

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT (MVRD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS****SPECIAL BOARD MEETING****Friday, February 28, 2025****9:00 am****28th Floor Boardroom, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia****Webstream available at <https://metrovanancouver.org/>****Purpose: To consider potential input for the 2026 Budget and 2026 – 2030 Financial Plan.****A G E N D A****A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****1. February 28, 2025 Special Meeting Agenda**

That the MVRD Board adopt the agenda for its special meeting scheduled for February 28, 2025 as circulated.

**B. REPORTS REFERRED FROM THE SPECIAL MVRD BOARD MEETING HELD ON
FEBRUARY 21, 2025****1. Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund***pg. 3***Executive Summary**

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Housing Development Fund (just under \$5 per household). The \$5 million is utilized by Metro Vancouver Housing, providing \$50 million in equity over ten years to support partnerships with member jurisdictions to build housing on public land in their communities, and to redevelop Metro Vancouver Housing's existing sites to achieve greater density near transit.

Since 2019, this \$5 million / year has leveraged approximately \$151.8 million in external funding to date for two housing projects in partnership with member jurisdictions, and contributed to funding four Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects under construction. These projects have leveraged a further \$236.4M in external funds.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund."

2. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program

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Executive Summary

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. This success is driven by a multi-pronged approach including policy, operations, and collaboration and education initiatives. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives support Metro Vancouver's waste reduction goals and include the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns.

The 2025 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget is \$1.9 million. Most of the net \$1.65 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition. Zero Waste Conference fees and expected conference savings from moving to a one day conference make up the remaining approximately \$0.25 million of the budget. The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. Implementation and strengthening of the generator levy help to mitigate this risk.

Recommendation

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled "Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program".

C. OTHER ITEMS

1. MVRD Special Board Meeting Late Correspondence Received Between February 14-21, 2025

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D. ADJOURNMENT

That the MVRD Board adjourn its special meeting of February 28, 2025.

To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Housing Development Fund: Description of Fund.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Housing Development Fund (just under \$5 per household). The \$5 million is utilized by Metro Vancouver Housing, providing \$50 million in equity over ten years to support partnerships with member jurisdictions to build housing on public land in their communities, and to redevelop Metro Vancouver Housing’s existing sites to achieve greater density near transit.

Since 2019, this \$5 million / year has leveraged approximately \$151.8 million in external funding to date for two housing projects in partnership with member jurisdictions, and contributed to funding four Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects under construction. These projects have leveraged a further \$236.4M in external funds.

PURPOSE

To respond to the MVRD Board request to provide information on the Housing Development Fund, a \$5M annual tax requisition that supports Metro Vancouver Housing’s new development and redevelopment projects, including implications of discontinuing this funding source.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Housing Development Fund (Housing Policy and Planning)*

This report responds to that motion.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

Metro Vancouver Housing is one of the largest below market housing providers in the province, providing housing to nearly 10,000 residents and operating at no cost to the tax payer. A trusted housing provider for over 50 years, Metro Vancouver Housing is currently developing over 2,000 new and redeveloped homes across the region in partnership with member jurisdictions and with funding partnerships with both the provincial and federal governments.

The 2025–2029 Financial Plan for Housing Planning and Policy (HPP) includes a \$5 million annual contribution through a tax requisition for the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund (equal to just under \$5 per household). This funding supports the development of new Metro Vancouver Housing (MVH) homes. \$4 million of this funding is allocated annually to support new projects in partnership with member jurisdictions on member jurisdiction lands. \$1 million of this funding is used to support the redevelopment of existing Metro Vancouver Housing sites.

To date, this funding has leveraged partnership funding in the range of 15:1.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

In January 1971, the MVRD (formerly GVRD) was granted the authority to raise funds to deliver housing and was authorized to apportion the costs of the public housing function to all member jurisdictions through tax requisition.

In November 2019, the Board adopted the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* (Reference 1), which provides strategic focus areas and directs investments in Metro Vancouver Housing's portfolio. A major component of the plan was a new funding source in the form of an annual \$4 million tax requisition dedicated to the development of new affordable housing projects on land owned by the MVRD or by member jurisdictions. This additional annual contribution significantly augmented a pre-existing \$1 million annual tax requisition that supported the redevelopment of existing Metro Vancouver Housing sites.

The *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* is founded on direction that without an additional source of capital there would be insufficient funds in the existing affordable housing function to redevelop the existing Metro Vancouver Housing stock or add new housing stock on land owned by member jurisdictions. The additional capital allows Metro Vancouver Housing to respond to interest in greater regional equity of sites.

Additional funding was identified as part of a broader strategy, along with partnerships and collaboration, to balance the needs of existing tenants with the desire to create more affordable housing and to leverage Metro Vancouver Housing's funds effectively. The *Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan* commits an investment of approximately \$190 million over 10 years to renew and maintain existing housing stock and to reach a target of providing 1,350 new and redeveloped units in the region (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan Funding Strategy



To date, the funds collected for new Metro Vancouver Housing non-market housing developments in partnership with member jurisdictions have enabled two new projects on member jurisdiction lands, both of which are at the construction stage, and that would not have occurred without the requisition.

These projects are:

Heron's Nest (Pitt Meadows)

- 115 homes and 10,000 sq. ft. childcare
- MVH contribution through tax requisition leveraged \$68.8M in external funding (grants and low interest loans)

The Steller (Burnaby)

- 122 homes and 4,200 sq. ft. childcare
- MVH contribution through tax requisition leveraged \$83M in external funding (grants and low interest loans)

These projects are already committed and would not be impacted should the Board opt to discontinue the Housing Development Fund funding through the tax requisition in 2026 and beyond. Without this funding, a third partnership project in the District of North Vancouver may be at risk, and the roll out of Metro Vancouver Housing redevelopment projects would be slower than anticipated.

IMPACT

Funding from the tax requisition for the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund allows Metro Vancouver Housing to secure substantial external grants, loans, and other funding that would not be possible without MVH equity contributions. This includes a historic contribution to MVH through a Memorandum of Understanding with BC Housing to work collaboratively to build 2,100 new non-market homes with BC Housing capital grants. Discontinuing the Housing Development Fund could result in:

- Foregoing external grants leveraged by the funding;
- Cancelling housing projects on member jurisdiction / MVRD lands; and
- Delivering fewer non-market homes.

