



# Metro Vancouver Services Backgrounder

January 2023

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. It delivers regional scale water, wastewater, and solid waste utility services. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations:  (Katzie),  (Kwantlen), k (Kwkwetlem), m (Matsqui), x (Musqueam), q (Qayqayt), se (Semiahmoo), Skwxw (Squamish), sc (Tsawwassen), and s (Tsleil-Waututh).

Metro Vancouver respects the diverse and distinct histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, M, and Inuit, which collectively enrich our lives and the region.

Front cover: Satellite view of the region

**metro**vancouver

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January 2023

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# About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewer and drainage, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional forum.

The governance framework under which Metro Vancouver operates consists of four separate legal entities, each with specific legislation:

- The Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD)
- The Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD)
- The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD)
- Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation (MVHC)

## Mission and Vision

### Vision

*Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation in providing sustainable regional services that contribute to a livable and resilient region and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations.*

### Mission

Metro Vancouver's mission is guided by its three broad roles.

#### **1. Serve as a Regional Federation**

Serve as the main political forum for discussion of significant community issues at the regional level and facilitate the collaboration of members in delivering the services best provided at the regional level.

#### **2. Deliver Core Services**

Provide regional utility services related to drinking water, liquid waste, and solid waste to members. Provide regional services, including parks and affordable housing, directly to residents and act as the local government for Electoral Area A.

#### **3. Plan for the Region**

Carry out planning and regulatory responsibilities related to the three utility services as well as air quality and climate change, regional planning, regional parks, Electoral Area A, affordable housing, labour relations, regional economic prosperity, and regional emergency management.



# Service Areas





## Water Services

### Overview

Metro Vancouver provides clean, safe drinking water to residents and businesses through the member jurisdictions of the Greater Vancouver Water District (GVWD). This includes acquiring and maintaining water supply, as well as treating, testing, and delivering drinking water through a system of water supply areas, dams, treatment facilities, reservoirs, pump stations, and water mains.

Metro Vancouver's source water supply is stored in three main reservoirs and three supplemental alpine reservoirs. The water comes from rainfall and snowmelt within three major water supply areas: Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam. These water supply areas cover about 60,000 hectares of protected land, which is closed to the public in order to safeguard the high quality of the source water.

Drinking water is a valuable and essential resource and in this region we are fortunate to live near a clean and safe supply of water that can reliably meet the needs of a growing region. Metro Vancouver uses the most current information available to plan for changes in population and climate, as well as other challenges impacting the supply and delivery of water.

However, as in anywhere in the world, drinking water conservation is critical to our long-term planning, particularly as the number of weather-related climate change events like extended summer droughts increases. Every day, residents and businesses in the region collectively consume an average of one billion litres of drinking water — enough to fill BC Place — making Metro Vancouver's per capita water use one of the highest in Canada. It is critical that we work collectively with our members to continue to encourage ways to save treated drinking water for where it is needed most: cooking, cleaning, and drinking. Helping residents and businesses use only what they need contributes to an efficient and cost-effective water system.

Metro Vancouver distributes drinking water to member jurisdictions on a cost recovery basis. Member jurisdictions then deliver drinking water, through their infrastructure, directly to residents and businesses. All individual billing and enforcement of water use restrictions is undertaken by each respective member jurisdiction.

## SCALE AT A GLANCE

- 3 water supply areas
- 3 reservoirs: Capilano, Seymour, and Coquitlam
- 5 water supply dams
- 2 water treatment plants
- 19 pump stations
- 27 in-system storage reservoirs and tanks
- 8 re-chlorination facilities
- 520 km+ of transmission water mains

### Current Project Examples

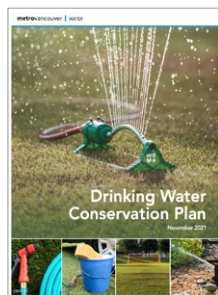
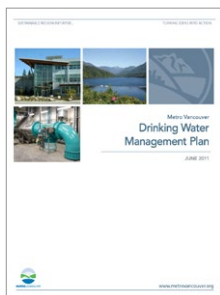
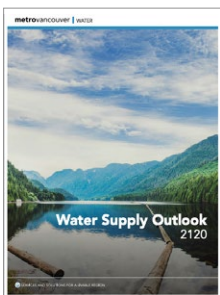
#### Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project:

Population growth and climate change will have continued impacts on our drinking water supply and system, and we are planning for the future with these in mind. Metro Vancouver is able to provide enough drinking water to support growth in the region by expanding the use of existing water supply sources. The Coquitlam Reservoir is the largest of our three drinking water sources. We can access more water and remain resilient to climate change by building a new water intake, tunnel, and water treatment plant. A project to achieve this, the Coquitlam Lake Water Supply Project, is currently in early works, with construction anticipated to begin in the late 2020s and completion targeted for the late 2030s.

#### Water Supply Tunnels and Resiliency:

In the 1990s, Metro Vancouver completed a study to identify resiliency requirements for the water system following an earthquake. As a result of the study, we've been improving resiliency of key marine crossings to withstand a Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) because this infrastructure would be very difficult to repair after a major earthquake. To date, the Port Mann Water Supply Tunnel has been completed. Currently, the Second Narrows Water Supply Tunnel and Annacis Water Supply Tunnel are in progress. Work on two additional tunnels is planned to happen in the future.

### Core Guiding Plans



[Water Supply Outlook 2120](#)

[Drinking Water Management Plan](#)

[Drinking Water Conservation Plan](#)





## Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver is responsible for:

- Managing and protecting the water supply areas
- Storing, treating, and ensuring the quality of drinking water to meet provincial Drinking Water Protection Act and federal Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality regulatory requirements
- Transmission of drinking water directly to member jurisdictions
- Upgrading, maintaining, and expanding our system
- Planning for future supply and demand

Once the drinking water leaves Metro Vancouver's water supply system and enters into the local distribution mains, the water is the responsibility of the member jurisdiction.

Member jurisdictions are responsible for:

- Delivering drinking water to residents and businesses
- Monitoring and reporting on local system water quality

- Recovering costs from residential and business customers (billing)
- Translating the [Drinking Water Conservation Plan](#) (lawn watering regulations) into bylaws and bylaw enforcement
- Planning for and maintaining their water distribution systems

British Columbia's health authorities have a key role in providing provincial government oversight of drinking water systems. The Metro Vancouver drinking water system falls within the purview of the two Health Authorities that cover the Lower Mainland: Vancouver Coastal Health and Fraser Health.

