ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

West Coast Landfill

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted to:

British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Parks

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ACRD Community Services Department

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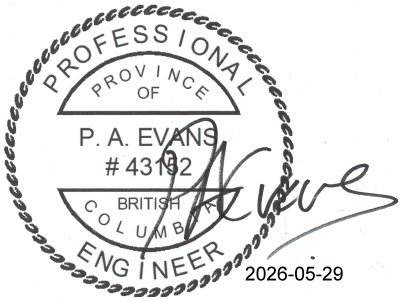
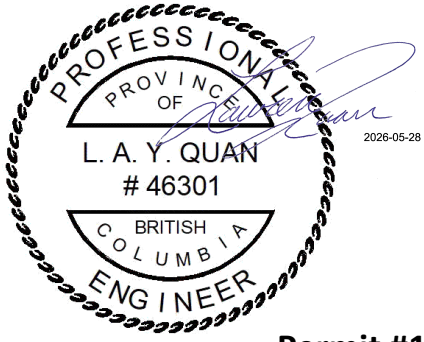


Lauren Quan, P.Eng.



Permit #1001972

May 2026

Report Summary 2025

	Reporting Year 2025	Unit
Waste Tonnage Disposed at WCL	6,203	t
NET Landfill Airspace Consumed - Areas of Cut/Fill	9,850	m^3
Landfill Airspace Remaining	661,232	m^3
Closure Date at Current Fill Rate/Density	Approx. 2063	
Waste in Place at Landfill	188,845	t
Leachate Generated & Treated	Not measured	m^3

Landfill Gas Management	none
Closure Works Undertaken	none
Inspection Works	No formal Ministry inspection in 2025. Ongoing internal inspections.
Changes from Approved Plans	Leachate pond has overflow pipes that are not included in the approved Operational Certificate. Biosolids are being managed on the mound instead of the compost pad as described in the approved OMRR Operating Plan.
Ministry Non-Compliances	MOEP requires documentation for leachate overflow piping and old contaminated soil that was previously identified onsite.
Progress on Non-Compliances	Documentation of leachate overflow pipes, evaluation of contaminated soil, and biosolid management on the landfill mound will be included in the 2026/2027 DOCP and Operational Certificate amendment.

WCL Waste Shed Projects Undertaken in 2025	Future Projects/Initiatives Proposed
Solid Waste Management Plan	Design, Operations and Closure Plan (DOCP) Update
Waste Reduction Education Program	Operational Certificate Update
Environmental Water Monitoring Improvements	Environmental Water Monitoring
Rope and Netting Project with Ocean Legacy	Recycling Program Evaluations
Sortn'Grow Compost Sales	ICI Diversion Program Implementation
WildSafeBC BC – Sort'nGo Carts Improvements	Ocean Legacy Program Continuation
ICI Tipping Fee Increase	Bear Awareness Initiatives
ICI Diversion Program	Commercial Organics Diversion / Ban on Organics
Oil and Antifreeze Collection Program	Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion
Tofino Biosolids Processing	Capital Infrastructure Projects
Annual Survey	Cost Recovery Evaluations
	General Partnership Opportunities

	Target	Actual
1 - Waste Disposal Rate	< 400 kg/capita	488 kg/capita
2- Diversion of Waste	>50%	28%
3 - Airspace Consumption Ratio	>750 kg/m^3	630 kg/m^3
4 – Capital Contributions	>$70,000/year	$105,693
5 – Water Quality	Meet FWAL	Slight leachate effect identified at SW-1 in 2025.
6 – Landfill Gas Generation	<1,000 tonnes CH_4/year	Est. 422 tonnes CH_4/year

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1.0 Background

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) operates the West Coast Landfill (WCL) under the British Columbia Waste Management Act Operational Certificate Number OC-5634, issued April 12, 2005. The "waste shed" for municipal solid waste destined for the WCL includes the District of Tofino, District of Ucluelet, Parks Canada, ACRD Electoral District C - Long Beach, Millstream and Port Albion and the First Nations communities of the Toquaht, Yuułuʔiɬʔatḥ, Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht, and Hesquiaht. The WCL is located approximately 9 km northwest of the Tofino-Ucluelet junction, on the east side of the highway, along Alaska Pine Road. The WCL has been operational since 1980.

This report was prepared by staff at the ACRD to satisfy the annual reporting requirements for the WCL, as required by the Operational Certificate and the 2016 Landfill Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste published by BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (now Ministry of Environment and Parks [MOEP]). The report has been reviewed by solid waste engineers from Tetra Tech Canada Inc. that are familiar with the facility and operations. The content of the Annual Report and supporting materials were reviewed by Tetra Tech Canada Inc. in conjunction with the ACRD staff prior to the report being finalized.

2.0 Mission Statement

To protect human health and the environment and maximize the value of service by effectively managing the region's solid waste in an environmentally, socially, and economically responsible manner, guided by the sacred principles of the Nuu-chah-nulth peoples which honor respect for all living things, uphold our shared responsibility to future generations, and recognize the interconnectedness of land, water, and community.

3.0 Waste Quantification

3.1 Landfilled Waste

In 2025, the WCL accepted approximately 6,203 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) from both residential and commercial sources. A further 2,125 tonnes of construction and demolition (C&D) waste were accepted as shown in Table 1. The cumulative waste in place at the WCL as of the end of 2025 was 188,845 tonnes.

