

Electoral Area Directors' Forum

TNRD Agricultural Plastics Recycling Pilot

UBCM Electoral Area Directors Forum

September 15th, 2026



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Overview

Regional & Program Context

The Agricultural Plastics Problem

TNRD Pilot

The Journey of Agricultural Plastics

Participants

Program Success & Challenges

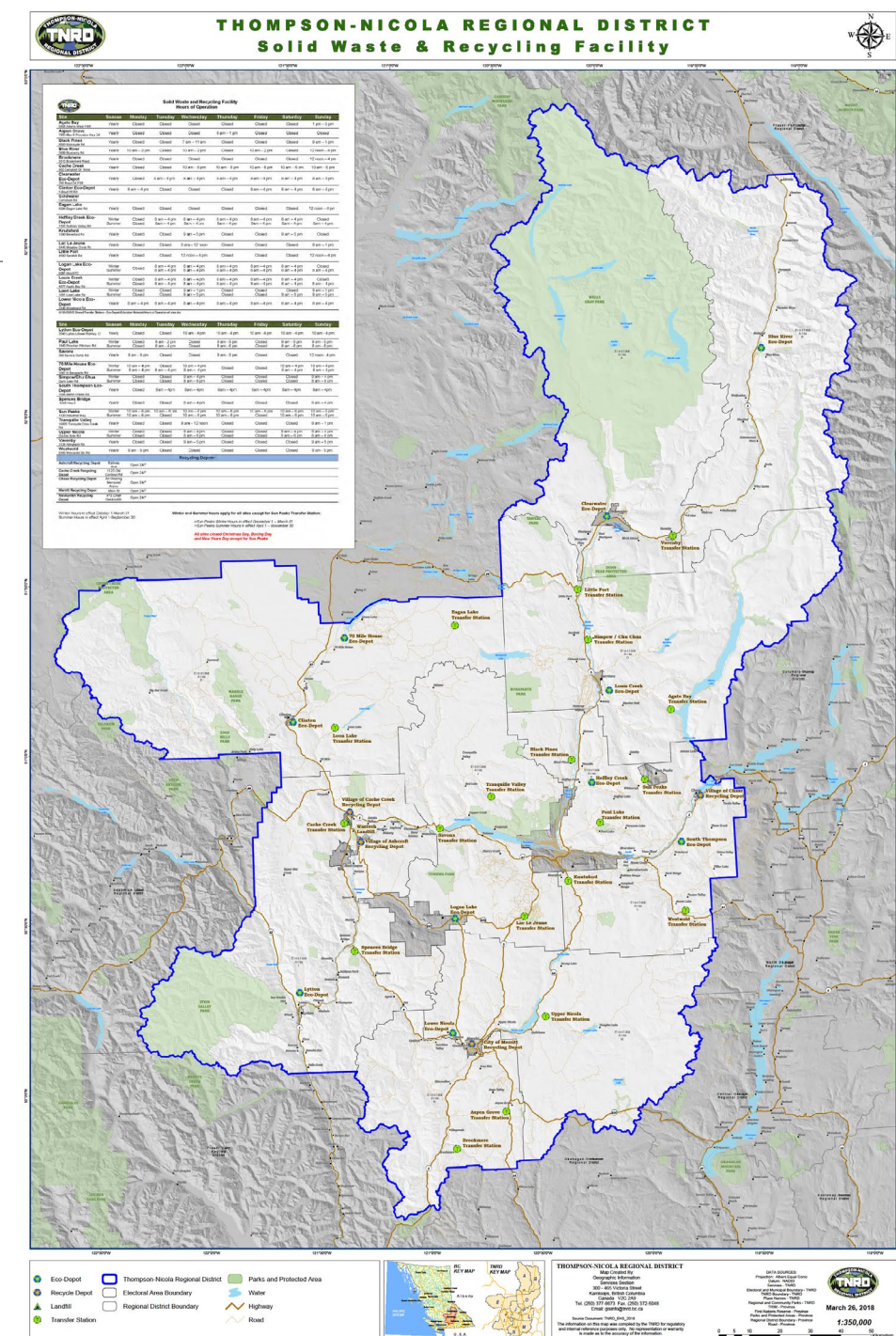
Looking Ahead



The Region of BC's Best

The Region of BC's Best

- **TNRD Operates:**
 - 11 Eco-Depots
 - 16 Transfer Stations
 - 2 Active Landfills
- **Other Landfills:**
 - 3 City of Kamloops
 - 2 Private (Kamloops & Cache Creek)
 - 1 First Nations
- **Average of ~85,000 tonnes waste to landfill/year**
 - Population 158,876
 - 493 kg/person in 2024
 - ~ 35,000 tonnes diverted/year
 - 37% diversion rate in 2024



