

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

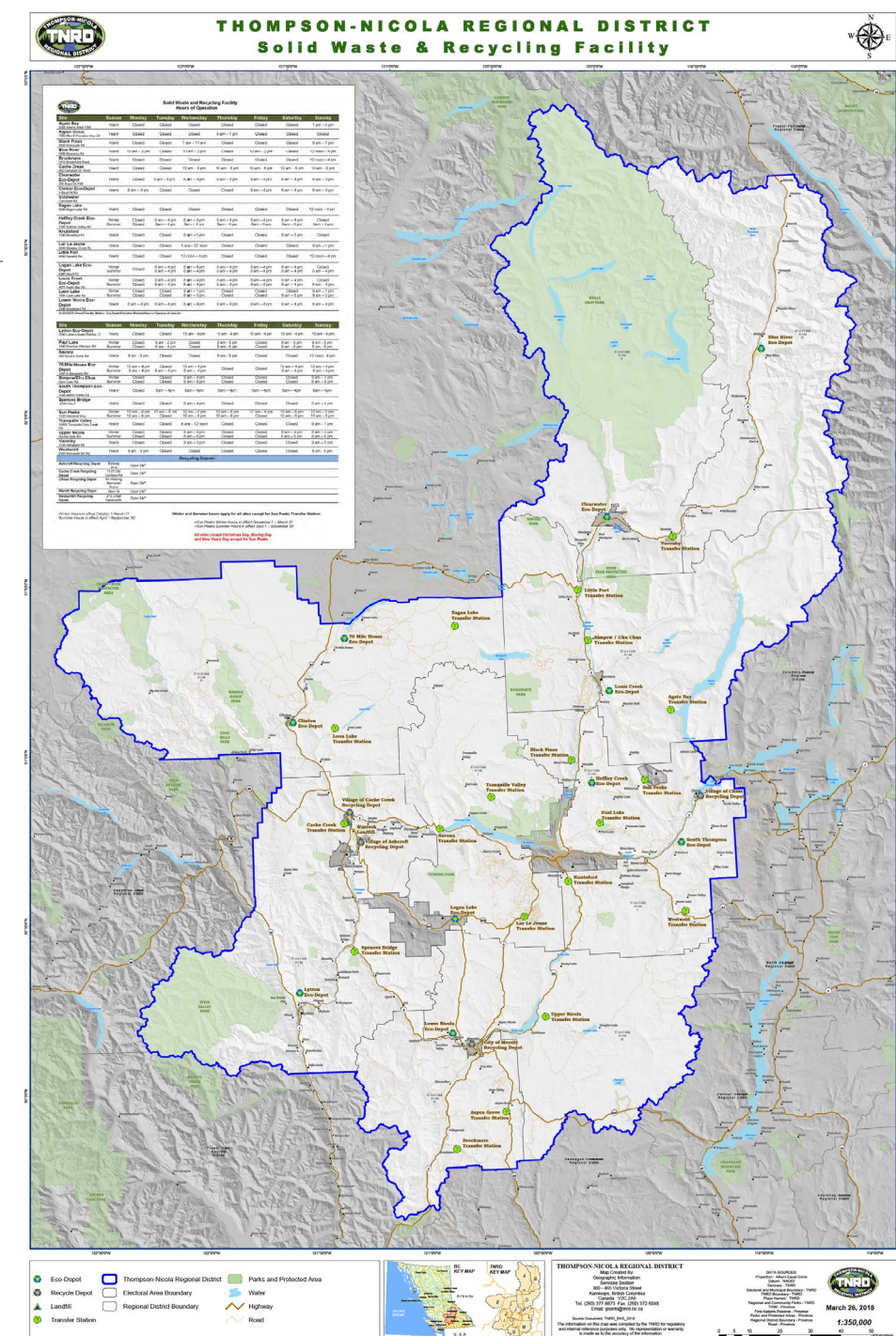
Looking Ahead



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



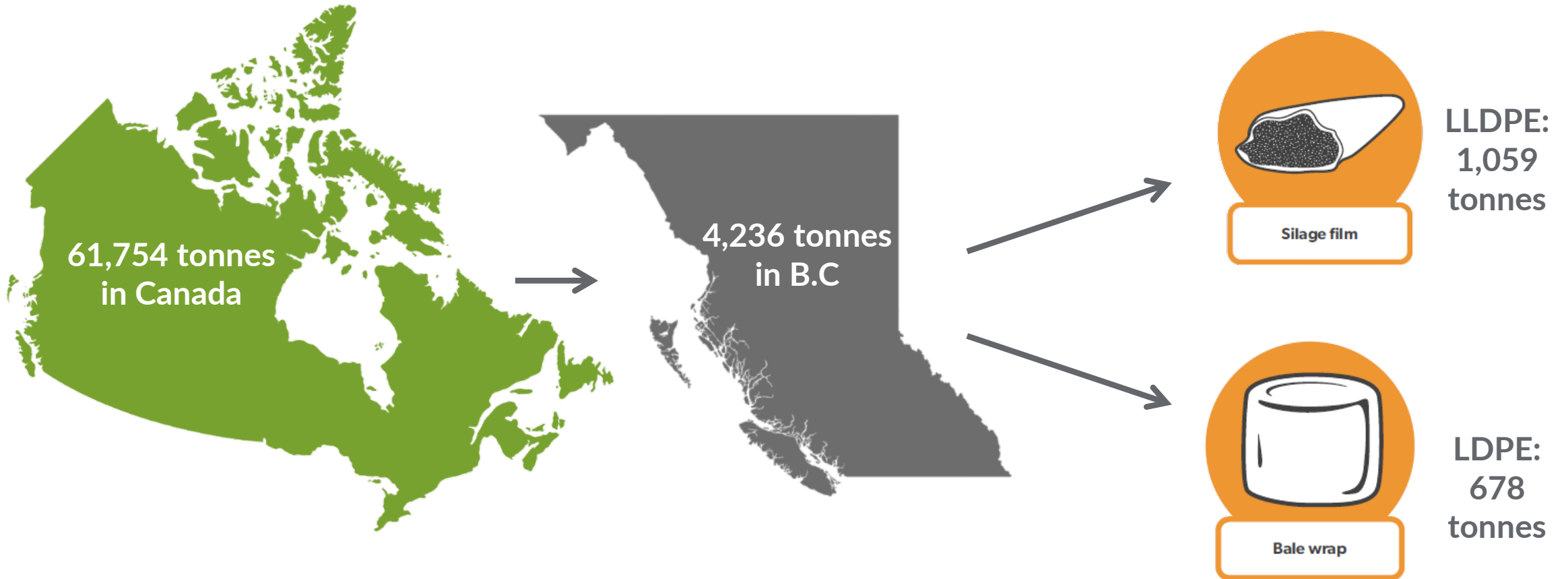
Pursue ongoing
agricultural plastics
recycling solutions
and evaluate policy
options for other
commercial
recyclables



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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

