

Waste Buried

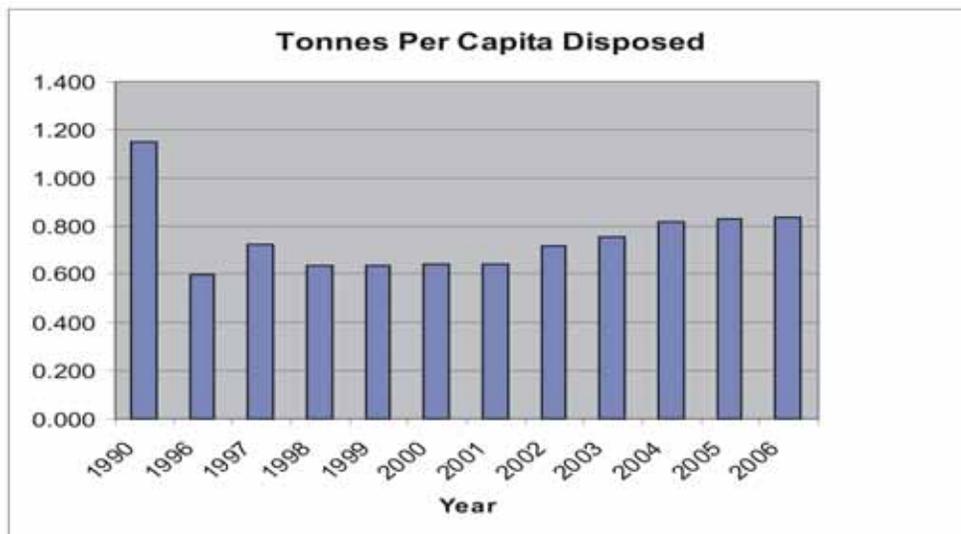


Glenmore Landfill

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 landfills.

Status and Trends

In 2006, the Regional District of Central Okanagan and City of Kelowna updated the Solid Waste Management Plan and set new goals for waste diversion. Currently, the Central Okanagan is diverting about 40% of its waste from the landfill. Our goal is to reduce the amount of waste disposed of at the landfill by 50% by 2011 and 65% by 2016.



Source: Waste Reduction Office, 2006



Landfill Weigh Scale

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. In 2006, the amount increased to 0.8 metric tonnes.

* 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 Blue Bag Curbside Recycling Program, 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.

In July 2000, a residential curbside recycling collection program was initiated. This Blue Bag Recycling Program helped the Central Okanagan to reduce waste by providing an easy and convenient way to recycle. This program has doubled collection of recyclable materials over the depot-only system.



Wood Chipping at Landfill