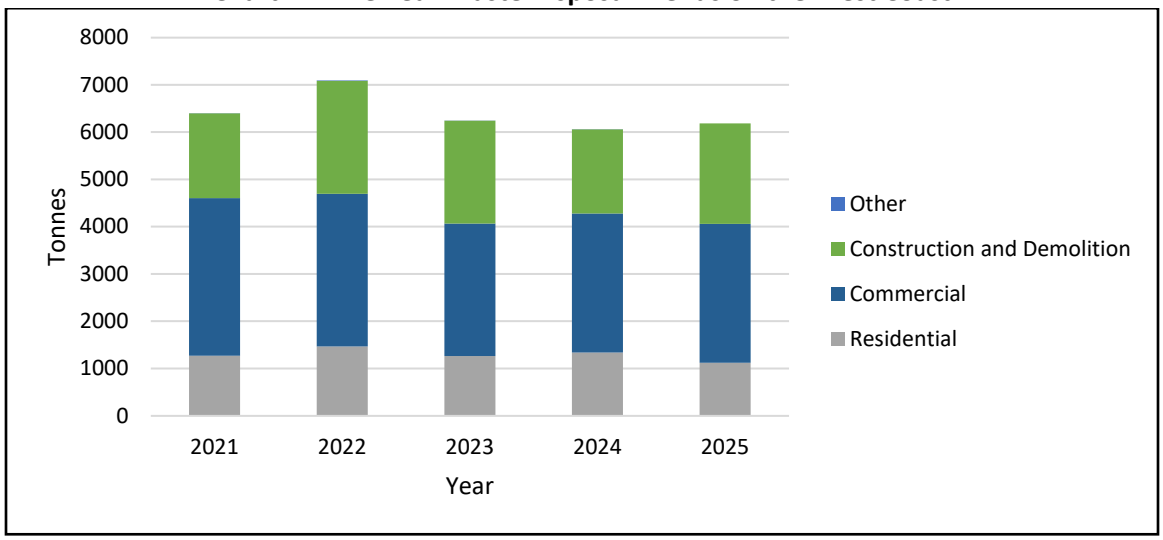
Table 1 – Waste disposed in 2025

Waste Source	Disposed in 2025 (tonnes)	Proportion of Waste
Residential	1,120	18%
Commercial	2,939	47%
Construction and Demolition	2,125	34%
Total	**6,203**	**100%**

The year over year comparison of waste processed through the WCL over the past five years is shown below in Chart 1. The key trends include:

- Commercial waste (including resorts, hotels, restaurants, retail and other businesses) continues to be the highest waste generator due to the considerable numbers of tourists and supporting commercial sectors, accounting for nearly half of all waste that is landfilled.
- Construction and Demolition waste saw an increase following Covid-19 that has since decreased and somewhat stabilized to reflect the overall economic activity in the area.
- Residential waste tonnage decreased by 16.2% from 2024 to 2025. It is not clear why there was such a significant decrease in residential waste quantity in 2025. In 2026, staff will explore factors that may have contributed to this decrease.

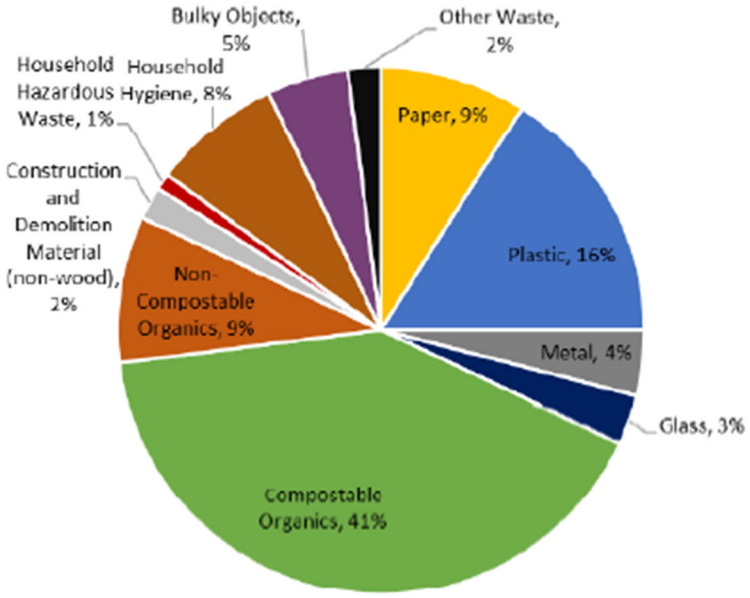
Chart 1 – Five Year Waste Disposal Trends on the West Coast



3.2 Waste Composition

Two waste composition audits have been implemented by ACRD over the past six years, in 2019 and 2023. Over this time, there has been a decrease in the waste disposal rate from 589 kg/capita (2019) to 488 kg/capita (2025) with results from the most recent audit shown below in Chart 3.

Chart 3 – West Coast Landfill Overall Waste Composition 2023



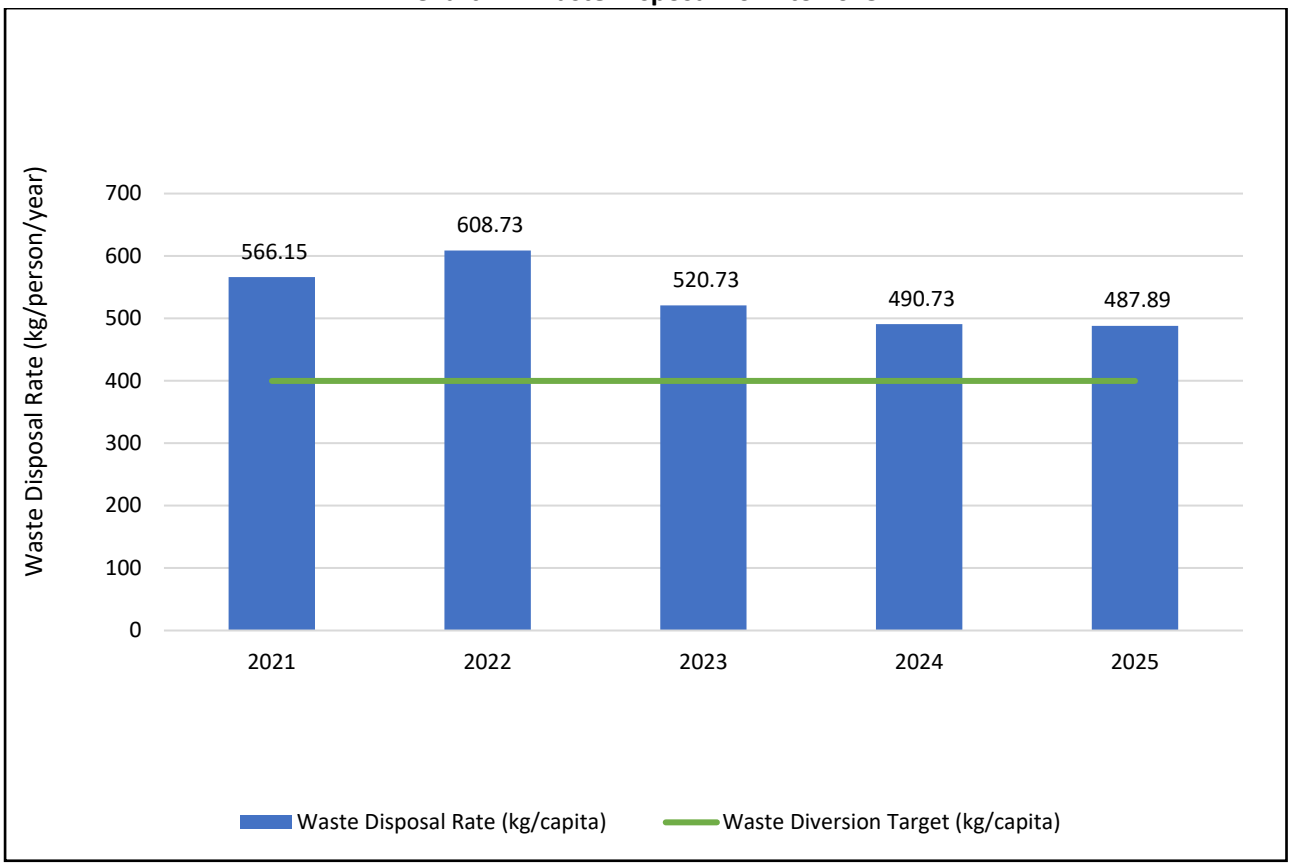
Although the organics collection and composting program has been effective in diverting waste, the largest category of landfilled waste remains compostable organics (food waste/yard waste) at 41%, followed by recyclables (plastics and paper) that account for 25% and 9% non-compostable organics (textiles/dirty wood). Per the 2023 study, over 75% of the waste going into the landfill could have been diverted.

