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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 22, 2026 Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Subject: **Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 22, 2026, titled “Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan”.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board have received updates at each phase of the solid waste management plan update process, including approving goals and a waste hierarchy for the updated plan in 2025.

An initial draft of the updated solid waste management plan is now published on the Metro Vancouver website. Feedback will help shape a revised draft that will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board, followed additional public comment opportunities prior to submitting the final draft plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks for approval.

The initial draft plan includes 30 strategies and 117 actions, highlighting priorities such as multi-family waste reduction, construction and demolition, infrastructure, residuals management, and cross-sector collaboration to advance a circular economy. Many of the actions help to address challenges observed in solid waste data, including actions to support multi-family and construction and demolition recycling. Affordability is embedded in the solid waste management plan’s guiding principles and will be a key consideration as plan actions are implemented. Member jurisdiction actions are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements.

The updated plan will help Metro Vancouver build on its success as a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling.

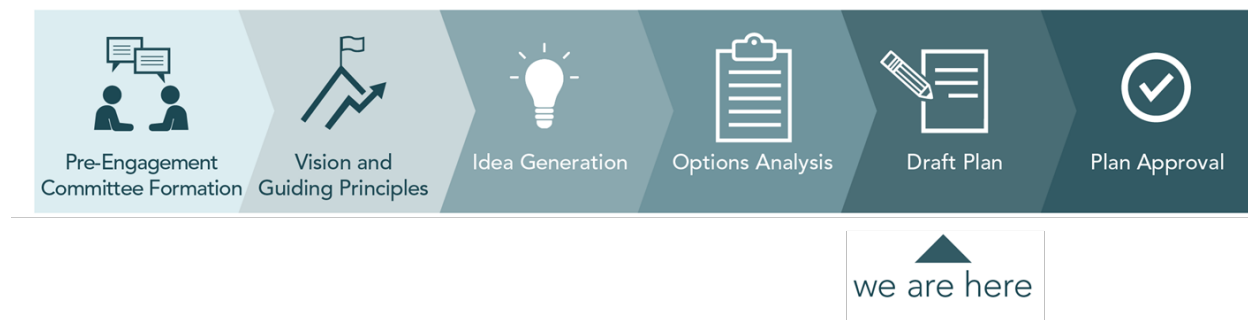
### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Zero Waste Committee on components of the initial draft updated solid waste management plan and provide an opportunity for discussion and comment at the February 5, 2026 Zero Waste Committee meeting.

### **BACKGROUND**

Regional districts are required to develop solid waste management plans under the *Environmental Management Act*, to be approved by the BC Minister of Environment and Parks. Provincial guidelines also recommend initiating a plan review every 10 years. In November of 2019 the GVS&DD Board authorized initiating an update of the regional solid waste management plan.

The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board have received updates at each phase of the solid waste management plan update process. In July 2025, the GVS&DD Board approved goals and a waste hierarchy for the updated plan. The following graphic shows the phases of the plan update process. We are currently in the last phase of plan development – draft plan.



### SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN INITIAL DRAFT

The initial draft solid waste management plan is publicly available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 1). Feedback from all phases of engagement, including the recent options analysis phase, was considered in developing the initial draft solid waste management plan. A full engagement summary report from the options analysis phase will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board at an upcoming meeting.

Key components of the draft solid waste management plan include:

- Vision and guiding principles – *approved by GVS&DD Board in June 2024*
- Goals and waste hierarchy – *approved by GVS&DD Board in July 2025*
- Targets and performance indicators
- 30 Strategies and 117 actions organized by the levels of the waste hierarchy
- Regulatory strategic approach
- Recycling and waste centre strategic approach
- Residual management strategic approach
- Financial overview

### Strategies and Actions – Highlights

Strategies and actions in the initial draft solid waste management plan are specific initiatives to help achieve the plan's goals and targets. The strategies and actions are organized according to the levels of the waste hierarchy, and reflect the themes and priorities heard from residents and businesses in the region. Many of the actions also respond to trends in Metro Vancouver's solid waste data. In particular, actions that support waste reduction and recycling in the multi-family and construction and demolition sectors. The plan also includes member jurisdiction actions, recognizing both that members have an important role to play to accomplish the goals of the plan and the role of collaboration between Metro Vancouver and members. Member jurisdiction actions are potential areas of focus – not requirements – and were developed in collaboration with member staff.

