

LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

What is a Liquid Waste Management Plan?

Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMPs) strive to protect public health and the environment by ensuring that liquid waste is properly managed today and in the future. They are formal, binding documents that result from a structured process overseen by the Minister of Environment but led by local governments in BC.

The purpose of a LWMP is to explore and recommend the most financially and environmentally acceptable solutions to resolve challenges related to existing sewage treatment and disposal systems and to deal with sewage management in future developments. There are two primary goals for every LWMP: to protect public health and the environment, and to consult with the public and First Nations. LWMPs are a chance to develop local services through a collaborative process, which includes formal and informal methods of engagement.

What is Liquid Waste?

Liquid waste is wastewater, including fats, oils and grease, stormwater run off and sewage.

What are the four LWMPs in the CSRD?

The CSRD has four approved liquid waste management plans, which were completed in 2009:

South Shuswap LWMP (Area C)	North Shuswap LWMP (Area F)
<i>Sorrento, Blind Bay, Reedman Pt, White Lk, other</i>	<i>Scotch Creek, Anglemont, Celista, Gateway/Lee</i>
Area E LWMP	Seymour Arm LWMP (Area F)
<i>Swansea Pt, Hyde Mountain, Malakwa, other.</i>	<i>Seymour Arm</i>

Why are the LWMPs being updated?

The CSRD's current LWMPs are over 10 years old and require updating to align with the Ministry of Environment's recommendations. The Ministry of Environment recommends a 10-year interval for any major changes.

Is the LWMP update different from the Solid Waste Management Plan update?

Yes. The CSRD is also updating its Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), which is the long-term version for how solid waste, including diversion and disposal, is managed. Solid waste refers to any type of garbage, trash or discarded material. For more information about the CSRD's SWMP update, visit the [CSRD Connect Solid Waste Management Plan Update page](#).

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

What is a septic system?

A septic system is series of components that treat wastewater on site, typically in areas that have no sewer systems. Septic systems work by collecting wastewater from your home, removing wastewater pollutants and solid materials, and returning the treated effluent to the property's soil or the surrounding environment. Property owners with septic systems are the principal operators and are responsible for conducting regular maintenance and repairs.

Why do I need to maintain my septic system?

Much like vehicle maintenance, routine septic system maintenance can significantly prolong the life of your system and save you a lot of money in the long term. Performing preventative maintenance, such as pump outs and inspections, can help ensure that your system remains in good, working order.

A failing septic system can cause untreated wastewater to be released into the environment. This can pose substantial health and environmental risks to the community by contaminating groundwater, drinking water sources, and nearby wells.

How do I maintain my septic system?

Routine inspections, occasional repairs, and periodic pump outs are important components in septic system maintenance. How frequently you should pump out your septic tank depends on the type of septic system, tank size, number of people living in your home, and the habits of your particular household.

Regular inspections can help prevent system failure by identifying if the system is functioning properly, whether the tank has any leaks, and how much sludge and scum has accumulated. For more information on proper septic system maintenance, please read the [CSRSD's Septic Smart Homeowners Guide](#).

How do I find a ROWP?

To find a registered practitioner (ROWP) in your area, visit the [Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of BC registrant directory](#) or visit the [Locate a Pro](#) section on the WCOWMA Onsite Wastewater Management Association of BC.

Do I need to upgrade my septic system as part of permitted renovations to my building?

According to the CSRSD's [Building Bylaw No. 660-3](#), an occupancy permit is required before a building can be occupied. This means that if you're constructing a new building or renovating an existing one, you must obtain an occupancy permit.

An occupancy permit can only be issued once there is proof, such as a compliance inspection by a Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP), that the septic system works properly

and meets regulatory requirements. This is especially important when a building is being renovated in a way that will generate more wastewater, such as adding more bedrooms.

PROPOSED CSRD SEPTIC SYSTEM REBATE PROGRAM

Why is the CSRD exploring the creation of a rebate program?

Proper septic system maintenance is an important component to ensure our environment and community remain safe and healthy. Rebate programs for septic system maintenance encourage owners to take the necessary steps to ensure wastewater systems are functioning properly.

In addition, the costs associated with the upkeep of individual septic systems can be a barrier for property owners to perform regular maintenance. Providing rebates can help mitigate some of these costs and encourage property owners to regularly maintain their systems, in turn, helping to protect the natural environment.