3.3 Waste Generation Rate

The estimated population served by the landfill in 2025 was 12,713 based on census data and equivalent population estimates to account for the highly important tourism population. This results in a waste disposal rate of 488 kg/capita per annum. While this disposal rate is well in excess of the target of 400 kg/capita as shown below in Chart 2, it is the lowest disposal rate in the past five years with the highest rate occurring in 2022 at 609 kg/capita. The waste generation rate on the west coast has gone down significantly and consistently since implementation of the Sort'nGo 3 stream program in 2022.

Target–1 - Reduce waste disposal to less than 400 kg/capita

Chart 2 – Waste Disposal 2021 to 2025



3.4 Diversion

The quantity of materials diverted from landfilling in 2025 was approximately 2,418 tonnes, of which 1,313 tonnes was collected directly at the landfill. This resulted in a diversion rate of 28%, down 1.5% from 2024. It is important to note that the diversion rate does not include materials managed by the private sector such as scrap metal recycling and thrift stores.

Table 2 – Diversion at West Coast Landfill in 2025

Material Diverted	Tonnes
Mattresses	24
Ocean Plastic/ Rope & Netting	32
Yardwaste/ Curbside Organics/Self Haul	650
Tires	33
Commercial Recycling	329
Recycle BC Materials	451
Metal	557
Stewardship Programs*	341
Total	**2418**

**Does not include liquid weights of materials diverted through stewardship programs (oil and antifreeze).*

Chart 4 – Annual Waste Diversion Rates (%) 2021-2025

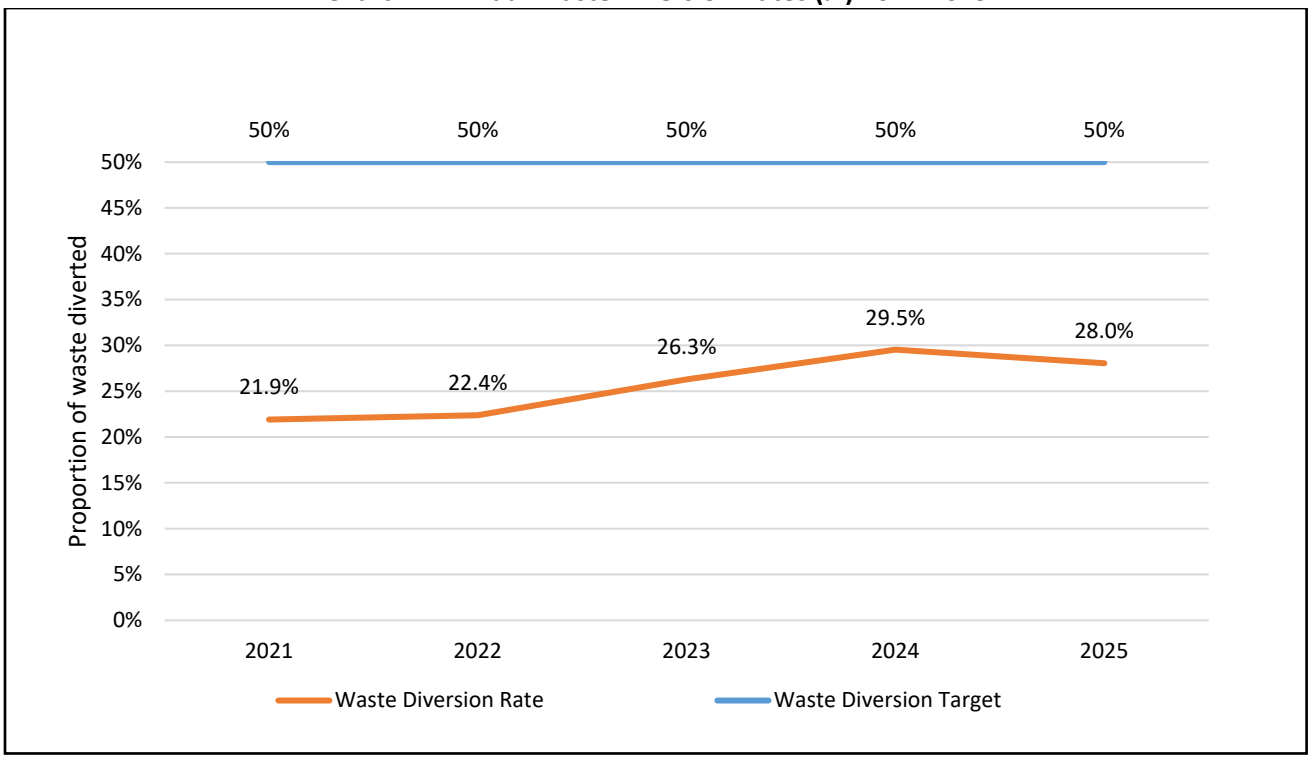
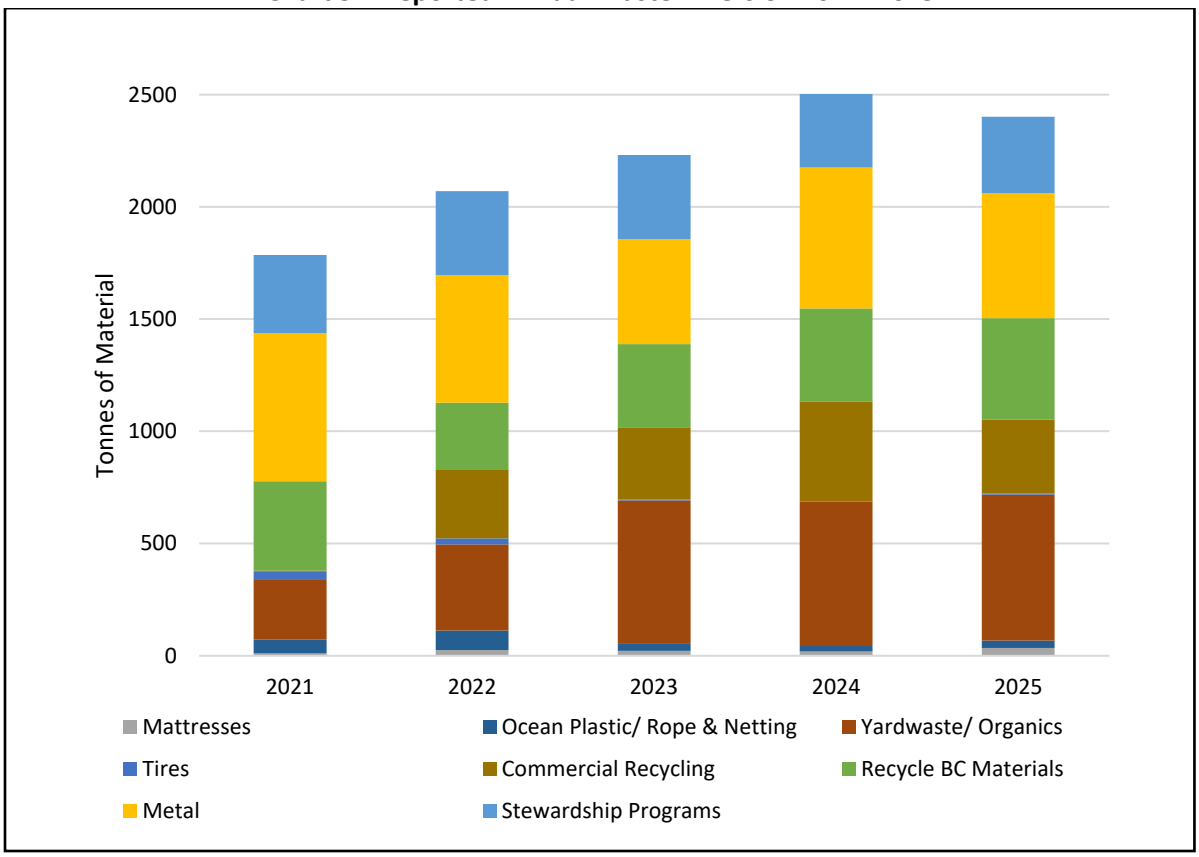