*RETHINK: 4 strategies, 22 actions.*

Sample actions:

- 1.1.3 Advocate for circular economy policies across Canada
- 1.2.1 Facilitate cross-sector waste prevention discussions
- 1.2.5 Develop, test, and share circular procurement approaches, tools, and templates. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)

*REDUCE: 3 strategies, 13 actions*

Sample actions:

- 2.1.1 Develop solutions for construction and demolition sector waste reduction
- 2.1.4 Support tools and education for business

- 2.1.8 Develop, test and share definitions and approaches for zoning and development bylaws to clarify siting requirements for waste reduction and recycling activities. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 2.2.3 Support multi-family waste reduction through education
- 2.3.1 Reduce food loss and waste in collaboration with businesses

*REUSE: 7 strategies, 25 actions*

Sample actions:

- 3.1.1 Advocate for reusable food service ware requirements for non-residential sectors.
- 3.1.3 Update the regionally harmonized approach to reducing single-use items and phasing in reuse measures. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 3.2.1 Advocate for additional extended producer responsibility programs such as mattresses
- 3.3.3 Increase reuse in the construction and demolition sector
- 3.4.3 Develop, test and share best practices for waste reduction and recycling for public realm events, prioritizing surplus food redistribution, use of reusable food service ware, and litter reduction. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 3.5.1 Scale up reuse at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities
- 3.5.5 Facilitate opportunities to increase the size, number, and frequency of repair and reuse events such as community garage sales, repair cafes, and clothing swaps. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 3.6.1 Scale a regional food recovery network
- 3.7.2 Promote reusable items for a diverse audience

*RECYCLE: 8 strategies, 27 actions*

Sample actions:

- 4.1.1 Explore solutions to improve recyclability
- 4.1.2 Work with engineering design and construction organizations to include recycled asphalt and concrete in roads, fill, and other applications. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 4.2.1.1 Reduce barriers for siting recycling activities
- 4.3.2 Increase participation and reduce contamination in organics programs
- 4.4.3 Update, test, and share multi-family residential (including small scale multi-unit housing) waste and recycling container space and access technical specifications to support adequate space for expanded recycling. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 4.4.4 Advocate for, test, and share consistent approaches to improve public space waste reduction and recycling. (*Member Jurisdiction Action*)
- 4.6.1.2 and 4.6.2 Provide tailored education for sectors such as events, tourism, health care and multi-family
- 4.8.2 Create incentives for waste and recycling collectors to work with their customers to adopt additional recycling services and reduce waste
- 4.8.4 Review and expand disposal ban program where possible

*RECOVER: 2 strategies, 6 actions*

Sample actions:

- 5.1.3 Pursue beneficial use of bottom ash in cement plants
- 5.2.2 Recover materials and fuels from construction and demolition material

*DISPOSE: 6 strategies, 24 actions*

Sample actions:

- 6.1.3.1 Explore opportunities to reduce reliance on remote private contingency disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- 6.3.1 Explore long-term additional disposal capacity if required.

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### **Engagement on Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan**

Metro Vancouver has shared the initial draft plan and invited comments from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, neighbouring regional district staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, provincial staff, and others. The initial draft plan is publicly available on the Metro Vancouver website for any interested parties to provide feedback until February 20, 2026. Opportunities for feedback include scheduled advisory committee meetings, written feedback, the option to request a meeting or phone call, and an online discussion board where participants can post comments and respond or react to others' comments.

### **Next Steps to Finalize the Solid Waste Management Plan**

Metro Vancouver anticipates completing the solid waste management plan update process and submitting the final draft plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks in 2026. The steps remaining to finalize the solid waste management plan include:

- Revising the draft plan, if necessary, following feedback on the initial draft
- Providing the revised draft plan to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board for consideration
- Launching a comment period on the revised draft plan
- Submitting a final draft plan, along with any revisions and additional feedback during the comment period, to the Minister of Environment and Parks for approval. Any major proposed revisions would be brought back to the Zero Waste Committee and Board for consideration before submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Affordability is embedded in the solid waste management plan's guiding principles and will be a key consideration as plan actions are implemented.

The draft solid waste plan specifies that actions in the plan requiring Metro Vancouver expenditures will be brought forward for consideration by the GVS&DD Board through the regular budget process, prioritizing actions where business casing shows the highest potential to advance solid waste management plan primary and secondary metrics. Annual reporting on progress to achieve the targets of the solid waste management plan will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments can be most strategically allocated.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The initial draft solid waste management plan includes specific member jurisdiction actions, which have been reviewed by member jurisdiction staff and revised to incorporate feedback. The member jurisdiction actions are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements.