Context



4-year Pilot



On-Ranch
Collection of Bale
Wrap, Silage Tarps,
& Tubes



In collaboration
with Cleanfarms



Advances
commitments
outlined in the 2018
Regional Solid
Waste Management
Plan



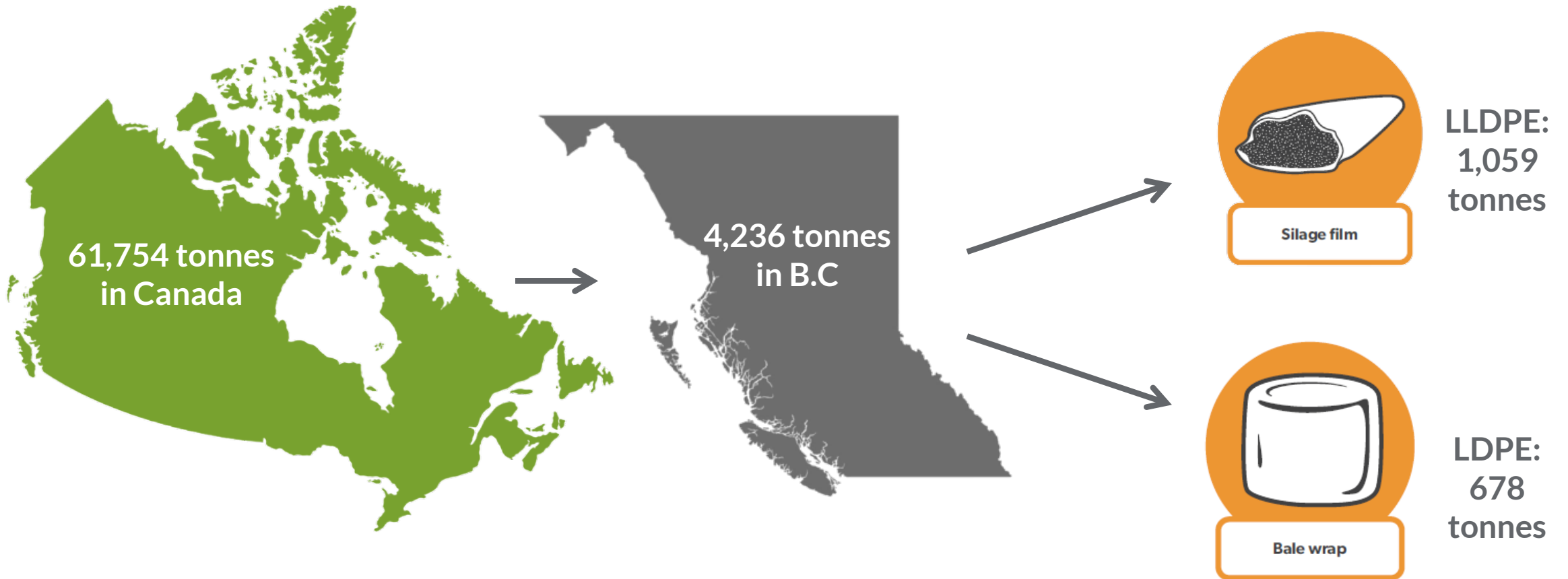
Pursue ongoing
agricultural plastics
recycling solutions
and evaluate policy
options for other
commercial
recyclables



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The Agricultural Plastics Problem

- A 2021 CleanFarms waste audit revealed, annually:



TNRD/Cleanfarms Program Timeline

2021

- Partnered with Cleanfarms to collect fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicide containers (jugs, bottles, and pails up to 23 L) at three Eco-Depots