Chart 5 on the following page shows a breakdown of annual waste diversion from 2021 to 2025. Key takeaways include:

- There has been a year-over-year increase in the amount of Recycle BC materials diverted.
- There have been overall increases in diversion of materials collected by stewardship programs.
- Private commercial recycling has been variable.
- There has been a significant increase in organics diverted from the landfill since 2022, as described in the next section.

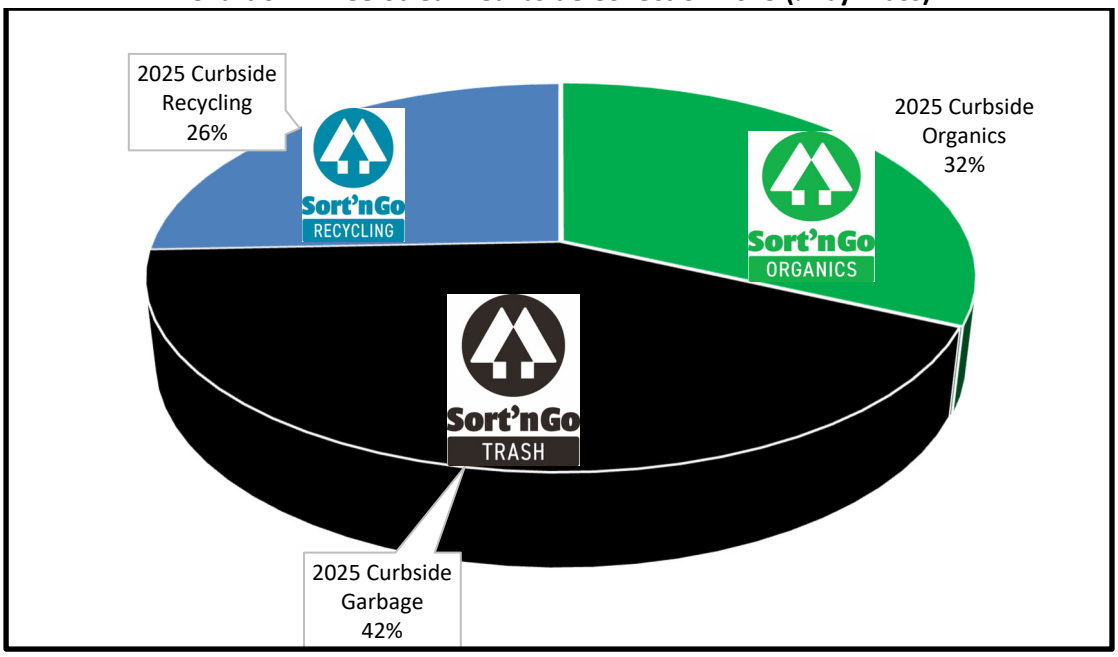
Chart 5 – Reported Annual Waste Diversion 2021- 2025



3.5 Organics - West Coast Sort'nGo - 3-Stream Curbside Collection

The largest contributor to landfill diversion is organic material with the majority of that collected via the curbside program from west coast communities. The Organics - West Coast Sort'nGo - 3-Stream Curbside Collection Program, introduced in December 2022, has increased residential diversion from 23% in 2021 (recycling only) to 58% (recycling and organics) in 2025. The program has also resulted in a significant increase in waste diversion with the reduction of the frequency of waste collection to biweekly. See Charts 6 and 7 below, which show data for 2025.

Chart 6 – Three-Stream Curbside Collection 2025 (% by Mass)



The West Coast Landfill Organics Facility has processed over 1,000 tonnes of organic materials since it was commissioned in 2023. This finished compost material, now branded as SortnGrow Compost, is available for distribution as a Class A soil amendment. The WCL produced over 516 yards of compost for the 2025 growing season, which sold out. Based on great feedback and demand for the product, the price for finished compost was increased for 2026 to allow for improved program cost recovery.

3.6 Recycling

There are two Recycle BC depots on the West Coast, one located in Tofino operated by Ozzard Environmental and the other located in Ucluelet operated in conjunction with the Return-it Bottle Depot.

