

## Questions and Answers:

### Westside Landfill Closure

### Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre

#### ***Westside Landfill Closure***

##### **1. Why is the Westside Landfill closing?**

The Westside Landfill is closing later this year – garbage will no longer be buried in the landfill. Instead the landfill will become a waste disposal and recycling centre and residential garbage and yard waste will be shipped to the Glenmore Landfill in Kelowna, which remains as the only active landfill serving the entire Central Okanagan. The waste disposal and recycling centre will provide the same convenient services, but garbage will be removed instead of buried at this site. For the most part, yard waste will also be removed from the landfill, instead of being chipped and then removed from the site. The Westside Landfill is closing earlier than anticipated in part to accommodate the existing and developing adjacent residential neighbourhoods.

##### **2. When will the Westside Landfill close?**

Once the landfill has reached final elevation and the final grading is complete it is anticipated that we will stop burying garbage around mid-2010.

#### ***New Westside Residential Waste Disposal and Recycling Centre***

##### **3. What services will be available at the new waste disposal and recycling centre?**

Residents will have access to the same services currently available. These include disposal of extra household garbage, yard waste, recycling, clean, separated wood, lumber and metal waste, white goods and appliances, tires and propane tanks and the handy Big Brothers-Big Sisters reuse-it drop off centre. The garbage and yard waste materials will be shipped to the Glenmore Landfill. All garbage from the curbside collection program, as well as commercial waste was rerouted to the Glenmore Landfill in June 2009 and will not be accepted at the new facility.

##### **4. What days will the waste disposal and recycling centre be open?**

The new waste disposal will be open Friday to Monday - the four busiest days of the week. Landfill use dramatically decreased when curbside and commercial

waste was diverted, and operating the waste disposal centre on the four busiest days of the week will help reduce costs. The transition to the four-day week will happen once the landfill is closed and the new waste disposal and recycling centre is fully operational later this year.

The recycling centre will remain open seven days a week.

#### **5. What hours will the facility be open?**

The hours of operation remain the same. The waste disposal facility will be open 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Friday to Monday. The recycling centre will be open 7:30 am to 4:00 pm seven days a week.

#### **6. Will yard waste still be accepted free of charge?**

Yes, residents can still drop off yard waste and prunings up to 20 cm (8 inches) in diameter weighing less than 250 kg (550 lbs) year round at no charge.

In a recent survey, residents indicated that managing yard waste is important. In a statistically representative telephone survey, the most frequently mentioned options for handling extra yard waste were taking it to landfill (83%) and composting the yard waste (58%).

#### **7. Where does commercial garbage go?**

As part of the Westside Landfill closure plan, all commercial waste from business and industry was redirected to the Glenmore Landfill in June of 2009. Commercial waste is no longer accepted at the Westside Landfill and must be taken to the Glenmore Landfill, which will be the only active landfill for the Central Okanagan.

### ***2010 Costs***

#### **8. How will the new waste disposal and recycling centre be funded?**

The cost to develop the outdoor waste disposal and recycling centre is being paid from reserve funds; no additional tax dollars are required as the Regional District established a fund to pay for the transition years ago.

Operation and maintenance costs for the new facility will be funded in part by taxation. Residents will also continue to pay tipping fees at the gate as they do now. For various tipping fee rates, please visit our website at [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com)

or pick up our Westside Landfill information brochure “Your Guide to the Westside Landfill.”

**9. What options were examined before the decision was made to create the waste disposal and recycling centre?**

Planning for the closure of the Westside Landfill began almost twenty years ago. Both the 1993 Closure Plan and 2009 Conceptual Closure Plan for the Westside Landfill identified a waste disposal and recycling centre site as a possible use for the land once it was closed. Developing a new landfill location would require a search for a suitable site and the purchase of new land, which would cost significantly more than developing and operating a waste disposal and recycling centre at the current site.