## Public Campaigns

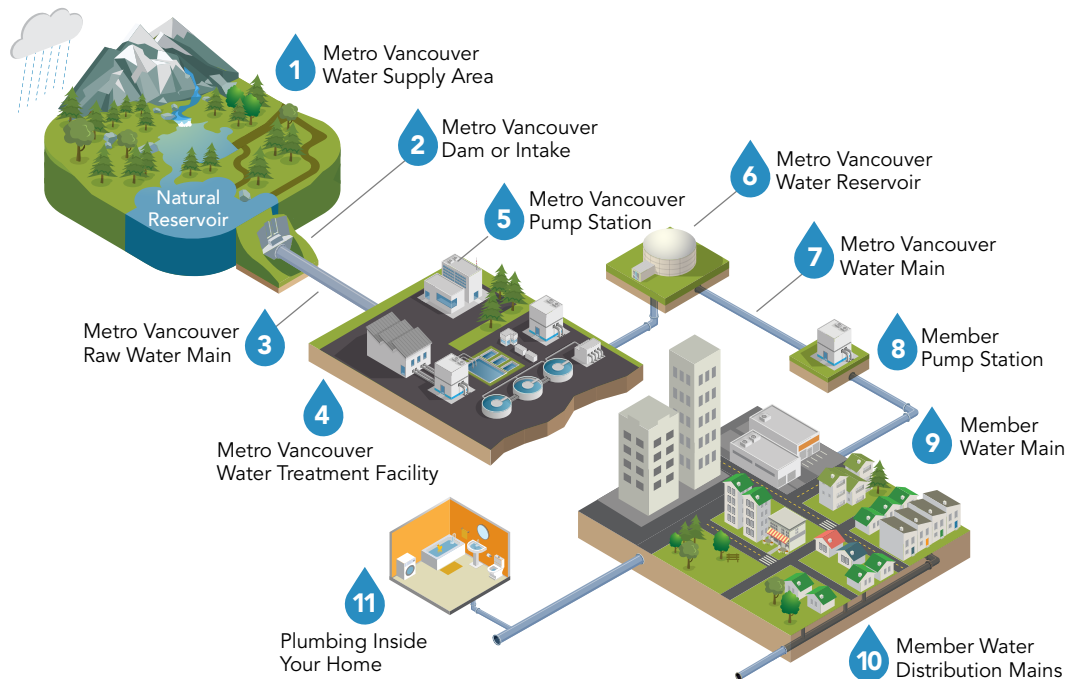


### We Love Water

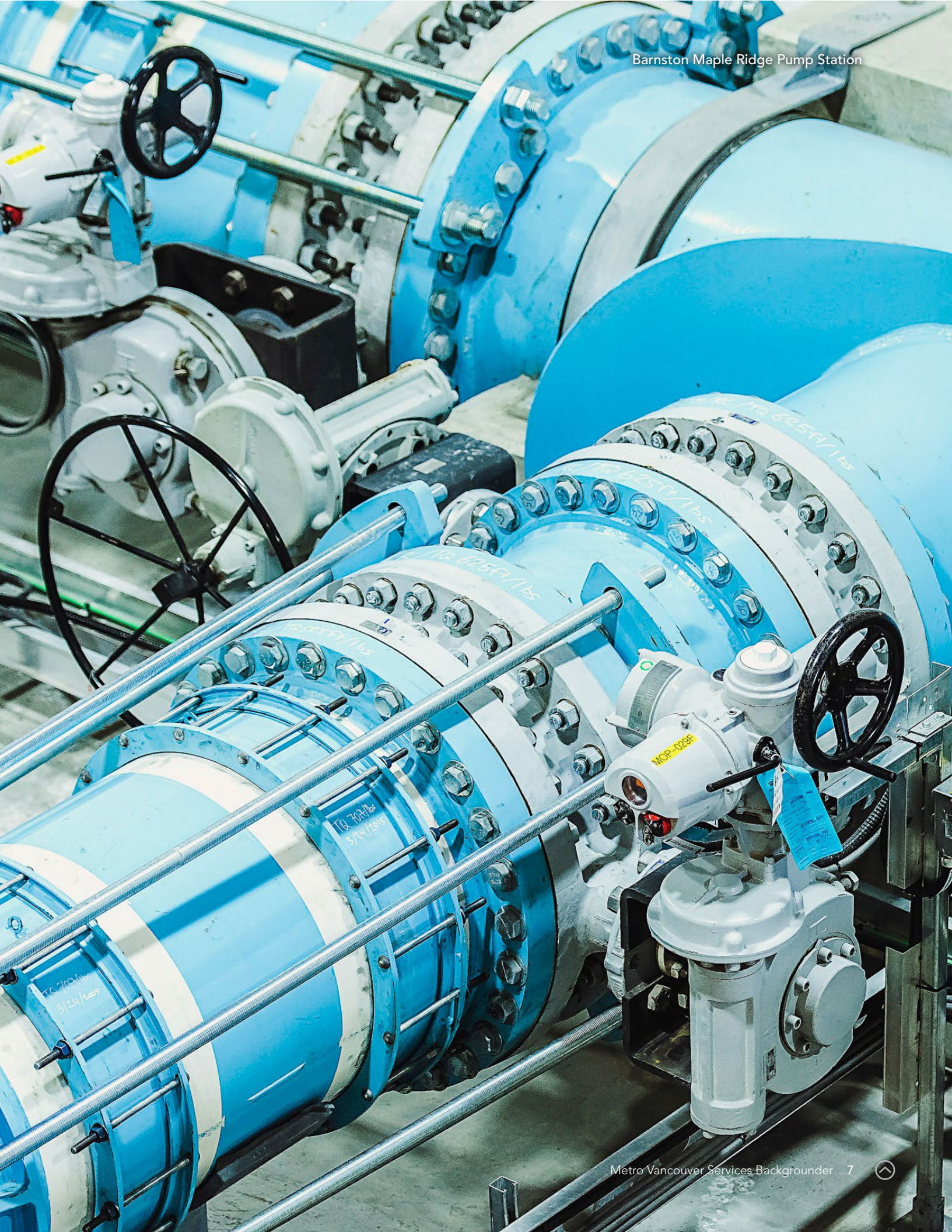
Focuses on drinking water conservation opportunities and builds awareness on the water source and system.

May – September

## WATER SYSTEM AT WORK









## Liquid Waste

### Overview

Metro Vancouver provides reliable, cost-effective wastewater treatment that protects public health and the environment. This includes planning for the long-term resilience and sustainability of regional liquid waste and drainage systems.