Target 2 - Increase Diversion of Waste to 50%

In addition to Organics described above, other notable waste diversion programs that have contributed to overall increased diversion trends are described below.

Ocean Plastics Program with Ocean Legacy. This program started in 2021 and recycles ocean plastic debris. The program is run through partnerships between the ACRD and the Ocean Legacy Foundation as well as the ACRD and Surfrider Foundation. 32 tonnes of ocean plastics and rope and netting were collected in 2025, compared to 24 tonnes in 2024.

Surfrider spearheads ocean debris collection from coastline clean up events, feeding rope, netting and ocean plastics debris through the WCL for diversion to Ocean Legacy. From there, Ocean Legacy takes diverted material and recycles it into feedstock for new products such as 5-gallon buckets used for the West Coast Sortn'Grow Compost and other items including signboards, park benches, etc.

Mattress Recycling with Recycle Matters. Mattress recycling began in mid-2021 in partnership with Recycle Matters. This program saw 24 tonnes of mattresses diverted from landfilling in 2025 and 35 tonnes in 2024. This diversion is important not only for environmental reasons, but also because mattresses are difficult to manage in landfill disposal. To date, 3,933 mattresses have been diverted from landfilling at West Coast Landfill, an important success in a region with a strong hospitality industry.

Bicycle Reuse. Bicycles are diverted for reuse at WCL. A dedicated storage shed is provided so that bikes may be reused whole or in part. The tonnages are small, but it is an important statement that they may be reused and are not disposable items.

The largest diversion opportunities on the West Coast are capturing commercial material such as recycling and organics and increasing residential diversion. Other opportunities for diversion streams on the West Coast include increasing reuse options that accommodate high tourism and resident turnover and construction and demolition waste (residual drywall wood, gypsum and other building materials). These options are included as strategies for consideration in the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) Options and Feasibility Report.

4.0 Landfill Capacity

4.1 Airspace Utilization

In 2025 the WCL consumed 9,850 m^3 of airspace for landfill disposal. This value is based on the annual topographical survey completed at year end. With a total tonnage disposed of 6,203 tonnes, the airspace consumption ratio was 630 kg/m^3, which is up slightly from the 2024 ratio of 626 kg/m^3, but in line with the five-year running average of 640 kg/m^3. The volume of cover material used in 2025 was estimated at 2,668 m^3, which is notably less than the 5,163 m^3 used in 2024.

Target 3 – Minimum Airspace Consumption Ratio of 600 kg/m3

The ACRD and landfill contractor will continue to explore best practices and innovative solutions to increase compaction, conserve airspace, and reduce costs.

4.2 Remaining Life

Based on the airspace consumed in 2025 and the available DOCP, there is an estimated 661,232m^3 of airspace remaining at the WCL. Based on the current population growth rate of 3%, waste generation of 488 kg/capita and the five-year average airspace consumption ratio of 640 kg/m^3, it is estimated that the landfill will reach capacity in approximately 2063. However, if the target for reducing waste disposal to 400 kg/person is met and minimum airspace consumption ratios are met or exceeded, the landfill lifespan has the potential to extend to approximately 2070 and beyond.

5.0 Operations

5.1 Variations from DOCP

The last Design, Operations and Closure Plan (DOCP) was completed in 2012 by McGill and Associates Engineering and requires an update.

Exceptions from the 2012 plan include overflow ("decant") events from the leachate holding lagoon via overflow pipes. The current system was designed to capture the leachate generated on site. That leachate is then applied to an irrigation field. In 2015, level loggers were installed in the overflow pipes from the leachate lagoon to record overflow events. Additionally, the scope of waste management services at WCL have evolved to include new programs such as organics processing and biosolids. New programs and adjusted operations will be addressed in the new DOCP. This is expected to be undertaken in 2026/2027.

5.2 Conformance to SWMP

The existing Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) (2008[1]), listed several initiatives to meet the first two targets in the report;

1) reduce per capita waste generation to 400 kg/person; and
2) increase diversion to 50%.

Most of the initiatives have been implemented, including the adoption of curbside organics diversion in late 2022. The ACRD initiated the process to begin a SWMP update in 2023 to review and update the strategies, goals and targets. In 2025, progress on the SWMP update shifted focus as ACRD staff continue to work toward the completion of key deliverables that will help guide the SWMP including:

[1] Reviewed in 2014 and 2017.

1) completion of a Design, Operations, & Closure Plan (DOCP) at the West Coast Landfill;
2) completion of waste characterizations to establish analytics that will support the SWMP direction and community engagement;
3) and resolution of the land tenure for the Alberni Valley Sortn'Go Centre.

ACRD has maintained momentum by having check-in meetings with the SWMP working group. In 2025, a SWMP working group meeting was held in November, and another is being planned for 2026.

5.3 Inspections

No formal inspections were conducted by MOEP in 2025. Regular site inspections and reporting requirements have been incorporated in the updated operations contract. The landfill operations staff perform regular monthly site inspections, coupled with monthly site (quarterly in 2025) meetings with ACRD staff.

5.4 Public Feedback on Landfill Operations

In 2025, WCL staff expressed that they receive verbal feedback about how clean and organized the landfill is, appreciation for the compost program, and appreciation for the new used oil program. Negative feedback relates to the price to drop off cardboard.

6.0 Finances

6.1 Operating Expenses

In 2025, the total expenses for the WCL were $1,492,020 as detailed in Table 3. There are a number of revenue streams through payment for recyclable materials collected at the landfill, including metal and stewardship program materials. These revenues are included in Recoveries in Table 3, below.

Target 4 – Annual Capital Contributions meet Funding Requirements

Table 3 – Operating Expenses

Landfill Operating Costs	$784,039
Admin & Education Costs	$178,210
Recycling / Organics	$529,771
Total Costs	**$1,492,020**
Less Recoveries	$687,116
Net Cost	**$804,904**
Reserve Funds Allocation	$268,272