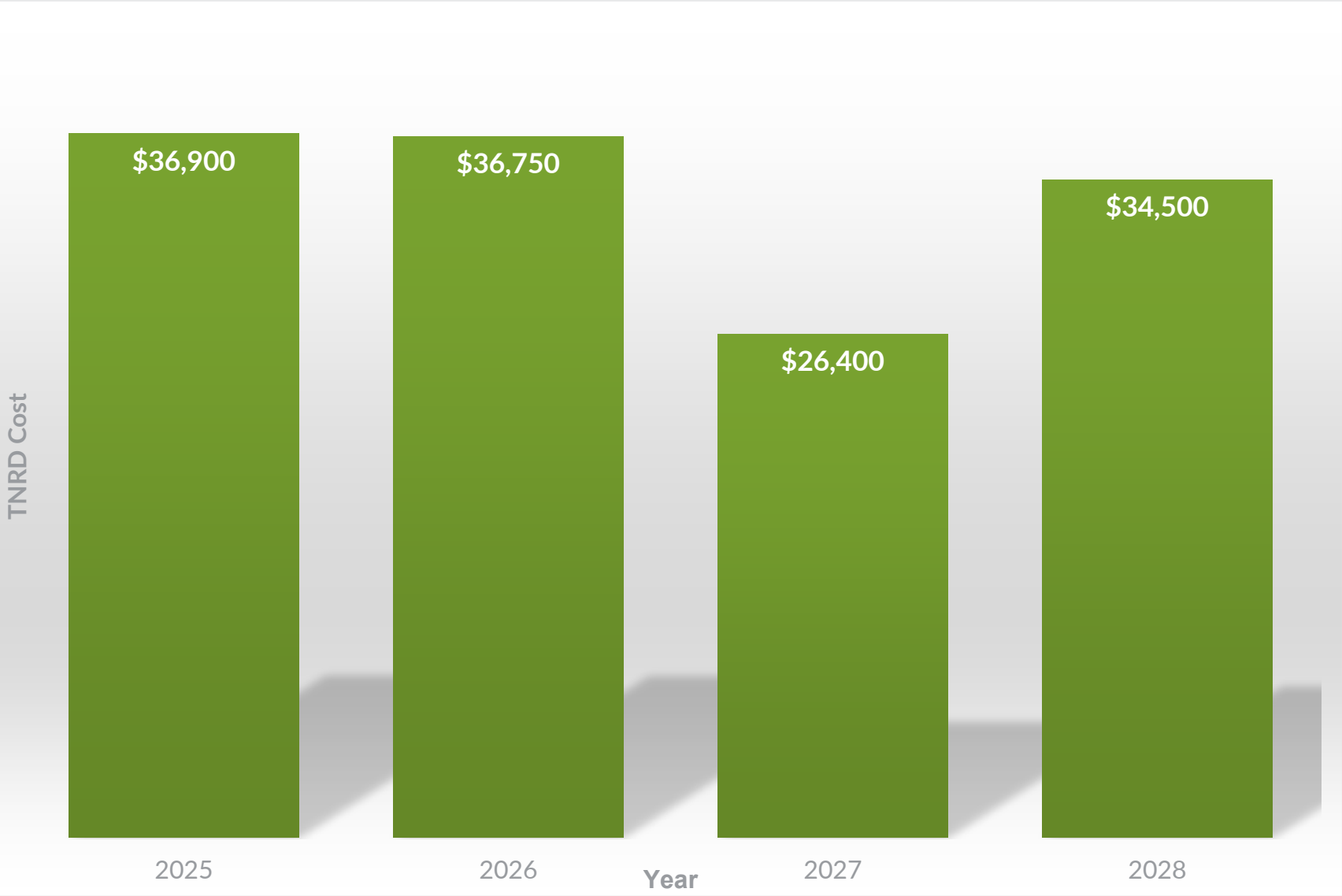
Major costs

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



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TNRD Cost Per Year



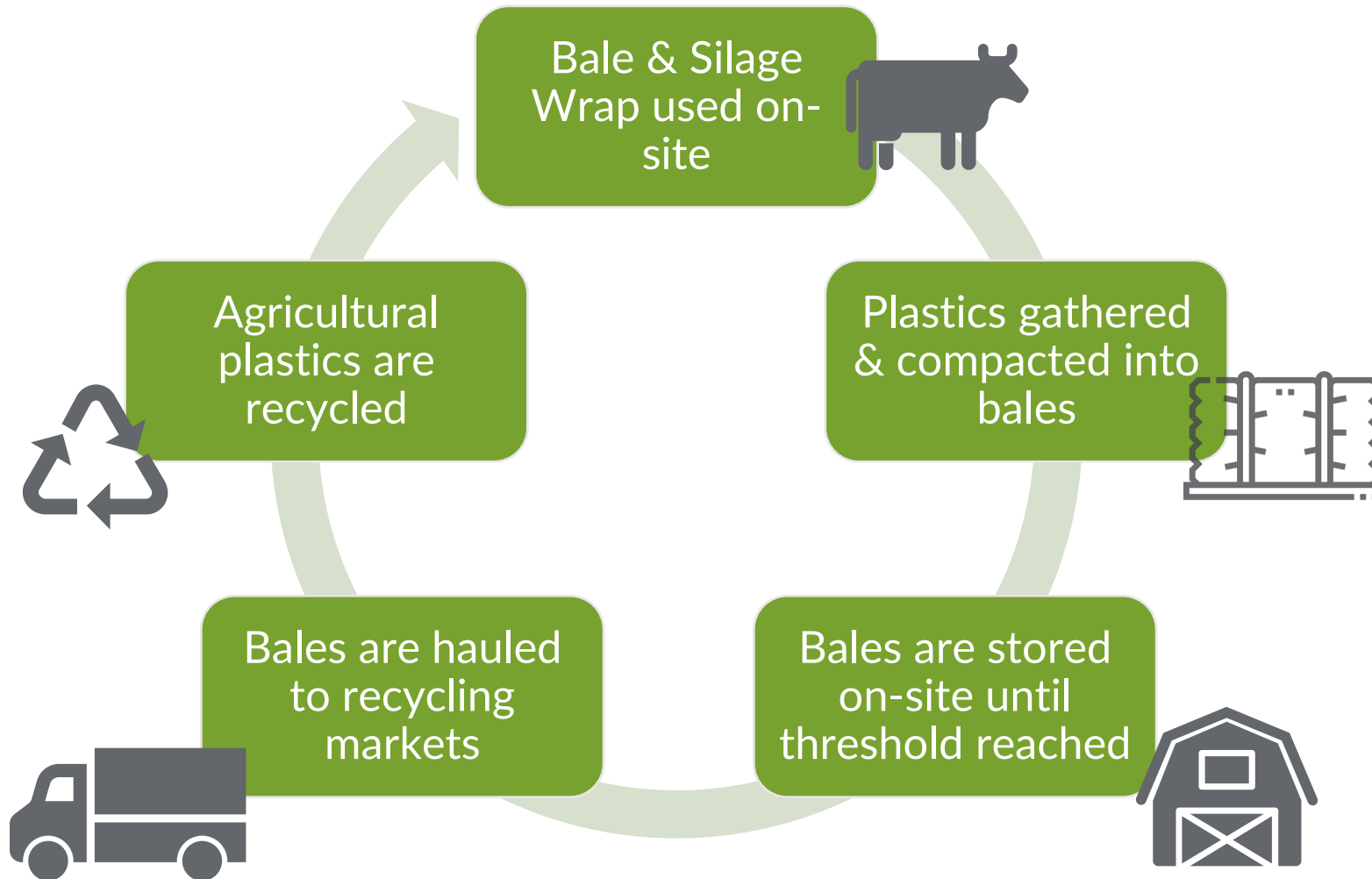
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TNRD Ag Plastics Pilot