Metro Vancouver receives wastewater from municipal systems and carries it to one of five wastewater treatment plants, where it is treated and tested before being released into the Fraser River, Burrard Inlet, or Georgia Strait. This combined regional and municipal infrastructure includes over 15,000 km of sewers and processes over 1 billion litres of wastewater every day. A separate system of municipal stormwater sewers captures rain and melting snow and discharges it directly into the nearest body of water.

Projects are underway at four of Metro Vancouver's wastewater treatment plants to upgrade, expand, or replace critical infrastructure. Projects vary by facility, but are generally geared toward ensuring the

continuity of services, minimizing costs, improving the level of treatment, increasing capacity, boosting resource recovery, reducing odour, enhancing ecosystems, and better withstanding earthquakes and sea level rise.

Metro Vancouver also regulates discharge of potentially harmful materials into the wastewater system from commercial, industrial, and residential sources. It develops and enforces regulations, issues permits to industry, provides resources to commercial and industrial users, and educates the public through regional campaigns.

Metro Vancouver is working on various initiatives to make the most of the resources in wastewater, including recovering energy in the form of heat, electricity, and renewable natural gas and recovering reclaimed water and nutrients that can improve soil productivity.

## SCALE AT A GLANCE

5 wastewater treatment plants

530 km+ of trunk sewers

34 wastewater pumping stations

Recreational water quality testing at 41 locations (114 sampling sites) across the region

1 wastewater research centre

Management of two urban drainage areas

3 wastewater storage tanks

1 chemistry laboratory, 1 central process lab, and 4 smaller process labs at each wastewater treatment plant

## Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver is responsible for:

- Operating a system that collects and treats wastewater
- Testing and environmental monitoring
- Developing and enforcing regulations to protect the wastewater system and the environment
- Issuing permits to industry and collecting fees associated with bylaws
- Recovering resources within the regional wastewater system, including heat, energy, and biosolids
- Planning for the future and building regional infrastructure
- Setting fees and development cost charges to cover wastewater services and new infrastructure
- Reporting to provincial and federal agencies on Metro Vancouver's compliance with regulatory requirements, including wastewater discharges to the environment and sewer overflows

- Supporting member jurisdictions to manage stormwater by facilitating information sharing, helping to develop tools and resources, and acting as liaison with regulatory bodies
- Providing drainage services on certain sections of waterways within two urban drainage areas, in collaboration with member jurisdictions

Member jurisdictions are responsible for:

- Operating municipal sewer systems and pump stations that collect wastewater from homes, businesses, and institutions and deliver it to the regional wastewater system
- Planning for and maintaining their wastewater systems
- Developing policies and infrastructure to manage stormwater and drainage
- Recovering fees and development cost charges from residents and businesses
- Enforcing municipal regulations
- Recovering resources within the municipal wastewater system





## Current Project Examples

Metro Vancouver is currently undertaking upgrades and expansions at four of our wastewater treatment plants in order to come up to date with federal regulatory requirements and to accommodate the growing population. This work will ensure that the treated wastewater that is released into the marine environment is much cleaner.

Projects include:

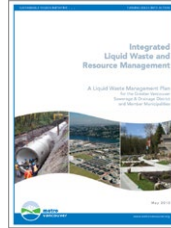
[Annacis Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion](#)

[North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant Program](#)

[Northwest Langley Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects](#)

[Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant Projects](#)

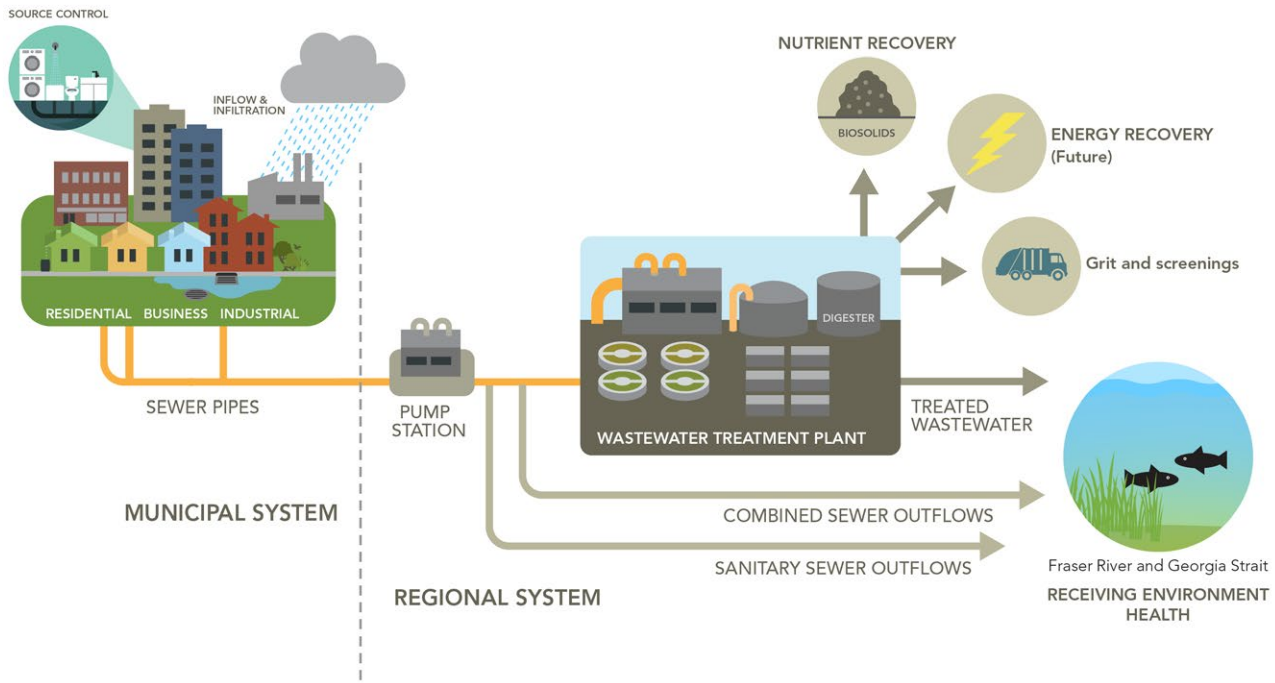
## Core Guiding Plan



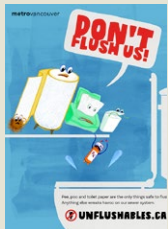
[Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan \(2010\)](#)

[Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan Update \(underway\)](#)

## WHERE DOES YOUR WASTEWATER GO?



## Public Source Control Campaigns



### Unflushables

Asks residents to correctly dispose of seven key items that cause problems for our wastewater system and our environment when flushed

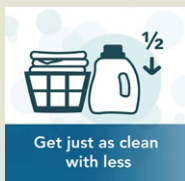
*April – June*



### Wipe It, Green Bin It

Asks residents to put fats, oils, and grease in their green bins, not down their sinks, where they can clog sewers and contribute to sewer overflows

*Fall*



### Reducing Soaps and Detergents

Asks residents to use less soap and detergent, as these can be hard to fully remove during treatment and can end up in the environment

*In market when seeing high surfactant counts at wastewater treatment plants*



### Our Ocean Thanks You

Asks residents to wash their clothes in cold to reduce microfibre shedding because microfibres are one of the largest sources of microplastics in our ocean

*Fall*



### Reducing Sewer Overflows from Inflow and Infiltration

Helps residents understand how their property's damaged sewer pipes contribute to sewer overflows by letting in water that overloads the wastewater system

*Late October – mid-November*





## Solid Waste

### Overview

Metro Vancouver has one of North America's highest recycling rates due to a commitment by residents and businesses to recycling, excellent policy that supports waste diversion, and a mix of public and private infrastructure that work together to maximize recycling.