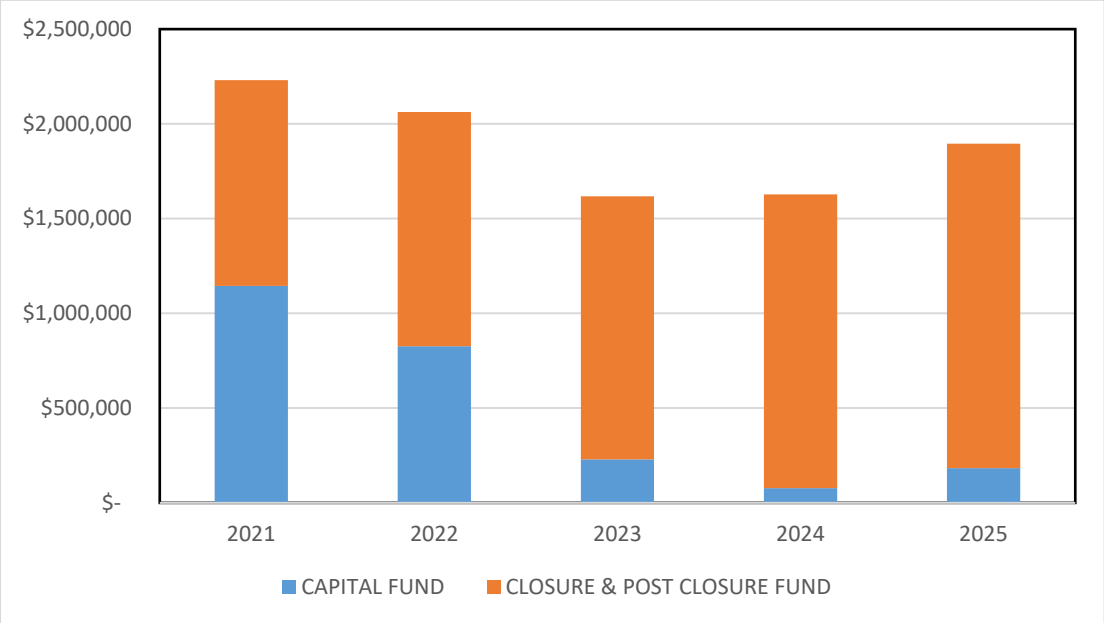
6.2 Capital and Closure Funding

The 2012 West Coast Landfill Design, Operations and Closure Plan (DOCP) identified the need for a fund of $5,600,000 for closure and post-closure activities and recommended that the ACRD contribute a base amount of $70,000 annually. The annual contribution has been consistently greater than recommended in the DOCP. In 2025, the contribution was $105,700. The combined contributions to the Capital and Closure/Post Closure funds in 2025 were a total of $268,272. Chart 9 displays the combined Capital and Closure/Post Closure

Reserve Balances which totaled $1,898,714 at the end of 2025. The significant decrease from 2022/2023 reflects the use of capital reserve funds for the construction of the West Coast Landfill Organics Facility.

Since the current DOCP was completed, the BC Landfill Criteria have undergone significant changes. Additionally, climate change has necessitated amendments to runoff estimates, rendering previous design assumptions behind the valuation outdated and unreliable. Furthermore, a compost facility has been added to landfill operations and biosolids are now accepted. These are factors that need to be considered for adequate closure and post closure funding allocations and will be reviewed during the DOCP update process.

Chart 7 – Reserve Fund Annual Contributions



6.3 Operational Efficiency

Chart 10 below shows the total operating costs including WCL operations, administration and education, curbside collection program and diversion programs to manage waste for the West Coast. The costs are influenced by inflation and economic factors as well as the volume of materials that must be managed by the ACRD each year.

Chart 8 – Annual Costs and Tonnages

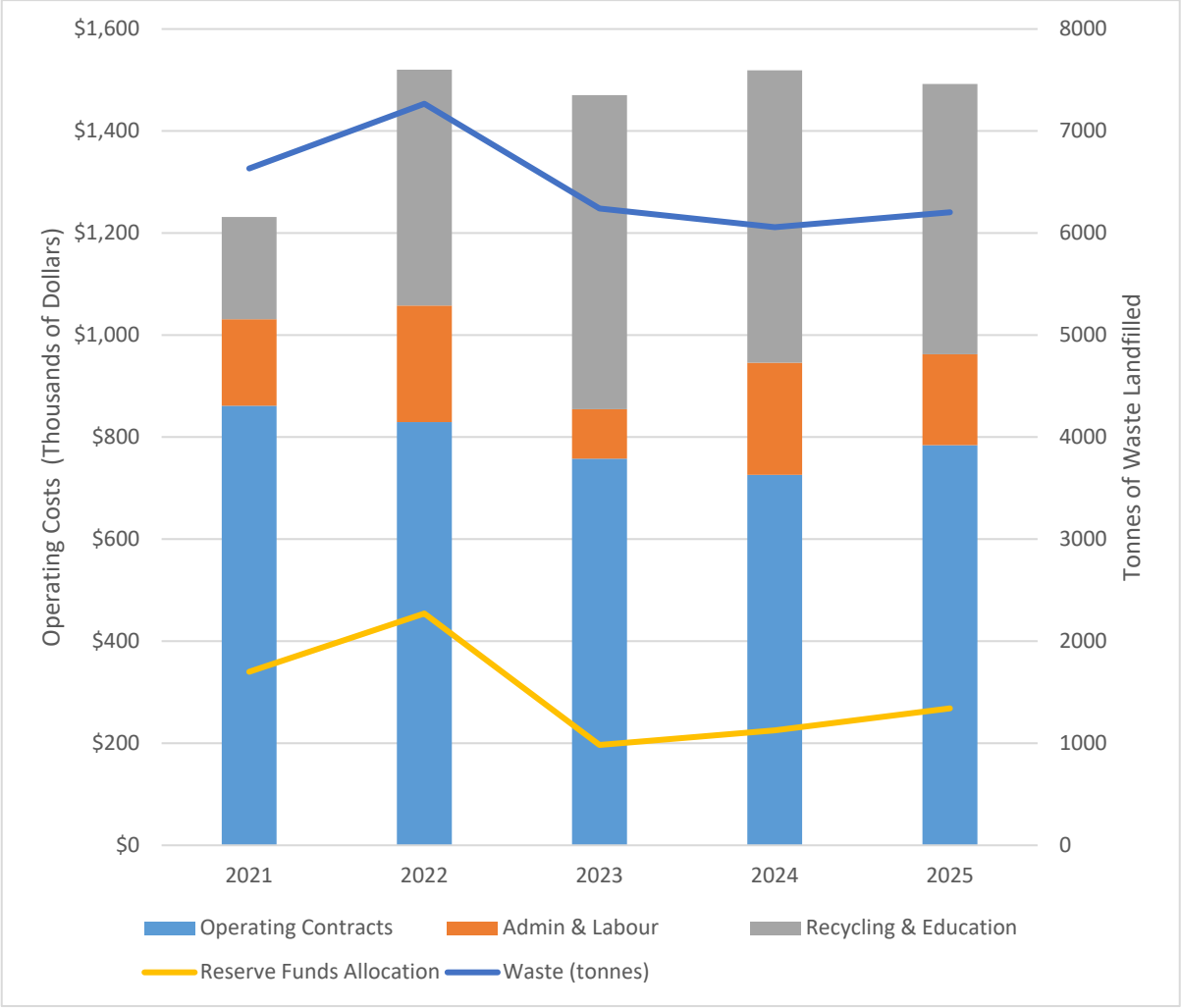


*Chart 10 Note: Expenditures in 2022 are due to implementation of the three-stream system and establishment of the organics processing facility.