Without the tax requisition, Metro Vancouver Housing's strategy would need to be revisited and curtailed, as MVH's surplus alone is insufficient to both redevelop existing MVH housing stock and to add new housing stock on land owned by member jurisdictions. MVH's current strategy endorsed through the Metro Vancouver Housing 10-Year Plan, includes working with member jurisdictions, through periodic Expressions of Interest, to identify municipally-owned land on which to develop new non-market rental housing. Without this funding source, MVH would be challenged to find resources for new partnership projects with member jurisdictions.

Capital grants are currently available to expand non-market housing, and regional contributions to housing development are highly leveraged. Without the tax requisition, external contributions to new housing would be significantly reduced.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Metro Vancouver Housing operates at no cost to the taxpayer as operations are primarily funded from tenant rents. A mixed income model (where about 15% of units are rented at shelter rates, 15% are deeply subsidized at rent geared to income rents, and about 70% of units are rented a low-end-of-market rents) enables the non-profit to operate self-sufficiently. The Metro Vancouver Housing Development Fund supports expansion through partnerships with member jurisdictions and redevelopment of existing sites.

The 2025 Budget for the contributions to the Metro Vancouver Housing Development Reserve is \$5 million, which is funded from the Metro Vancouver Regional District Requisitions. This represents just under \$5 / household annual tax impact. The fund leverages substantial external grant contributions and capital toward the expansion of non-market housing across the region.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations and agencies have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachment 1).

CONCLUSION

A tax requisition to support the new development of non-market housing was a key component of the *Metro Vancouver Housing 10 Year Plan* to build affordable housing across the region. The Housing Development Fund tax requisition can be discontinued at the Board's discretion through the regular MVRD budget process. The funds are highly leveraged and the removal of this source of funding would result in foregoing external funding. Should this source of funding be discontinued, Metro Vancouver Housing would need to explore new models and approaches, and would likely need to curtail the planned expansion of new non-market housing in partnership with member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver Housing's mixed income model produces an annual surplus, so

jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver Housing's mixed income model produces an annual surplus, so Metro Vancouver Housing would be able to continue to lever these surplus funds but would deliver fewer new affordable homes as a result.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Organization and Agency Correspondence.

REFERENCES

1. [Metro Vancouver Housing 10 Year Plan \(metrovancover.org\)](http://metrovancover.org)

73831809

Vancity Community Foundation

February 11, 2025

Chair Mike Hurley and Co-Chair John McEwan
Metro Vancouver

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop

Dear Mayor Hurley and Metro Vancouver Board,

On behalf of Vancity Community Foundation (VCF), I am writing you today to urge the Board to maintain its regional leadership on affordability and sustainability by preserving funding for both the Housing Development Fund as well as regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and regional climate policy coordination. These two areas of work play a critical role in ensuring a more livable, affordable, and safe region for all residents.

Housing Development Fund: A Proven Tool for Affordable Housing

Metro Vancouver Housing provides safe and affordable housing for more than 9,400 people across our region. Thanks to decades of investments, this housing stock not only makes up a significant portion of our region's publicly owned housing, it also generates funds that help Metro Vancouver expand supply of non-market housing.

As an organization deeply engaged in supporting affordable housing, VCF has seen the impact of dedicated public-sector investment. Through our Affordable Community Housing Program, we provide early-stage funding to help non-profits and community organizations advance housing projects that otherwise may never get off the ground. However, the scale of the challenge in Metro Vancouver far exceeds what philanthropy and the non-profit sector can achieve on our own.

Public investment, particularly from a regional entity like Metro Vancouver, is essential to ensuring that new non-market homes continue to be built in the region at a time when affordability has never been more precarious. Stepping back from this work would mean fewer affordable homes at a time when demand is skyrocketing. In fact, with one in five renters in the region in core housing need, now is not the time to walk away from proven solutions.

Residents from across our region have seen the growing impacts of the affordable housing crisis. Whether it's growing encampments or more of our neighbours living in vehicles, the signs are omnipresent and stark. In the face of these challenges, people aren't interested in jurisdiction, they are interested in answers. A strong regional approach, combined with support from other levels of government, non-profits, market developers, and funders such as VCF are all needed if we are to ensure that our region has the housing we need.

Preserving Regional Leadership in Climate Action

The Vancity Community Foundation also strongly supports Metro Vancouver's ongoing leadership in regional climate policy and regulation of carbon pollution. As a community-focused organization committed to climate justice and resilience, VCF recognizes that the work done by Metro Vancouver's Climate Office is essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring that local governments can respond effectively to this shared challenge.

Metro Vancouver plays a vital role in ensuring that regional climate plans are harmonized and effective. The Climate 2050 strategy and its sector-specific roadmaps for buildings and transportation have set a bold vision for a low-carbon future. This type of regional leadership has already yielded impressive results, such as supporting the BC Energy Step Code by encouraging local governments to require Step Code compliance in new developments.

For VCF, which prioritizes equity and community-led solutions, it is critical that climate action be inclusive and accessible to all, especially Indigenous, Black, and other equity-deserving communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change. As we have seen all too often, the impacts of climate change are local in nature. From flooding and fires to air pollution and extreme heat – the burden of inaction will fall to local governments and their residents. In this crucial decade for climate action, stepping back would undermine years of progress and compound costs that are already spiraling.

Instead, now is the time to send a signal to businesses and communities committed to a sustainable future that ours is a region that supports innovation and welcomes clean-tech investment. For about \$1 per household annually, this work provides exceptional value, protecting both the environment and the well-being of current and future generations.

A Critical Moment for Regional Leadership

The Housing Development Fund and Metro Vancouver’s Climate Office are two pillars of regional leadership that directly contribute to the resilience and livability of our communities. They provide the kind of coordinated, strategic investment that municipalities cannot achieve alone.

