



For immediate release
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Fraser Valley Regional District Votes on Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Plan

CHILLIWACK BC: The Board of Directors of the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) voted on Metro Vancouver's Draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWMP) at its regular Board meeting last night.

Metro Vancouver is presently engaged in a Public Consultation process on the draft plan, which ends on July 14, 2010. In addition to initiatives to reduce and divert waste by 2015, the plan proposes a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) strategy to annually incinerate 500,000 tonnes of garbage that will not be recycled, composted or otherwise diverted from households, business and industry.

The Board unanimously agreed that it does not support WTE incineration as a viable option for handling residual municipal solid waste

They also agreed to support Goals 1 and 2 in the plan that respectively deal with minimizing waste generation and maximizing reuse, recycling and material recovery in the Greater Vancouver region. The Board agreed to provisionally support Goal 3 which deals with energy recovery from the waste stream, and Goal 4 that all remaining waste is disposed of in landfills, after material recycling and energy recovery.

The provision states that the Board does not support energy recovery or handling of municipal solid waste by any form of combustion including, but not limited to, incineration, gasification, pyrolysis, plasma technology, mass burn or any other similar technology for the residual management of municipal solid waste within a Waste-to-Energy facility.

“We are happy to support the initiatives in the Metro Vancouver plan to divert waste and increase reduction, reuse and recycling”, said Patricia Ross, Board Chair. “The Fraser Valley is home to a unique and sensitive airshed. We simply cannot support a strategy that involves the on-going need to supply incinerators with waste, the uncertainty regarding the contaminants that would be discharged and the potential effects on human health and the environment in the Lower Fraser Valley.”

The Fraser Valley Regional District will be advising the Minister of the Environment of their recommendations and is encouraging residents to get involved in the Public Consultation process.

“There is an enormous amount of information available about the impacts of Waste-to-Energy incineration on air quality. We encourage people to find out more about the issue

and make their views known to Metro Vancouver and the Minister of the Environment,” said Ross.

The FVRD recently developed a website to provide residents with information about regional air quality. People are encouraged to visit www.airqualitymatters.ca to find out more.

The District has also set up a Facebook Page, [Air Quality Matters](#) and a Twitter account, [@AQMatters](#) to provide information and create a platform for public discussion about the importance of clean air.

For more information:

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