

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nicki Veikle, Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine **FROM:** Veronica Bartlett
FROM: Veronica Bartlett, Project Manager **PROJECT No.:**
RE: **2021 SWMP Survey Results and RDKS Response** **DATE:** August 19, 2021
February 2, 2021 – March 13, 2021

X:\PROJ\2019\190497600-RDKS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN\08. WORKING\08 CONSULTATION\SWMP SURVEY #2\2021_08_19_SWMP SURVEY2 RESULTS_FINAL.DOCX

Under the Environmental Management Act, regional districts are required to have a solid waste management plan. The Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS; Regional District) initiated the process to update the Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP, or Plan) in 2017. The development of a new Plan requires consultation with the public, interested parties and stakeholders. The Draft Plan was developed in close collaboration with a Public and Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) throughout 2019 and 2020.

The Draft SWMP was made available for public review on the RDKS website in October 2020. On February 2, 2021, the RDKS launched a public survey to solicit feedback on initiatives proposed in the Draft Plan. The survey included 19 questions with high-level preambles to provide context to each question. The last question of the survey asked respondents for additional comments and feedback.

The 2021 Solid Waste Survey was publicized as follows:

- On February 1, 2021, the survey was published online using Microsoft Forms at www.link.rdks.bc.ca/solidwastesurvey2021;
- On February 2, 2021, the survey link was publicized as a news story “Don’t WASTE your chance to talk TRASH to us” on the RDKS website;
- On February 2, 2021, the survey was posted on the RDKS social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram;
- On February 9, 2021, 16,040 printed surveys were sent to all households within the RDKS;
- Advertisements were run in the Terrace Standard, Kitimat Connector, and Bulkley Browser. Ads were run in the Terrace Standard and Kitimat Connector on February 4 and February 25, and in the Bulkley Browser on February 12, 19, and 26, 2021. These ads directed citizens to complete the online survey and provided a QR Code for easily accessing the survey.

The print-version of the survey is included in Appendix 1. All completed print copies of the survey received via mail were manually input into the online survey platform for data analysis.

This Memo summarizes the survey results and feedback gathered via the 2021 Solid Waste Survey.

1 SURVEY RESULTS AND RESPONSE

The survey received a total of 1,215 responses, of which 768 responses were from the Terrace Service Area and 133 responses were from the Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area.

The following figures graphically present the results of the Solid Waste Survey. These are the compiled results from both service areas.

Many questions asked respondents to rate their level of agreement with a statement. Respondents who selected “strongly agree” and “agree” are presented together as combined percentage in support of a specific initiative. The same applies to “strongly disagree” and “disagree”.

The RDKS Administration drafted a response to the Solid Waste Survey results, summarizing and addressing the common themes heard through the survey comments. This response, entitled “What we heard from you: RDKS Response to Solid Waste Survey”, is contained in Appendix 2.

1.1 Respondent Profiles (Question 1-4)

Question 1

The majority (92%) of respondents identified themselves as residents, with 6% as both resident and business owner, <1% as business owners and 1% as seasonal residents. The distribution of the respondents is presented in **Figure 1**.

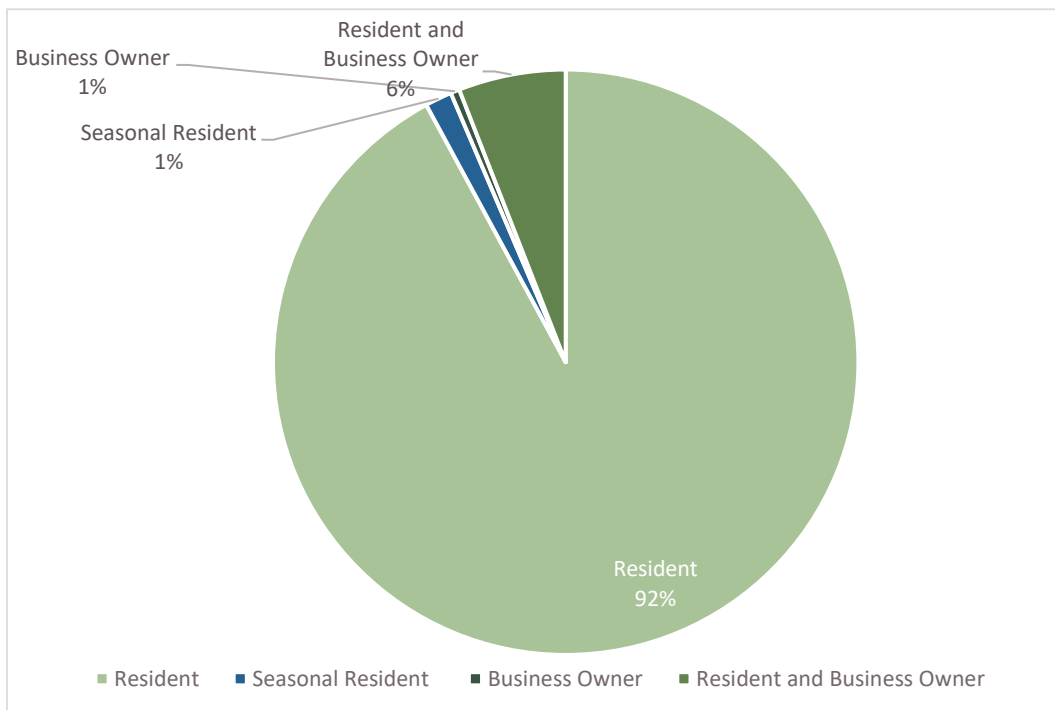


Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents. Survey Question 1 – I am a...:

Question 2

Figure 2 shows the distribution of where the survey respondents reside. Most respondents reside in Terrace (33%), Kitimat (25%) and Thornhill (18%). There were no respondents from the Cedarvale or Klemtu area.

Most respondents (63%) reside in the Terrace Solid Waste Service Area. A total of 11% reside in the Hazelton and Highway 37 Solid Waste Service Area. The remainder reside outside of a current RDKS solid waste service area (i.e., Kitimat residents).

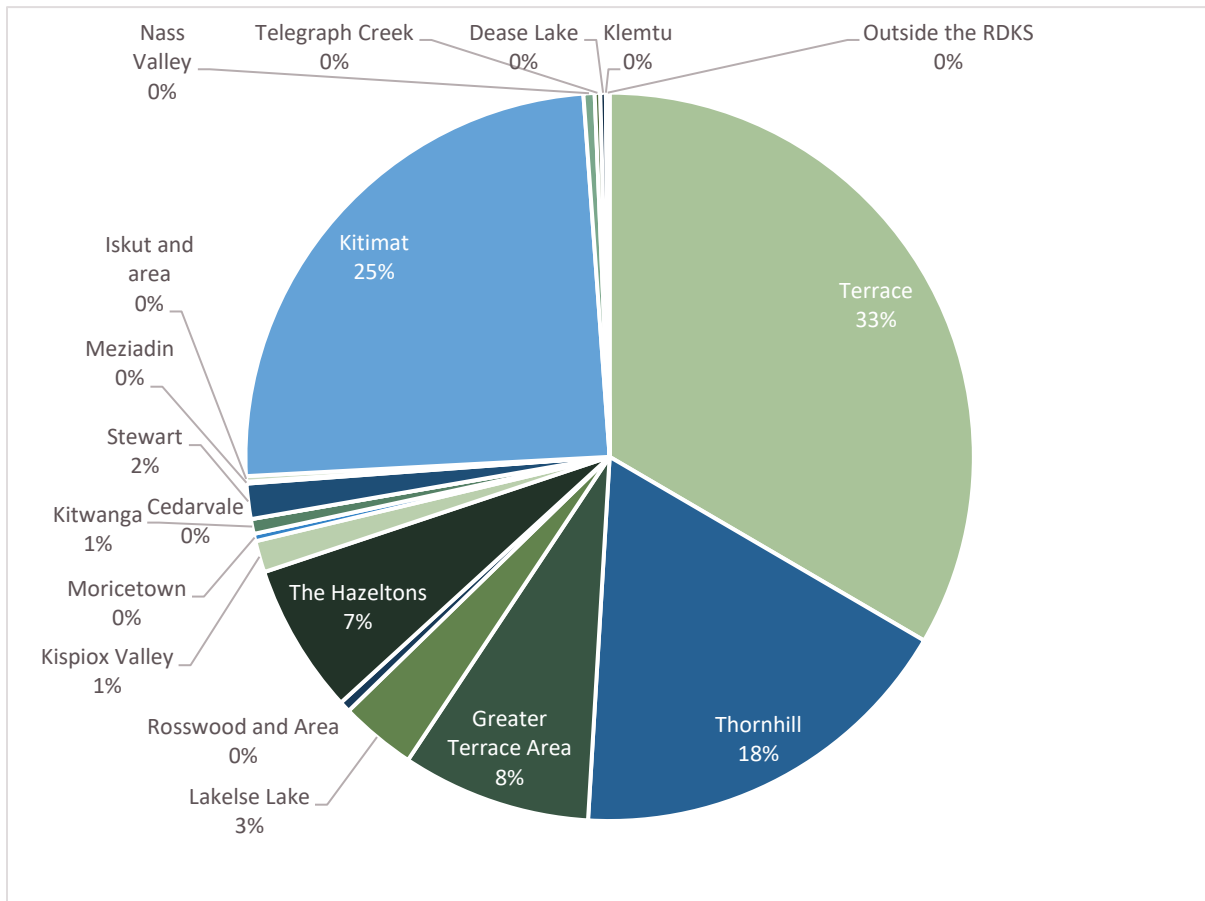


Figure 2: Geographic Location of Survey Respondents. Survey Question 2 – I live in...:

Question 3 and 4

Questions 3 and 4 asked respondents to indicate how important they believe waste reduction, waste diversion is. **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** shows the distribution of the responses.

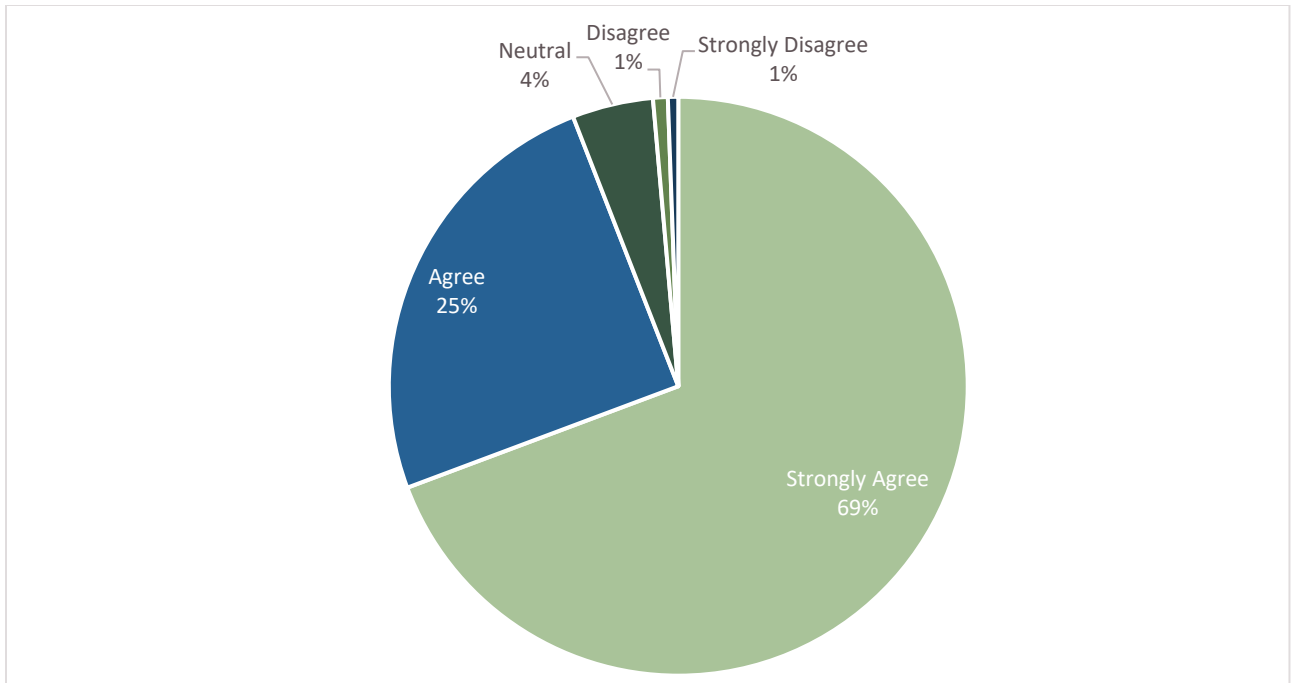


Figure 3: Survey Question 3 - Waste Reduction and Waste Diversion (Reusing, Recycling and Composting) are Important to Me