### **CONCLUSION**

Metro Vancouver published an initial draft updated solid waste management plan on the Metro Vancouver website and shared it with interested parties for feedback. Feedback heard before February 20, 2026, will be considered as a revised draft is developed and provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board for consideration. This will be followed by an additional public comment period. A final draft solid waste management plan, including any revisions and feedback from the public comment period, will be included as part of the plan submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Presentation re: Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

**REFERENCES**

1. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. [Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan](#)

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# Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

## WALKTHROUGH

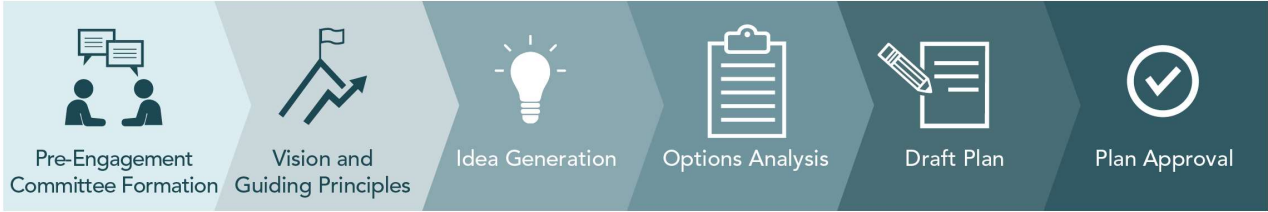
Terry Fulton, P.Eng.  
Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services  
Zero Waste Committee, February 5, 2026

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## PLAN TIMELINE



Pre-Engagement Committee Formation    Vision and Guiding Principles    Idea Generation    Options Analysis    Draft Plan    Plan Approval

we are here

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# INITIAL DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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## VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Complete

“A thriving region where nothing is wasted and resources are valued.”

- ✓ A solid waste and recycling system that is **affordable, convenient, and consistent** across the region.
- ✓ **Inclusive** solid waste services and programs.
- ✓ A solid waste system that is **resilient** to climate change and future challenges.
- ✓ **Innovation and collaboration** to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation.
- ✓ **Accountability** from residents, businesses, and governments to prevent waste.
- ✓ **Transparency** about what happens to waste and recycling.
- ✓ **Environmental stewardship** and climate action.

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# HIERARCHY AND GOALS

**Complete**

Goals	Components	
1. Enable circular systems that preserve resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design waste-free systems</li> <li>Transition to a circular economy</li> </ul>	Rethink
2. Minimize waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevent</li> <li>Use less</li> </ul>	Reduce
3. Keep materials in use as long as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share/Donate</li> <li>Repair/Refurbish</li> <li>Repurpose</li> </ul>	Reuse
4. Make it easier to recycle effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recycle into new products</li> <li>Compost and anaerobic digestion</li> </ul>	Recycle
5. Recover resources from non-recyclable materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recover materials from the waste stream</li> <li>Create alternatives to fossil fuels</li> </ul>	Recover
6. Dispose only as a last resort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy</li> </ul>	Dispose

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# DRAFT 2050 TARGETS

2025 Baseline



**20% Reduction in Waste Generation Per Capita by 2050**  
*(10% by 2040)*

**80% Diversion / 75% Recycling by 2050**  
*(75% / 70% by 2040)*



**50% Reduction in Disposal Per Capita by 2050**  
*(30% by 2040)*

**Carbon Neutral by 2050**  
*(45% reduction by 2030)*



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## RETHINK

4 Strategies, 15 Actions



1.1 Advocate for circular economy policies and programs



1.2 Help lead the transition to a more circular regional economy through waste prevention



1.3 Collaborate to advance a circular economy



1.4 Collect and share data to track progress toward a circular economy

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## REDUCE

3 Strategies, 13 Actions



Symbol indicates strategies which include multi-family focused actions



2.1 Collaborate with businesses and institutions to reduce waste at the source



2.2 Encourage residents to reduce and prevent waste



2.3 Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives for the commercial and institutional sectors