How were the rebates determined?

The rebates were carefully selected after consulting with other regional districts with experience in rebate programs, engaging with septic system experts, and considering how to incentivize homeowners to go beyond basic septic maintenance.

How does the rebate program work?

The rebate program is designed to offer financial assistance to property owners for the regular maintenance of their septic systems. The proposed program requires a shared investment where the CSRD will cover up to 75% of the eligible expenses, subject to a maximum amount.

Rebates will be delivered by cheque (mail or pick-up) once the property owner provides a receipt from an accredited **Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP)** indicating that the work has been complete.

What is a *Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioner or ROWP*?

Registered Onsite Wastewater Practitioners (ROWP) are experienced, trained professionals who are registered with the [Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia \(ASTTBC\)](#). They can be installers, planners, maintenance providers or private inspectors. To be eligible for the rebate program, property owners must complete upgrades with a ROWP.

What maintenance activities are included within the rebate program?

The rebate program includes the following maintenance activities:

- up to \$700 for major repairs or replacement to an existing system where the value of the works exceeds \$5,000
- up to \$400 to install risers (a portal for ease of access to the septic tank)

- up to \$500 to install or replace distribution boxes (centralized box within septic field that equally distributes wastewater into connecting pipes)
- up to \$300 to conduct a complete system inspection by an accredited ROWP
- up to \$200 to install an effluent filter.

Are pump-outs included within the rebate program?

While pump-outs are a crucial component of septic system maintenance, they are **not eligible** for rebate through this program. This is because they are considered a standard practice that homeowners are expected to undertake regularly. Instead, the limited resources available for rebates have been allocated to incentivize homeowners to perform more advanced and essential maintenance activities. This direction is in-line with other Regional District rebate programs.

Will the rebate program impact my taxes?

The rebate program is an add-on function for the liquid waste service and has been proposed without additional tax implications for the first three years. After three years, the rebate program will be re-evaluated, where any funding and tax implications will be considered at that time. Each year, the total budget for rebates is set and once it is exhausted the rebates will cease until a new funds are available.

Are rebate programs common across B.C.?

Rebates for property owners to upgrade their septic systems exist in several other regional districts in B.C. Those programs are often fully subscribed causing more proactive maintenance than would otherwise happen without the rebates.

When would the rebate program become available?

The rebate program is anticipated to be available in 2024 with support from the community.

How will I participate in the rebate program?

Property owners interested in participating in the program will be required to provide an application that includes their address and the type of improvement they wish to make, as well as an acknowledgement that they understand their responsibilities for managing their system.

Approved applicants will be notified by email. Rebates will be delivered by cheque (mail or pick-up) and must include a receipt from an authorized professional (ROWP) indicating that the work has been complete.

Am I eligible to apply for a rebate?

If the proposed rebate program goes forward, all private septic system operators within the LWMP service areas (Area C/G, Area E, Area F (Scotch Creek, Celista, Anglemont) and Area F (Seymour Arm)) will be eligible to apply for the program.

Can I use the same rebate more than once?

While property owners can apply for and receive all rebates, they are only eligible to use each rebate once per property (but only one rebate per calendar year).

Property owners are allowed to apply for multiple rebates in a single year. However, there are a limited number of rebates available in each electoral area per year.

What is total annual the value of rebates in each Electoral Area?

The following budget for each electoral area has been approved for the first year of the program. The exact amount of repairs will depend on the types of applications received.

Electoral Area	Approved Budget and Number of Repairs for Year One
Area C (incl. new Area G) – South Shuswap 6,727 taxable parcels	\$10,000-\$15,000 About 50 to 110 repairs
Area E - All 1,507 taxable parcels	\$5,000 - \$7,000 About 25 to 50 repairs
Area F - North Shuswap 4,226 taxable parcels	\$8,000 to \$11,000 About 40 to 80 repairs
Area F - Seymour Arm 509 taxable parcels	\$2,000 About 10 to 15 repairs

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

How can I get involved?

The CSRD will be circulating a survey to property owners to understand the level of support for the proposed rebate program. The survey is available at the [CSRD Connect Liquid Waste Management Plan project page](#).

Who can I contact if I have questions?

If you have any questions about the proposed rebate program, please contact Ben Van Nostrand, Team Leader, Environmental Health Services at: bvannostrand@csrd.bc.ca or 250-517-7271