Metro Vancouver is responsible for waste reduction and recycling planning for the region. Metro Vancouver also operates a series of solid waste facilities serving residents and businesses across the region. Metro Vancouver's solid waste and air quality regulatory frameworks support enterprises advancing zero waste and the circular economy and protect the environment.

Residents expect us to demonstrate exemplary environmental stewardship and to keep waste management costs down. The solid waste system is based on a user-pay principle to ensure those who generate the waste pay for its management, rather than the costs being covered by taxpayers.

Planning initiatives include promoting waste reduction, boosting opportunities for reuse, and improving recycling infrastructure, all while managing the remaining waste in an environmentally responsible manner and recovering energy and resources from waste. Metro Vancouver also regulates private sector facilities, such as recycling and composting facilities.

This allows Metro Vancouver to track and measure success in waste reduction and ensure that resource recovery opportunities are leveraged for prosperity in this region.

Today, the Metro Vancouver region recycles 65 per cent of the waste it generates, with an aspirational target of an 80 per cent recycling rate. Metro Vancouver's recycling rate is approximately twice the national average. By reducing, reusing, and recycling, the people of the region have managed to decrease the amount of waste generated by 11 per cent since 2010. However, we still produce 450 kilograms (0.45 tonnes) of garbage per person per year, which is why Metro Vancouver has developed cutting-edge policy and regulations to address this issue. Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program, for example, is second to none in North America and involves inspecting over 200,000 loads of garbage per year for recyclables, with surcharges levied when excess recyclables are present in loads. 2,300,000 tonnes of recycling occurs annually in Metro Vancouver, generating significant economic benefit in the region.

Other Metro Vancouver initiatives such as the National Zero Waste Council bring together organizations nationwide to support waste prevention in Canada and advance the circular economy.

## SCALE AT A GLANCE

① 6 recycling and waste centres

① 1 Waste-to-Energy Facility

① Seamless integration with City of Vancouver facilities such as the Vancouver Landfill and Vancouver South Transfer Station

① Use of remote contingency disposal to manage any garbage that can't be accommodated in the local system

### The National Zero Waste Council

The [National Zero Waste Council](#) is an initiative of Metro Vancouver that is leading Canada's transition to a circular economy by bringing together governments, businesses, and NGOs to advance a waste prevention agenda that maximizes economic opportunities for the benefit of all Canadians.

The organization was founded by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in 2013. The Council has united, among others, six of Canada's largest metropolitan regions — Metro Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, Calgary, and Edmonton — with key business and government leaders, academia, and non-profit organizations in a call for national action and system change to address waste generation.

The National Zero Waste Council is governed by a management board, with staff and administrative support provided by a secretariat. The Council uses member-led working groups to collaboratively advance projects in support of its vision and mission.

### Core Guiding Plans



Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (2010)

Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (underway)





## Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver is responsible for:

- Operating solid waste facilities in the region that focus on maximizing opportunities for recycling and reuse
- Disposing of all remaining waste in landfill, after material recycling and energy recovery
- Implementing bylaws and regulations to better manage waste within our system, improve recycling, and protect public health and the environment (including regulations such as disposal bans and solid waste facility licensing)
- Protecting the receiving environment (air, land, and water)
- Seeking technologies that recover and recycle materials and recover energy
- Investing in infrastructure that will be resilient, adaptable to change, and reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources
- Influencing individual and collective behaviour to avoid generating unnecessary waste

Member jurisdictions are responsible for:

- Setting bylaws related to the sale and distribution of items such as single-use products
- Communicating waste reduction and recycling information along with collection details to residents
- Setting waste collection schedules and managing hauler contracts
- Collecting and managing abandoned garbage on municipal properties and streets
- Implementing bylaws and regulations related to waste collection, street use, litter, and other similar activities



## Public Source Control Campaigns



### Create Memories Not Garbage

Provides residents with low-waste gift and wrapping ideas to reduce unnecessary holiday waste

October – January



### More Than Meets the Eye

Encourages recycling of electronic items and reduce the amount of e-waste entering landfill

Runs during Waste Reduction Week in October



### Food Isn't Garbage

Asks residents to put organic waste into the green bin in order

to reduce our methane contributions and create compost and bioenergy

January – February



### Think Thrice About Your Clothes

Empowers residents to donate, recycle, reduce, and reuse textile items to increase diversion of textiles from the waste stream

February – May



### Love Food Hate Waste

Inspires and empowers people to prevent household food waste.

Building on the success of the regional campaign, the National Zero Waste Council launched a national campaign engaging audiences across Canada through a partnership arrangement. Metro Vancouver is one of eight partners in this cross-Canada, bilingual campaign to prevent food waste

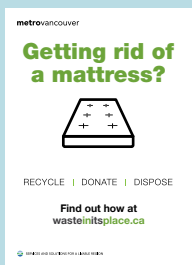
Spring and Fall



### What's Your Superhabit?

Focuses on reducing the use and disposal of single-use items among Metro Vancouver residents

May – August



### Put Waste In Its Place

Reminds residents how to properly dispose of unwanted household items with the goal of reducing abandoned waste on public or private property

Year-round



### Zero Waste Conference

Since 2010, the Zero Waste Conference has brought together business leaders, community innovators, and policy makers to explore the ideas and actions with the greatest potential to transform our communities and economies in support of a future without waste





# Regional Parks

## Overview

Green spaces are central to Metro Vancouver’s character and regional parks play a crucial role in making this region a desirable place to live. Parks benefit human health and wellbeing, support biodiversity, capture and store carbon, and increase resilience to climate impacts.

