

Long-term vision for solid waste management in the SLRD:

1. The ultimate goal is zero waste¹ – all of our discards are regarded as resources.
2. To the greatest extent possible, these resources are used locally, thereby moving the SLRD towards a closed-loop economy.
3. The system to manage discards is financially self-sustaining. Embedded in this goal is to have the cost to purchase a product include the cost of re-resourcing it at the end of its useful life.
4. Citizens are actively engaged in behaviours that reflect the waste management hierarchy (i.e. reduce before reuse before recycle...)
5. Until we have achieved zero waste, the infrastructure to manage residual waste meets or exceeds provincial guidelines and regulatory requirements.

Note: The above list could also be used as evaluation criteria when assessing options...

1. Supports local economic development
2. Moves towards the goal of zero waste
3. Financially sustainable
4. Drives behaviour change in support of the waste management hierarchy
5. Enhances environmental protection

¹ A definition of zero waste from the Zero Waste International Alliance: “Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero Waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing Zero Waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health.”