In 2025, the cost to operate WCL increased by 8%, the funds spent on support programs such as administration and public education decreased by 19%, and the cost to run the organics and recycling programs decreased by 7.5%. Overall costs in 2025 decreased by about 2% compared to 2024 for the West Coast solid waste service.

It is expected that costs will generally continue to increase for implementation of the West Coast solid waste service. Operational costs will continue to increase due to increasing costs of contracted services in addition to general inflation. It should also be noted that as the community increasingly utilizes diversion programs, revenue from tipping fees paid for garbage will decrease.

ACRD will continue to procure local haulers and processors where possible to support cost effective waste management solutions. However, the WCL's location in a remote area on Vancouver Island presents unique challenges for operational cost efficiencies, including higher transportation costs and limited availability of local contractors. ICI tipping fees and compost costs were increased in 2025 to allow for improved cost recovery, and more incentive for businesses to participate in diversion programs.

7.0 Environmental Monitoring

Environmental oversite and monitoring is completed to evaluate and minimize potential effects from landfill operations, as described below.

7.1 Water and Leachate Monitoring

The ACRD measures water quality parameters at fixed locations in and around the West Coast Landfill on a quarterly schedule. Samples are analyzed by an independent laboratory for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), inorganic compounds, pH, conductivity, and other water quality parameters from the FWAL (Fresh-Water Aquatic Life) protection criteria. All monitoring data are provided directly from the laboratory to an environmental monitoring consultant, Piteau Associates Consulting (Piteau), for review. Piteau analyzes the data and prepares an annual environmental report to accompany this report that is submitted to MOEP.

Target 5 – All water leaving the site meets the FWAL criteria

The Environmental Monitoring Program is extremely important because it ensures the health and safety of people and the environment. The Environmental Monitoring Report is attached to this Annual Report for review, and includes the following key recommendations which are organized below by ongoing actions, short-term recommendations, and long-term recommendations:

Ongoing Action Items

- Implement the Monitoring Program including recommendations for adjustments to sampling locations, frequencies, and parameters.
- Optimize operational pumping and monitoring.
- Record the leachate storage lagoon staff gauge level quarterly.
- Complete overflow event sampling.
- Maintain the water level in the leachate storage lagoon as low as possible during winter months to limit overflow events during heavy rainfall and snowmelt.

Short-Term Recommendations to be Coordinated

- Install a new lagoon datalogger and download data annually.
- Survey the elevations of the staff gauge and culvert inverts in the leachate storage lagoon to correlate the water elevation measured in the pond with the overflow events.
- Gauge flow and monitor water levels at SW-1 and SW-11.

Long-Term Recommendations for Evaluation Under the 2026/27 DOCP

- Install a cumulative flow meter on the leachate irrigation system to quantify flows from the leachate lagoon during normal operation. Readings should be recorded monthly.
- Evaluate phasing options for partial capping of the landfill to reduce leachate quantity.

See the Environmental Monitoring Report for details pertaining to each recommendation. Implementation of these recommendations will be prioritized based on regulatory obligations, urgency, impact, and fulfillment of overall Solid Waste Program objectives.

7.2 Landfill Gas Monitoring

A supplementary landfill gas report was completed in 2023 as per Section 15 of the Landfill Gas Management Regulation. Using the required provincial model, the report estimated that the WCL would produce

approximately 422 tonnes of methane in 2025. This methane is generated by the waste in place. However, the diversion of current and future organic wastes from landfill will reduce emissions over time. The next assessment of landfill gas emissions will be required in 2028.

Target 6 - Landfill Gas Generation Less than 1,000 tonnes/year of methane

In December 2025, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) enacted the Landfill Gas Regulations to reduce methane emissions from landfills, aiming to cut emissions by 50% by 2030 from 2019 levels. The regulations mandate that landfills generating more than 664 tonnes of methane per year must implement gas-recovery systems to capture and manage methane. WCL does not meet the criteria for coverage under this regulation, and no further action is required for compliance at this time.

7.3 Other Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Landfilling operations require the use of motorized equipment including small machinery such as power washers, small utility vehicles (ATVs), and pickup trucks, as well as heavy duty machinery such as compactors, graders, and excavators. The fuel used for this equipment is primarily diesel. In 2025, the contractor burned approximately 24,267 liters of diesel in the operation of the landfill which produced the equivalent of 65 metric tonnes of CO_2.

7.4 Illegal Dumping

Illegal dumping continues to be an issue on the west coast, with a range of materials found along logging roads near local communities. Commonly dumped items include yard waste (such as leaves and branches), household waste, and abandoned vehicles including RVs and cars.

Materials recovered through community clean-up events were transported to the West Coast Landfill for proper disposal. The ACRD, along with local community partners, will continue to provide financial support to maintain and strengthen these clean-up programs.

In 2025, a total of 11 loads of illegally dumped material—amounting to approximately 7 tonnes—were delivered to the West Coast Landfill.

8.0 Projects Undertaken In 2025

Solid Waste Management Plan

In 2025, progress on the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) update shifted focus as ACRD staff continues to work toward the completion of key deliverables that will help guide the SWMP including:

1) Completion of a Design, Operations, & Closure Plan (DOCP) at the West Coast Landfill;
2) Completion of waste characterizations to establish analytics that will support the SWMP direction and community engagement; and
3) Resolution of the land tenure for the Alberni Valley Sortn'Go Centre.

ACRD has maintained momentum by having check-in meetings with the SWMP working group. In 2025, a SWMP working group meeting was held in November, and another is being planned for 2026.

Waste Reduction Education Program

In 2025, waste education aimed at the waste prevention hierarchy and was generally carried out through contractors and partnerships on the West Coast using different approaches and strategies. The focus was on

public engagement through presentations and community booths, along with building online interaction through social media and other tools.

Rope and Netting Project with Ocean Legacy

ACRD continued working with Ocean Legacy to sort and ship out rope and netting for recycling. This project is intended to establish an effective diversion system for these materials that can be used as a template for other coastal landfills in BC. The Rope & Netting and Ocean Plastics are utilized as plastic feedstock for manufacturing signboards, benches and other items including customized Sort'n Grow Pails to support compost sales.

