

# Environmental Services

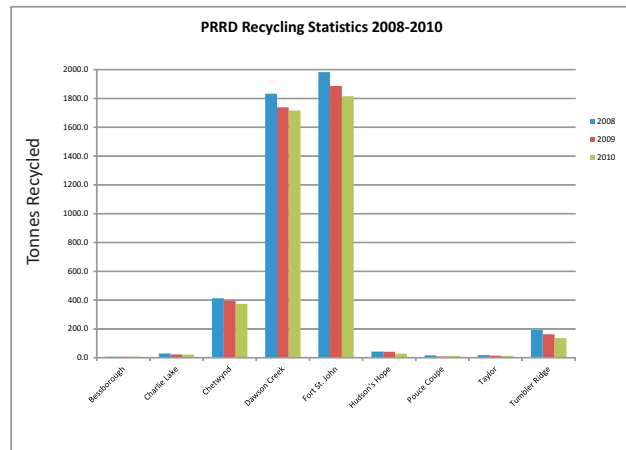
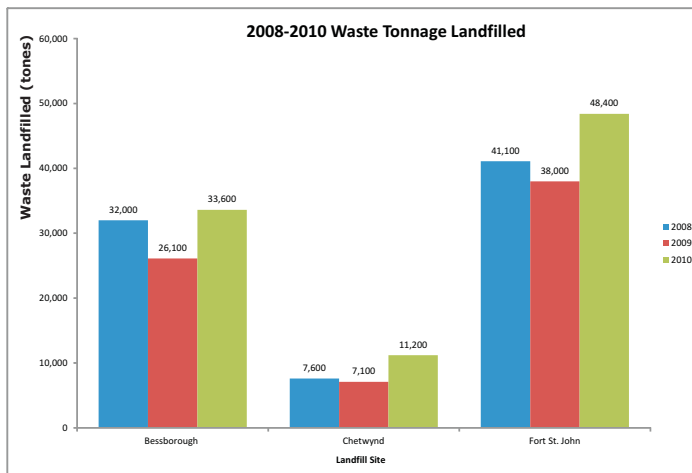
## Regional Solid Waste Management

In 2010, the Regional District introduced a new coupon program for the free disposal of eligible residential waste. The coupons, which are issued to owners of residential property with improvements, provide a convenient solution for clean-up that also reduces operating costs for the District.

A new weigh scale software program was deployed at all sub-regional landfills and the Dawson Creek transfer station for processing incoming waste loads, managing the financial aspects of account billing, data analysis and reporting.

As identified in the Regional District's Solid Waste Management Plan, a working group was organized with representatives from the construction and demolition industry for the purpose of identifying recycling and diversion opportunities to avoid the unnecessary landfilling of certain waste materials.

A total of 95,000 tonnes of waste was received at landfills in 2010 compared with 73,000 tonnes in 2009, a 30% increase. This is a reflection of increased economic activity within the Regional District resulting in higher levels of waste generation. The Regional District is continuing to explore new programs that will work toward the goal of increased waste diversion.



## Recycling

Markets for recyclable materials collected within the District continue to strengthen as a result of a recovery in the global economy, which has helped to offset costs in operating the recycling program.

Recycling drop-off facilities are located throughout the Regional District providing easy access to both rural and municipal residents. These bins, along with recycling and bottle depot locations in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Tumbler Ridge, make recycling convenient for Regional District residents. In addition, the Regional District's recycling contractor offers a voluntary, fee-based curbside collection service for municipal residents in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek. An increasing number of residents are signing up for this curbside recycling service.

Moberly Lake Transfer Station



Dawson Creek Transfer Station

# Environmental Services (continued)



Orange Hawkweed



Marsh Plume Thistle



Yellow Hawkweed

## **Noxious Weeds**

Through the activities of the Northeast Invasive Plant Committee (NEIPC), the Peace River Regional District is continuing to actively pursue the control of invasive plants in our region. The NEIPC continues to be a strong committee whose thirty-five members are tasked with regional invasive plant management through the adoption of the NEIPC plan profile. Invasive plant control was conducted under contract and funded through a variety of funding partners.

The Pine Pass Weed Project was started in 2006 and is ongoing. The program focuses on controlling Ox Eye Daisy and Hawkweeds throughout the Pine Pass recognizing that this area is a conduit for the spread of new invaders in our region. The program is an aggressive spraying program with goals to meet objectives and obligations for invasive plant management on Crown and private sector land within the Pine Pass. The Regional District see this project as the front line battle in managing invasive plan encroachment in the Peace region.

The Regional District administers a regional weed response program with funding partners, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's contributed \$200,000 for roadside control, the Ministry of Forests and Range provided a \$91,000 grant to treat community pastures and grazing tenures in the region and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands provided \$50,000 toward the Regional District's Invasive Plant program.

## **Water and Sewer**

In 2010 the Regional District completed the installation of a much needed community sewer system for fifty land parcels of the Imperial and Harper Subdivisions. The project, located within the fringe area of Dawson Creek, was completed at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million. The project could not have possible without the participation of the City of Dawson Creek who agreed to tying the sewer system into their infrastructure. Funding for the project came by way of a Stimulus Infrastructure grant that saw 66% government funding, and the remaining 33% from the local landowners receiving the service.

Currently the Peace River Regional District manages seven sewer systems and five water systems throughout the region. The water systems of the Peace River Regional District vary from the municipal type system to treated and raw-water tank loading facilities. The tank loading facilities provide well water or natural spring water to the public at no charge.

Typically rural properties in the Regional District have their own water and sewer systems, but as rural population densities expand, there are more requests for community sewer and water systems.