

Regional Waste Reduction Office

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Media Release

May 24th, 2011

Garbage Monitoring Ramps Up at Landfill

Garbage from the business sector is about to undergo added scrutiny at the Glenmore landfill and the results could be costly for those not following the mandatory recycling rules.

Since late last year, the Regional Waste Reduction Office in partnership with the City of Kelowna Glenmore Landfill has been working with local waste hauling companies to inform customers that surcharges would be applied to loads containing banned recyclable items. In addition, a comprehensive education campaign has been underway to assist local businesses improve the way they manage their solid waste.

The program targeting these 'mandatory recyclables' is the result of a comprehensive waste composition study at the Glenmore landfill last year. It showed 50% of garbage originating from local businesses and multi-family developments could easily be diverted into an existing recycling program.

Now the focus of the Commercial Waste Diversion Program is shifting to actively inspecting loads of garbage at the landfill. Staff will be checking random loads from waste hauling companies, businesses, institutions, and residential complexes, and loads with large quantities of mandatory recyclables will be dinged with a surcharge.

Waste Reduction Manager Peter Rotheisler says this closer surveillance of garbage is the most important phase of the program. "We'll have inspectors in place at the face of the landfill and at the on site disposal bins for the foreseeable future. Staff will be checking for things like large quantities of plastic film, cardboard, paper products, and metals, items that are valuable and banned from burial at the landfill, and all with numerous alternate disposal options available. Surcharges will be applied immediately to loads containing large quantities of mandatory recyclables, \$150 per metric tonne for loads containing banned materials, over and above any regular tipping fees."

Rotheisler adds word of the program has spread, with many examples of local businesses and multi-family complexes improving their solid waste management systems. "Recent data suggests approximately 15% less garbage has been buried at the Glenmore landfill from the commercial, industrial and institutional sector in the first four months of the year, compared with the same period in 2009 and 2010. That's an encouraging trend. This program is about ensuring businesses manage their solid waste responsibly, just as residents have been doing with the curbside program."

Rotheisler adds, “We encourage residents to assist in this program by using the recycling services provided by businesses, choose re-useable containers where ever possible, and provide feedback to local businesses on their waste disposal systems.”

For a complete list of the mandatory recyclables and alternate disposal locations, or for more info on the Commercial Diversion Program targeting mandatory recyclables, visit regionaldistrict.com/recycle, or contact the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250.

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