At a time when residents are looking for bold action to address both affordability and climate challenges, we urge the Board to continue funding these vital programs. By doing so, Metro Vancouver can continue to be a force for sustainable and inclusive growth, ensuring that everyone—regardless of income—has a place in this region’s future.

Sincerely,

Alvin Singh
Personal Information

Director, Communications & Advocacy
Vancity Community Foundation

From: Information Centre
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:02 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: FW: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - reject the step code

From: Alyson BTC <alyson@blackthumbcontracting.com>
Date: February 11, 2025 at 10:43:12 PM PST
To: Information Centre <ICentre@metrovanancouver.org>, mayor@burnaby.ca
Cc: Tom Pearce <Tom.Pearce@metrovanancouver.org>, Marcin Pachcinski <Marcin.Pachcinski@metrovanancouver.org>, areaajen@gmail.com, areaaclaire@gmail.com, palbrecht@langleycity.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, harry.bains@surrey.ca, mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca, rbinder@delta.ca, clrblich@vancouver.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, Linda Buchanan <lbuchanan@cnv.org>, Pietro Calendino <pietroc@telus.net>, sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca, clrdominato@vancouver.ca, Doug Elford <doug.elford@surrey.ca>, sferguson@tol.ca, ghepner@surrey.ca, chodge@coquitlam.ca, clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca, clrklassen@vancouver.ca, mknight@whiterockcity.ca, pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca, dkruger@delta.ca, miahti@portmoody.ca, aleonard@bimbc.ca, Brenda.Locke@surrey.ca, NMacDonald@pittmeadows.ca, mayorandcouncillors@richmond.ca, peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca, muril@dnv.org, nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca, jross@belcarra.ca, druimy@mapleridge.ca, Mark Sager <Mark@westvancouver.ca>, ken.sim@vancouver.ca, rob.stutt@surrey.ca, ttowner@coquitlam.ca, westb@portcoquitlam.ca, ewoodward@tol.ca, clrzhou@vancouver.ca, areaajen@gmail.com, info@tsawwassenfirstnation.com
Subject: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - reject the step code

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

RE: Feb 21 Budget Workshop - Reject the Step Code

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members and Directors,

As a Builder/General Contractor, a constituent and resident of the Metro Vancouver area, I am writing regarding the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21st to talk about budget cuts.

As a certified Passive House home builder and Contractor building a Net Zero home in Vancouver, you may be surprised to know that I am fully supportive of your decision to move away from certain "climate" focused initiatives.

In particular, I urge you to reconsider plans to advance the step code towards Step 4, 5, or NetZero labelled building for Part 9 construction.

As a builder for over 30 years, I have witnessed sky rocketing costs in construction and I firmly believe that a move to require Step 4 or higher homes, will further alienate the middle class from ever owning or building a home. A move towards NetZero will mean that only the top wealthy percent will be able to afford a new home.

The added costs to build NetZero do not justify the end goal, especially in a region where affordable housing is a critical need. The costs to build NetZero are exasperated not only by the additional materials that are required, but by the team of professionals and consultants required on these builds.

Further, a closer look at the required materials will reveal, using products such as exterior insulations that are not at all eco-friendly in nature, both the process of manufacturing these materials and the process to ever dispose of these materials are inherently bad for the environment.

Our construction field needs to remove barriers to building, not create new barriers that the new step code escalation has caused.

To assist the construction industry, I urge you to consider programs and incentives that help lower costs and hasten timelines to building. And to supporting tradespeople to get educated, trained, and stay in Metro Vancouver to work. We have a staffing shortage in construction in all trades.

The trades suffer when there is no affordable housing options in the region they wish to work in. Small business builders suffer by increased costs and taxes.

Please also reconsider the availability of natural gas for new homes. The added costs to rely on electric for all heating, cooking and energy needs does not make sense for the average homeowner. Natural gas still provides an affordable option for many and should be critically re evaluated.

While I am aware of a climate crisis and know we face increasing threats of flooding and fires - building NetZero homes will not save us from this fate. The residents of this region deserve better.

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To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2025 Meeting Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: **Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program**

RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 12, 2025, titled “Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives: Overview of Program”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. This success is driven by a multi-pronged approach including policy, operations, and collaboration and education initiatives. Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives support Metro Vancouver’s waste reduction goals and include the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns.

The 2025 Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget is \$1.9 million. Most of the net \$1.65 million is funded from the MVRD tax requisition. Zero Waste Conference fees and expected conference savings from moving to a one day conference make up the remaining approximately \$0.25 million of the budget. The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. Implementation and strengthening of the generator levy help to mitigate this risk.

PURPOSE

This report responds to the January 23, 2025 MVRD Board request for more information on Metro Vancouver’s Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives.

BACKGROUND

On January 23, 2025 at the special MVRD Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That the MVRD Board direct staff to report back with feasibility, options and implications of service level or scope reductions to the following for the 2026 budget and 2026-2030 Financial Plan:

- *Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives (Zero Waste Conference, National Zero Waste Council, Behavior Campaigns)*

This report responds to that motion.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives were developed by Metro Vancouver in 2011/2012 to support waste prevention. The initiatives include the National Zero Waste Council, the Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns. The National Zero Waste Council and the Zero Waste Conference emphasize collaboration with partners and programs across Canada. These initiatives facilitate cross-jurisdiction and cross-sector approaches to reducing waste through changes in design and behaviour. This approach acknowledges that solutions for waste reduction require working with businesses, governments, and other organizations to design waste out of the system. Behaviour change campaigns support Metro Vancouver's efforts to reduce waste in the region, reaching a regional audience on topics such as food waste, single-use items, and textiles.

National Zero Waste Council

The National Zero Waste Council was co-founded by Metro Vancouver and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 12 years ago with the goal of advancing waste prevention in Canada through collaboration, advocacy, and knowledge sharing across sectors. The council has facilitated engagement with thousands of stakeholders: delivering webinars and workshops to convene policy makers, business representatives, and community leaders; developing policy recommendations; stewarding a national food waste prevention campaign; advancing innovation through collaborative pilots; leading working groups on topics such as reuse and built environment; and showcasing design interventions for waste prevention through partnerships.

