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## Waste Reduction Solution at Hand for GVRD

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### To The Editor:

**In a recent presentation to the GVRD Solid Waste Committee on the Ashcroft Ranch Landfill matter, the Recycling Council of B.C. (RCBC) asserted that the regional district could reduce solid waste and the need for increased landfill capacity by following guidelines and programs already in place.**

**Nearly two-thirds of the GVRD's solid waste is made up of recyclable commodities, hazardous materials, or products for which an industry stewardship programs exists.**

**By failing to divert those items, the GVRD uses landfill capacity unnecessarily and pays to landfill valuable resources and materials that pose a serious risk to our environment and health.**

**While other jurisdictions divert organics, the GVRD landfills almost half a million tonnes each year. The organics in the solid-waste stream add a significant volume to the landfill, and produce methane, which has 21 times the green house gas affect of carbon dioxide. By removing organics, we would save money, produce a valuable commodity for agriculture and reduce a negative contribution to climate change.**

**The Recycling Council of British Columbia strongly urges the GVRD to develop strategies to divert banned recyclable commodities, products with stewardship programs, and organics. By doing so, the regional district would reduce its reliance on landfills and move a step closer to joining other B.C. jurisdictions that have adopted a zero waste policy.**

**Natalie Zigarlick, CAE  
Executive Director, Recycling Council of B.C.**