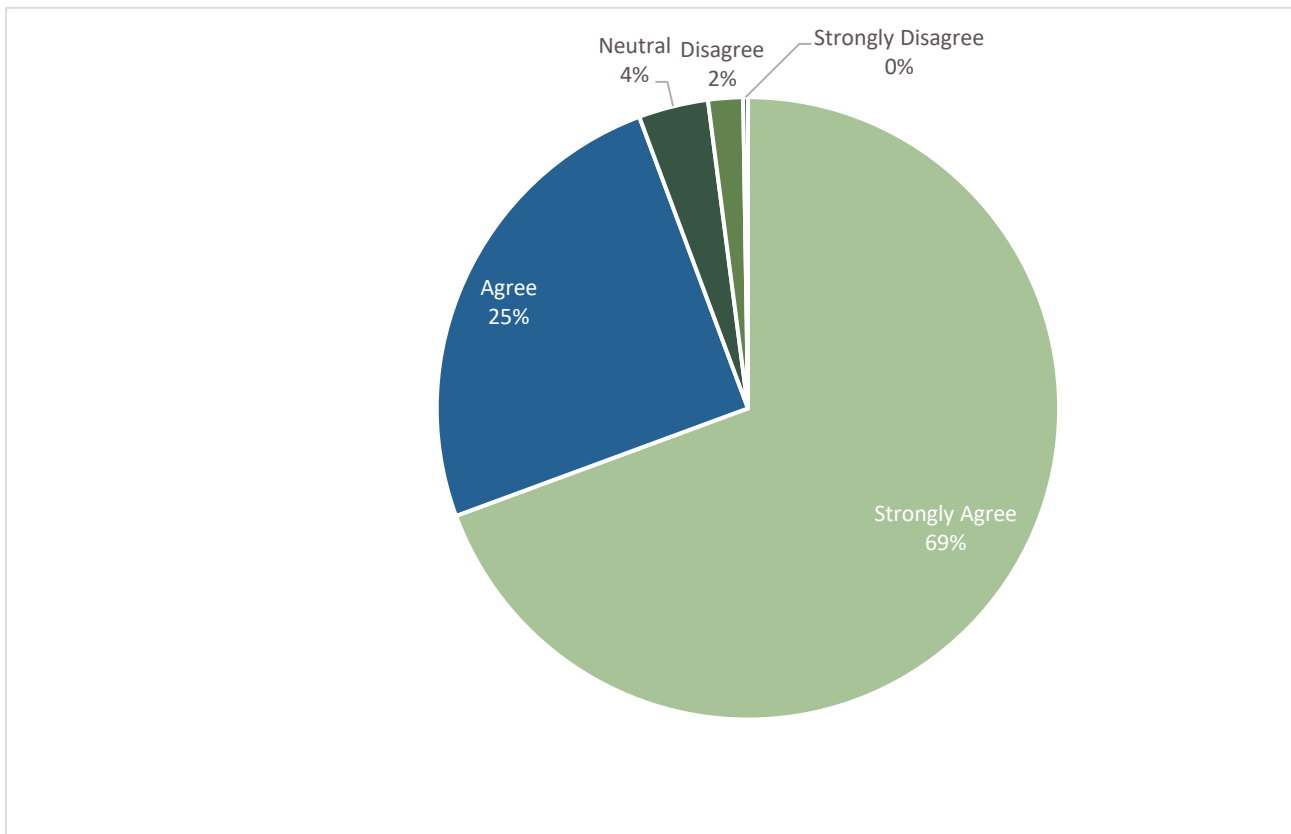


Figure 4: Survey Question 4 - I Make an Effort to Separate and Properly Dispose of My Garbage, Recycling and (Where Applicable) Organics

Figure 3 shows that 94% indicated that waste reduction and diversion are important to them. 5% were neutral and the remaining 2% indicated that waste reduction and diversion are not important to them.

Respondent were further asked if they make an effort to separate and properly dispose of their waste. As shown in **Figure 4**, 94% indicated they make an effort to sort, 4% of respondents were neutral and the remaining 2% indicate they do not make an effort to sort their waste.

1.2 Questions relating to Strategies in Draft SWMP

Question 5

As part of the Canada-wide action plan on zero plastic, the Government of Canada proposes to ban and/or restrict some single-use items such as grocery bags, straws, and disposable cutlery, but it takes time to develop and implement large-scale federal measures.

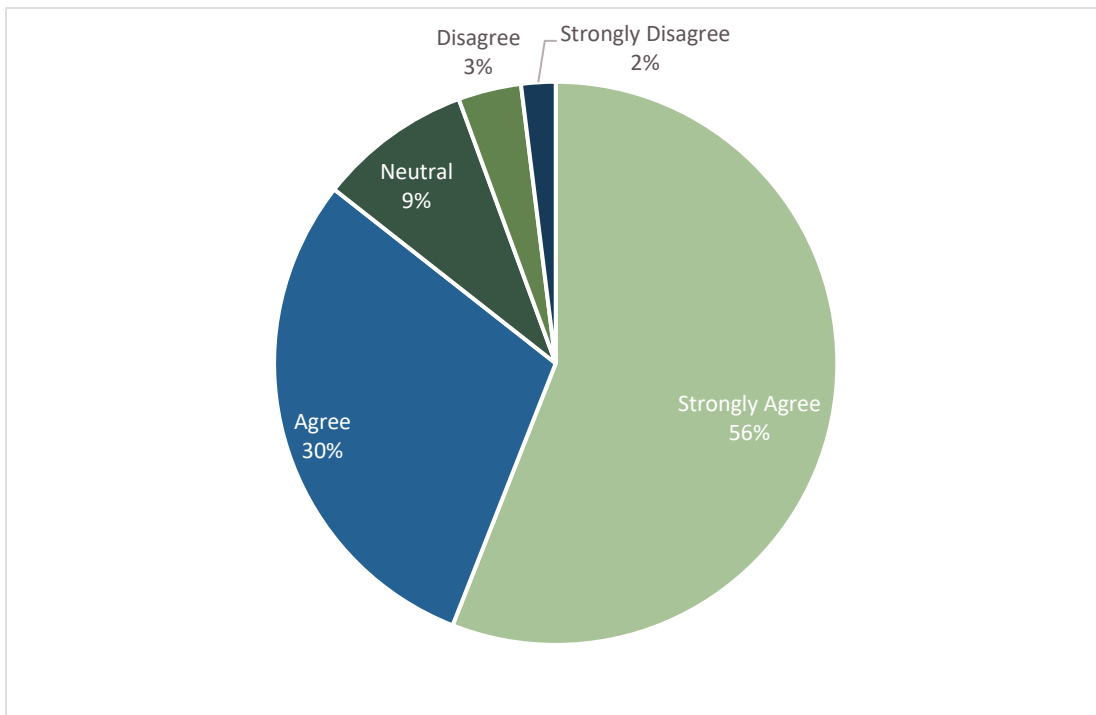


Figure 5: Survey Question 5 - In the Meantime, the RDKS Should Encourage Businesses to Voluntarily Find Alternatives to Single-Use Items

As shown in **Figure 5**, 86% of respondents agreed with the RDKS initiative to encourage business to find alternatives to single-use plastics, 9% were neutral, and 6% disagree with the initiative.

Question 6

The survey provided a list of waste reduction initiatives, and the respondents were asked to select the top three most important ones.

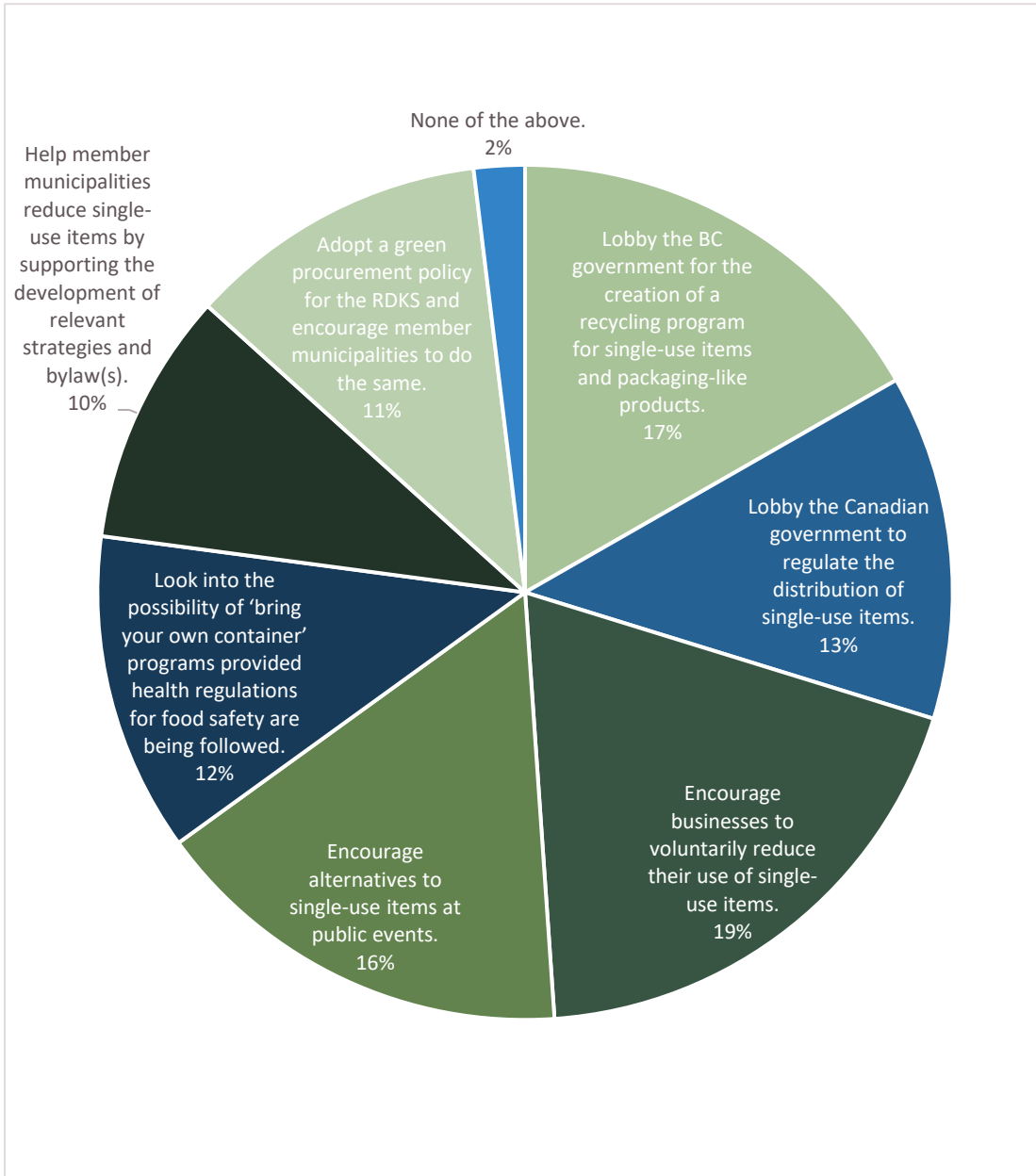


Figure 6: Survey Question 6 - Which of the Following Initiatives Do You Think the RDKS Should Prioritize to Reduce Single-Use Items? [Pick Your Top Three] Note that These Initiatives Would Likely Be Post-Pandemic as Many Single-Use Items are Currently Being Used for Health and Safety Reasons

As shown in **Figure 6**, the top three initiatives with the most support were:

- Encourage businesses to voluntarily reduce the use of single-use plastics (19% of respondents),

- Lobby the BC government for the creation of a recycling program for single-use items and packaging-like products (17%), and
- Encourage alternatives to single-use items at public events (16%).

In total, 98% of respondents supported one or more of the initiatives proposed. 2% disagreed with all the initiatives.

