



BELKORP

Environmental Services Inc.

KEY FACTS & FIGURES – THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING IN ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE IN GREATER VANCOUVER

June 25th, 2009 – Dr. Jeffrey Morris of Sound Resource Management Group, Inc., a noted economist and environmental expert, found that recycling and composting in Greater Vancouver far exceed any form of waste disposal in mitigating the environmental impacts arising from the management of solid waste in the region. The study's principal conclusions are:

- Recycling and composting are the only waste management options that were found to minimize climate change and human health and ecosystem toxicity.
- If Greater Vancouver increased the percentage of waste diverted to recycling and composting from the current rate of 53% to 80% over a 20-year period, the environmental benefits increase significantly.
- An 80% diversion rate is Dr. Morris's Zero Waste scenario, under which, by 2029:
 - Avoided GHG emissions would more than double, from 1.9 million tonnes eCO₂ in 2008 to 4.3 million tonnes eCO₂ in 2029. The incremental increase of 2.4 million tonnes of *avoided* eCO₂ emissions is equivalent to preventing emissions from over 600,000 private vehicles in Metro Vancouver in one year, or reducing current annual GHG emissions from cars in the region by nearly 45%.
 - Avoided emissions that could impact human health are estimated to be nearly 2.5 times greater than avoided in 2008. These reductions would be more than enough to offset impacts produced by all other waste management methods.
 - Avoided emissions that could cause ecosystem toxicity would double compared to 2008.
- The environmental impact of disposal, whether landfilling or waste-to-energy, is higher than the results obtained through reduced waste generation and recycling.
- Disposing of MSW in landfills is better than waste-to-energy in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, human health impacts, and ecosystem toxicity, particularly once organics are removed from the waste stream through composting.

- Disposal, whether landfilling or waste-to-energy, should be seen only as an interim solution to bridge the gap between the present situation and a Zero Waste objective over a 20 to 30 year period. Disposal options should be evaluated in terms of their flexibility and ability to accommodate achievement of a Zero Waste objective.

Copies of the Dr. Morris's study will be available online at www.belkorp.com.

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For more information, please contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Morris
Sound Resource Management Group, Inc.
360-867-1033
jeff.morris@zerowaste.com

Saphina Benimadhu
Longview Communications Inc.
(604) 694-6036
sbenimadhu@longviewcomms.ca