Metro Vancouver as an organization is a world leader in park management and stewards an extensive inventory of natural areas, including 23 regional parks, two ecological conservancy areas, two regional park reserves, and five regional greenways for a combined land base of over 13,800 hectares.

The region is recognized as one of BC’s top five biodiversity hotspots and contains a disproportionate number of ecological communities and species at risk. Unfortunately, sensitive ecosystems of the region are disappearing — between 2009 and 2014, over 1,600 hectares of sensitive ecosystems were lost and only 10 per cent of the region contains sensitive ecosystems that can still be protected. Collaboration and co-investment with other orders of government, municipalities, and non-profits is absolutely essential to protecting the remaining sensitive ecosystems.

As the region grows, the importance of protecting regional parks and connecting people to nature will only increase. Visitation numbers in 2020 and 2021 broke records, with an astounding 38 per cent increase in visits over previous years, as more and more people sought recreation and connection outdoors.

In order to maintain livability for the next generation of the region’s residents and visitors, Metro Vancouver created the Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy, which outlines how Metro Vancouver could grow the regional parks system before all the remaining unprotected natural areas are gone. It envisions growing the regional parks system into a network of resilient regional parks and greenways that protect regionally important natural areas and connect people to them. Through public education and interpretation programs delivered year-round, Metro Vancouver is working to help instill a deeper understanding of the natural environment and strengthen connection to nature, especially among young people.

## Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation

Led by an independent board of directors, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Foundation (previously known as Pacific Parklands Foundation) is the only registered charity dedicated to supporting Metro Vancouver’s regional parks. Started in 2000, the organization has a unique partnership with Metro Vancouver in which Metro Vancouver covers the operating and administrative costs of the foundation. The foundation creates programs and funding opportunities to support special projects and partner groups in enhancing and expanding the regional parks system.

## SCALE AT A GLANCE

- 🌲 23 regional parks
- 🌲 5 regional greenways
- 🌲 2 ecological conservancy areas
- 🌲 2 regional park reserves
- 🌲 13,800 hectares of land
- 🌲 291 km of trails, 618 bridges and boardwalks, 66 km of fencing
- 🌲 16.3 million visits in 2021
- 🌲 76 hectares of parkland added to the regional parks system in 2021
- 🌲 23,670 participants in 822 programs and events in 2021
- 🌲 3,751 volunteers including park partners contributed 11,606 hours to stewardship, education, and interpretive programs

### Current Project Examples

[Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis](#) on Bowen Island — planning for a new 97 hectare regional park which would protect a rare coastal dry forest ecosystem and would provide regional residents with opportunities for day and overnight nature experiences.

[Widgeon Marsh Regional Park](#) — design, development, and opening of a 627 hectare park in the City of Coquitlam and Electoral Area A.

[Grouse Mountain Regional Park Trail and Site Improvements](#) — trail, safety, visitor experience, and ecological enhancements to Grouse Mountain Regional Park, funded by a federal infrastructure grant.

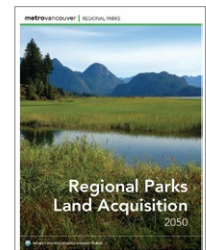
### Core Guiding Plans



[Regional Parks Plan \(2022\)](#)



[Regional Greenways 2050](#)



[Regional Parks Land Acquisition 2050 Strategy](#)

### Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver has authority through the *Local Government Act* to have a regional park service. The organization partners with member jurisdictions and other orders of government to advance land acquisition for regional parks across the region.





# Regional Planning

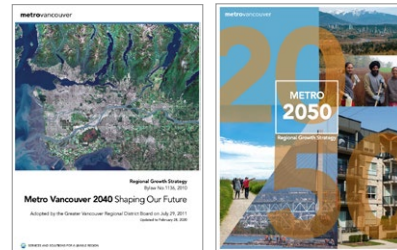
## Overview

Regional planning is a service provided by Metro Vancouver to support planning throughout the region, including that undertaken by Metro Vancouver's utilities, TransLink, member jurisdictions, and many others. Metro Vancouver provides projections, data, and applied policy research; convenes stakeholders on issues of common concern; and acts as a planning resource. The main focus is developing, stewarding, and monitoring a Regional Growth Strategy that is unanimously adopted by the MVRD Board, its members, TransLink, and adjacent regional district boards.

The current Regional Growth Strategy, *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping Our Future (Metro 2040)*, represents the collective vision for how our region is going to accommodate the one million people and over 500,000 jobs that are expected to come to the region in the next 25 years in a way that reflects the federation's values. The strategy contains actions for members, Metro Vancouver, and TransLink on containing and directing growth to good transit-oriented locations; supporting the provision of diverse and affordable housing, transit and mobility, and a vibrant regional economy; the protection of important lands including our food, ecologically important, and industrial lands; supporting the efficient provision of utilities and other urban infrastructure; and undertaking critical climate action.

In 2019, Metro Vancouver began updating the Regional Growth Strategy to 2050, with greater focus on emerging drivers of change, stronger policies, and closer integration with the regional transportation strategy, *Transport 2050*. After three years of deep engagement, the update to the Regional Growth Strategy is now in the approvals phase.

## Core Guiding Plans



Current Regional Growth Strategy – *Metro Vancouver 2040 Shaping Our Future (2011)*

Draft Update to the Regional Growth Strategy – *Metro 2050* (to be adopted)

## Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver is responsible for:

- Developing, stewarding, and monitoring the Regional Growth Strategy
- Analyzing and communicating data
- Conducting policy research to support and guide decision making
- Convening stakeholders on planning issues of common interest
- Advocating to other levels of government
- Acting as a planning resource for municipalities and others
- Providing leadership and innovation by looking at best practices and tools around the world and finding ways to use them in our region

Member jurisdictions are responsible for:

- Preparing and adopting Regional Context Statements, which describe how local aspirations, as expressed in Official Community Plans, support and align with Regional Growth Strategy's goals and policies. These statements must be accepted by the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors.





# Housing

## Overview

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest non-profit housing providers in the province, with over 3,400 affordable rental homes on 49 sites across the region, providing housing for close to 10,000 tenants. Metro Vancouver Housing has been a trusted non-profit housing provider since 1974, and is an experienced developer and operator.

Metro Vancouver Housing provides affordable rental homes primarily for families, seniors, and people with disabilities with low to moderate incomes. As a family-oriented housing provider, over 80 per cent of our units have two or more bedrooms.

All of Metro Vancouver Housing's rental homes are subsidized at some level to provide affordability. Approximately one third are rent-g geared-to-income, where rents are set at a maximum of 30 per cent of a household's gross annual income, and the rest of the units are low-end-of-market, where rents are 10 to 20-per cent below market rates. Supported primarily by tenants' rents, Metro Vancouver Housing operates at no cost to the taxpayer and partners with tenants, governments, community organizations, and other non-profits to support inclusive and engaged communities.