Question 7

Some hazardous household waste - such as pesticides, used oil, etc. - are recyclable through provincially regulated Extended Producer Responsibility programs (EPRs). Through EPRs, producers are responsible for the recycling of materials they produce. EPR regulated waste, however, is only accepted at limited drop-off locations. The RDKS proposes to expand the collection of these items through collection events, which would take place in communities approximately every two years. If feasible, we may also look at offering permanent drop-off options for certain materials at suitable transfer stations (e.g., in communities with limited collection options).

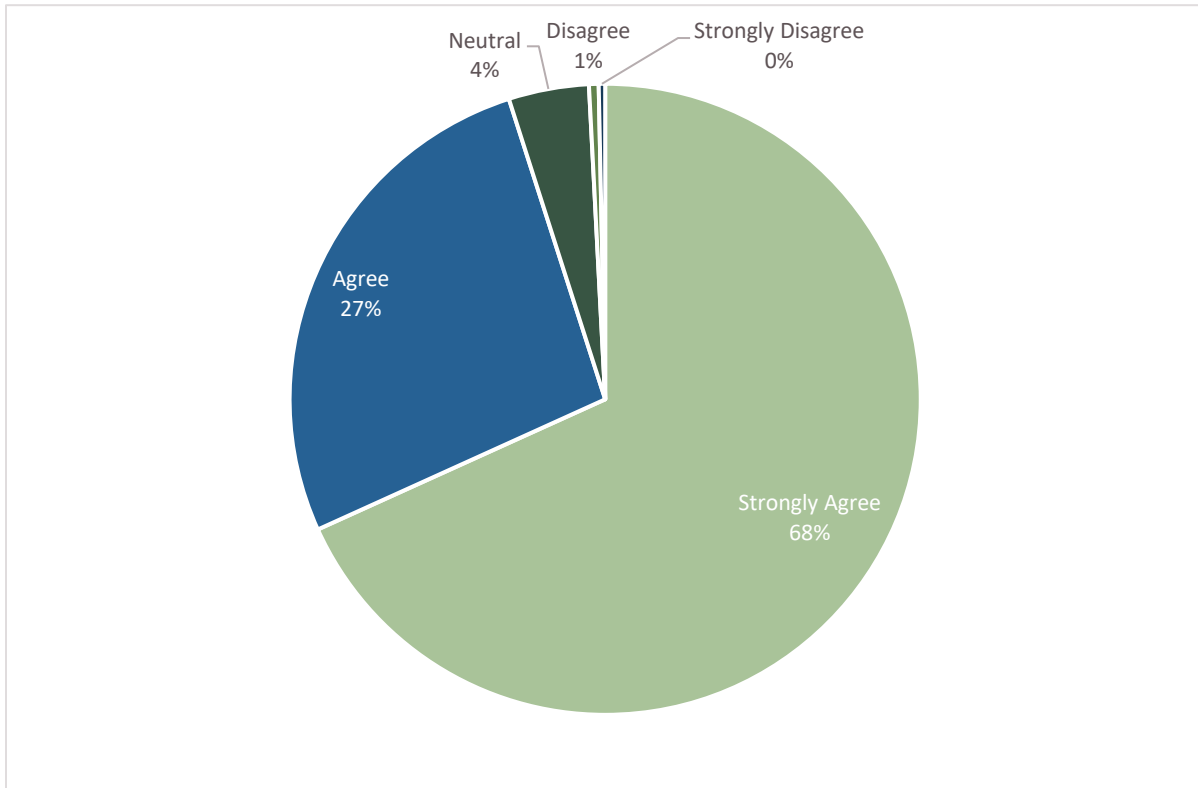


Figure 7: Survey Question 7 - The RDKS Should Improve Drop-Off Options for Hazardous Household Waste

Figure 7 shows that 95% of respondents agreed with this initiative, 4% were neutral, and 0.8% disagree.

Question 8

Recycling costs in the region are high. If the RDKS can reduce recycling contamination rates from over 8% (the current rate) to less than 3%, the Thornhill and greater Terrace area curbside collection program can be subsidized by Recycle BC (City of Terrace already has Recycle BC support), thereby potentially reducing taxes. Recycling contamination increases the program costs by complicating material sorting and reducing the quality of recoverable material. Contamination occurs when unrecyclable material, food soiled materials, or the wrong types of materials end up in the recycling - like glass, Styrofoam and plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin (these items must be returned at the recycling depot).

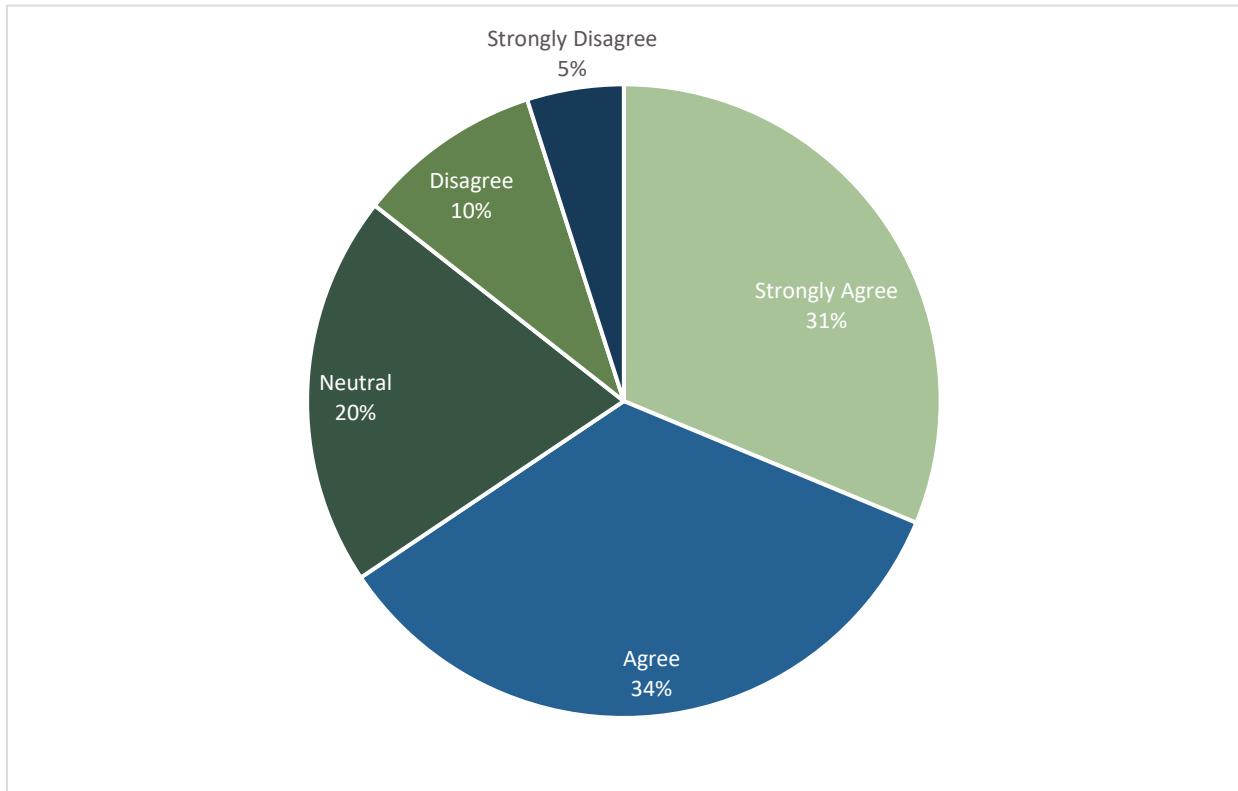


Figure 8: Survey Question 8 – To reduce recycling contamination, the RDKS Should Use Enforcement (Fine Repeat Offenders), Alongside More Public Education

Figure 8 shows that 65% of respondents support the RDKS using enforcement and public education, 20% were neutral and 14% disagreed.

Question 9

The RDKS operates some smaller landfills, such as those in Iskut and Rosswood, which are often expensive to operate and maintain. We can save money on operating costs by closing some of these landfills and replacing them with transfer stations. This happened in Kitwanga, where the RDKS set up a transfer station after closing the landfill there in 2017.

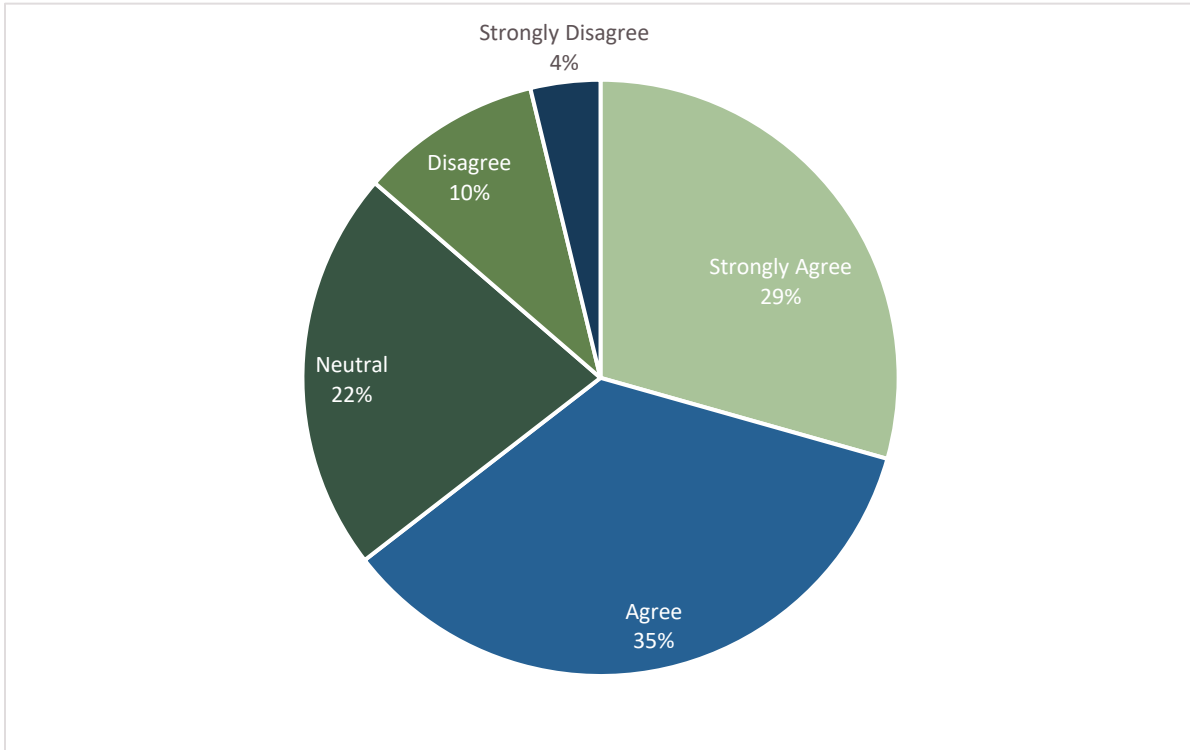


Figure 9: Survey Question 9 - The RDKS Should Close Smaller Landfills if it Makes Sense Financially and Community Needs for Waste Management Can Still Be Met

Figure 9 shows that 64% of respondents agreed that RDKS should close smaller landfills if it makes sense financially. 22% were neutral and 14% disagreed with the initiative. None of the survey respondents from Iskut or Rosswood disagreed with the closing of the smaller landfills.

Question 10

Organic waste, such as food waste, in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The best way to deal with organic waste is by composting it. The Terrace Service Area currently has a compost program, in which organics collected curbside are composted at the local landfill. Compost facilities may be developed in other areas in the region, for example, the Hazelton area and the Stewart or Meziadin area, if feasible.