Current initiatives of the council build on its work to date in the areas of food loss and waste, circular built environment, reuse systems, and single-use plastics. Metro Vancouver is recalibrating the National Zero Waste Council to focus primarily on local governments. The emphasis will be on policy and practice change to advance waste prevention and circular systems, delivered through advocacy and knowledge sharing. Opportunities for private sector and non-profit participation will remain part of the council's work.

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Conference

The most recent Zero Waste Conference was held in 2023. It included international, national, and local speakers and stories, and attracted nearly 600 participants. Efforts to attract youth participants resulted in 76 students attending the conference. The agenda included a new feature in the form of table-based conversations for participants, which was highlighted as a very positive experience in participant feedback forms.

Following the 2023 Zero Waste Conference, it was decided that the conference would change to a biennial delivery model, moving also to a single day rather than 1 1/2 days. The next Zero Waste Conference is being held on November 27, 2025. Biennial delivery of a single day conference helps reduce costs while continuing to bring governments, businesses, and non-profits together to share knowledge and find connections that lead to collaboration to advance waste prevention. Planning work is underway for the 2025 Zero Waste Conference.

Behaviour Change Campaigns

Behaviour change campaigns are an element of Metro Vancouver's multi-pronged approach to reducing waste in the region. A summary of solid waste behaviour change campaigns is included as

Attachment 1. The campaigns are developed based on research that helps understand the motivators and barriers to achieving specific waste-reducing behaviours and the target audiences most likely to adopt those behaviours. Campaigns reach a regional audience via paid media placements, owned channels (social media), and earned media coverage. Behaviour change campaigns help influence the public to prevent waste. Topics include preventing food waste, recycling food scraps, reducing textile waste, promoting reusables over single-use plastics, and more. Campaign performance is evaluated regularly, and campaigns typically support or complement policies, programs, or operational efforts to reduce waste such as the organics disposal ban.

Metro Vancouver shares its campaign materials with others at no cost, including members, other levels of government, haulers, stratas, and non-profits. Metro Vancouver's philosophy is to support the overall betterment of the environment by sharing resources with like-minded organizations working towards the same objectives. Campaign creative is shared and made accessible at no fee, fostering collegial information sharing. As a result, Metro Vancouver has benefitted by creating a public commons of knowledge and creative assets, which further enhances the impact of its campaigns. This has been relevant to Metro Vancouver's commitment to zero waste and its leadership to engage local, national, and global actions in support of waste prevention. Metro Vancouver's creative has been used across Canada, the United States, and internationally, and has won national and international awards.

HISTORY OF THE SERVICE

All regional districts in the province are required to develop and implement solid waste management plans, which include actions to reduce waste. Metro Vancouver's current solid waste management plan, approved by the Province of British Columbia in 2011, includes Metro Vancouver's development and implementation of educational programs and speaks directly to the development of a national zero waste council to advance waste reduction at a national level.

Engagement feedback on updating the solid waste management plan highlights the importance of both education and collaboration as tools to support waste reduction efforts.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Reports are provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board on a regular basis summarizing the performance of behaviour change campaigns, including the influence of the campaigns in changing behaviours, campaign reach, engagements, and recall among target audiences (Attachment 1). Staff also report annually on National Zero Waste Council activities and on Zero Waste Conference performance. At its February 8, 2024 meeting, the Zero Waste Committee received for information a report summarizing the 2023 Zero Waste Conference performance, highlighting its success in attracting nearly 600 participants to explore waste prevention, circular solutions, and climate impacts, and incorporating networking opportunities. The National Zero Waste Council has built a reputation across Canada for bringing stakeholders together to develop innovative collaborations, ground-breaking research, and leading events for knowledge building and sharing on waste prevention. It has delivered over 100 webinars and workshops, engaging with thousands of policy makers, business representatives, and community leaders.

IMPACT

Collectively, Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives help advance waste reduction goals as described in the solid waste management plan. The behaviour change campaigns promote waste reduction among a regional audience, while the National Zero Waste Council and Zero Waste Conference affect change at scale and across geographic boundaries, helping to alleviate the burden of systems change locally.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2025 budget for Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives is \$1.9 million. Currently, approximately 80% of funding for the Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives comes from MVRD with the remainder from GVS&DD as part of garbage tipping fees (including the generator levy). The net cost for Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives is \$1.65 million in 2025 based on a projected \$0.25 million in Zero Waste Conference attendance fees and expected conference savings associated with moving to a single day conference.

The move to biennial delivery of the Zero Waste Conference allows removal of the conference budget for 2026 resulting in an MVRD savings of \$212,000 compared to the current 2026 forecast.

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives are currently predominantly funded through MVRD because of historic concerns about waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system and thereby avoiding contributions to these and other solid waste programs. As of 2018, under the Tipping Fee Bylaw haulers are required to collect and remit the generator levy for any garbage not delivered to Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver solid waste facilities. The generator levy provisions of the Tipping Fee Bylaw were updated in 2024 strengthening the ability to ensure all generators contribute to solid waste program costs. The development and implementation of the generator levy help to mitigate the risk of waste generators/haulers bypassing the regional solid waste system, reducing the requirement to fund these initiatives through MVRD tax requisitions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Organizations, agencies, and members of the public have provided correspondence to the Board regarding the potential reduction in scope or service level. Correspondence is included with this report (Attachments 2 and 3).

CONCLUSION

The Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives, including National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conference, and solid waste behaviour change campaigns all emphasize a collaborative approach to waste reduction with partners and program delivery within the region and across Canada. The three streams of work are primarily funded through MVRD. Implementation and updates to the generator levy provisions of the Tipping Fee Bylaw reduce the requirement to fund these initiatives through MVRD tax requisitions in the future.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Solid Waste Services Behaviour Change Campaigns Summary.
2. Organization and Agency Correspondence.
3. Public Correspondence.

73867408

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Services Behaviour Change Campaigns — Summary

February 7, 2025

Background

Behaviour change campaigns are part of a suite of education, enforcement (policy), and engineering efforts by Metro Vancouver to reduce waste in the region. Metro Vancouver's behaviour change campaigns are evidence-based. Market research (such as surveys and focus groups) is used to understand the specific behaviours, target audience, barriers, and motivators to achieving the desired/promoted behaviour. Strategies and creative are developed using a behaviour change methodology like social marketing. The campaigns reach a regional audience via paid media placements like billboards, television, radio, and digital ads, as well as through owned, earned, and social media.

