

WASTE DIVERSION



Updates from the Regional District of North Okanagan

SUMMER 2026

WASTE DISPOSAL CONTINUES TO DECREASE IN THE NORTH OKANAGAN

North Okanagan residents are making a real difference. For the fourth consecutive year, the total amount of waste sent to RDNO landfills has decreased, even as the region's population continues to grow.

In 2025, waste disposal dropped to 444 kilograms per person, the lowest since tracking began in 1979. This figure includes waste generated by residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sources in the region. While this is an encouraging trend, the RDNO's disposal target is 350 kilograms per person per year (or less).

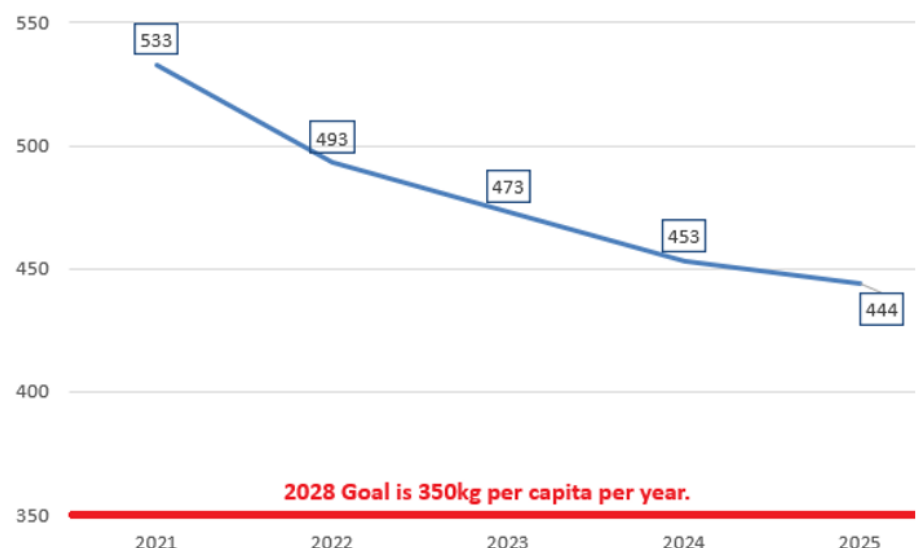
Reducing waste sent has significant environmental and financial benefits starting with conserving valuable landfill space that delays the need for costly new landfill capacity. Waste prevention also provides broader environmental benefits by conserving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the manufacturing, transporting, buying and disposing of products.

What Is Contributing to the Trend?

The reduction in waste likely results from several factors. The RDNOs most recent waste composition study, completed in 2022, identified food as the largest category of material by weight being landfilled.

Since then, several initiatives may be contributing to a reduction in food in landfills, including grant projects that raise awareness and facilitate the prevention of food waste, a commercial food waste disposal regulation and municipal curbside collection programs. Further, there was a 5% decrease in mixed construction and demolition waste compared to 2024. Economic conditions may also be influencing consumer behavior, resulting in reduced consumption, greater resource conservation, and less waste.

Waste Disposed Kilograms per Capita in the RDNO
(2021-2025)





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EVERY DAY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE WASTE!

Residents can continue supporting this waste reduction trend by:

- Shopping with thoughtful intention and buying only what is needed;
- Using up food before it goes to waste and composting food scraps;
- Choosing to reuse, refurbish or repair items rather than purchasing new or disposable products; and
- Knowing what materials can be reused, recycled, composted, or otherwise diverted from landfills.

Learn more about waste trends and waste reduction initiatives in the region in the [2025 Solid Waste Quantities Report](#).

BADGES AND STICKERS PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND WASTE REDUCTION

The new North Okanagan Too Good to Waste campaign brings conservation to life with fun stickers and badges that celebrate waste reduction and water conservation.



Throughout the summer, our team attended community events to share RDNO information resources. Residents showed their waste reduction knowledge by answering skill-testing questions to earn badges and stickers that celebrate protecting the incredible region we call home.

The gold North Okanagan Too Good to Waste logo is a symbol of local pride and sustainability. Its design reflects the importance of conserving resources and keeping materials in use for as long as possible. A cast of wise animal characters adds fun and thought-provoking messages that inspire people to reduce waste and conserve more.

Badges are a great way to add character to clothing and accessories. They can even be used to patch and repair well-loved items, helping extend their life while adding a bit of character.

Placing stickers on reusable water bottles, coffee mugs, and food containers can highlight your daily waste reduction efforts even more. Spark conversations, inspire others and help showcase zero-waste habits that really add up! Stay tuned for more opportunities to show the North Okanagan is Too Good to Waste!



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Too Good to Waste is an initiative of the
Regional District of North Okanagan



REGIONAL DISTRICT
NORTH OKANAGAN