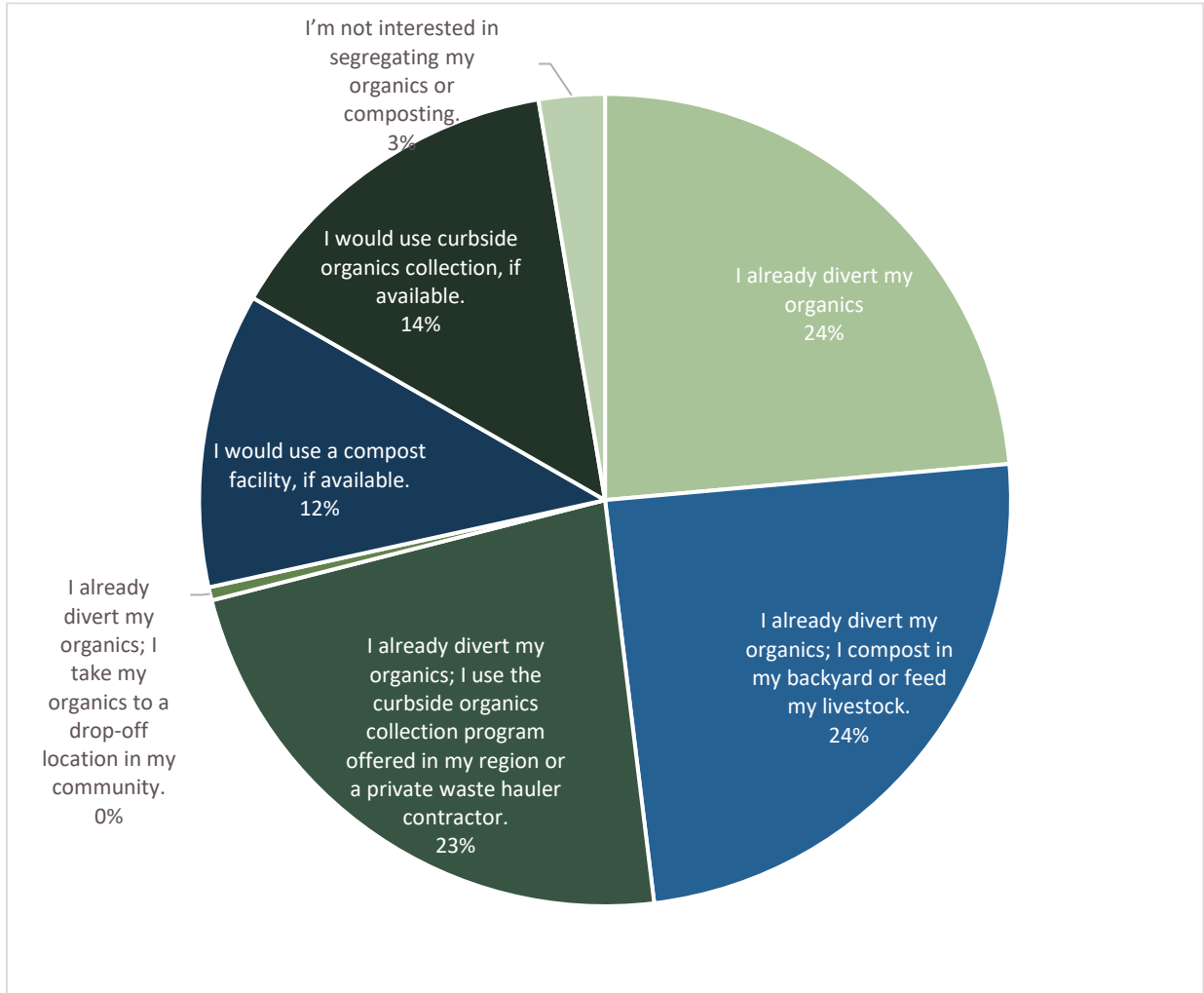


Figure 10: Survey Question 10 - Regarding Organics Diversion....

Figure 10 shows that a total of 72% of respondents indicated that they already divert their organics in some way. A total of 24% indicated that they compost in their backyard or feed their livestock, 23% divert organics using a curbside collection program and 1% take their organics to a drop off location.

A total of 12% indicated that they would use a compost facility if one were available and another 14% would use curbside collection if available. Only 3% of respondents were not interested in segregating organics or composting.

Question 11

Illegal dumping is an ongoing issue for the RDKS. Illegal dump sites often contain materials that can be recycled for free. The RDKS participates in a working group with local and provincial governments and First Nations, committed to addressing illegal public dumping. The RDKS proposes to develop an illegal dumping strategy with the working group. The strategy would aim to improve tracking and reducing illegal dumping through public outreach, education and enforcement.

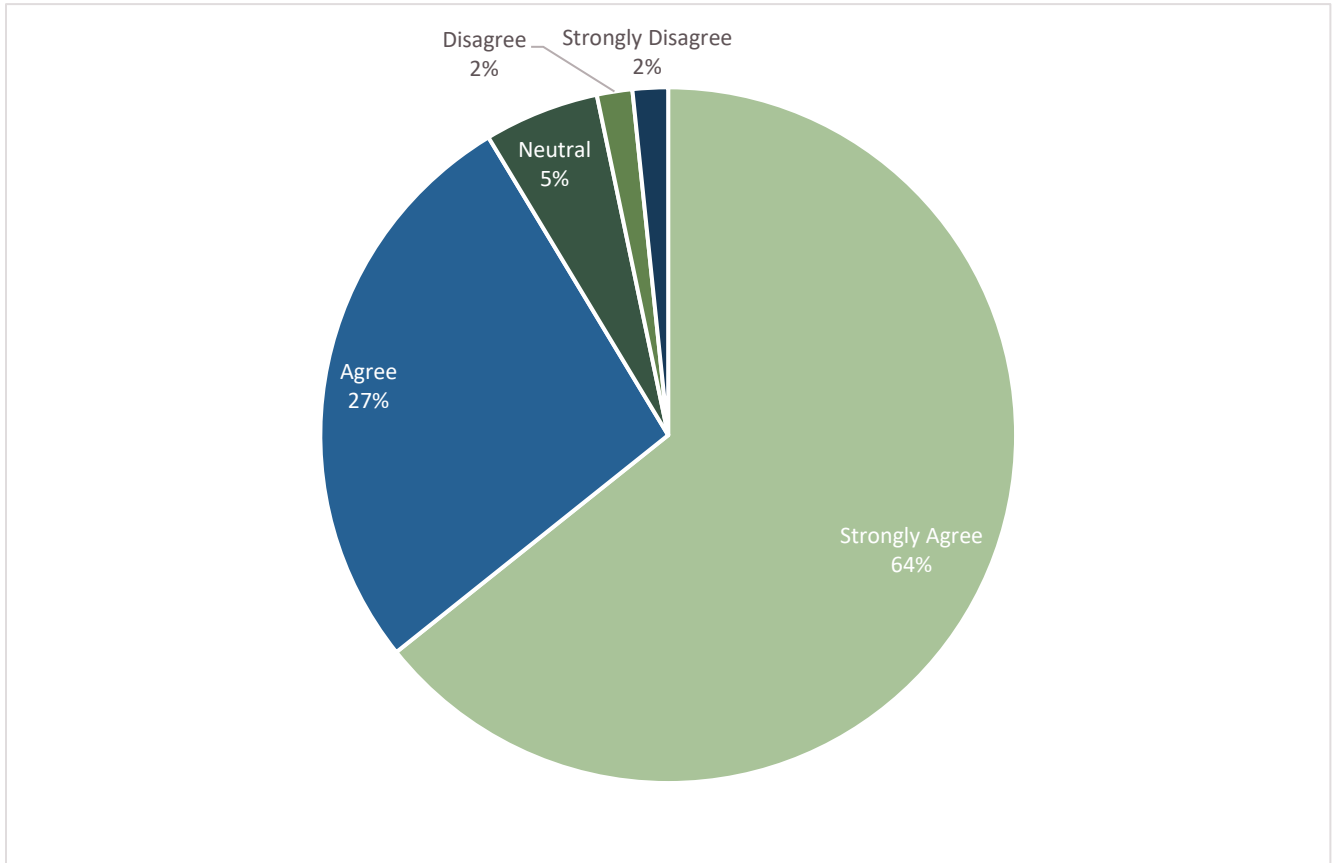


Figure 11: Survey Question 11 - To Reduce Illegal Dumping, the RDKS Should Use Enforcement, Alongside More Public Outreach and Education

Figure 11 shows that 91% of respondents agreed that RDKS should focus on preventing illegal dumping by using enforcement along with more public outreach and education. 5% were neutral and the remaining 4% disagreed with the initiative.

Question 12

The Construction and Demolition sector is responsible for 17% of total waste in the RDKS. Only 5% of construction and demolition waste is separated at worksites and diverted from the landfill.

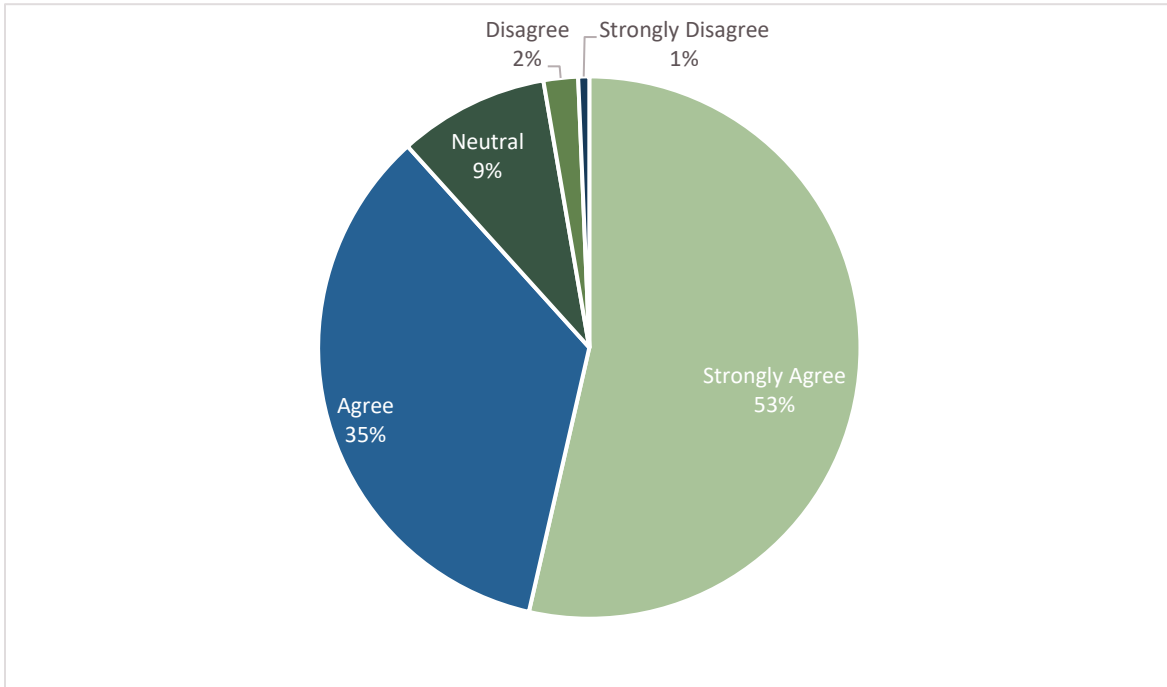


Figure 12: Survey Question 12 - The RDKS Should Focus on Promoting the Reuse and Recycling of Construction and Demolition Waste

Figure 12 shows 88% of respondents agreed with the RDKS promoting the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste, 9% were neutral, and the remaining 3% disagree with the initiative.

Question 13

The survey provided a list of waste reduction and diversion initiatives for construction and demolition waste and the respondents were asked to select their top three preferred options.