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## REUSE



Symbol indicates strategies which include multi-family focused actions

7 Strategies, 25 Actions

- ✓ 3.1 Support consistent approaches to reuse
- 🤝 3.2 Enhance extended producer responsibility programs
- ♻️ 3.3 Increase reuse of used building materials
- 🔗 3.4 Work with event organizers, businesses, and institutions to increase reuse
- 🏠 3.5 Increase access to and foster the broad adoption of reuse, refill, and repair
- 🍴 3.6 Scale efforts to recover food
- 👥 3.7 Celebrate residents and businesses that prioritize reuse and refill and encourage more residents to participate in these activities

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## RECYCLE



Symbol indicates strategies which include multi-family focused actions

8 Strategies, 27 Actions

- ✓ 4.1 Promote design for recyclability and the use of recycled content in products and packaging
- 🤝 4.2 Encourage the development of new recycling infrastructure
- 🏠 4.3 Improve participation in green bin programs and alternatives for residents and businesses
- 🏠 4.4 Make recycling easier by improving convenience
- 🏠 4.5 Make recycling more effective by simplifying sorting
- 🏠 4.6 Provide tailored recycling education for the residential, commercial and institutional sectors
- 👥 4.7 Increase transparency of what happens to materials from the recycling and green bin programs
- ♻️ 4.8 Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program

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## RECOVER

2 Strategies, 6 Actions



5.1 Recover materials and energy from materials collected at regional facilities that are not currently recycled



5.2 Encourage recovery of materials and energy from construction and demolition materials that are not currently recycled

## DISPOSE

6 Strategies, 24 Actions



6.1 Continue to use Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility as primary disposal systems

6.1.1.1 Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to maximize landfill gas utilization

6.1.1.2 Work with Vancouver to continue to further enhance environmental performance at the Vancouver Landfill

6.1.2.1 Maximize utilization of energy generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility through projects such as district energy

6.1.2.2 Continue to further enhance environmental performance of the Waste-to-Energy Facility

6.1.3.1 Explore opportunities to reduce reliance on remote private contingency disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility

# DISPOSE

6 Strategies, 24 Actions



6.2 Use suitable procurement processes for any contingency disposal requirements



6.3 Explore long-term additional disposal capacity if required



6.4 Monitor disposal options for waste that requires specialized disposal



6.5 Complete closure activities at the former Coquitlam Landfill



6.6 Prevent litter and illegal dumping

# STEPS TO FINALIZE THE PLAN

**Publish initial draft plan**

Receive feedback on **initial draft plan**

Present revised draft plan to **Zero Waste Committee** and **GVS&DD Board**

**Comment period** on revised draft plan

**Submit** draft plan to Minister

Jan 22

Feb

March

April & May

June



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

- Affordability is a guiding principle in considering implementation of any action
- Actions to be brought forward for consideration by the Board as part of the existing budget process
- Actions with the highest potential to advance progress toward plan targets based on business casing will be prioritized

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Zero Waste Planning, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 22, 2026 Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Subject: **2024 Annual Solid Waste Statistics**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 22, 2026, titled “2024 Annual Solid Waste Statistics”.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Metro Vancouver achieved a 65 per cent diversion rate in 2024, consisting of 62 per cent recycled materials and 3 per cent recovered materials. The diversion rate has been constant since 2022 despite challenging economic conditions and weakening market demand for some commodities such as wood. Since approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver’s per capita disposal rate has decreased from 0.57 tonnes per capita in 2011 to 0.43 tonnes per capita in 2024, a decrease of 24 per cent. 2024 per capita disposal increased slightly from 2023, primarily due to a change in disposal quantities attributed to the commercial and institutional sector. Per capita recycling was slightly lower than 2023, with wood showing the largest decrease. The draft updated solid waste management plan includes multiple strategies and actions to increase reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials such as wood.

For 2024, the solid waste statistics reporting approach was revised to reflect the updated performance monitoring framework recommended for the draft updated solid waste management plan. Major updates include delineating recovered and recycled materials, excluding asphalt from recycling calculations, and updating concrete recycling values from conservative estimates to current reported data.

Metro Vancouver aims to continue to improve solid waste data reporting in 2026 potentially through third party checks on concrete values reported by private concrete processing facilities that are exempt from licensing. The 2024 biennial report, which will include a summary of progress on solid waste management plan initiatives, will be presented at a future meeting.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to update the Zero Waste Committee on progress towards waste reduction and diversion targets for the calendar year 2024.