- 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
Chinook Cove Ranch

2027

● Prospects Identified



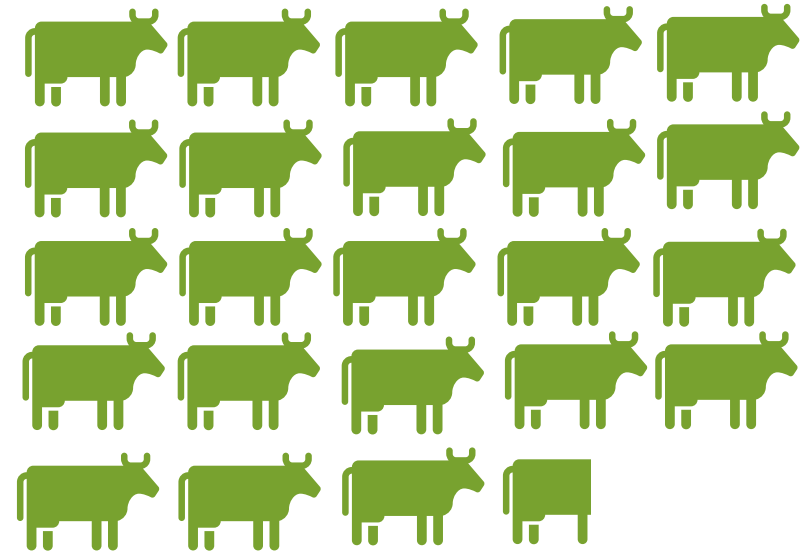
Agricultural Plastics Pilot

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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