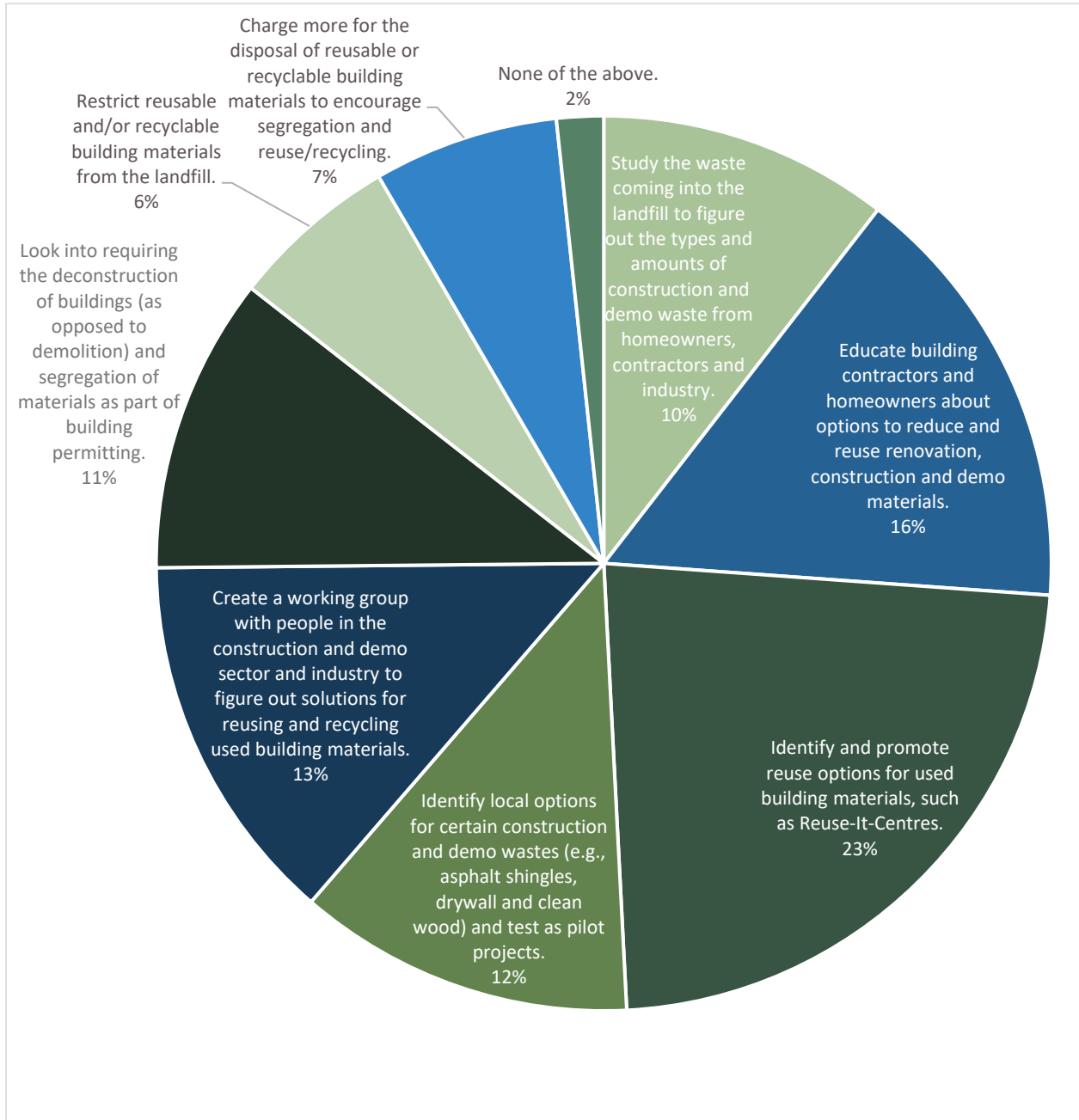


Figure 13: Survey Question 13 - Which of These Initiatives Do You Think the RDKS Should Prioritize? [Pick Your Top Three]

As shown in Figure 13 , the top three initiatives with the most support were:

- Identify and promote reuse options for used building materials, such as Reuse-It-Centres (23% of the respondents),

- Educate building contractors and homeowners about options to reduce and reuse renovation, construction and demo materials (16%), and
- Create a working group with people in the construction and demo sector and industry to figure out solutions for reusing and recycling used building materials (13%).

In total, 98% of respondents supported one or more of the initiatives proposed. Only 2% of the respondents did not support any of the proposed initiatives.

Question 14

When loads of landfilled garbage contain contamination, like recyclable materials, the RDKS can issue fines between \$100 to \$1,000. Fines are currently a fixed rate depending on material type, so the fine for a small load containing contaminated material is currently the same as for a large load containing the same material. Instead of issuing fixed rate fines, the RDKS proposes to apply a tipping fee surcharge (a percentage rate applied to the total load), so that the payment penalty would be proportional to the contaminated load size.

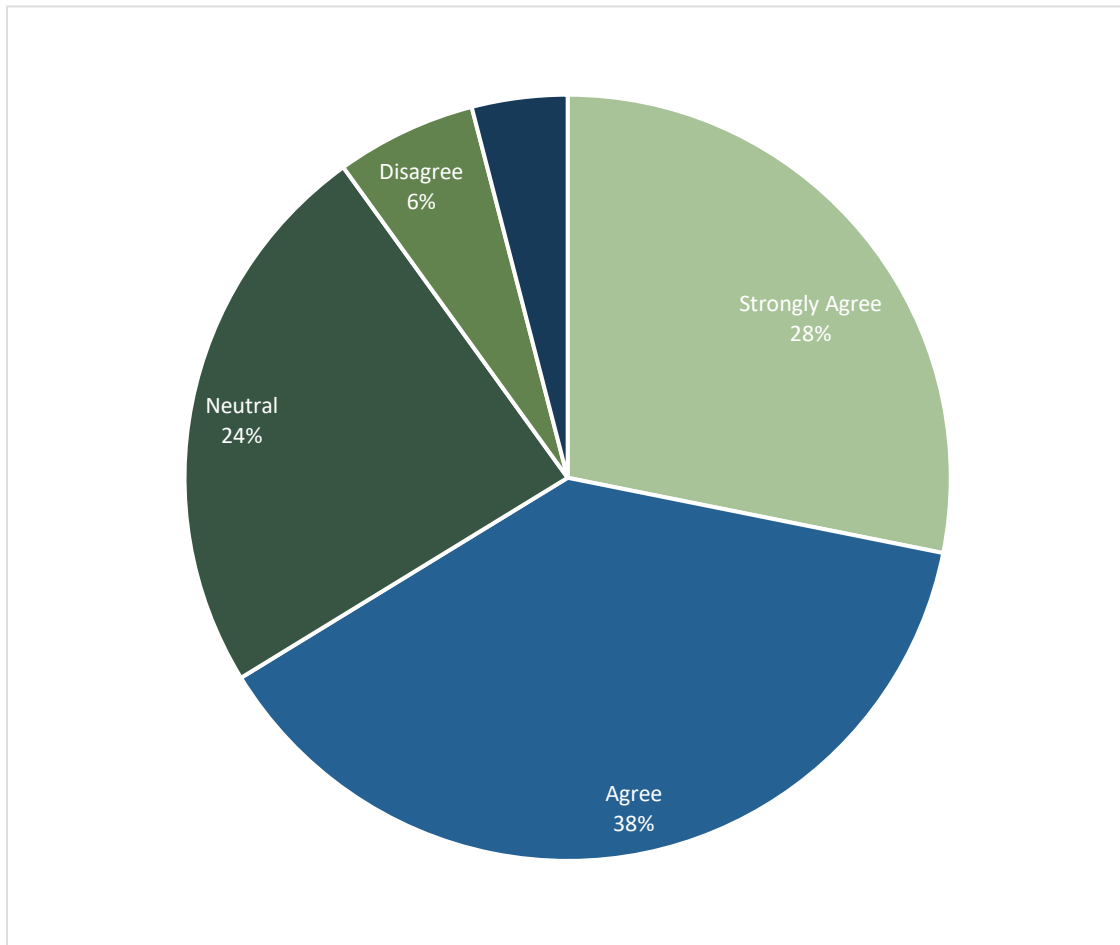


Figure 14: Survey Question 14 - The RDKS should encourage increased waste diversion by Setting Surcharges on Contaminated Loads

Figure 14 shows that 66% of the respondents agree with setting surcharges on contaminated loads to encourage waste diversion, 24% were neutral, and 10% disagreed with the initiative.

Question 15

Currently the RDKS accepts solid waste from non-taxpaying, out-of-service-area users (i.e., project-based industry such as LNG projects and mining work camps). They pay tipping fee surcharges to compensate for not paying taxes (currently a 50% surcharge in the Terrace Service Area and 25% in the Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area). Accepting waste from out-of-service-area users fills up the landfill more quickly, shortening the lifespan of our landfills. However, it keeps locally made waste in the region. Revenue generated from surcharges on their large volumes of waste supplements the current tax base and could help pay to expand the landfill in the future.

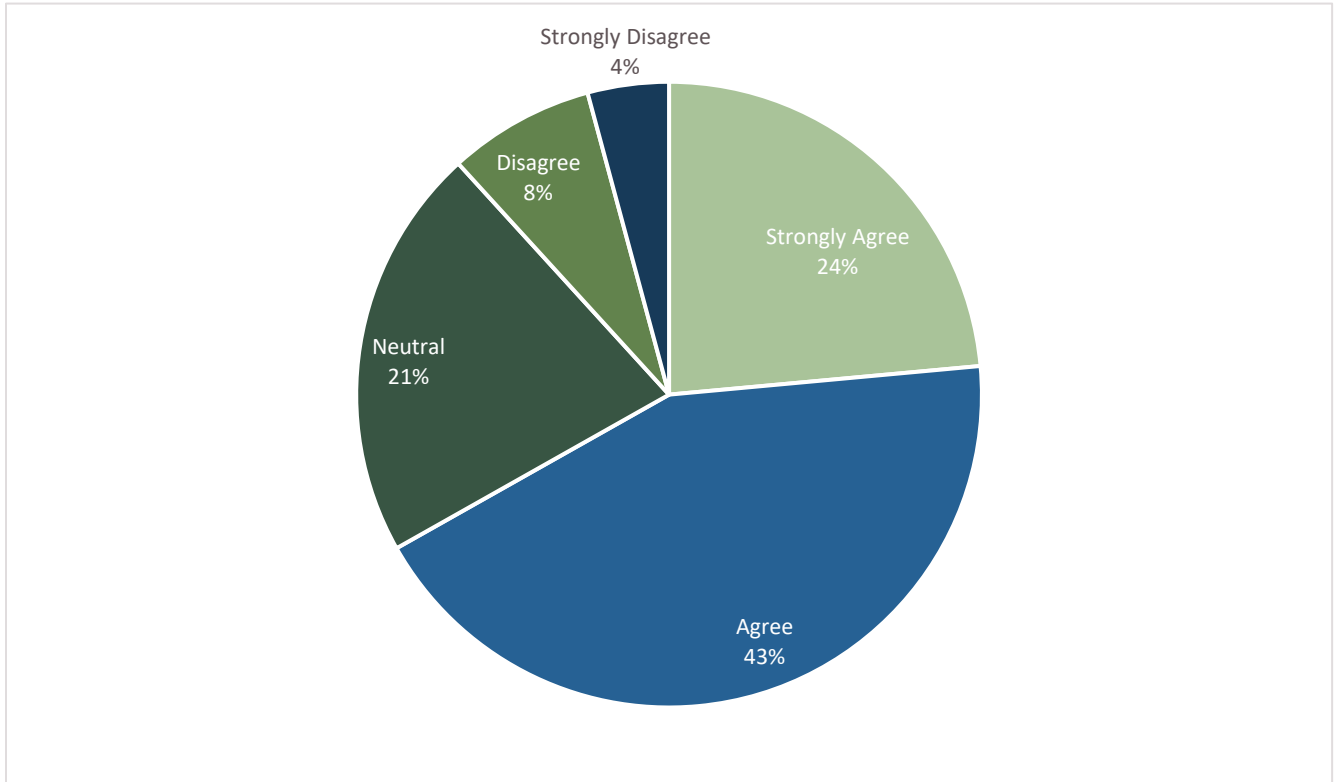


Figure 15: Survey Question 15 - The RDKS Should Continue to Accept Out-of-Service-Area Waste

Figure 15 shows that 67% agreed that the RDKS should continue to accept out-of-service area waste, 21% of respondents were neutral, and 12% disagreed with the initiative.

Question 16

The two solid waste services areas in the RDKS are funded separately. The Terrace Service Area has a partial user-pay model (50% tipping fees and 50% taxes) and has been sufficiently funded in recent years. The Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area is tax-funded model (100% taxes) that is currently operating at a loss (high operating expenses from several facilities spread over a large area). Taxes have recently been increased to help cover costs. Commercial and residential taxpayers do not pay any tipping fees, even if they dispose of large volumes of waste, such as reno or demolition waste. The RDKS may look at charging tipping fees on large volumes of certain waste types so that large waste generators pay for their own waste disposal, rather than taxpayers footing the entire bill.

