



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Parkland County Transfer Station sees increase in waste diversion and recycling.

PARKLAND COUNTY, AB. Parkland County residents are doing their part for the environment and the results are showing in the most recent statistics from the Parkland County Transfer Station.

“Over the past four years, we have seen a 1 – 2% increase annually in the amount of waste diversion and recycling at the Parkland County Transfer Station,” said Sharon Howland, Solid Waste Coordinator for Parkland County. “This equates to almost 1000 tonnes of waste diverted from the landfill each year, a number that will only continue to rise as new programs are established.”

So far in 2008, 14.6% of total waste was recycled, compared to 13.2% during the same time in 2007. “Although the increase seems relatively small, it is actually quite significant once you realize that almost 200 tonnes of waste was recycled so far this year,” said Howland. “We expect the recycling rates to continue to rise as the services expand and we can accept more items for recycling.”

There has been a significant increase in electronic waste (e-waste), which includes items such as DVD players, VCRs, cell phones, electrical wire, toasters and microwaves, coming into the Parkland County Transfer Station. In 2007, 70 tonnes of e-waste was collected, which is double the amount collected in 2006. “Environmental awareness is prompting people and industry to be more responsible when it comes to recyclable materials,” said Howland. “The recycling market is getting stronger and more competitive, which benefits us economically and, more importantly, environmentally.”

“Increase in waste diversion and recycling”

The statistics also show a decrease in total waste coming to the Transfer Station. “We saw a significant amount of waste coming through when the Parkland County Transfer Station was upgraded a few years ago,” said Howland. “The amount has leveled out now, enabling us to better predict volumes and manage waste services.”

The future of waste management is a high priority for Parkland County. To address this issue, Parkland County, in conjunction with Stantec Consulting, is reviewing its long-term waste management plan. Public input sessions are being held in late August and early September throughout the County to discuss items such as rural waste pickup, recycling program, new transfer stations at Keephills and Seba Beach, and other waste management topics. Input from the sessions will help form Parkland County’s Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

Residents can share their thoughts and ideas on waste management at the following public input sessions:

- Tuesday, August 26th, Tomahawk & District Sports Agra (51122 SH 759, Tomahawk)
- Thursday, August 28th, Entwistle Community Hall (4921 – 51 Street, Entwistle)
- Tuesday, September 2nd, Clymont Community Hall (51423 Hwy 60)
- Wednesday, September 3rd, Blueberry Community Hall (53109 RR 15)

For more information on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, contact Parkland County at 780-968-8888 or toll free at 1-888-880-0858.

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Parkland County is a rural municipality located immediately west of Edmonton. Covering an area of 242,595 hectares (599,500 acres), it is one of the largest in size and one of the highest populated of all rural municipalities in Alberta. Parkland County has grown to a community of over 30,000 people and has seen generations of families continue to enjoy country living.

For more information about this release, please contact:

Sharon Howland
Solid Waste Coordinator
Parkland County
Phone: 780-968-8271
Email: showland@parklandcounty.com

Jackie Ostashek
Communications Coordinator
Parkland County
Phone: 780-968-8432
E-mail: jostashek@parklandcounty.com