We are committed to continuous improvement for our services, which include day-to-day operations and maintenance, tenant services and programs, policy and planning, and capital maintenance and development.

As we want our tenants to love where they live, Metro Vancouver Housing is committed to building inclusive, healthy, and engaged communities for families and people of all ages. We offer tenant programs such as community gardens, cooking classes, and social events.


There is a clear need to increase the supply of affordable rental housing in the region. Metro Vancouver Housing's 10-Year Plan commits \$190 million to renew existing affordable housing and build new housing, and we are actively seeking partnerships with municipalities and other orders of government to deliver even more homes for residents.

## SCALE AT A GLANCE

 49 sites across the region

 Close to 10,000 residents

 3,400 affordable rental homes

 Currently building over 800 new and redeveloped affordable rental homes in seven projects across the region

### Current Project Examples

#### Kingston Gardens Redevelopment, Surrey –

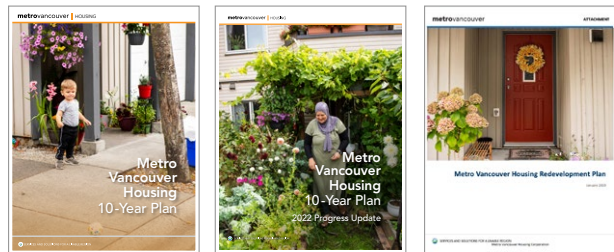
This project is a redevelopment of the southwest portion of the Kingston Gardens housing site. It will replace 24 townhomes to create a four-storey apartment building with 85 homes. Homes will include a mix of sizes, with a focus on larger family units and age-friendly design to support people of all ages and abilities.

#### Welcher Avenue Development, Port Coquitlam –

This project will add a five-storey apartment building with 63 homes. The building is thoughtfully designed to consider the existing neighbourhood context, views, and access to the adjacent park. Homes will include a mix of sizes, with a focus on larger family units and age-friendly design to support people of all ages and abilities.

**Reframed Initiative** – The Reframed Initiative brings together the construction industry, building owners, policy makers, and the financial sector to scale up deep retrofits. Working in partnership with BC Housing, the Reframed Lab is demonstrating the technical and economic feasibility of whole-building retrofit solutions that integrate energy efficiency, decarbonization, seismic safety, and climate adaptation.

### Core Guiding Plans



[Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan](#)

[Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan – 2022 Progress Update \(July 2022\)](#)

[Metro Vancouver Housing Redevelopment Plan](#)

### Partnership Model

Metro Vancouver Housing develops non-market affordable housing. New development is enabled by:

- Reinvesting revenues from the existing portfolio
- Support from member jurisdictions, which includes providing or leasing land, waiving development fees, and grants
- Support from provincial and federal government, including preferential financing and grants from BC Housing and CMHC
- A \$1 per household regional tax requisition for housing





# Air Quality and Climate Change

## Overview

Metro Vancouver is responsible for managing air quality in the region under authority delegated from the provincial government, which involves developing plans, policies, and regulations to improve air quality, reduce pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The region's residents generally experience good air quality due to consistent improvements made by Metro Vancouver, in partnership with the federal and provincial governments, and others in recent decades. In 2021, the Board adopted the Clean Air Plan, the region's fourth air quality management plan. Implementation of the plan includes regulation of air emissions from industry, business, and residential sources through the issuance of air quality permits for large facilities, and emission regulations for groups of sources such as non-road diesel engines. The air quality program is evidence-based, and is supported by a comprehensive network of air quality monitoring stations stretching from Horseshoe Bay to Hope, collecting air quality data that is made available to the public in real-time.


Even though the population has grown, most health-harming air contaminant levels have fallen. However, decades of progress are now being threatened by climate change.

Climate change is already affecting our region, and projections for 2050 include longer, hotter, and drier summers, warmer and wetter fall and winter seasons with decreased snowpack, and more extreme weather events. During six of the last eight summers, the region has been severely impacted by smoke from wildfires outside of the region, as well as a return to ground-level ozone pollution levels not seen since the 1980s. Greenhouse gas emissions have local and global impacts — we all have a shared responsibility for climate action.

To help transition to a low-carbon, resilient region over the next 30 years, Metro Vancouver adopted and is implementing the Climate 2050 Strategy, which works with the Clean Air Plan to guide work with strategic partners to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, manage air quality, and prepare our communities to be resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.



## SCALE AT A GLANCE

 25 air quality monitoring stations in Metro Vancouver

 6 stations in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) in partnership with the FVRD

### Current Project Examples

**Residential Indoor Wood Burning Bylaw 1303** — a regulation to manage emissions of harmful wood smoke from residential wood burning in fireplaces and wood stoves, which is responsible for more than a quarter of fine particulate matter emissions in the region.

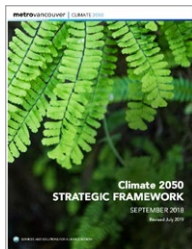
**Climate 2050 Road Maps** — the Climate 2050 Strategy is being implemented via 10 roadmaps for specific issue areas. Roadmaps for the two largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions (transportation and buildings) are complete and actions are being implemented. The next four roadmaps for industry and business; energy; agriculture; and nature and ecosystems, are scheduled for completion in 2023.

Expansion of monitoring capabilities with small sensors — the regional network of 31 monitoring stations is supplemented by an expanding use of smaller lower-cost sensors. While these sensors are not regulatory grade, they are useful for assessing localized air quality issues and engaging the public in measuring air quality.

### Core Guiding Plans



Clean Air Plan



Climate 2050 Strategic Framework



Climate 2050 Roadmaps

### Jurisdiction and Regulation

Metro Vancouver is responsible for:

- Managing air quality in the region under authority delegated from the provincial government under the Environmental Management Act
- Developing and implementing air quality management and climate change plans
- Developing targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and policies and actions for achieving those targets
- Coordinating air quality and climate change policy and planning with member jurisdictions
- Monitoring, testing, and reporting on Metro Vancouver air quality
- Developing and enforcing permits and regulations to manage emissions from sources such as large industrial sites or the operation of older non-road diesel engine equipment

Member jurisdictions are responsible for:

- Developing targets, policies, and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implementing key actions under their authority, for example, related to land use policy and building codes
- Preparing for the impacts of climate change on local infrastructure and in response to climate-driven events like flooding





## Public Campaigns

### Air Quality Advisories

Metro Vancouver issues an air quality advisory when air quality over a large portion of Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District temporarily deteriorates or is expected to deteriorate.