### **BACKGROUND**

Metro Vancouver is responsible for waste reduction and recycling planning, and the operation of a series of solid waste facilities in the region. Planning for less waste, improving reuse and recycling systems, and managing the remaining waste reflects the public’s expectations of high environmental stewardship and affordable and accessible waste management. The annual report includes a summary of data on municipal solid waste including waste generated by residents, commercial/institutional sources, and construction and demolition activity. It excludes industrial and agricultural waste.

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Metro Vancouver staff prepare annual solid waste statistics using multiple sources including jurisdiction surveys, producer responsibility organization reports, and aggregated private facility data. Some of this data is not available until late the following year. The report then undergoes multiple internal quality checks and is presented to advisory committees before being published.

### **ANNUAL SUMMARY STATISTICS**

The primary objectives of the solid waste management plan are avoiding waste through waste reduction, reuse, and recycling campaigns, programs and policies, and recovering materials and energy from the waste that remains. The target for waste reduction was to reduce the per capita waste generation by 10 per cent of 2010 levels by 2020. The diversion rate target was 80 per cent, calculated as the portion of waste diverted as a fraction of the total waste generated. In 2024, the per capita waste generation is 15 per cent lower than 2010 levels. The diversion rate for 2024, which has remained constant since 2022, is 65 per cent.

### **Performance Monitoring Approach Updates**

Adjustments were made to the performance monitoring approach to align with the recommended performance monitoring approach for the draft updated solid waste management plan. Updates include:

- Delineation of the recycling rate and diversion rate. Recycling rate includes only materials that are processed into new products, including composting, whereas diversion rate includes all recycled material in addition to materials recovered for uses such as alternative fuels.
- Recycled asphalt was removed from the total recycling calculation, though the total quantity of asphalt continues to be reported separately. This change was made in response to reflect feedback that recycled asphalt most commonly originates in street and roadway infrastructure.
- Concrete recycling quantities were updated to reflect the current reported volumes, replacing the conservative estimates used over the previous two years.
- A five-year average disposal quantity was applied to compost residuals to account for an abnormal increase due to the disposal of stockpiled processing residuals.
- Distribution of small load tonnes between the single-family, multi-family and commercial/institutional sectors were updated for both recycling and disposal using updated customer surveys.

The table below provides a summary of waste disposed, recycled plus recovered, and generated, by sector. The full 2024 Biennial Report will be presented at a future meeting.

## 2024 Annual Solid Waste Statistics

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Page 3 of 5

WASTE SECTOR		DISPOSED (tonnes)		RECYCLED AND RECOVERED (tonnes)		GENERATED (tonnes)			DIVERSION RATE (%)	
		2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	% change	2023	2024
Residential	tonnes	538,897	513,591	571,230	570,375	1,110,127	1,083,966	-2%	51%	53%
	tonnes/capita	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.19	0.37	0.36	-4%		
Single Family	tonnes	252,993	233,664	421,472	415,753	674,465	649,417	-4%	62%	64%
Multi-Family	tonnes	285,904	279,927	149,758	154,622	435,662	434,549	0%	34%	36%
Commercial/ Institutional	tonnes	403,807	478,726	398,826	439,827	802,634	918,553	14%	50%	48%
	tonnes/capita	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.15	0.27	0.30	13%		
Construction & Demolition	tonnes	326,938	320,130	1,423,304	1,375,685	1,750,242	1,695,815	-3%	81%	81%
	tonnes/capita	0.11	0.11	0.48	0.45	0.59	0.56	-5%		
Total	tonnes	1,269,643	1,312,448	2,393,360	2,385,887	3,663,003	3,698,334	1%	65%	65%
	tonnes/capita	0.42	0.43	0.80	0.79	1.23	1.22	0%		
	tonnes/ household	1.08	1.10	2.04	2.00	3.11	3.09	-1%		

Note: Due to rounding, some numbers presented may not add precisely to the totals indicated

### Diversions

In 2024, the region achieved a diversion rate of 65 per cent and diverting approximately 2.39 million tonnes (0.79 tonnes per capita), compared to 2.39 million tonnes (0.80 tonnes per capita) in 2023. The diversion rate includes 62 per cent (2.29 million tonnes) that was recycled and 3 per cent (96 thousand tonnes) that was recovered. The materials with the highest recycling quantities were concrete, yard and food, and paper. Concrete numbers were updated to reflect the most recent reported values, whereas the increase in gypsum recycling was due to processing of stockpiled materials.

