

# factsheet



## Eco-Levy Implementation

### Background

- Metro Vancouver has recently submitted the Region's updated Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) for approval by the BC Minister of Environment.
- Impending closure of the Cache Creek Landfill means garbage costs will rise significantly, from \$82/tonne in 2010 to \$182/tonne in 2015. Costs can be mitigated by reducing the amount of garbage we throw away.
- Metro Vancouver "Disposal" costs for targeted recoverable resources will be lower than for garbage costs. For example, green waste rates in 2011 are \$63/tonne - 54% lower than the 2011 garbage rates at \$97/tonne.
- There is a significant penalty for disposing of recyclable materials in garbage. Metro Vancouver's Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Bylaw stipulates a 50% surcharge may be charged for garbage loads containing more than 5% of recyclable materials.
- There is no tipping fee charged to users for recyclable paper and plastics deposited at the North Shore Recycling Dropoff Depot or through the curbside recycling blue box program, and the City receives a revenue from sale of the recyclables to help offset the costs of providing the North Shore Recycling Program.
- The ISWRMP has set an aggressive target of increasing the amount of recycling and waste diversion from the current 55% to 70%.
- The City is obligated to meet the requirements of the new ISWRMP.

### Changes to waste management

- Public realm garbage collection needs to be integrated into the City's solid waste utility and the City needs to adjust its services to improve management of on-street litter, providing for recycling of key items targeted for increased diversion (e.g. newspaper, beverage containers, takeaway containers).
- The City will increase services to assist key sectors such as multi-family residential and commercial in meeting the 70% waste diversion target.
- The current Recycling levy is only charged to the residential sector. This levy pays for residential recycling services and the City's share of the cost of the

North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot (\$400,000/year). The depot operates with no user fees and the majority of materials are from the non-residential sector.

- Currently Metro Vancouver bans paper, newsprint, blue box recyclables, electronics and other materials from the garbage stream. Food and yard waste will be banned in the future. However, many small businesses lack space for multi-stream recycling/garbage collection.

In the future, the City will gather information by business category on how various materials are disposed of (wood, food, garden waste, newsprint, cardboard, hard plastics) and what services the City could provide to help businesses reduce garbage and increase waste diversion and recycling. This information will help to shape programs to reduce waste volumes and control regional garbage disposal costs.