### Climate 2050 Engagement and Public Education Strategy 2023 to 2025

This strategy incorporates the learnings from social science research and best practices for engagement and communications to develop an informed and committed constituency for effective action on climate change.

### Climate 2050 Dialogue Series

Climate 2050 Dialogue Series will engage opinion leaders and citizens across the region in the steps and pace needed to move forward on climate action. Key areas of focus include investigating the economic opportunities, risks, and rewards for rapid implementation.

### Emotive: The Electric Vehicle Experience/ EV Strata Condo

Aims to increase public awareness and knowledge about EVs as a low-carbon solution that can significantly drive down transportation-related greenhouse gas and air contaminant emissions in the region.

### Residential Indoor Wood Burning Bylaw 1303

Raises awareness of Metro Vancouver's Residential Indoor Wood Burning Emission Regulation.

### Wood Stove Exchange Program

Provides a rebate to residents for trading in their old high-emitting wood burning appliance for a new low emission appliance.

### Non-Road Diesel Engine Emission Regulation Bylaw 1329

Raises awareness of the bylaw requirements, including those coming into effect in 2023, 2024, and 2029, with the goal to reduce diesel particulate matter emissions and address harmful nitrogen oxides produced by all tiers of non-road diesel engines, and includes varying restrictions and registration requirements for each engine tier.



# YOUR AIR NOW

The air quality here is good.  
Measurements taken at 7 pm at PNE MAMU  
One of 31 stations in Metro Vancouver's Air Quality Network.

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>NO<sub>2</sub></b> 6.8 ppb</p> <p>Nitrogen Dioxide</p> <p>SOURCES: Vehicle Exhaust, Industrial Processes</p> | <p><b>O<sub>3</sub></b> 37 ppb</p> <p>Ground-level Ozone</p> <p>SOURCES: Vehicle Exhaust, Industrial Processes</p> | <p><b>PM<sub>2.5</sub></b> 5.5 µg/m<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Fine Particulate Matter</p> <p>SOURCES: Smoke, Dust, Industrial Processes</p> |
|--|--|--|

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## CLIMATE 2050

The climate in Metro Vancouver is changing. What can we expect by 2050?

Warmer and wetter autumns, winters and springs

- More rain in autumn, winter and spring: **11%** more rain in winter
- More frequent and intense heavy rain: **32%** more days with heavy rain
- Less snowpack in mountain watersheds: **56%** less in April

Hotter, drier summers

- Longer dry spells: **26 - 21** consecutive days
- Less summer rainfall: **20%** less
- Twice as many days above 25°C: **55 or 22**

Metro Vancouver is considering how our infrastructure and communities need to adapt to climate change as we plan for the future of our region.

Ensuring our ecosystems are resilient to climate change

How can we...

GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

- Buildings
- Industry
- Heavy Duty Vehicles
- Non-road Engines
- Trucks
- Agriculture
- Aviation
- Other

Metro Vancouver's Climate strategy that will guide climate action for Metro Vancouver

Creating a carbon neutral region requires substantial green investments across most sectors.

Climate 2050 includes prioritizing transportation, infrastructure, energy use, human health and well-being, ecosystems, water and waste management, and more.



# Invest Vancouver

## Overview

Invest Vancouver is the region’s economic development leadership service advancing shared prosperity for all residents of the region. Invest Vancouver concentrates on regional economic development and attracting global investment with a focus on seven strategic sectors that can help future-proof the region’s economy and support the creation of high-quality jobs. Invest Vancouver launched its brand, website, and social media presence in September 2021.

Invest Vancouver’s key objectives are to support strategic investment in the Metro Vancouver region, to promote the region to a global audience, and to communicate research and policy recommendations to decision-makers to influence economic development.

Invest Vancouver’s mandate is threefold:

- *Strategic Investment:* Invest Vancouver works to attract and promote the region globally by developing an understanding of individual sector objectives and underlying needs, serving as a trusted advisor, providing technical assistance, making local connections, and providing business intelligence on a variety of topics and/or referral to appropriate resources and local partners as required.

- *Data, Research, and Policy:* Invest Vancouver supports investment and job creation in key export-oriented industries, discerning the factors driving their growth, identifying gaps along the product-service value chains, and articulating the underlying competitive advantages of the Metro Vancouver region. By identifying opportunities and challenges faced by firms in these industries, Invest Vancouver can provide recommendations to inform policy and influence decision-makers to strengthen the regional value proposition across key industries in order to increase the region’s global competitiveness.
- *Collaboration:* Invest Vancouver undertakes strategic initiatives, partnerships, and international promotion to amplify the region’s unique industrial strengths and value proposition, acting as a regional convener and facilitating one voice on regional priorities.

Invest Vancouver supports and amplifies the work of member jurisdictions who are also engaged in local economic development activities. Member jurisdictions participate in the Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee, an advisory body of Metro Vancouver. Invest Vancouver works in collaboration with the federal and provincial governments and agencies supporting regionally specific initiatives, including leveraging contribution funding from other orders of government to advance regional economic development opportunities.

## Technical Papers



Foreign Direct Investment in British Columbia (October 2022)

Water Tech: The Metro Vancouver Region's Untapped Clean Tech Opportunity (July 2022)

Agritech Today, Building for Tomorrow: Actions to Strengthen the Sector in the Metro Vancouver Region (May 2022)

Clean Transportation: Findings and Actions to Strengthen the Sector in the Metro Vancouver Region (November 2021)

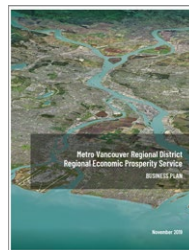
Preparing Metro Vancouver for the Digital Economy (May 2021)

## Program Highlight

### Tech Sector Workforce Development Collaboration

Invest Vancouver and Amazon Web Services (AWS), a subsidiary of Amazon, have an agreement-in-principle to create a workforce development initiative that will prepare thousands of Metro Vancouver residents for well-paying jobs in the region's growing tech sector, helping to attract high tech firms to the area.