Overview

	Campaign Name and Topic	Timing	2025 Budget
	"Food Scraps Aren't Garbage" Food Scraps Recycling	January to March	\$158,000
	TBC (being updated in 2025) Textiles Waste Reduction	March to May	\$179,000
	"Love Food Hate Waste Canada" Food Waste Prevention (Metro Vancouver is a partner in the national campaign)	Summer (TBC)	\$83,000
	"What's Your Superhabit?" Single-Use Item Reduction	June to August	\$210,000
	"Create Memories, Not Garbage" Holiday Waste Reduction	November to December	\$194,000
Total			\$824,000

2024 Campaign Snapshots

Food Scraps Recycling Campaign — "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage"

- Problem: 2022 multi-family waste composition data showed that compostable organics remain the largest component of multi-family waste (37%), so the 2024 target audience was apartment/condo residents, who tend to use the green bin less than people living in houses.
- Performance: 16.1 million impressions, over 640,000 reach, 4,350 social media engagements, and high recall among the target audience segments (17–25%).
- Impact: Campaign has helped increase green bin usage among residents from 79% after the *Organics Disposal Ban* was introduced in 2015 to 88% in 2022. The campaign has won behaviour change awards, and is used internationally, including in the US EPA's behaviour change toolkit.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - May 9, 2024](#)

Regional Clothing Waste Reduction Campaign — “Think Thrice About Your Clothes”

- Problem: Approximately 20,000 tonnes of clothing waste is disposed annually in the region. Metro Vancouver residents throw out an average of eight kilograms of clothing per person per year, equivalent to the weight of 44 t-shirts per person per year.
- Performance: 42.8 million impressions, over 5,600 engagements, and nearly 388,000 video views.
- Impact: 50% of residents who saw the campaign say they are now more likely to buy clothing that lasts longer, 42% will repair clothing, and 35% will reduce the amount of clothing consumed. Note: Campaign strategy and creative are being updated in 2025.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - July 4, 2024](#)

Regional Food Waste Prevention Campaign — “Love Food Hate Waste Canada”

- Problem: 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten. For the average Canadian household that amounts to 140 kilograms of wasted food per year — at a cost of more than \$1,300 per year.
- Performance: The regional campaign had over 4 million impressions, a reach of over 930,000, and over 6,000 social media engagements.
- Impact: The 2023 full-scale waste composition study showed that avoidable food waste has decreased by 5.7% between 2015 (13.8%) and 2023 (8.1%).
- Report: National Zero Waste Council’s national campaign report including an update on the regional campaign: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda – June 13, 2024](#)

Single-Use Item Reduction Campaign — “What’s Your Superhabit?”

- Problem: Single-use items have a lasting impact on our environment long after being used for a short period of time. In 2022, 1.3 billion single-use items (bags, containers, cups, straws, utensils) were disposed in the Metro Vancouver region — equivalent to 480 items per person per year.
- Performance: 37.2 million total impressions, nearly 500,000 videos views, and over 7,500 likes, comments, and shares on social media.
- Impact: The 2023 full-scale waste composition study showed that single-use item disposal decreased compared to 2022. The campaign has won behaviour change awards.
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - October 3, 2024](#)

Holiday Waste Reduction Campaign — “Create Memories, Not Garbage”

- Problem: Research indicates that Metro Vancouver residents dispose of more waste over the holidays. For example, in a 2023 survey, nearly 30% of adults said they received a gift from family members that they did not like. Gifts that miss the mark often end up gathering dust, being donated, or being thrown in the garbage or recycling.
- Performance (2023): 27.6 million impressions
- Impact: 25% of residents who saw the campaign said that the ads caused them to make changes to reduce the amount of waste they produce over the holidays. Among those who made changes, using no or recyclable gift wrap was the preferred choice (70%).
- Full report: [Zero Waste Committee Meeting Agenda - April 4, 2024](#) (2024 results available March 2025)



February 11, 2025

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III,
4515 Central Boulevard,
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

Re: Feb 21 Budget Workshop: Support for maintaining Metro Vancouver's regional climate programs

Dear Chair Mike Hurley and Vice Chair John McEwen:

We understand that funding for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, and zero waste collaboration initiatives are being considered at the upcoming special board workshop scheduled for February 21, 2025.

Clean Energy Canada urges the board to continue funding its current climate policy programs, including the Climate 2050 initiative. Metro Vancouver has been a North American leader in coordinating regional climate action, leading to more affordable, healthy, safe, and resilient communities.

We would also note that, done right, regional climate strategies are also economic strategies. Preparing Metro Vancouver for the impacts of climate change is good business, as is helping attract new investments looking to invest in regions aligned with a sustainable future. B.C. is Canada's gateway to the Asian and Western U.S. markets. As these regions increasingly prioritize low-carbon goods and services, Metro Vancouver is uniquely positioned to help build a prosperous economic future.

Thank-you for your time and please don't hesitate to reach out anytime or request a presentation to your Board.

Sincerely,

Mark Zacharias
Executive Director, Clean Energy Canada
Fellow, Simon Fraser University



11 February 2025

**RE: Supporting climate action, air quality and zero waste leadership by
Metro Vancouver - 21 February budget meeting**

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I urge you to continue your coordinated regional approach to addressing climate change, air quality and zero waste. These areas have been determined as “within scope” by the local government members of Metro Vancouver. In 1990, for example, municipalities formed the Regional and Local Government Working Group on Climate Change in order to join forces on climate action in more impactful and efficient ways.

A coordinated approach saves money and is more effective in responding to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste challenges. There is direct evidence of improved outcomes including a regionally coordinated building decarbonization program and more efficient delivery of greenhouse gas emissions inventories for municipalities to guide action. Providing budget for coordinated efforts ensures that delivery services are tied together with an overarching sustainability strategy and bring citizens along through engagement and behaviour change campaigns.