2024

- RSWMC – EA “L” Director Doug Haughton requested staff investigate a pilot program
- Staff presented a Cleanfarms pilot proposal to the RSWMC in Fall 2024
- Proposal received support from both the RSWMC and TNRD Board

2025

- Revised micro-pilot proposal brought back to the RSWMC in Spring 2025
- Four years of funding approved through the 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan

Financial Overview

\$134,000 over 4-year period

Fully TNRD funded

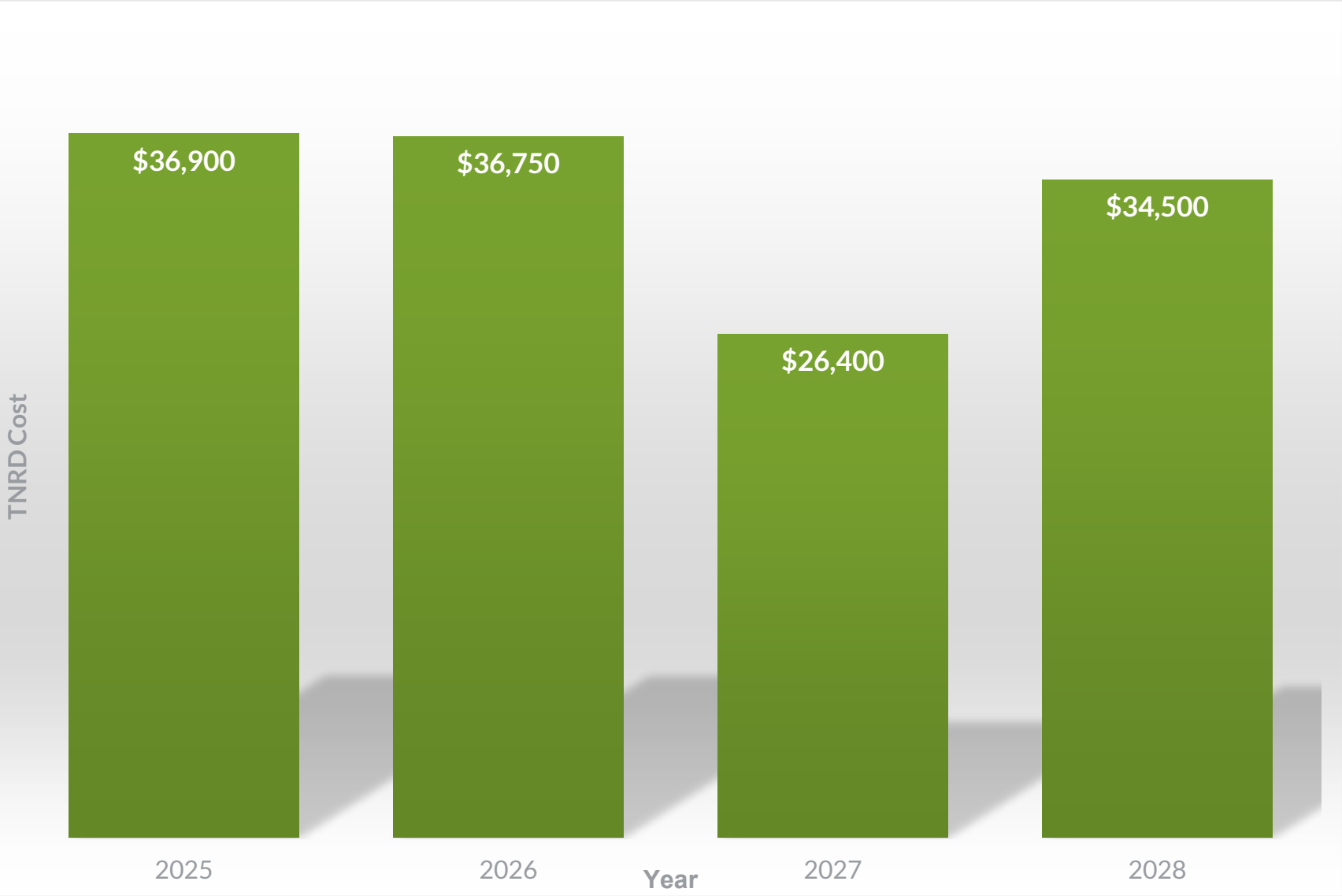
Major costs

- Compactor purchases
- Operational costs (education, waste audits, site visits)
- Transportation



