

# Regional District Services

## RGS Goal:

Provide affordable, efficient and effective regional services and infrastructure that conserves land, water and energy resources

### Issue Overview

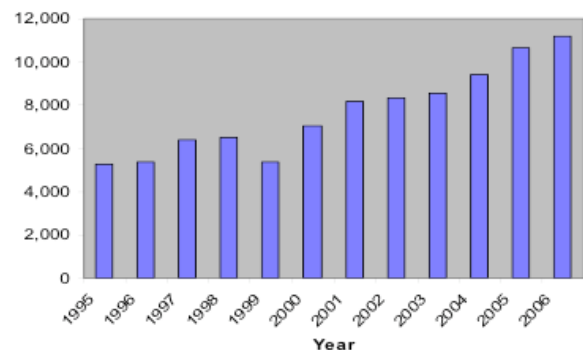
Water, sewer and solid waste services are the foundation of modern community planning. These crucial services provide sanitation, control disease and in many ways help determine the overall quality of life in our modern cities, towns and villages. Regional directions on services and infrastructure also play an important role in determining where new housing is developed.

The planning of regional district services is directly linked to land use planning. The more dispersed our settlement patterns, the more infrastructure servicing must be extended and the more expensive it will be. Due to their potential impact and cost, extensions of these services must be carefully considered. The RGS provides an opportunity for the Central Okanagan to identify priorities and objectives for land use patterns, services, and infrastructure.

### Current Situation

- » **Water consumption:** It is clear in the Central Okanagan that water is the greatest limiting factor to growth. According to the Okanagan Basin Water Board, our residents use of 675 litres per person per day despite having less water available per capita than any region in Canada. Our water consumption is significantly above both the B.C. average (490 litres/day) and the Canadian average (329 litres/day).
- » **Liquid Waste:** We operate a wastewater treatment plant that treats liquid waste from West Kelowna, Peachland and Westbank First Nation. Originally put into service in 1989, a \$12 million upgrade is underway so that the facility can keep pace with regional population growth. When completed in 2011, it will provide wastewater treatment for approximately 42,000.
- » **Solid Waste:** Currently, the Central Okanagan is diverting about 40% of its waste from being landfilled. Our goal is to reduce the amount of waste being landfilled by 50% by 2011, and 65% by 2016. While we have greatly reduced per capita waste production from 1.2 metric tonnes per person in 1991 to 0.8 metric tonnes in 2006, volumes have been increasing the last several years, albeit at lower rates than previous years.
- » **Recycling:** A curbside recycling program for the Central Okanagan was initiated in 2000. A participation study conducted in 2003 determined that 94% of residents place materials at their curb for collection on a regular basis. The program has been expanded to include a greater variety of materials and yard waste.

**Metric Tonnes Recycled**



Note: From curbside and depot recycling programs