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## **GVRD TRANSFER STATION FIRST IN NORTH AMERICA TO ACHIEVE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CERTIFICATION**

The Greater Vancouver Regional District's (GVRD'S) Sustainable Regional Initiative racked up another award when its transfer station in Surrey became the first building of its kind in North America to win LEED (Silver) Certification. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design and is the benchmark for progressive environmental design in North America.

"It's a great honour for us to be recognized nationally for our leadership role in sustainable building design," said GVRD Waste Management Committee Chair Jon Kingsbury. "It reflects the GVRD's Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI) commitment to implement sustainability practices in all we do."

The facility was planned and developed to include the principles of sustainability right from the beginning. The transfer station is located on a remediated industrial site, utilizes construction materials with recycled content and has been fitted with features to reduce the amount of energy and water used.

In addition, options for alternative transportation were fully integrated into the design of the transfer station, including an on-site energizing station for electric vehicles, bicycle storage and changing rooms for staff, minimal parking capacity, as well as an innovative traffic design to reduce emissions pollution from vehicles waiting to use the facility.

The transfer station receives more than 150,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste generated by Surrey and Langley residents each year, enabling these materials to be separated and then recycled or disposed of safely and efficiently.

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### **Backgrounder attached**

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# Transfer Station Backgrounder



## Key project details

<b>Building:</b>	5,400 square metres (60,000 sq ft) Insulated steel frame building
<b>Cost:</b>	\$9 million
<b>Contractor:</b>	VANMAR Constructors Inc., Langley, BC
<b>Operator:</b>	Wastech Services Ltd., Coquitlam, BC
<b>Location:</b>	9770 192 <sup>nd</sup> St., Port Kells, Surrey
<b>Hours of operation:</b>	Monday to Friday                      8:00 am – 5:00 pm Saturday & Sunday                      8:00 am – 6:00 pm

## Sustainability features

Promoting and modeling sustainability is a central focus of the GVRD's Sustainable Region Initiative (SRI). As part of the GVRD's commitment to a sustainable region, the design and construction of the transfer station features:

**Site remediation** – the site has been satisfactorily remediated to meet Ministry of Environment standards for industrial land use and aquatic life water use.

**Reduced use of resources** – greater use of natural light decreases the amount of electricity and heating required. Water flow control fixtures will reduce water use by 30 per cent and using native, drought-resistant plants for landscaping reduces the need for irrigation. High-recycled content construction materials were also used wherever possible.

**Transfer Station Monitoring Committee** – provided design input during the early phase of the project and have also monitored construction of the transfer station. Made up of representatives from community associations, property and business owners near the site and

an environmental organization familiar with local conditions, this group will also provide feedback on the ongoing operation of the facility.

**Design and Construction**– the facility was designed and constructed using the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System for guidance. The facility has been LEED-certified Silver by the U.S. Green Building Council.

**Transportation**– the operations were planned for 2021 traffic flows and designed to optimize traffic flows by separating residential and commercial activities, and by eliminating entry/exit traffic crossover and bottlenecks. This will reduce the time spent by vehicles idling in lineups.

In addition, bicycle storage and change rooms are available for staff, public transit is nearby, and an on-site charging station for electric vehicles has been incorporated into the facility.

### **GVRD Transfer Stations:**

- Provide a convenient location for local residents, businesses and garbage collection agencies to drop off residential and commercial wastes and recyclables.
- Reduce illegal dumping, regional traffic and air quality impacts, and costs for residential and commercial haulers.