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TNRD Cost Per Year



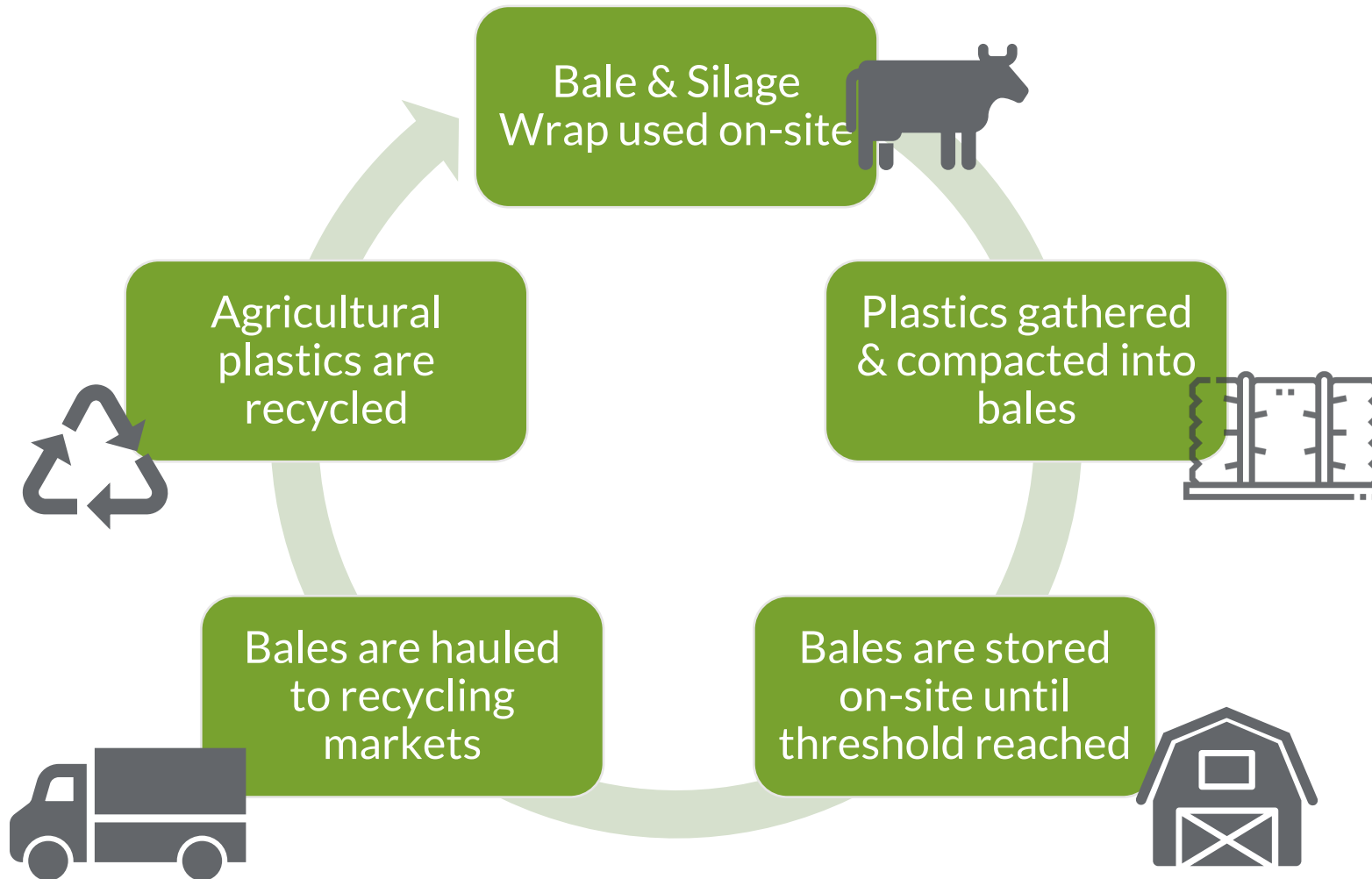
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TNRD Ag Plastics Pilot

