcement of bans. Make garbage pickup less convenient and more expensive than recycling pickup. Garbage self-haul over recycling/compost self-haul. User Pay/Tag a bag system most fair. Sell program to people so they will participate – prove it works, then penalties won't be needed. Demonstrate value of finished compost, that commercial system is working and now residential can work. Make compost available for free or low-cost. Educate people about true costs of landfilling over the next 50 plus years. Taxpayers could pay a contractor to run a compost operation rather than pay for landfills.</p>
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Final Decisions/Next Steps:

1. Report to Regional Districts and Celgar by December 31.
2. Suggest report be presented to all municipalities.
3. Talk about how costs would be shared by municipalities. Nova Scotia video helps to explain possible facility – may want to use in presentation; keep presentation to 1.5 hours.
4. Present all options and how they might work.
5. Present examples of other municipalities and regional districts that have worked together on recycling and/or composting projects.

Surveys and Workbooks will be tabulated in a separate report.