**10. What consultation with residents took place before the decision was made to create the waste disposal and recycling centre?**

The RDCO is committed to ensuring the public is informed about the changes. Over the past two years, staff has been making presentations to local governments, working with local government staff and meeting with community groups and concerned individuals. In addition, in 2008, two surveys were conducted to get feedback from landfill customers and key stakeholders: 250 residents were surveyed via telephone and 1250 completed a questionnaire. More than 70% of survey respondents and 80% of those who submitted a questionnaire indicated it was important to continue to offer convenient solid waste services to Westside residents.

**11. How are residents being kept informed of changes to the landfill site?**

In addition to the above, since 2008, the RDCO has sent a monthly Westside Landfill newsletter to keep area residents and key stakeholders informed about the closure plans. These monthly newsletters will continue through the transition to the waste disposal and recycling centre. To sign up for an email copy, simply contact [bsmith@cord.bc.ca](mailto:bsmith@cord.bc.ca)

Five open houses are being held in Westside communities the weeks of April 12<sup>th</sup> and April 19<sup>th</sup> – read on for more info.

**12. What is being done to be a good neighbour?**

We recognize that those living next to the landfill have specific concerns and we continue to take steps to help reduce the impact on our neighbours. This includes litter clean up, dust control measures and responding to requests and concerns as they arise. In the past we have hosted special meetings to inform and

consult on landfill activities, as well as sending the monthly newsletter to keep residents and key stakeholders informed.

### **13. What is being done about illegal dumping?**

The RDCO has had an active illegal dumping program in place since the mid-nineties. This includes clean up of old illegal dumping sites and responding to complaints about new ones. Unfortunately, a small percentage of the population still thinks it is acceptable to dump garbage on the roadside or in the bush. Maintaining a convenient waste disposal site on the Westside will help reduce this problem. And, since the new waste disposal and recycling centre will continue to accept the same materials, an increase in illegal dumping is not anticipated. However, staff will continue to monitor the situation, clean up dumpsites on public property and apply penalties where possible. The Regional District also supports community and neighbourhood clean up events and can provide bags and gloves. For more information on the illegal dumping program or the Spring Community Clean up program, please visit our website at [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com). To report any illegal dumping activity, please contact the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250.

### **14. Is this a permanent location?**

This location is currently the most cost-effective site for residents of West Kelowna, Peachland, Westbank First Nation and Central Okanagan West Electoral Area, as the Regional District already holds the lease for the land from the Province. In future, the RDCO or the District of West Kelowna may decide to look at alternate locations.

### **15. What will the old landfill site that is not part of the waste disposal and recycling centre be used for?**

Closure plans for the landfill were developed in 1993 and updated in 2009. One option suggested in both plans is a passive park, however no funds have been set aside for future development, and no decisions have been made. More costing and consultation will be needed before any future uses are decided.

### **16. Where can I learn more?**

Join us at one of five open houses to view displays, talk to staff, provide feedback and enjoy refreshments with friends and neighbours. If you can't make it to an open house, you can also visit the Westside Landfill Closure page on the RDCO website at [regionaldistrict.com](http://regionaldistrict.com) and select Quick Links/Landfill Closure. Here you can view the display panels and download a copy of our Exit Questionnaire to provide your thoughts. Fill it in and, if you like, provide your

name and phone number and we'll enter your name in a draw for a new Earth Machine composter.

## **2010 Westside Landfill Open Houses**

### ***Peachland***

- Monday, April 12, 4:00 to 8:00 pm  
Council Chambers at the Peachland Community Center, 4450 - 6th Street

### ***West Kelowna***

- Tuesday, April 13, 4:00 to 8:00 pm  
Westbank Lions Community Centre, 2466 Main Street
- Tuesday, April 20, 4:00 to 8:00 pm  
District of West Kelowna, Community Portable, Mt. Boucherie Recreation Complex, 2760 Cameron Road

### ***Westside Road***

- Wednesday, April 14, 4:00 to 8:00 pm  
Killiney Beach Community Hall, 514 Udell Road
- Thursday, April 22, 4:00 to 8:00 pm  
Wilson Landing Fire Hall, 2396 Westside Road