- Second year of 4-year pilot
- Regional framework for recycling **bale wrap, silage bags** and **covers**
- Compactors loaned to participants at no cost
 - Hydraulic
 - Manual Block



The Journey of Ag Plastics



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Pilot Participants

2025

● Douglas Lake Cattle Company
Nicola Ranch
Frolek Cattle Company

2026

● Semlin Ranch
Mitchell Cattle Company
Four Winds Cattle Company

2027

● Prospects Identified



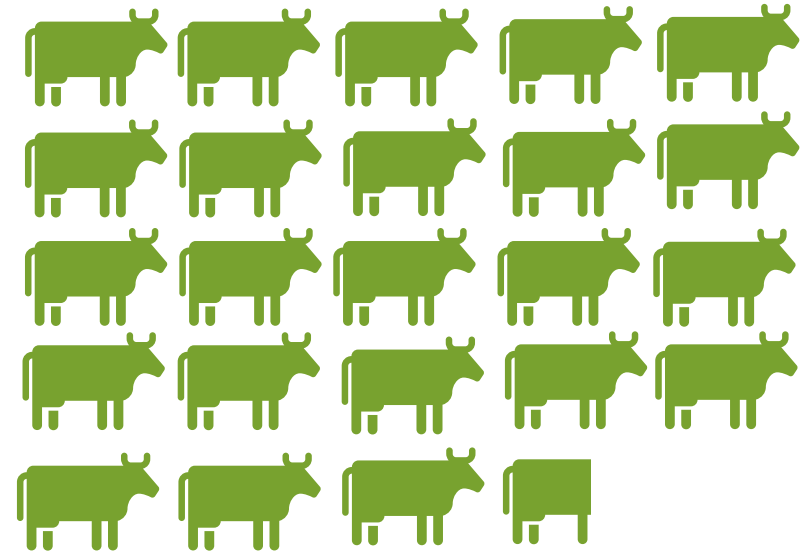
Agricultural Plastics Pilot

Anticipated diversion of ~66,000 kgs from landfill

- **2025:**
 - Goal - 11,000 kgs
 - Actual - ~14,500 kgs
- **2026:**
 - Goal - 15,400 kgs
 - Actual - TBD

Hauling – First loads in early 2027

- 29 bales collected
- Threshold of 50-60 bales region-wide



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Challenges & Lessons Learned



Pilot Funding



Compactors
Feedback



Participant Time
Commitment

Looking Ahead



Construct & issue new compactors



Continued participant onboarding



2027 – First loads of agricultural plastics to end-markets



Provide pilot data to the Province to continue ongoing advocacy for non-residential recycling

Agricultural Plastics EPR Advocacy Update (EB44-2025)

Issue

- Agricultural plastics are often landfilled, burned or buried, contributing to environmental impacts and reduced landfill capacity

Request

- UBCM Resolution EB44 (TNRD Sponsored) called on the Province to expedite the inclusion of agricultural plastics as a product category under BC's Recycling Regulation

Current Status

- The Province continues to explore opportunities to expand EPR programs however, agricultural plastics were not identified as a priority category and are not currently being considered for regulation

Key Message

- Continued advocacy is needed to advance EPR solutions for agricultural plastics in BC



Questions?

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UBCM
2026





Office of the
Fire Commissioner



Fire Safety Act

Union of BC Municipalities

September 2026

Presentation overview

- Mandate
- Fire Safety Act overview
- Roles and responsibilities
- Compliance monitoring
- Administrative penalties
- Q&A

OFC mandate

- Minimize the loss of life, injury, and damage to property from fire by administering and enforcing the Fire Safety Act
- Lead provincial fire prevention and fire reporting programs, promote fire safety awareness and establish minimum training standards for fire inspectors, fire investigators and fire services personnel
- Provide structure fire expertise and coordinate fire services during emergencies
- Improve quality of fire investigations and increase details in reporting investigation findings

Fire Safety Act

- The Fire Safety Act came into force August 1, 2024
- Replaced the previous Fire Services Act and reflects significant advancements in fire protection and a deeper understanding of fire behaviour since the last substantial update of the Fire Services Act in 1979
- It is intended to strengthen fire safety through an enhanced system of inspections and effective enforcement

