OPTIONS TO DISPOSE OF COMBUSTIBLE WASTE

Part 2 of Fireplan
by Dave Robertson

Presently,we are able to dispose of waste by calling Wayne Watson (542-3501) and asking him to haul it to his burnpit on the reservation. Every January he sets it ablaze and we stand around it enjoying “a really big bonfire”.

The advantage of this, is that the waste is transported to and stored in a secure area, and burned safely: the disadvantage is that it is expensive if there is only a small amount of waste to get rid of.

TRENCH BURNER – CURTAIN BURNER

A trench burner will burn the fuel cleanly without pollution. Air is blown into the fire and it burns hot and fast.

In this case I had to help put out a two hectare fire up the hill because the fire escaped from the burn pit. This was in Lake District.

The disadvantage of this setup is:

1- Burning can only occur when it is safe (when the fire season is over)
2- The fire can still escape if not watched closely.
3- The concrete pit burns out and must be rebuilt frequently.
4- Equipment (backhoe or excavator) and operators must move the fuel into the pit and conduct the burn at considerable cost.
5- The burner is heavy and expensive to move.
6- A pit and a secure stockade (fenced) must be built to prevent premature ignition (arson) of stockpiled waste.
7- Waste must be hauled to the stockade, and the compound must be unlocked for access-a procedure impossible for the average homeowner.

To the best of my knowledge, no planning or provisions have been made to address these concerns. The only advantage I can think of over the present setup is that the waste will burn cleanly, and that The Regional District already has some burners which we could borrow.


Notice the burn pit has eroded and the fire has escaped into the forest.

A commercial model of a trench burner is shown below.


It has the same disadvantages mentioned previously, with the advantage that it can be towed from pit to pit.

The curtain burner is basically the same clean-burning concept without the burn pit. It weighs 50,000 pounds. A photo is below.


A second option: CHIPPER - RECYCLER:
In my opinion a chipper-recycler setup is the better option, the advantages being:

1- They can be operated any time of year, and easily moved anywhere.
2- They are cost effective.
3- The chips can be broadcast over the original site to make mulch, or they can be stockpiled easily and safely to be hauled to a co-generation plant. I understand there is one in Armstrong literally begging for fuel. There the waste is burned cleanly and generates power as well!
4- Small portable disc or drum chippers (cost about $20,000) can easily be hauled from home to home. Larger ones can handle heavier material and be stationed at a site until they are moved to the next site. The chips could be stockpiled in a bin for hauling. A small one could be securely parked at the transfer station to chip waste into a designated bin, then moved to peoples' homes on request.


The larger recycler can handle larger trees and brush as well as waste such as pallets and wood construction material.

This machine can also be easily moved.

In conclusion, I think chipper recyclers would be more cost effective and sensible, as well as being much more versatile and convenient to us all.

For info: Go to www.banditchippers.com for chippers. (Dealer in Vernon)

And go to: www.industrialcleanburn.com for burners. (Dealer in Duncan)