Sortn'Grow Compost Sales

Since the Sort'nGo program was launched in December 2022, the WCL Organic Processing Facility has processed over 1,000 tonnes of organics material through the residential collection program. In 2025, the material was ready for sale. Communication and education initiatives during the 2025 Spring growing season were successful, with the Sortn'Grow compost completely selling out. The price for finished compost was increased for the 2026 growing season to better support cost recovery.

WildSafeBC BC – Sort'nGo Carts Improvements

ACRD staff along with partners from WildSafeBC and Tla-o-qui-aht, provided educational support and awareness for residents regarding the storage and proper use of carts to reduce human-bear conflicts. Additional cart maintenance was provided to better secure carts in troublesome locations. WildsafeBC received a grant from the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust Vital Grant Project to initiate a pilot program aimed at reducing human-bear conflicts in 2026.

ICI Tipping Fee Increase

On the West Coast, ICI waste generators create more than twice as much waste annually compared to residential waste. Therefore, tipping fees were increased in 2025 for these high-volume users via a phased approach over the next three years. The increased disposal fee is intended to generate more interest in diversion programs within the West Coast business community, and provide the additional revenue needed to support daily operations of the West Coast Landfill, along with currently unfunded capital projects.

ICI Diversion Program

An ICI Diversion Program was approved in 2025 which will incentivize diversion in the ICI sector by offering limited financial support to businesses to help them offset the initial cost of diversion programs which are typically related to staff training, installation of waste sorting stations, cart purchases, signage, etc.

Interchange Stewardship Program – Oil and Antifreeze Collection Program

In 2025, ACRD submitted a grant application to Interchange Recycling for the installation of a sea-can at WCL that would store used oil, oil filters, and antifreeze for collection. The application was successful and the program has been implemented.

Tofino Biosolids Processing

In August 2024, the Tofino Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was commissioned, and the WCL began receiving biosolids at the site. In 2025 this material was composted in turned windrows on the landfill mound. Processing options will be explored during the DOCP update process to maximize operational efficiency and meet regulatory requirements.

Annual Survey

An aerial survey is conducted annually to provide a current site plan and topography. This allows airspace consumption to be calculated and allows improved planning of landfill operations. This work is completed by an unmanned aerial vehicle survey is conducted using experienced operators.

Environmental Water Monitoring

In 2025 Environmental Water Monitoring continued at WCL. The program will continue in 2026 including the following key ongoing actions:

- Implement the Monitoring Program including recommendations for adjustments to sampling locations, frequencies, and parameters.
- Optimize operational pumping and monitoring.
- Record the leachate storage lagoon staff gauge level quarterly.
- Complete overflow event sampling.
- Maintain the water level in the leachate storage lagoon as low as possible during winter months to limit overflow events during heavy rainfall and snowmelt.

9.0 Projects on the Horizon – 2026 and Beyond

Design Operation and Closure Plan Update

The current DOCP was created in 2012 and requires updating to reflect the upgrades to the tipping area, the addition of organics and biosolids processing onsite, the leachate system operation, cover usage, evaluate soils, landfill capping strategy, and generally provide enhanced direction for the development of the landfill. The Province has created new landfill criteria since the 2012 DOCP was implemented, and there are several areas identified that need to be improved to meet the new criteria. In 2025, ACRD applied for a grant to complete a new DOCP. In 2026, work on the DOCP will commence, ideally with grant funding. Items identified by the DOCP will guide capital budgets and programs for West Coast Landfill in the coming years.

Operational Certificate

There have been multiple changes to the infrastructure on site as well as identified non-compliance advisories, which will be addressed through an amendment of the site Operational Certificate once the DOCP update has been completed.

Environmental Water Monitoring

The Environmental Monitoring Report is attached to this Annual Report for review, and includes the following key recommendations which are organized below by short-term and long-term adjustments:

Short-Term Recommendations to be Coordinated

- Install a new lagoon datalogger and download data annually.
- Survey the elevations of the staff gauge and culvert inverts in the leachate storage lagoon to correlate the water elevation measured in the pond with the overflow events.
- Gauge flow and monitor water levels at SW-1 and SW-11.

Long-Term Recommendations for Evaluation Under the 2026/27 DOCP

- Install a cumulative flow meter on the leachate irrigation system to quantify flows from the leachate lagoon during normal operation. Readings should be recorded monthly.
- Evaluate phasing options for partial capping of the landfill to reduce leachate quantity.

Recycling Program Evaluations

RecycleBC is currently adjusting their recycling hauling and processing programs, which may result in changes to current hauling routes and vendors. Once operational changes are implemented by RecycleBC, they will be evaluated by ACRD and corresponding changes to costs, schedules, and/or services may be recommended.

ICI Diversion Program Implementation

ACRD will design and implement a program to provide funds to help offset initial setup costs for ICI businesses looking to increase their participation in diversion programs on the West Coast. Funds may cover a range of items including staff training, signage, color-coded disposal containers, etc.

Ocean Legacy Program Continuation

Initial grant funding for the ocean plastics program at West Coast Landfill was fully utilized. ACRD will work with partners to evaluate funding opportunities to continue this program in 2026.

Bear Awareness Initiatives

Opportunities and programs to reduce bear interactions at carts will continue to be evaluated and implemented in 2026 as per the WildSafeBC Action Plan.

Commercial Organics Diversion / Ban on Organics

With initial success of residential organics diversion in 2022-2025, the next step is to explore options for commercial organics diversion. This could include programs, incentives, enforcement, education & outreach and/or a ban on organics at WCL. Staff are working on this as part of the actions and strategies included in the SWMP update.

Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion

Construction and Demolition waste makes up over 30% of the waste stream on the West Coast. As part of the SWMP Update, there will be engagement with generators of this material to investigate options to divert

these materials from the landfill. Additionally, in September 2024, the ACRD Board supported the Synergy Foundation's VI-Coast Ecosystem (VICE) application for grant funding. Synergy received the grant and is actively exploring innovative waste management strategies in the C&D sector to enhance recycling and waste diversion and reduce costs and environmental impact. ACRD is supporting this effort.

Capital Infrastructure Projects

The landfill capital budget is developed based on annual report findings, regulations, and known infrastructure needs. Implementation of capital projects is prioritized based on urgency, impact, and fulfillment of Work Plan objectives.

Cost Recovery Evaluation

Revenues continue to be challenging for this service and opportunities for cost recovery will continue to be evaluated, with solutions brought to the ACRD Board in 2026.

General Partnership Opportunities

ACRD consistently engages in partnership opportunities with other organizations to achieve waste diversion, management, and regulatory compliance objectives. Often, the projects completed through these partnerships are funded by grants which are acquired and managed by the partnering organization, with ACRD providing inherent resources and logistical support.