Fire Safety Act key objectives

- Clarifying who may issue corrective orders, when they may be issued and for what they may be issued
- Developing an administrative monetary penalty scheme
- Creating an internal administrative review (appeal) process for orders and for monetary penalties
- Allowing the Province to take immediate and effective action for owners who refuse to comply with the legislation
- Clarify the role and responsibilities of the OFC related to building inspections and fire investigations by eliminating the LAFC program

Local authority roles and responsibilities

- The Fire Safety Act requires municipalities and regional districts to designate fire inspectors and fire investigators
- This is an important step in creating clarity around authority and accountability for fire safety activities within a community

Working together for fire safety

- **Municipalities:** lead proactive compliance
- **Regional Districts:** lead local response and request support from the OFC when needed
- **OFC:**
 - provides oversight, expertise, standards, guidance, to all local authorities
 - Provides fire investigation and fire investigation support to regional districts as requested

Designating fire inspectors and fire investigators

- Fire inspector and fire investigator designation can be done by resolution or a change to a bylaw, depending on how the service is setup
- Designates must meet the OFC Fire Safety Act Inspector and Investigator Training Standards
- No cost, online training is available through the OFC
- A “Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition” (PLAR) form can be completed by individuals who already meet the required standard(s) to verify their qualifications as designated fire inspectors/investigators
- Designated individuals must meet the training standard by **September 30, 2026**

Roles and compliance models by local authority

Municipalities	Regional Districts	Improvement Districts
Risk-based model	Complaint-based (reactive) model	Not a local authority under the FSA
Required to implement a compliance monitoring system for public buildings	Fire inspections and fire investigations conducted by OFC upon request or by regional districts where capacity exists	Cannot designate fire inspectors or fire investigators
Proactive fire inspections focused on low, medium, and high-risk buildings	Services provided on behalf of regional districts at no cost	Collaboration with regional districts is encouraged

Risk Analysis for Monitoring Entities in BC

- The Fire Safety Act requires a monitoring entity to implement a risk-based compliance monitoring system for public buildings within its jurisdictional boundaries
- A risk analysis framework is intended to support decisions about the frequency of physical fire safety inspections and the use of fire safety assessments for monitoring fire safety compliance
- Risk-based compliance monitoring means that proactive inspections will be conducted, and higher risk public buildings will be inspected more frequently than low-risk buildings
- The monitoring entity has the responsibility and flexibility to determine the risk designation for any building in their community based on occupancy and specific building characteristics

Fire Safety Act building owners

- The Fire Safety Act reinforces building owners' long standing legal responsibility to adhere to the BC Fire Code
- To confirm they meet the requirements of the Fire Safety Act and the BC Fire Code, building owners and operators may be required to conduct a fire safety assessment and put the appropriate fire safety measures in place
- The frequency and requirements for a fire safety assessment are set by the monitoring entity (municipalities)

Administrative Penalties

- Application of penalties is focused on serious, repeated or deliberate cases of non-compliance with the Fire Safety Act
- Contraventions that result in increased risk to life safety or the health of people attract a higher penalty than those presenting only an increased risk of damage to buildings or facilities
- Administrative Penalty amounts are up to:
 - \$25,000 in the case of an individual
 - \$50,000 in the case of a corporation

When to consider an administrative penalty

- Failure to comply with a fire inspector order under section 11 of the Fire Safety Act
- Failure to comply with a preventive evacuation order under section 14 of the Fire Safety Act
- Contravene the Fire Safety Act by failing to produce a record or information about a premises that was requested by a fire inspector under section 10(6) or by a fire investigator under section 26(5)

Penalty for failure to comply with an order

Considerations:

- The gravity and magnitude of the contravention and the failure to comply
- Whether the contravention and the failure to comply was repeated or continuous
- Whether the contravention and the failure to comply was deliberate
- Any economic benefit the person may have gained from the contravention and/or the failure to comply
- The person's efforts to correct the contravention and the failure to comply

Questions?





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GOOD UBCM
2026



The Rural Coordination Centre of BC

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Rural Coordination Centre of BC. Since their inception in 2007, RCCBC has grown into a network of hundreds of people - rural physicians and other healthcare providers, healthcare administrators, community members, policymakers, educators, researchers, and non-profit and business leaders – guided by the principles of cultural safety and humility.