I have also witnessed first-hand the impact of the Zero Waste Conferences and the National Zero Waste Council. Metro Vancouver is better able deliver its solid waste management services because of the international expertise it gathers and cross-sectoral and national collaboration it engenders through these efforts. For example, as an advisor on the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative, I have seen directly how our regional local governments accelerate their upstream response to solid waste management through learning and amplifying their work together.

We can go faster, more effectively and more cost effectively together through regional coordination and action on climate, air quality and zero waste. We strongly recommend amplifying this work.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Information

Dr. Vanessa Timmer | PhD | [LinkedIn](#)

Executive Director, OneEarth Living

[OneEarthLiving.org](#) | Vanessa@OneEarthWeb.org | +1 604 813 3361

On behalf of the OneEarth Living team

12 February 2025

RE: High recommendation to maintain Metro Vancouver zero waste collaboration leadership from Management Board Members of the National Zero Waste Council

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

We the undersigned members of the National Zero Waste Council Management Board strongly recommend maintaining the budgets for zero waste collaboration including the National Zero Waste Council, Zero Waste Conferences, and behavioural change campaigns.

Metro Vancouver has a clear mandate to manage solid waste, and this includes moving action upstream to advance waste prevention and the circular economy. The partnerships and coordination that emerge from the Zero Waste Conference and National Zero Waste Council bring together stakeholders across sectors for impactful results. We gain greatly from the expertise of international experts at the Conference, and from national exchange and joint action through the Council. Metro Vancouver has the power to assemble leaders and amplify cost-effective collaboration and action between partners in a way that is unmatched and recognized.

We have experienced the impact of the Conference and Council directly. This includes how local government actions on circularity are accelerated by the Circular Cities and Regions Initiative that emerged from the Council activities. Coordinated action on food loss and waste, built environment, plastics reduction and reuse, packaging, and the circular economy enables Metro Vancouver and national partners to better deliver core services to their residents in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Delivering core services also requires engaging our communities and residents effectively. Behavioural change campaigns are key for not only raising awareness but also enabling action by households. It is too expensive and redundant for each local government to develop these campaign materials on their own - this is effectively led by Metro Vancouver.

We urge you to maintain the zero waste collaboration initiatives that reinforce Metro Vancouver leadership and enable you to better serve your communities. The solid waste crisis is urgent - we are committed to prioritizing these efforts with you.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Dickson, Vice-Chair of the Board, Canadian Centre for Food Integrity
Jennifer Koole, Executive Director, Recycling Council of Alberta (RCA)
Christoph Schultz, Executive Director, Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)
Louise Schwarz, Co-Owner Recycling Alternative, Terraforma Systems
Vanessa Timmer, Executive Director, OneEarth Living
Francis Vermette, Vice-President, Operations, RECYC-QUÉBEC, on behalf of Board Member
Isabelle Moïse

From: Justin Arseneault **Personal Information**
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 9:45 PM
To: mayor@burnaby.ca; john.mcewen@anmore.com; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca
Subject: Feb 21 Metro Vancouver Budget Meeting - Climate Plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board Chair Mayor Hurley, Co-hair Mayor McEwen, and Metro Vancouver Board members,

As a resident and voter in Coquitlam, I am writing to you about the upcoming special budget meeting on Feb.21. My understanding is that the board will be considering cutting the funding for a number of programs, including the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, regional climate policy coordination, zero waste collaboration initiatives, air quality monitoring, and potentially the Climate 2050 plan. While I understand that the board must be careful in its spending, these programs are critical to the long-term well-being of Metro Vancouver residents and health of our local economy. Climate change is an enormous threat to our communities and is already costing us billions in health, emergency services, and infrastructure costs. We cannot leave climate policy to higher levels of government - we must have local policy that allows us to minimize our contributions to climate change, mitigate the negative effects on our communities, and prepare to deal with the new challenges of a warmer climate. This is your responsibility as our regional representatives.

While climate policies may have a large short-term cost, this is an investment in our communities that will save us a huge amount of money in the long term. We should not be trying to offload the responsibility of climate policy onto other levels of government - we should be striving to be leaders in addressing the climate crisis. Please reject the arguments that these programs are out of scope or too expensive for the regional district. These are vital climate programs that should be expanded rather than cut back. The Metro Vancouver board must enhance coordination between our municipalities and increase funding for programs like the Zero Carbon Step Code and public transportation that protect and both our future health and wealth.

I urge you to reject funding cuts and to instead support strong climate policy to ensure our communities remain resilient and vibrant.

Thank you,
Justin Arseneault
Personal Information

February 12, 2025

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

Re: Metro Vancouver Feb. 21 Budget Meeting – in Support for Climate Action, Air Quality Management, and Zero Waste programs

I was hired as Metro Vancouver's first Air Quality Planner in charge of Climate Action in 1997. At that time, member municipalities expressed concern about the increasing risks of climate change and recognized the co-benefits of managing common air contaminants and greenhouse gases through a regional approach.

A dominant driver for this decision was that it is more effective and efficient for the region to take-on shared delivery of services, including air quality monitoring, emissions inventorying, policy and program development and delivery. The initiative has been running for more than a quarter century now and can hardly be accused of scope creep.

Despite being recognized as a leader in Canada for its service delivery in this space, and despite the ever-increasing realization of the severity of climate change, it seems baffling that a handful of mayors from the region would now suddenly decide that internalizing climate action, each municipality according to their own agenda and resources, could yield improved performance.

I urge the Board to carefully consider their shared obligation to steward resources in a way that continues to advance effective and efficient delivery of services for the benefit of all those living in the region. Finding collaborative governance solutions is the hallmark of Metro's success. Please find a way to carry on this tradition for the shared security of all of us who call this beautiful region home.

Sincerely,

Jennie Moore, PhD, RPP, MCIP, LEED AP.

Resident, West Vancouver.

Personal Information

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT (MVRD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Friday, February 28, 2025

1. Late correspondences received between February 14-21, 2025 for item B1: Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives.