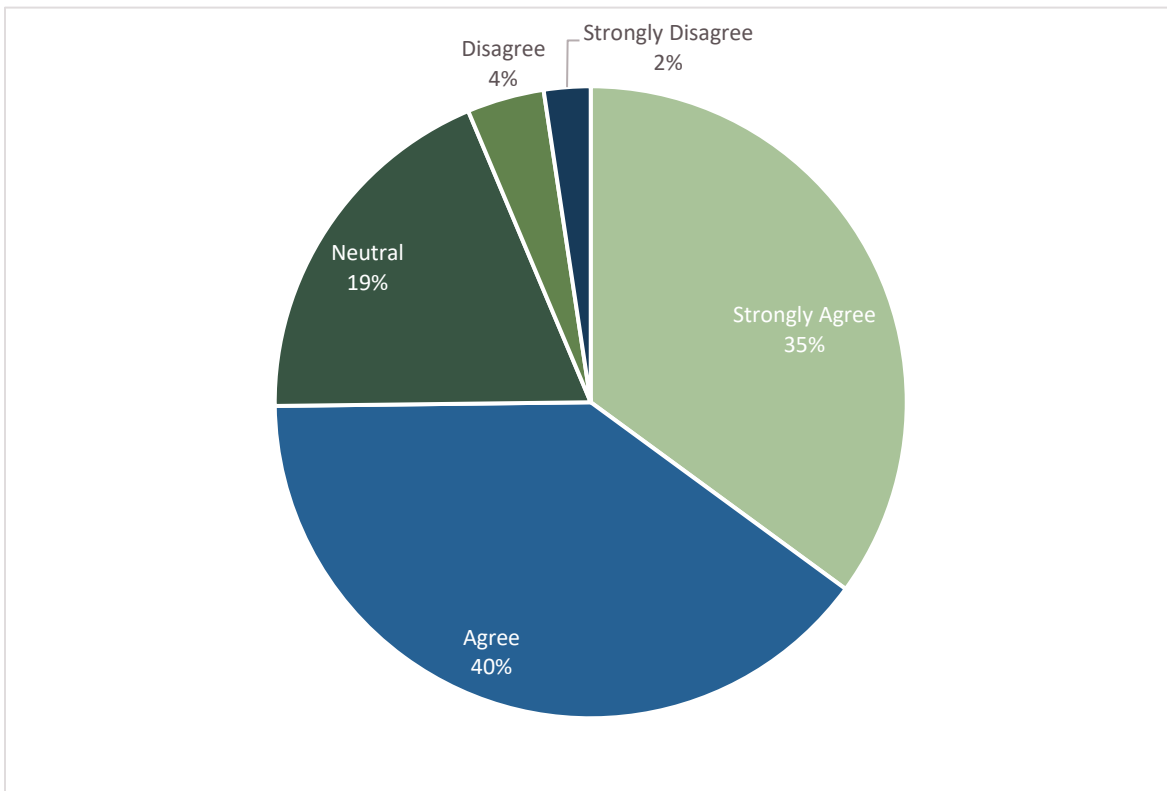


Figure 16: Survey Question 16 - The RDKS Should Look into Possibly Charging Tip Fees for Large Volumes of Certain Types of Waste in the Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area

Figure 16 shows that 75% of respondents agreed that the RDKS should look into charging tipping fees for large volumes of certain waste types in the Hazelton and Highway 37 North service area, 19% of respondents were neutral, and 6% disagreed with the initiative. Of the 63 respondents from the Hazelton and Highway 37 North service area, 76% (48 people) agreed, 14% (9 people) were neutral, and 9% (6 people) disagreed.

Question 17

The District of Kitimat is not part of the RDKS service areas. Kitimat’s landfill is nearing capacity and the District is looking into their options for the future. The RDKS plans to assess the costs and benefits of Kitimat possibly using the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility. Kitimat would pay their fair share, help cover costs, and supplement the Terrace service area tax base.

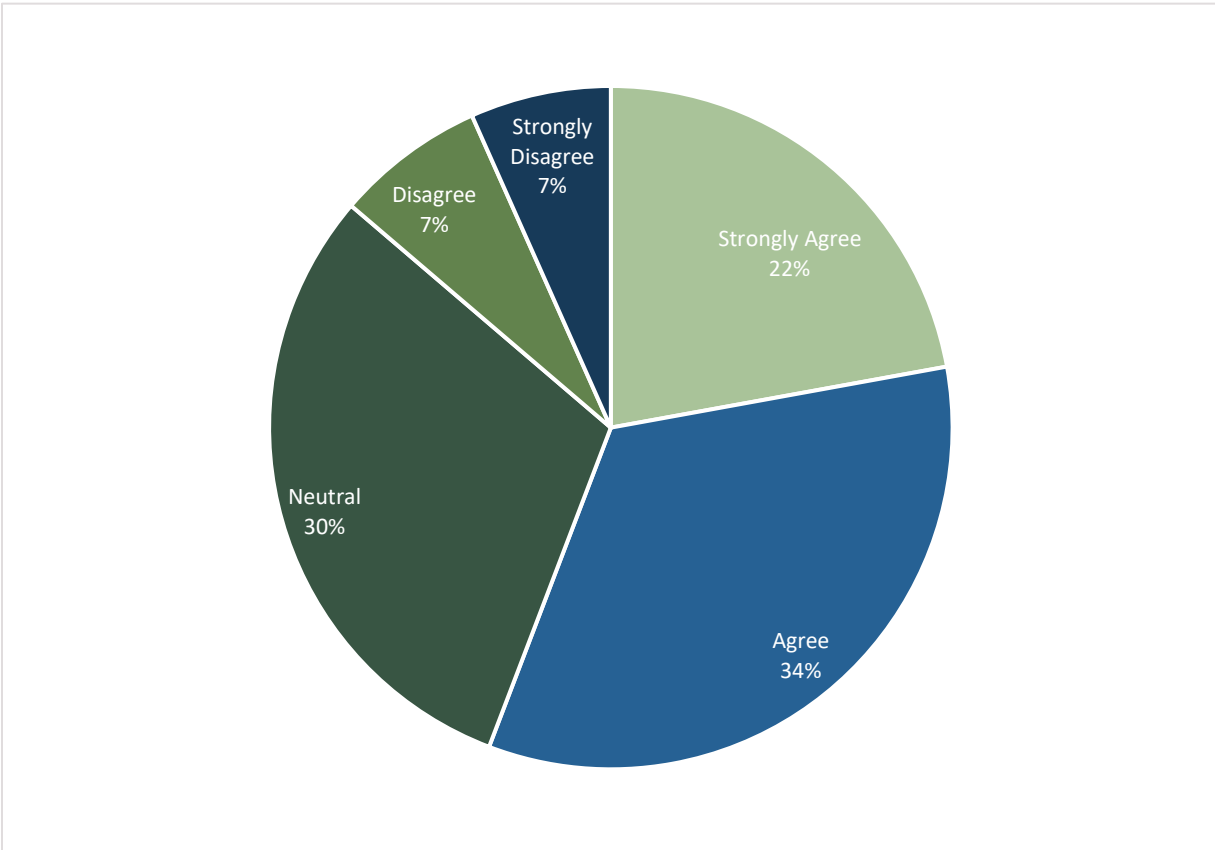


Figure 17: Survey Question 17 - I Support the District of Kitimat Using the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility

Figure 17 shows that 56% of respondents agreed with the District of Kitimat using the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility, 30% were neutral, and 14% disagreed with this initiative.

Question 18

The survey provided a list of reuse and repair initiatives, and the respondents were asked to select their top three preferred options.

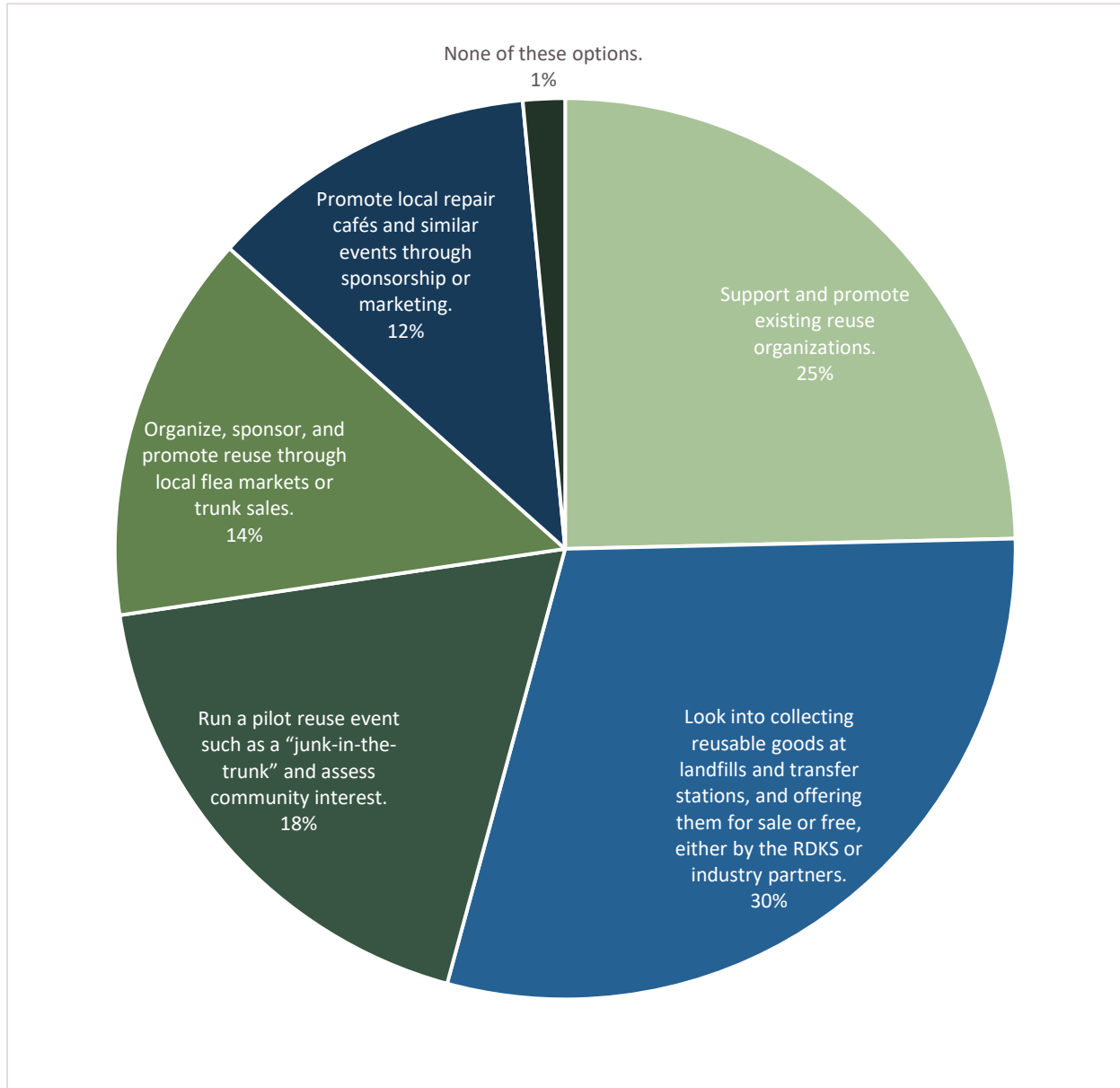


Figure 18: Survey Question 18 - Which of the Following Reuse and Repair Initiatives Do You Think the RDKS Should Prioritize? [Pick Your Top Three]

As shown in **Figure 18**, the top three initiatives with the most support were:

- Look into collecting reusable goods at landfills and transfer stations, and offering them for sale or free, either by the RDKS or industry partners (30% of respondents),
- Support and promote existing reuse organizations (25%), and

- Run a pilot reuse event such as a “junk-in-the-trunk” and assess community interest (18%).

In total, 98% of respondents supported one or more of the initiatives proposed. 2% of the respondents did not support any of the proposed initiatives.

1.3 Summary of Respondents’ Comments (Question 19)

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions at the end of the survey in response to Question 19 – “Did we miss anything? Do you have other ideas for how to improve waste management services in your local area or in the region?”

In response to Question 19, 467 respondents provided feedback. Many comments discussed multiple topics. As each comment topic was considered discrete, a total of 720 comments were gathered.

