

December 15, 2021

Sent to avicc@ubcm.ca for distribution

Regional District Members
Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

Re: AVICC Inter-Governmental Earth Week Challenge – April 2022

You have been challenged to an Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) inter-governmental Earth Week cleanup!

AVICC has long served to secure united action among its membership to advocate for and align common solid waste management concerns, and identify shared cooperative effort opportunities. Through discussions across the AVICC network, it is evident we are all challenged with illegal dumping issues in our respective communities. To that end, we want to take this opportunity to create awareness of this problem and mobilize the community to clean up waste.

Each year during earth week, communities within the AVICC conduct community clean up events on roadsides, public lands and popular recreation sites. The Comox Strathcona Waste Management (CSWM) Service has been hosting annual earth week clean up events since 2018. The CSWM had great success during Earth Week 2021 working with local businesses and community groups. This annual event grows larger each year and has become an anticipated event in our service area that many member municipalities and residents look forward to. As our communities emerge from the pandemic and given the recent challenges we have faced, the CSWM service is hoping to build moral and support for our communities by initiating a cleanup challenge within the AVICC.

Volunteerism has a positive effect on communities. Encouraging volunteerism proves to boost self-esteem and self-confidence, provide a better sense of community and accomplishment for residents, and contribute to positive health benefits. As we discuss COVID recovery and the new normal, the CSWM service feels there's no better way to build stronger communities, bolster volunteerism and welcome back tourists, than cleaner environments.

The CSWM service will be collecting \$100 from each participating regional district to support a first prize and a "most material diverted" fund to be used in celebrating your area's success or towards the following year's event. To participate, all you need to do is:

- 1) register as a participant;
- 2) send in your registration fee of \$100; and
- 3) submit a brief summary of your event afterwards, including total volume of waste collected for disposal and volume of what was collected by recycled/diverted from landfill.

For more information or to register to participate in the 2022 AVICC Inter-Governmental Earth Week Challenge, please contact Stephanie Valdal, Services Coordinator – CSWM at svaldal@comoxvalleyrd.ca or by telephone at 250-898-3718.

Sincerely,

A. Hamir

Arzeena Hamir
Co-Chair

B. Unger

Brad Unger
Co-Chair

cc: Jenny Brunn, General Manager of Community Services, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
Wendy Dunn, Program Coordinator, Capital Regional District
Ilse Sarady, Environmental Technologist, Cowichan Valley Regional District
Patrick Donaghy, Operations Manager, Mount Waddington Regional District
Nikita Kitagawa, Special Projects Assistant, Regional District of Nanaimo
Ken McIlwain, Operations Manager, Central Coast Regional District
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Caroline Visser, Operational Services Clerk, qathet Regional District
Jesse Humphreys, Engineering Services Coordinator, Strathcona Regional District
Robyn Cooper, Solid Waste Services Manager, Sunshine Coast Regional District