## Core Guiding Plans



Metro Vancouver Regional Economic Prosperity Service Business Plan (2019)

Invest Vancouver 2022 Annual Plan





## Electoral Area A

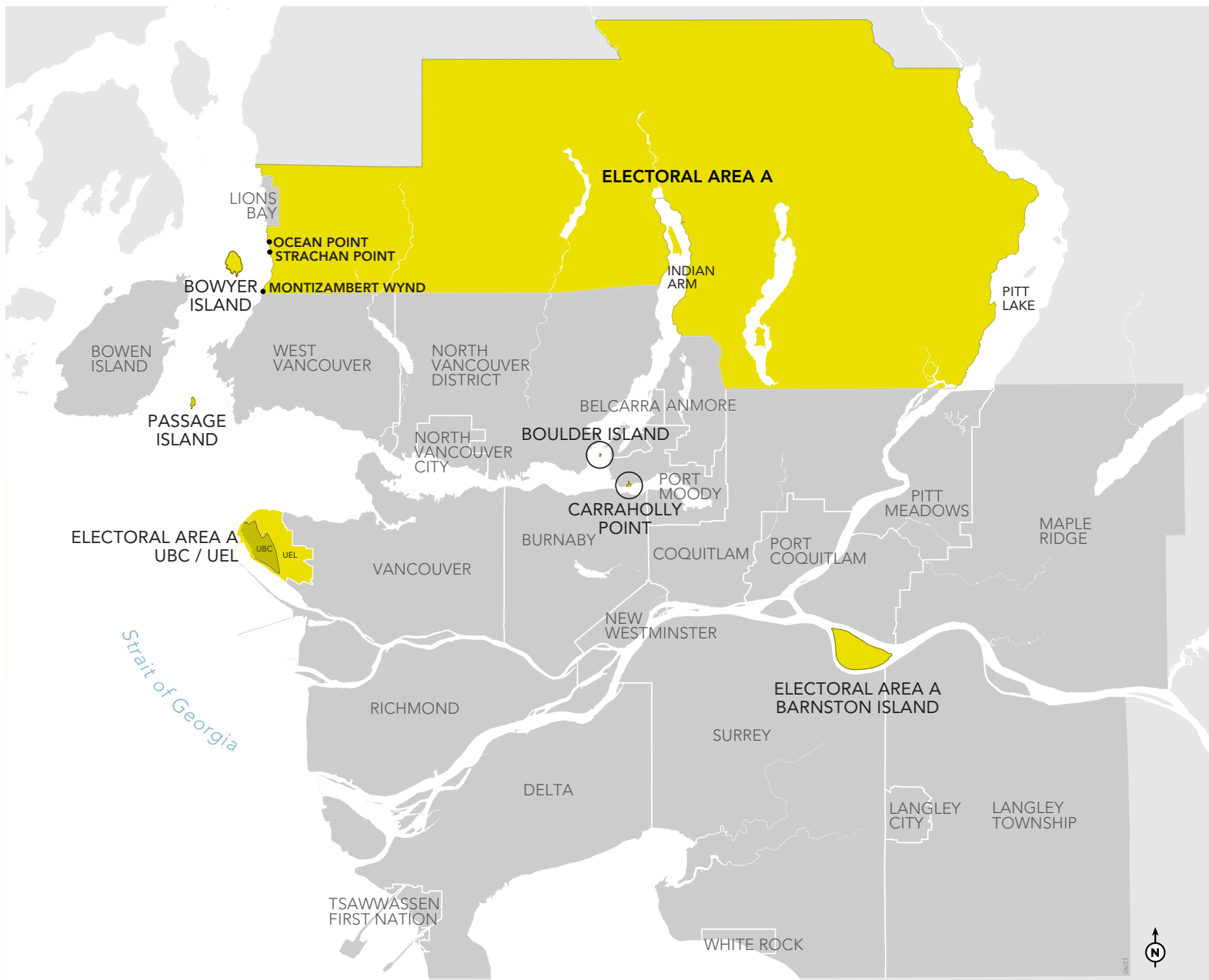
### Overview

Metro Vancouver acts as the local government for Electoral Area A, which covers all of the unincorporated areas of the region and provides services like planning, building permits, emergency response, and general administration. These services vary depending on the particular community, whether it is a remote island or a bustling university town.

In the 2021 census, Electoral Area A's population was 18,612, with most of the population living at the University of British Columbia and in the University Endowment Lands. The population of the remaining area was approximately 316.

| Local Service Provided by Metro Vancouver | Howe Sound | Bowyer Island | Passage Island | Indian Arm | Boulder Island | Carraholly | Pitt Lake | Barnston Island | UBC             | UEL             |
|---|------------|---------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Land Use Planning                         | ✓          | Islands Trust | Islands Trust  | ✓          | ✓              | ✓          | ✓         | ✓               | Admin by BC Gov | Admin by BC Gov |
| Building Permits/ Inspection              | ✓          | ✓             | ✓              | ✓          | ✓              | ✓          | ✓         | ✓               | Admin by UBC    | Admin by UEL    |
| Emergency Planning and Response*          | ✓          | ✓             | ✓              | ✓          | ✓              | ✓          | ✓         | ✓               | ✓               | ✓               |
| Liquor Licence Review                     | ✓          | ✓             | ✓              | ✓          | ✓              | ✓          | ✓         | ✓               | ✓               | TBD             |
| General Admin                             | ✓          | ✓             | ✓              | ✓          | ✓              | ✓          | ✓         | ✓               | Admin by UBC    | Admin by UEL    |

\*Note: Emergency Planning and Response includes Emergency Social Services, Disaster Financial Assistance, Wildland Fire Suppression (under agreement with BC Forest Service), and Incident Command.



Certain services in the Electoral Area are provided by other agencies, including:

- Policing by the RCMP
- Public schooling through the local school districts
- Health facilities through the health authorities
- Roads through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (with the exception of some roads within UBC and University Endowment Lands)
- Transit by TransLink
- Structural fire protection (for University Endowment Lands and UBC) through the provincial government

Metro Vancouver does not provide local recreational or community services/facilities or structural fire protection services to Electoral Area A. Additional infrastructure and services, such as drinking water, septic, garbage collection, and snow clearing may be organized and contracted directly by individual communities.





## Other Regional Services

### **Regional Employers Services**

Metro Vancouver provides human resource, workforce, and labour relations services to municipalities within the Metro Vancouver region. We also act as a forum where municipalities can connect, share, and leverage information. Municipalities work together on matters of common interest, benefiting from the coordination and leadership we offer. Municipalities can access workforce data, research, advice, advocacy, and service tailored to the strategic needs and goals of their municipality.

### **9-1-1 Emergency Call Answer Service**

Metro Vancouver is responsible for 9-1-1 call answer services within the Metro Vancouver region. We provide this service through our business partner and service provider, E-Comm. E-Comm receives and processes about 1 million emergency calls each year. E-Comm collects the needed information from the caller, transferring the call to the appropriate municipal or provincial dispatch agency who then directs first responders to assist with the caller's emergency.





Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation in providing sustainable regional services that contribute to a livable and resilient region and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations.









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SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION