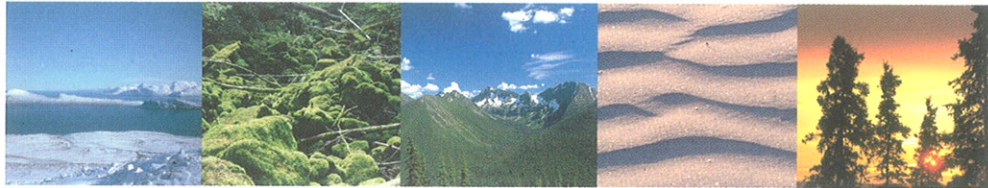


# Solid Waste Management Services Report

Solid Waste Management Services - Regional  
Comparisons



Prepared for  
**Powell River Regional District**

Submitted by  
**Gartner Lee Limited**

**August 2007**

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**4 Powell River Regional District**

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Gartner Lee

# Executive Summary

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The Powell River Regional District (PRRD) plans to review and update its Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). In preparation for the review Gartner Lee Limited was commissioned to undertake a study to:

1. Identify current waste management issues and trends that may not be adequately addressed in the existing PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan.
2. To identify changes to existing local waste management programs and strategies that will improve their efficiency and/or performance.
3. Identify successful municipal solid waste management strategies and programs that may have local applicability to the PRRD.

In 2005, the PRRD was among the eighteen regional districts that had per capita disposal rates lower (better) than the provincial rate. The PRRD was also one of five regional districts to achieve the Provincial goal of reducing per capita waste disposal by at least 50%, compared to its 1990 base rate. The annual per capita disposal rate in the PRRD has remained fairly constant since 2001, at around 0.225 tonnes.

Solid waste management operations in the PRRD are handled primarily by a private sector firm that has a contract with the PRRD to operate a waste transfer and recycling sorting/pre-processing facility. Residents of electoral areas may self-haul their waste to the transfer facility or enter into a contract with a third party waste collection service provider. At the transfer facility, residents are charged per tonne for disposal; collection service providers charge a fee per bag plus an annual service fee. Recyclables can be placed in "green bins" located north and south of Powell River, on Texada Island, and in the City, or brought to the recycling sorting facility (for no charge). Residents of the City of Powell River receive biweekly recyclables collection and weekly garbage collection. City residents pay for each bag of garbage collected, and may put out unlimited recyclables. They are also eligible to use the green bin recycling facilities and may take garbage and recycling to the transfer and recycling sorting facility.

In general, the PRRD has an effective solid waste management system that achieves a significant degree of waste diversion, particularly considering its small population and relative isolation from larger population centres. The main concern with the system is its expense: waste export costs \$155/tonne, and recycling costs \$400/tonne.

Gartner Lee conducted a survey of 11 jurisdictions in British Columbia to identify successful waste management programs that could be implemented in the PRRD to reduce the amount of waste sent for disposal and to improve the efficiency of the system. The results of the survey were used to generate case studies and to detect trends.

In order to reduce the overall cost of waste management, the quantity of waste that enters the waste stream needs to be reduced. Simply recycling more material is not a sustainable solution. In order to emphasize the need for waste reduction, the PRRD may wish to adopt an overall goal of "zero waste", following the lead of other regional districts throughout the province. The Recycling

Council of British Columbia defines "zero waste" as emphasis on "waste prevention rather than waste management".

Based on our evaluation of the current system and survey of other programs, we recommend that the upcoming SWMP review process include the study of the following key elements of the waste management system:

1. Waste Reduction and Reuse
  - Subsidizing compost bins
  - Establishing free store(s)
2. Recycling Programs (Collection & Handling)
  - Having an attendant on site at recycling depots some of the time
  - Purchasing the drop off bins provided for recycling
  - Finding a local/semi-local use for glass (such as the SCRD, or industrial users)
3. Recycling Programs (Centralized composting)
  - Investigating the potential for centralized composting
  - Maintaining the current system of accepting separated yard waste for chipping
4. Public Education Programs
  - Using community-based social-marketing techniques for waste reduction, waste reuse and education about other waste management programs
5. Illegal dumping
  - Following up with SCRD to determine success of clean up coupons
  - Proceeding cautiously with material bans to avoid increased problems with illegal dumping
6. Landfilling – MSW
  - Adopting a "zero waste" goal
  - Liaising with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and other Regional Districts (Comox Strathcona and Squamish Lillooet) re: export options
  - Working with the local government at the ferry dock on Vancouver Island to provide recycling and waste disposal containers for Lasqueti residents
7. Landfilling – C&D Waste
  - Increasing the difference between C&D tipping fee and MSW tipping fee to encourage separation
  - Charging additional fee for mixed C&D waste loads
  - Charging a lower fee for deconstruction permits than for demolition permits
8. Small Scale Incineration
  - No action needed under this item
9. Recycling (General Trends)
  - Asking Augusta Recyclers to prepare a quote for the cost per tonne of accepting 2 streams of recyclables and to estimate the market revenue from the sale of commingled streams
10. E-Waste Recycling
  - Work with the local Encorp facility to encourage use of the newly launched e-waste stewardship program

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**List of Acronyms**

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C&D	Construction and Demolition
CBSM	Community-based Social Marketing
CRD	Capital Regional District
CSRD	Comox Strathcona Regional District
CVRD	Comox Valley Regional District
EHF	Environmental Handling Fee
GRIPS	Garbage and Recycling in Pender Society
GVRD	Greater Vancouver Regional District
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MWIN	Municipal Waste Integration Network
NSRP	North Shore Recycle Program
PRRD	Powell River Regional District
RCA	Recycling Council of Alberta
RCBC	Recycling Council of British Columbia
RDCK	Regional District of Central Kootenay
RDCO	Regional District of Central Okanagan
RDFFG	Regional District of Fraser Ft. George
RDKB	Kootenay Boundary Regional District
RDN	Regional District of Nanaimo
RDS	Regional District of Stikine
SCRD	Sunshine Coast Regional District
SLRD	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
SWMP	Solid Waste Management Plan
UBC	University of British Columbia
WTE	Waste to Energy

## 1. Background

The Powell River Regional District (PRRD) plans to undertake a review and update of its Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). In preparation for the review Gartner Lee Limited (GLL) was commissioned to undertake a study to:

1. Identify current waste management issues and trends that may not be adequately addressed in the existing PRRD Solid Waste Management Plan.
2. To identify changes to existing local waste management programs and strategies that will improve their efficiency and/or performance.
3. Identify successful municipal solid waste management strategies and programs that may have local applicability to the PRRD.

The PRRD includes the City of Powell River, three electoral areas situated around the City on the mainland, and two island electoral areas –Texada Island, which is linked by ferry service, and Lasqueti Island, which is linked by a passenger-only ferry service to Vancouver Island. The total population of the region is 19,599 as summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1. PRRD Population**

Area	Population as per 2006 Census <sup>1</sup>
City of Powell River	12,957
Electoral Area A, north of City	914
Stiammon First Nation (Part of Area A)	682
Electoral Area B	1,489
Electoral Area C	2,074
Small area of Sechelt Indian Government	17
Electoral Area D – Texada Island	1,107
Electoral Area E – Lasqueti Island	359
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,599</b>

The region's communities and boundaries are mapped in Figure 1.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/mun\\_rd.asp](http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/cen06/mun_rd.asp)

