

FAQs

April 2019



The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) service manages over 100,000 tonnes of waste and recycled material annually and oversees a number of diversion and education programs for the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the Strathcona Regional District (SRD). CSWM is responsible for two regional waste management centres that serve the Comox Valley and Campbell River, as well as for a range of transfer stations that handle waste and recycling for the electoral areas of the CVRD and SRD.

In accordance with its Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, CSWM is planning to close the landfill in Campbell River and transition the site to a transfer station. Below are some answers to what these changes will mean for you.

Campbell River Waste Management Centre Closure

Why is the Campbell River landfill being closed?

The space available at the Campbell River landfill is limited, and nearing capacity. Continued landfill operations at the Campbell River Waste Management Centre would require new or expanded space.

As a regional service, CSWM made the decision to close the Campbell River landfill and operate the site as a transfer station. The transfer station will act as a waste drop-off/collection point for the Campbell River region, with collected waste to be transported to the Comox Valley Waste Management Centre located in Cumberland BC, approximately 65 km south of Campbell River.

The Comox Valley Waste Management Centre has required recent large-scale investment to meet regulatory requirements for a modern landfill, allowing it to meet environmental standards, while accepting increased waste.

When will the landfill close?

Final closure of the Campbell River landfill is planned for 2023.

How will the landfill closure impact area residents?

The average resident will see very little change when the landfill is closed, as the site will be operated as a transfer station. Residents will still be able to drop off household waste, recyclables and yard waste, as well as clean wood waste, appliances, mattresses, household hazardous waste products and construction materials.

For those residents who have curbside collection, your household waste, yard waste and recyclables will continue to be picked up as scheduled by the City of Campbell River.

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What will the closed landfill look like?

At closure, the landfill will reach a final top elevation of 194 metres above mean sea level. The surface will have a vegetative cover with occasional gas collection piping running up and down the side slopes.

Landfill Gas Management Regulation

What is Landfill Gas?

Landfill gas is a byproduct of the decomposition of organic (e.g. paper, food waste, yard waste) material within a landfill. Landfill gas is primarily composed of methane (CH₄) and carbon dioxide (CO₂).

What is the Landfill Gas Management Regulation?

The BC Landfill Gas (LFG) Management Regulation is a statute that stipulates when landfill gas is to be collected from a landfill.

Why is CSWM requesting a timeline extension for requirements under the Landfill Gas Regulation?

CSWM is seeking approval to complete detailed design of the landfill gas collection system in 2020 and carry out construction of the system beginning in 2021 and finishing in 2023, as part of the final cover and closure works for the Campbell River landfill.

What are the plans for landfill gas capture?

CSWM will install a landfill gas collection system, comprising approximately 31 LFG vertical extraction wells, a blower and flare system with capacity of 500 m³/hr, and a network of piping to collect the gas from the wells.

A final geomembrane cover system will also be installed at that time, creating a barrier layer on top of the landfilled waste, which will help to contain landfill gas.

Combining the installation of the LFG collection system with the installation of the geomembrane cover will allow for efficient collection of landfill gas, at the time when the site reaches its annual peak rate of gas generation.

What are the next steps?

CSWM awaits the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's decision on its application for a timeline extension. In the interim, CSWM is interested in hearing your thoughts and opinions on the landfill closure plan and the plans to change waste handling at the Campbell River Waste Management Centre.

How do I keep informed?

Regular updates will be available at the project webpage: www.cswm.ca/campbellriver

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