February 12, 2025

Mike Hurley, Board Chair
John McEwen, Co-Chair

RE: Support for Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives & Climate Leadership

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Recycling Council of BC regarding the upcoming special board workshop taking place on February 21st to discuss budget cuts. I was concerned to learn that a number of critical programs, including the Zero Waste Collaboration initiatives and the regulation of GHGs and regional climate policy coordination are under consideration for reductions or removal. These programs are central to Metro Vancouver's role as a leader in sustainability, environmental responsibility and its ability to build a resilient region for future generations.

Metro Vancouver has a clear mandate to manage solid waste, a role that includes moving action upstream to advance waste prevention and the circular economy. As an organization that responds to over 250,000 public inquiries related to recycling and waste diversion annually, we deeply value the Zero Waste Collaboration initiatives. We hear firsthand the public's growing desire for tangible actions to reduce the amount of waste they generate. The behavioural change campaigns are a prime example of this, are invaluable in helping residents understand how they can recycle effectively, divert waste, and mitigate their environmental impact.

The National Zero Waste Council has been instrumental in driving research, building support, and galvanizing action across Canada. It plays a crucial role in fostering the systemic change needed at both provincial and federal levels, while amplifying the voice of local governments for even greater impact.

Zero waste initiatives have real impact and represent significant value. I urge you to prioritize these initiatives in the upcoming budget to ensure that Metro Vancouver remains at the forefront of sustainability efforts, benefiting all residents.

Sincerely,

Personal Information

Christoph Schultz
Executive Director
Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)

From: Belinda Li **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat; john.mcewen@anmore.com; jross@belcarra.ca; mayor@bimbc.ca; mayor@burnaby.ca; pietro.calendino@burnaby.ca; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca; chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; areaajen@gmail.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; sferguson@tol.ca; mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; CNV Mayor; muril@dnv.org; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; mlahti@portmoody.ca; Deb McKinnon; bmcnulty@richmond.ca; chak.au@richmond.ca; mayor@surrey.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; harry.bains@surrey.ca; rob.stutt@surrey.ca; pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca; Doug Elford; lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca; Mark Sager; mknight@whiterockcity.ca
Subject: Feb 28 Metro Vancouver Board Meeting - How to Really Save Taxpayer Dollars (Motion for Full-Scale External Service Review)

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

“Penny wise, pound foolish.”

As the old proverb goes, if you try to skimp on things that cost inconsequential amounts of money (like zero waste and climate action) while missing out on seeing what’s really costing you a lot more money (infrastructure), you ultimately end up spending more money.

I am a resident of the City of Vancouver and deeply concerned about how my taxes are being used by Metro Vancouver. I understand that you are trying to reduce spending, which is a great idea. However, it is a waste of time and money to do a services review that focuses on programs which don’t even cost Metro Vancouver that much money. Instead, zero waste and climate action initiatives SAVE money.

Here’s an example:

We are literally burning up our precious taxes by keeping that incinerator running. It costs about \$97/tonne to incinerate and \$48/tonne to landfill. But it costs only about \$9/tonne for programs to get people to reuse or recycle, thereby avoiding the need to incinerate or landfill materials. That’s a savings of \$39 to \$88/tonne. Waste composition studies show that up to 80% of the materials could have been avoided, composted or recycled using existing systems. That’s about \$45 million dollars you can SAVE per year by investing in zero waste programs. On the other hand, if you don’t do anything to reduce garbage, you are locking us in to many more millions of dollars to expand incinerators and landfills.

How can we realize those cost savings? We need to stop making so much garbage that needs to be sent to the incinerator! At a small fraction of the cost of running an incinerator, you can just get people to reuse and recycle. You save money short term and long term because you don’t need to spend a bunch of money handling

garbage and avoid needing to pay for expensive capital upgrades to keep facilities running. That's why I am urging you to maintain Zero Waste, Air Quality and Climate Action as essential services for Metro Vancouver.

Sincerely,

Belinda Li

City: Vancouver
Personal Information

From: Sue Maxwell -ZWBC <smaxwell@zerowastebc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:17 PM
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com; jross@belcarra.ca; mayor@bimbc.ca; mayor@burnaby.ca; pietro.calendino@burnaby.ca; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca; Craig Hodge; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; areaajen@gmail.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; sferguson@tol.ca; mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; CNV Mayor; muril@dnv.org; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; mlahti@portmoody.ca; Deb McKinnon; bmcnulty@richmond.ca; chak.au@richmond.ca; mayor@surrey.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; harry.bains@surrey.ca; rob.stutt@surrey.ca; pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca; Doug Elford; lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Cc: Jerry Dobrovolny
Subject: Please strengthen, not weaken, Metro Vancouver's work on Zero Waste

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

I'm writing in response to the news that Metro Vancouver's board is re-considering its role on collaboration on Zero Waste initiatives this Friday, and am urging you to continue funding this important work.

Metro Vancouver plays a key role in advancing zero waste initiatives. Its behaviour change campaigns not only reduce waste in Metro Vancouver but also influence the province and nation as a whole. The National Zero Waste Council has conducted a lot of good research but will be an even stronger advocate for change with its shift to focus on what local governments need. The 2023 Zero Waste Conference was the most impactful due to the inclusion of action-oriented workshops. These programs are not scope creep but a rational response to what is needed to prevent escalating solid waste volumes. Much of what influences waste volumes is beyond the direct control of Metro Vancouver so driving policy change and collective action is critical to decrease waste. And when waste is decreased, costs of managing solid waste are decreased.

Metro Vancouver is in the midst of a solid waste management planning process and just consulted the public for ideas and suggestions on how best to do this. No one asked for Metro Vancouver to cut the funding for key programs, instead they asked for more ambitious programs to engage each of the different sectors.

Zero Waste BC's analysis of the previous solid waste management plan showed that for the relatively small amount of money spent on zero waste actions, it had an outsized impact with almost two incinerators worth of waste avoided and significant savings. We agree that Metro Vancouver should look for savings in solid waste and that these can come from phasing out the incinerator (which is the most expensive, most polluting and most GHG-intense way of managing waste). This incinerator is at the end of its useful life and to keep it going will incur millions of dollars of capital costs and even more (another \$100 million) if it were to actually meet provincial air quality standards, which it currently does not.