The comments received were categorized by RDKS staff into over 50 sub-categories. **Figure 19** shows an overview of the ten most common themes of comments and their relative percentage of the total comments received.

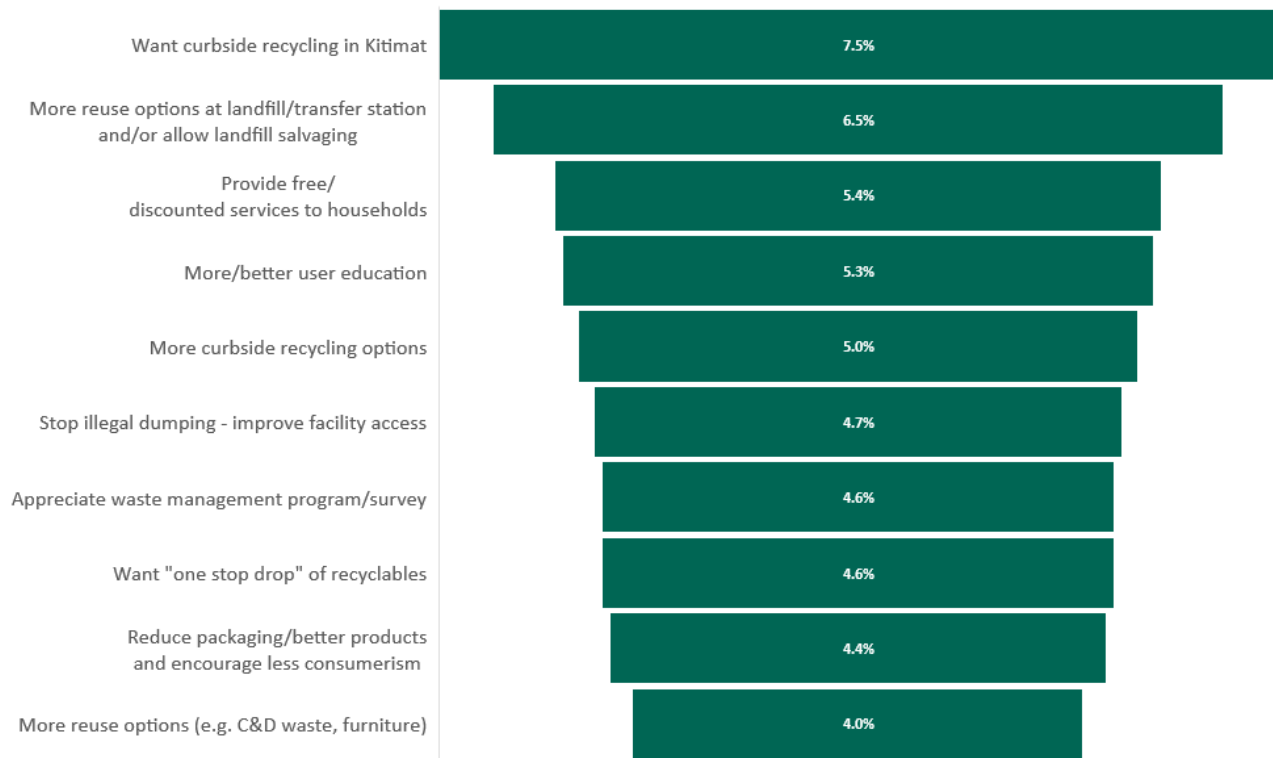


Figure 19: Top 10 Themes of Respondent’s Comments

Although opinions vary on how a particular strategy should be implemented, the comments were generally in support of most strategies proposed in the Draft SWMP. The recurring themes are outlined in the tables below with descriptions how each theme aligns with the Draft SWMP.

1.3.1 Reduction

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Interest to reduce or ban single use plastics	2.5%	Supported by strategies 1, 2 and 4.
Support to lobby for reduced packaging/better products - Encourage less consumerism	4.4%	Supported by strategies 1, 2, 3 and 4.
Reduce food waste	0.3%	Supported by strategy 3.

1.3.2 Reuse

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Support for more reuse options for C&D waste, used furniture, etc., through a Re-Use-It Store or Re-Build-It Store or equivalent	4.0%	Supported by strategy 7
Support for more reuse options at landfill / transfer station and/or allowing landfill salvaging	6.5%	Supported by strategy 7.
Support for hosting reuse and repair event(s)	0.8%	Supported by strategy 8.
Support other reuse options, such as supporting "refilleries" (packaging-free stores) locally	0.7%	
Support for requiring source segregation of C&D materials and building deconstruction to encourage reuse	2.1%	Supported by strategy 9.
Against making deconstruction and C&D source segregation mandatory	0.1%	Only one comment was received against making C&D source segregation mandatory.

1.3.3 Curbside Collection

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Want more curbside recycling options, such as glass, plastic bags, and Styrofoam. Some respondents asked for curbside bulky item collection	5.0%	Improved recycling accessibility is addressed by the SWMP through Strategy 10.
Provide free cans Want larger cans	1.5%	As part of implementing strategy 24, the RDKS will assess the cost-benefit of using contractor vs. in-house staff to deliver the curbside

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
		collection service. This assessment will consider the potential to mirror the curbside collection services in Thornhill/ greater Terrace area with the City of Terrace curbside service, where residents are provided waste cans (tax-funded) by the City. Streamlining services between the City of Terrace and greater Terrace area may improve operational efficiencies and waste diversion.
Issue with curbside collection - organics and recycling or frequency/garbage volume	1.5%	Curbside collection issues are often circumstantial and can generally be addressed on a case-by-case basis as they arise. This is part of RDKS on-going recycling initiatives and is not addressed by any additional SWMP strategy.
Support for curbside enforcement of segregation, e.g., "can tipping", garbage trucks with cameras or clear bags for garbage	1.3%	Supported by strategy 12.
Against curbside enforcement and fines	0.4%	Three respondents were against curbside enforcement and fines, which is against strategy 12. It should be noted that in response to question 8, 65% of respondents supported using enforcement, along with public education. 20% were neutral and 14% disagreed with the initiative.
Some wildlife concerns regarding curbside organics	0.6%	Supported by strategy 12 aimed to provide continuous education and outreach.
Want curbside recycling collection in Kitimat	7.5%	The District of Kitimat (DoK) intends to launch a curbside collection service for organics and recycling in October 2021.
Want curbside organics collection in Kitimat	2.6%	As the RDKS is not responsible for curbside services in Kitimat, this feedback will be passed onto DoK.

1.3.4 Recycling and Organics Diversion

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Provide segregated waste bins in public spaces	0.1%	This initiative is not currently addressed by the SWMP. Management of waste and recyclables in public spaces is the responsibility of member municipalities. The RDKS can bring this feedback forward to member municipalities.
Support for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	1.0%	Supported by strategy 15. Based on previous experience, curbside collection of HHW was

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
roundup events or HHW curbside collection		deemed cost prohibited and was not included in the SWMP. However, the RDKS is proposing to reevaluate this and include an initiative (15D) to review feasibility of developing a HHW curbside collection.
Concerns about recycling; Confusion regarding how to sort recycling; What happens to the materials?	4.8%	Supported by strategy 12 aimed to provide continuous education and outreach.
Concerns based on respondent being uninformed or misinformed about current program	1.9%	Supported by strategy 12 aimed to provide continuous education and outreach.
Interest in "one-stop-drop" location for recyclables	4.6%	This initiative is not currently addressed by the SWMP. The RDKS is proposing to include an initiative (10D) to assess the feasibility of a "one-stop-drop" depot at suitable locations.
Interest in having 24-hour unsupervised recycling drop-off or better access to depot	0.6%	Full-time, unsupervised recycling drop-off is not acceptable by Product Stewardship (recycling) organizations due to high contamination rates. This option was not explored during the SWMP development. The issue of accessibility is addressed by strategies 10 and 23.
Interest in having incentives to encourage waste diversion (recycling and composting)	1.7%	Supports strategy 13. The RDKS is proposing to include an initiative (13D) to establish a recognition program and/or incentives for ICI users who demonstrate excellence in waste diversion and/ or green procurement.
Provide compost to the community	1.0%	Currently compost generated at the Forceman Ridge compost facility is used as cover for landfill closures. The RDKS currently struggles with high contamination rates in the compost (i.e., plastic bags, etc.). In the future, once compost quality improves, the intention is to provide compost to the community for gardening.
Recycling depot needs more opening hours	0.8%	Operating hours of private depots are not controlled by the RDKS. Strategy 23 aims to improve public accessibility to waste management facilities by considering operating hours of private facilities.
Ensure waste segregation by ICI and multi-family residences	1.3%	Supports strategy 12 and 13. Additionally, the RDKS is proposing to include an initiative 10E to improve accessibility to recycling. The new initiative aims to support member municipalities in bylaw updates that may require new ICI and multi-family buildings to have designated waste management space in their design.

Comment Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Create local closed loop economy with private sector	0.1%	This is supported by Strategy 13 in which an ICI waste diversion working group will be established to find local solutions.

1.3.5 Residual Waste Management at Existing Facilities

Comments Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Prevent Illegal dumping by improving public access to solid waste management facilities	4.7%	Supported by strategies 23 and 28. The RDKS is proposing to include an initiative (28C) to pilot scheduled free disposal events for residential waste and implement if feasible. The main purpose of this pilot is to determine if free disposal either through bag tags or free days at the RDKS facilities will assist in preventing illegal dumping.
Prevent illegal dumping by increasing enforcement or fines	1.3%	Supported by Strategy 28.
Prevent illegal dumping by supporting clean-up efforts for illegal dumping	0.1%	The RDKS currently supports clean-up efforts by providing bag tags to receive free curbside garbage pickup for clean-up materials and reimbursing tipping fees for disposal of illegally dumped waste material collected by non-profit organizations. The RDKS is proposing to include this additional information in the SWMP as existing initiatives in section 5.5. Residual Waste Management at Existing Facilities.
Improve access to landfills/transfer stations	3.1%	Supported by Strategy 23.
Concern about facility issues (e.g., design, wildlife access, operation)	0.7%	Each disposal facility is operated by the RDKS in accordance with the Operational Certificate and the Design, Operations, and Closure Plan. The RDKS addresses specific concerns with citizens as they arise.
Environmental concerns regarding facilities	0.6%	Each of the seven solid waste facilities managed by the RDKS has an active environmental effects monitoring program. RDKS staff conduct ongoing groundwater and surface water monitoring in accordance with each facility's Operational Certificate.
Customer service issues	0.4%	These issues relate to curbside or facility contractors and are often circumstantial and are addressed by the RDKS on a case-by-case basis as they arise. This is part of RDKS on-going recycling initiatives and is not addressed by any additional SWMP strategy.

Comments Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Do not support acceptance of waste from industry if it shortens landfill life	0.3%	Supported by Strategy 20, which highlights the need to develop a policy that specifies maximum amounts accepted and that consider the value of landfill space when setting surcharges for disposal by industry.
Support increasing disposal surcharges to industry	1.1 %, of which 0.3% related to supporting user-pay model for industry in the Hazelton Area	Supported by Strategy 20.
Ensure waste segregation by industry	0.8%	Supported by strategies, 9, 13 and 20. The RDKS is proposing to include a sentence in the description of the issue for Strategy 20 stating that surcharges will also encourage segregation of recyclable and compostable materials.
Interest in waste incineration in the north	0.3%	Energy from waste was not considered as part of the SWMP as it was considered too costly for the low volumes of waste generated in the region.
Want local waste solutions, e.g., waste to energy, recycling	2.5%	Energy from waste and local recycling facilities were not considered through the SWMP, as development of these initiatives are cost prohibitive given the low volume of waste generated within the region.
Operate facilities more efficiently	0.4%	Supported by the 9 th guiding principle of the SWMP to improve operational efficiency of the current solid waste system. This principle will be incorporated into all aspects of the SWMP implementation, in particular Strategy 33 to reduce costs by improving operational efficiencies.
Kitimat general waste management concerns	0.7%	As the RDKS is not responsible for waste management in Kitimat, this feedback will be passed onto the District of Kitimat.
Want to keep current waste management system in Kitimat and keep Kitimat Landfill open	0.7%	As the RDKS is not responsible for waste management in Kitimat, this feedback will be passed onto the District of Kitimat.

