

SGIRC Report for GIRR AGM 2021

The Southern Gulf Islands Recycling Coalition met several times via zoom in the first eight months of 2021, meeting remotely because of covid with the focus mostly being on handling covid regulations at our depots. In September we met in person on Salt Spring and toured Peter Grant's community recycling operation there. We discussed the upcoming work promised by the ministry to create EPR programmes for emerging electronics, mattresses, Household Hazardous Waste and Industrial, Commercial and Institutional recycling of PPP. Sheila Molloy, the executive person in the Coast Waste Management Association, reported on the work that the UVic engineering department is doing to create a recycled use for Category 9 plastics. As well, Sheila is involved in an ongoing investigation into whether we might be able to arrange some opportunities to collect and ship non PPP rigid plastics.

In October I attended, virtually, the CWMA conference. The emphasis was on Reduce and Reuse. One main concern discussed was that of textile waste entering and, in some third world countries, creating landfills. The 'fast fashion' culture is a major problem in this sphere. We need to encourage the creation and purchase of well made, long lasting clothing. Levi has pledged to create such products. Public education is of paramount importance.

There were also a number of zoom meetings with Island and Remote Communities, a new grouping created by CWMA to discuss common problems in dealing with such items as Household Hazardous Waste, tires, and textiles when dealing with distance from larger recycling facilities or ferry regulations. From this group the Gabriola recycling community has developed an ambitious plan to recycle textiles on island and make saleable items in the larger world. Thus far they have acquired space to work and a shredder for dealing with materials, as well as beginning markets for at least one of their recycled creations.