

Creston Focus Group Session and Open House

Thursday, October 28, 2004

Attendance:

Perspective	Focus Group	Interview/Survey
Project Team	Laurie Gallant - Footprint Ron Mickel RDCK	
Hauler		
Local Organics Diversion		Don Low – Industry Specialist/Economist, BC Min. of Agriculture Wayne Harris, Mountain Valley Dairy
Institution		
Business		Creston Advance - Brian
Resident	Ralph Moore Mrs. Lavender	
Local Gov't	Bill Hutchison CAO Cllr Sharon Sadler Cllr Lawrence Lavender Cllr Ed Vondracek Cllr John Kettle Cllr Joe Snopek	
Tourism/Econ. Dev't		Wendi Chamber of Commerce

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.

Note: Two focus group sessions were run back to back. The notes are the compilation of both sessions.

WHAT WE HEARD

PROJECT COMPONENT	DATA	CONCERNS	SOLUTION
General	<p>Composting more important than recycling because of the future implications.</p> <p>Problems and costs for landfills are different for each subregion. Big trouble if all communities are treated the same.</p> <p>On average, 40% of landfilled materials are organic. Don't have "real" numbers for RDCK or Creston.</p> <p>EKEnv.Society did study (Karl Kistner was involved) a few years ago – have volumes of organic materials.</p> <p>CRA doing landfill site attenuation study for RDCK – ask them what maximum capacity is and how removing organics will affect the results of their study.</p>	<p>How to keep compost cart clean without liner. Is there a biodegradable liner?</p> <p>Don't provide numbers until they become meaningful – then get specific.</p> <p>Political will to follow through on study</p> <p>recommendations -</p> <p>Municipal elections should be irrelevant to long term environmental and economic strategies.</p> <p>Rodents?</p> <p>Transference of cost to future generations not right. May affect morale, attitude if they inherit big environmental problems with price tags to match.</p> <p>Watch the numbers game.</p>	<p>Backyard composting is part of the solution – low-cost option is the way to go. Creston Valley needs a separate solution – not part of the "Celgar solution".</p> <p>Won't need liner for garbage can. Clear liner for compost cart?</p> <p>Communities can come on line as they are ready.</p>
Service level	<p>Many large rural lots, not economical to pick up at curb.</p> <p>New garbage collection contract for Creston beginning Jan/05 for 5 years. Looking at 1 container limit.</p> <p>Currently there is a farmer collecting grass clippings in clear bags plus a private drop-off for clippings.</p>	<p>Seniors and apartment buildings.</p> <p>Need a central place for people who aren't BY composting.</p> <p>Bears?</p>	<p>Alternatives must be easy and not to \$\$.</p> <p>Distribute kitchen catchers.</p> <p>Find out best practices and just do it.</p> <p>Depot system most economical.</p>
Ownership/ Operation	<p>CVDA has hired a PhD to do a composting feasibility study. Six or seven big dairy farms (13 total</p>	<p>Do we need drying beds? Can we cost-share by finding</p>	<p>Public land – rest depends on technology and legal requirements.</p>

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

	<p>in RDCK, 3 in Nelson) – lots of manure feedstock. RD has property but can do on farms? Lots of animal carcasses – more than 100/yr (ostriches, horses, cattle, emus plus bears and roadkill)</p>	<p>another operation that needs same equipment (i.e. farming needs front loaders etc.) Private operation may not allow for quality control of finished compost.</p>	<p>Public operation in Creston; Public control of sales needed with full disclosure. Team up with Creston Valley Dairymen’s Association. Produce quality suitable for farmers. Farmers could operate – already have equipment; waive tipping fees – allows for instant cooperation.</p>
Cost Recovery	<p>Kamloops has compost exchange program (pay for finished compost). Creston doesn’t have User Pay garbage collection. Organics diversion is part of the SWM function of the RDCK, municipalities are participants. Chemicals are a way of life for dairy farmers – birth control for cattle; also arsenic from chipped apple trees. New weigh scale going in at Creston landfill. Timing of project good.</p>	<p>Current SWMP doesn’t call for central composting – would have to be amended. Are municipalities responsible for costs? Impacts on landfill revenues if organics removed? Need \$ for collection but must consider all costs i.e. new landfills. Do we need “organic” status? Dairy farmers vs veggie growers.</p>	<p>Full-cost accounting: landfill life and leachate mgmt. Produce more than one grade of compost. Make sure finished compost has clear labeling: recommended uses. Best practices for cost recovery? Guiding principles. Do the right thing. Compost sales (“Kootenay Old Gold”), tipping fees that are less than landfilling. RD needs to amend bylaws to make composting less costly than landfilling.</p>
Supporting education and policy	<p>Leachate, methane production from organics, landfill fire risks, siting of new landfills difficult and expensive. Closure of existing landfills expensive with organics in.</p>	<p>What happens when organics decompose in landfill? What happens to organics in garbarator?</p>	<p>Campaign to distribute and maintain Backyard Composters with follow-up – needs to be continuous education. Focus on how and why. Should be illegal to dispose of organics. Need a combination of education and user pay. Get schools involved eg. Worm farm projects and science curriculum.</p>

			Promote stewardship.
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Final Decisions/Next Steps:

1. Contact Wayne Harris with CVDA to partner on this project. They will have feedstock numbers, location, operation details.
2. Include Best Practices for zero waste systems and financial tracking – provide a template of how to present costs (financial statement format to make it easy to compare communities).
3. Ask FCM or UBCM to take a stand on standardizing guidelines for collection and cost recovery (and tracking).
4. “Composting Techniques for small communities” – potential new course for community college in Creston.
5. Check in with Steve McInnis at EKRD – he may have some composting numbers.
6. When final report comes out, East Waste Cttee will coordinate with City Council to review recommendations and work out an implementation plan.
7. RDCK needs to amend Solid Waste Management Plan before \$ can be borrowed; east and west have borrowing power.
8. Village of Creston to request that RDKB provide funding (or a grant) for comprehensive education program on Zero Waste → may need a Task Force or some other community structure; need to explore cost-sharing options and possible volunteer coordinator (high school community service, seniors); need a workplan with long-term goals, and mini-projects with hours and budget.
9. Send Focus Group report to Bill for distribution to Councillors
10. Get Kelowna numbers re: Return on Investment for composting.
11. Follow up with Don.Low@gems2.gov.bc.ca – would like to be in the loop but couldn’t attend focus group meeting.

Surveys and Workbooks will be tabulated in a separate report.