1.3.6 Cost Recovery and Financial Sustainability

Comments Theme	% of Comments	Alignment with Draft SWMP
Provide free/discounted services to households	5.4%	The SWMP is underpinned by a user-pay approach (refer to the 4 th Guiding Principle). Free or discounted disposal was not explored as an option, as development of this option is cost prohibitive. However, the RDKS remains committed to maintaining a partial user-pay model. The RDKS is proposing to include an initiative (28C) to pilot free disposal events for residential waste and implement if feasible. The main purpose of this pilot is to establish whether providing free disposal either through bag tags or free days at the RDKS facilities will assist in preventing illegal dumping.
Cost recovery model considerations	1.0%	Supported by Strategy 32.
Increase out-of-service area fees	0.6%	Supported by strategies 20 and 34. The RDKS has recently amended its Solid Waste Bylaws to increase tipping fees for out-of-service area waste to adequately cover disposal costs.
Tipping fees too high; Decrease tipping fees and increase taxes	2.2%	The two RDKS Service Areas are financed separately and have different cost recovery models tailored to each area. The Terrace Service Area is funded through a combination of tax requisition and tipping fees with a 50/50 split, whereas the Hazelton and Highway 37 N Service Area is 100% through taxation. The 4 th Guiding Principle of the SWMP is “user-pay”; the RDKS is committed to supporting polluter and user-pay approaches and focusing on incentive-based tipping fees that encourage segregation of materials and waste diversion rather than landfill disposal. To limit the financial impacts on residents in the Hazelton and Highway 37 N Service Area, the RDKS is considering introducing tipping fees for large waste loads only, originating from commercial sources.

2 DISCUSSION

The RDKS received excellent feedback from residents and business owners through the 2021 Solid Waste Survey. In general, respondents are very supportive of waste reduction and waste diversion efforts. The general themes observed throughout the survey have been summarized in a “What we Heard” document, contained in Appendix 2.

In closure, the feedback received through the survey showed a general support for the proposed strategies and initiatives included in the Draft SWMP. The feedback obtained through the survey have highlighted the opportunity to revise or add to the current wording of the Draft Plan when the SWMP is finalized. The proposed changes to the SWMP are outlined in the Consultation Summary Report.

APPENDIX 1: SWMP Survey

To be entered into the prize draw for a \$100 Visa gift card, please write your name and phone number below.

Your answers will remain anonymous. You will not be contacted unless you select the box below.

- Please contact me when the RDKS hosts a virtual event about solid waste management in my region.*

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

For more info:

Go to www.rdks.bc.ca/solidwasteplan

Or email solidwasteplan@rdks.bc.ca

Online survey: <https://link.rdks.bc.ca/solidwastesurvey2021>



Regional District of
Kitimat-Stikine

2021 SOLID WASTE SURVEY



COMPLETE THIS SURVEY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A \$100 VISA GIFT CARD!

The Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine (RDKS) is looking for public input on how waste is managed in our region. Using feedback from a previous survey in 2019 and working with a Public and Technical Advisory Committee, we have developed a Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (review the Draft Plan here: <https://link.rdks.bc.ca/DraftSWMP>). Answers from this survey will help finalize the Plan and set the direction for how your waste is managed for the next decade.

The following 19 questions should take about 15 minutes to complete. Thank you for your time!

DEADLINE TO COMPLETE SURVEY: MARCH 14, 2021

Complete the survey online at:

<https://link.rdks.bc.ca/solidwastesurvey2021>

Or return this survey by mail to:

Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
300-4545 Lazelle Avenue, Terrace, B.C. V8G 4E1

For more info:

Go to www.rdks.bc.ca/solidwasteplan

Or email solidwasteplan@rdks.bc.ca



Love this place.
Reduce your waste.



1. I am a... (pick all that apply)

- Resident
- Seasonal resident
- Business owner

2. I live in... (pick one)

The Terrace Solid Waste Service Area:

- Terrace
- Thornhill
- The Greater Terrace area
- Lakelse Lake
- Rosswood and surrounding areas

The Hazelton and Highway 37 North Solid Waste Service Area:

- The Hazeltons
- Kispiox Valley
- Moricetown
- Kitwanga
- Cedarvale
- Stewart
- Meziadin
- Iskut and surrounding rural areas

Outside of a current Solid Waste Service Area:

- Kitimat
- Nass Valley
- Telegraph Creek
- Dease Lake
- Klemtu
- Outside of the RDKS

3. Waste reduction and waste diversion (reusing, recycling and composting) are important to me.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

4. I make an effort to separate and properly dispose of my garbage, recycling and (where applicable) organics.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

The District of Kitimat is not part of the RDKS service areas. Kitimat's landfill is nearing capacity and the District is looking into their options for the future. The RDKS plans to assess the costs and benefits of Kitimat possibly using the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility. Kitimat would pay their fair share, help cover costs, and supplement the Terrace service area tax base.

17. I support the District of Kitimat using the Forceman Ridge Waste Management Facility.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Almost half of all respondents in our previous survey wanted more opportunities to reuse items.

18. Which of the following reuse and repair initiatives do you think the RDKS should prioritize? [pick your top three]

- Support and promote existing reuse organizations.
- Look into collecting reusable goods at landfills and transfer stations, and offering them for sale or free, either by the RDKS or industry partners.
- Run a pilot reuse event such as a "junk-in-the-trunk" and assess community interest.
- Organize, sponsor, and promote reuse through local flea markets or trunk sales.
- Promote local repair cafés and similar events through sponsorship or marketing.
- None of these options.

19. Did we miss anything? Do you have other ideas for how to improve waste management services in your local area or in the region?

When loads of landfilled garbage contain contamination, like recyclable materials, the RDKS can issue fines between \$100 to \$1,000. Fines are currently a fixed rate depending on material type, so the fine for a small load containing contaminated material is currently the same as for a large load containing the same material. Instead of issuing fixed rate fines, the RDKS proposes to apply a tipping fee surcharge (a percentage rate applied to the total load), so that the payment penalty would be proportional to the contaminated load size.

14. The RDKS should encourage increased waste diversion by setting surcharges on contaminated loads.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Currently the RDKS accepts solid waste from non-taxpaying, out-of-service-area users (i.e., project-based industry such as LNG projects and mining work camps). They pay tipping fee surcharges to compensate for not paying taxes (currently a 50% surcharge in the Terrace Service Area and 25% in the Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area). Accepting waste from out-of-service-area users fills up the landfill more quickly, shortening the lifespan of our landfills. However, it keeps locally made waste in the region. Revenue generated from surcharges on their large volumes of waste supplements the current tax base and could help pay to expand the landfill in the future.

15. The RDKS should continue to accept out-of-service-area waste.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

The two solid waste services areas in the RDKS are funded separately. The Terrace Service Area has a partial user-pay model (50% tipping fees and 50% taxes) and has been sufficiently funded in recent years. The Hazelton and Highway 37 North Service Area is tax-funded model (100% taxes) that is currently operating at a loss (high operating expenses from several facilities spread over a large area). Taxes have recently been increased to help cover costs. Commercial and residential taxpayers do not pay any tipping fees, even if they dispose of large volumes of waste, such as reno or demolition waste. The RDKS may look at charging tipping fees on large volumes of certain waste types so that large waste generators pay for their own waste disposal, rather than taxpayers footing the entire bill.

16. The RDKS should look into possibly charging tip fees for large volumes of certain types of waste in the Hazelton and Highway 37 North service area.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

As part of the Canada-wide action plan on zero plastic, the Government of Canada proposes to ban and/or restrict some single-use items such as grocery bags, straws, and disposable cutlery, but it takes time to develop and implement large-scale federal measures.

5. In the meantime, the RDKS should encourage businesses to voluntarily find alternatives to single-use items.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

6. Which of the following initiatives do you think the RDKS should prioritize to reduce single-use items? [pick your top three] Note that these initiatives would likely be post-pandemic as many single-use items are currently being used for health and safety reasons.

- Lobby the BC government for the creation of a recycling program for single-use items and packaging-like products.
- Lobby the Canadian government to regulate the distribution of single-use items.
- Encourage businesses to voluntarily reduce their use of single-use items.
- Encourage alternatives to single-use items at public events.
- Look into the possibility of 'bring your own container' programs provided health regulations for food safety are being followed.
- Help member municipalities reduce single-use items by supporting the development of relevant strategies and bylaw(s).
- Adopt a green procurement policy for the RDKS and encourage member municipalities to do the same. (A green procurement policy is when goods and services are assessed by their environmental impact as well as their cost.)
- None of the above.

Some hazardous household waste - such as pesticides, used oil, etc. - are recyclable through provincially regulated Extended Producer Responsibility programs (EPRs). Through EPRs, producers are responsible for the recycling of materials they produce. EPR regulated waste, however, is only accepted at limited drop-off locations. The RDKS proposes to expand the collection of these items through collection events, which would take place in communities approximately every two years. If feasible, we may also look at offering permanent drop-off options for certain materials at suitable transfer stations (e.g. in communities with limited collection options).

7. The RDKS should improve drop-off options for hazardous household waste.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Recycling costs in the region are high. If the RDKS can reduce recycling contamination rates from over 8% (the current rate) to less than 3%, the Thornhill and greater Terrace area curbside collection program can be subsidized by Recycle BC (City of Terrace already has Recycle BC support), thereby potentially reducing taxes. Recycling contamination increases the program costs by complicating material sorting and reducing the quality of recoverable material. Contamination occurs when unrecyclable material, food soiled materials, or the wrong types of materials end up in the recycling - like glass, Styrofoam and plastic bags in your curbside recycling bin (these items must be returned at the recycling depot).

8. To reduce recycling contamination, the RDKS should use enforcement (fine repeat offenders), alongside more public education.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

The RDKS operates some smaller landfills, such as those in Iskut and Rosswood, which are often expensive to operate and maintain. We can save money on operating costs by closing some of these landfills and replacing them with transfer stations. This happened in Kitwanga, where the RDKS set up a transfer station after closing the landfill there in 2017.

9. The RDKS should close smaller landfills if it makes sense financially and community needs for waste management can still be met.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

Organic waste, such as food waste, in landfills generates methane, a potent greenhouse gas. The best way to deal with organic waste is by composting it. The Terrace Service Area currently has a compost program, in which organics collected curbside are composted at the local landfill. Compost facilities may be developed in other areas in the region, for example, the Hazelton area and the Stewart or Meziadin area, if feasible.

10. Please check all that apply

- I already divert my organics; I compost in my backyard or feed my livestock.
- I already divert my organics; I use the curbside organics collection program offered in my region or a private waste hauler contractor.
- I already divert my organics; I take my organics to a drop-off location in my community.
- I would use a compost facility, if available.
- I would use curbside organics collection, if available.
- I'm not interested in segregating my organics or composting.
- Other; please specify _____

Illegal dumping is an ongoing issue for the RDKS. Illegal dump sites often contain materials that can be recycled for free. The RDKS participates in a working group with local and provincial governments and First Nations, committed to addressing illegal public dumping. The RDKS proposes to develop an illegal dumping strategy with the working group. The strategy would aim to improve tracking and reducing illegal dumping through public outreach, education and enforcement.

11. To reduce illegal dumping, the RDKS should use enforcement, alongside more public outreach and education.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

The Construction and Demolition sector is responsible for 17% of total waste in the RDKS. Only 5% of construction and demolition waste is separated at worksites and diverted from the landfill.

12. The RDKS should focus on promoting the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste.

- Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

13. Which of these initiatives do you think the RDKS should prioritize? [pick your top three]

- Study the waste coming into the landfill to figure out the types and amounts of construction and demo waste from homeowners, contractors and industry.
- Educate building contractors and homeowners about options to reduce and reuse renovation, construction and demo materials.
- Identify and promote reuse options for used building materials, such as Reuse-It-Centres.
- Identify local options for certain construction and demo wastes (e.g., asphalt shingles, drywall and clean wood) and test as pilot projects.
- Create a working group with people in the construction and demo sector and industry to figure out solutions for reusing and recycling used building materials.
- Look into requiring the deconstruction of buildings (as opposed to demolition) and segregation of materials as part of building permitting.
- Restrict reusable and/or recyclable building materials from the landfill.
- Charge more for the disposal of reusable or recyclable building materials to encourage segregation and reuse/recycling.
- None of the above.

APPENDIX 2: What We Heard From You RDKS Response to the 2021 Solid Waste Survey