Because of this, on February 21st, we urge you to support the ongoing inclusion of zero waste collaborative actions in the budget. And on February 28th, I'm urging you to vote to maintain Zero Waste, Air Quality and Climate Action as essential services for our region. Investments in these areas save money and are essential to protect environmental and human health.

Sincerely,

Sue Maxwell
Chair, Zero Waste BC
smaxwell@zerowastebc.ca
www.zerowastebc.ca



Zero Waste BC is a non-profit society that has been championing Zero Waste since 2008 with a mission to drive systemic change towards Zero Waste in BC.

I humbly acknowledge that the land on which I live, work and play is in the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Lil'wat7úl (Lil'wat) peoples.

From: TamaraShulman **Personal Information**
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:32 PM
To: john.mcewen@anmore.com; jross@belcarra.ca; mayor@bimbc.ca; mayor@burnaby.ca; pietro.calendino@burnaby.ca; sav.dhaliwal@burnaby.ca; chodge@coquitlam.ca; ttowner@coquitlam.ca; rbinder@delta.ca; dkruger@delta.ca; areaajen@gmail.com; palbrecht@langleycity.ca; ewoodward@tol.ca; sferguson@tol.ca; mayor.berry@lionsbay.ca; druimy@mapleridge.ca; nnakagawa@newwestcity.ca; CNV Mayor; muril@dnv.org; nmacdonald@pittmeadows.ca; westb@portcoquitlam.ca; mlahti@portmoody.ca; Deb McKinnon; bmcnulty@richmond.ca; chak.au@richmond.ca; mayor@surrey.ca; ghepner@surrey.ca; harry.bains@surrey.ca; rob.stutt@surrey.ca; pardeep.kooner@surrey.ca; Doug Elford; lcassidy@tsawwassenfirstnation.com; ken.sim@vancouver.ca; clrdominato@vancouver.ca; clrblich@vancouver.ca; clrkirby-yung@vancouver.ca; clrklassen@vancouver.ca; clrzhou@vancouver.ca; peter.meiszner@vancouver.ca; Mark Sager; mknight@whiterockcity.ca; Board and Information Services - Secretariat
Subject: Invest in Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Efforts to Manage Costs and Mitigate Climate Change Over time-Action requested!

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Metro Vancouver Board Members:

I am a Vancouver resident and taxpayer writing in response to the news that Metro Vancouver's board is re-considering support for Zero Waste Collaboration this Friday I am urging you to continue funding the region's important work to reduce solid waste.

Metro Vancouver's support for the National Zero Waste Council plays a key role in conducting research and advocating for waste reduction systems and it will be even more effective with the shift to focus on the needs of local governments. The 2023 Zero Waste Conference was the most impactful ever with the inclusion of action-oriented workshops and can play a key role in engaging stakeholders. The behaviour change campaigns are an essential part of helping to shift the culture to one that minimizes waste. As many of the factors that influence waste volumes are driven by systems beyond Metro Vancouver's direct control, collective action, shared advocacy and shifting culture are needed to decrease waste. These programs are the logical responses to address that. And when solid waste decreases, costs decrease.

Metro Vancouver is in the midst of a solid waste management planning process and recently consulted with the public on what ideas and actions are needed. The public wished for more and more ambitious waste avoidance and reduction programs to reach the different sectors mitigate cost increases over time. No one asked for programs to be cut.

By canceling zero waste collaboration, we are inadvertently committing – the rest of the way - to millions to manage materials disposed as garbage vs spending thousands to reduce waste and pursue more sustainable solutions. **I'd rather see our tax payer dollars support policies, programs and systems that help the commercial sector to reduce waste and develop circular and efficient ways to manage their businesses, and ensure communities to come together reduce and divert usable resources that add resilience instead of reinforcing throw away society with costly disposal practices, regardless of the disposal method.**

There is NO ‘away’.

We need to foster zero waste practices, circular solutions and reduce waste in the first place. To reduce disposal needs. And support one planet living (vs the 4-5 planets worth of resources we currently utilize in North America).

On February 21st, I’m urging you to protect the budget for zero waste. And on February 28th, I’m urging you to vote to maintain Zero Waste, Air Quality and Climate Action as essential services for our region.

These programs are a tiny fraction of Metro Vancouver’s overall budget and result in savings for taxpayers, and prevent even higher costs in environmental and human health.

Kind regards,

Tamara Shulman

February 21, 2025

Subject: Support Zero Waste Collaboration – A Smart Financial and Environmental Decision

Dear Metro Vancouver Board,

I'm writing to strongly urge you to continue funding Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste initiatives. As a sustainability professional with extensive experience in waste diversion and recycling, I have seen firsthand how these programs drive meaningful reductions in waste, benefiting both taxpayers and the environment.

Metro Vancouver has played a leadership role in advancing zero waste through behavior change campaigns such as Make Memories Not Garbage and Think Thrice, as well as through its collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council. These initiatives have not only influenced local waste reduction but have also shaped provincial and national strategies. Cutting these programs contradicts Metro Vancouver's solid waste management goals and will ultimately cost taxpayers more in waste disposal expenses.

Zero Waste BC's analysis of the previous solid waste management plan demonstrated that a relatively small investment in zero waste programs helped prevent the equivalent of almost two incinerators' worth of waste. This is a highly cost-effective approach compared to continuing reliance on incineration, which is the most expensive, most polluting, and most greenhouse gas-intensive method of waste management. The existing incinerator is nearing the end of its useful life and keeping it operational will require millions in capital costs—money that would be better spent on waste reduction strategies that prevent the problem at its source.

Metro Vancouver is taking steps to update its solid waste management plan and has actively sought public input. Nowhere did the public request cuts to these essential programs. Instead, residents and businesses have called for more ambitious efforts to engage different sectors and drive waste reduction. Cutting zero waste collaboration now would be a step backward.

On February 21st, I urge you to support the ongoing inclusion of zero waste collaboration in the budget. On February 28th, I urge you to vote to maintain Zero Waste, Air Quality, and Climate Action as essential services for our region. These investments save money, reduce pollution, and protect public health.

Sincerely,

Doug Schell

PTAC Committee and Board Member Zerowaste BC