The biggest decrease in diversion tonnage was seen in wood which may be correlated to the decrease in housing starts in 2024 (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 2024, p.11) and weakening end market demand tied to ongoing pulp and paper mill closures, such as the mill closure in Crofton (Domtar, 2024) and previously the Powell River pulp mill (Paper Excellence, 2023). To target the increase of reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials across the region, the draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan includes multiple strategies and actions which aim to increase reuse and recycling of construction and demolition materials such as wood.

Overall diversion in the commercial/institutional sector increased by approximately 41,000 tonnes, while the residential sector experienced a decrease of 855 tonnes in diverted material between 2023 and 2024. A contributing factor was the reallocation of small load diversion at regional solid waste facilities based on recent survey data.

The table below summarizes the total diverted material quantities for 2023 compared to 2024. Additional materials and quantities are included in the detailed annual summary report on Metro Vancouver's website.

MATERIAL TYPE DIVERTED	2023 (tonnes)	2024 (tonnes)
Asphalt <sup>(1)</sup>	295,422	N/A
Batteries	13,884	13,556
Concrete	870,092	1,178,405
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	10,719	11,293
Paper/Paper Products	322,903	316,601
Glass	47,869	45,704
Gypsum	63,349	76,377
Household Hazardous Waste	24,579	23,801
Metal	61,300	62,096
Other <sup>(2)</sup>	778	-
Plastic	57,639	58,593
Textiles	288	327
Tires	19,925	20,241
Wood <sup>(3)</sup>	191,859	167,783
Yard & Food	412,753	411,109
Total	2,393,360	2,385,887

<sup>1</sup> Asphalt was removed from materials diverted list in 2024.

<sup>2</sup> "Other" category previously captured asphalt shingles, but the quantities were too small to warrant its own category or continued tracking.

<sup>3</sup> Includes 96,356 tonnes are materials used as fuel substitutes, counted as recovery.

## Disposal

During 2024 the Vancouver Landfill, Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility, and three remote private landfills under contract with Metro Vancouver accepted municipal solid waste from residential and commercial/institutional sources. Construction and demolition waste is disposed of at the Vancouver Landfill and private facilities. In 2024, an estimated 1.31 million tonnes of waste or 0.43 tonnes per capita was disposed, which is a 1.9 per cent increase in per capita disposal from 2023, and a 24 per cent decrease from the per capita disposal rate when the current solid waste management plan was approved in 2011. The region continued to experience an increase in waste disposed by commercial and institutional sources, while residential waste disposal and construction and demolition sectors slightly decreased. Some of the increase in commercial and institutional waste disposal can be attributed to the reallocation of small load disposal at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities based on recent surveys.

## Future Reporting Updates

Starting 2026 Metro Vancouver will explore the possibility of having a third party perform checks on the concrete reported values, which will help verify estimates received concrete processing facilities that are exempted from licensing requirements and as such not obligated to report data to Metro Vancouver. Future reports will incorporate new metrics and tracking methods following approval of the updated solid waste management plan.

## ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Metro Vancouver's waste reduction and recycling initiatives are implemented within the annual budget for the Solid Waste Services department.

**CONCLUSION**

In 2024, the waste disposal rate was 0.43 tonnes per capita, while the diversion rate held steady at 65 per cent. Residential and commercial/institutional sources, and construction and demolition activity generated approximately 3.7 million tonnes of waste, of which 2.4 million tonnes was diverted.

Updates to the performance monitoring approach were made to improve the accuracy of reporting. Looking ahead to 2026, Metro Vancouver plans to further enhance reporting transparency and reliability by exploring third-party checks on concrete data and updating performance metrics to align with the updated solid waste management plan.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Presentation re: 2024 Solid Waste Statistics.

**REFERENCES**

1. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2024). Housing Supply Report: Fall 2024 [Housing Supply Report](#)
2. Domtar. (2024, January 25). Press Release. [Paper Excellence Canada to indefinitely curtail paper operations at Catalyst Crofton mill](#)
3. Paper Excellence Canada. (2023, August 16). Press Release. [Paper Excellence Canada permanently curtails Catalyst Paper tiskwat](#)



United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

# 2024 Solid Waste Statistics

INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS

Kelly Du, P.Eng  
Project Engineer

Zero Waste Committee, February 05, 2026

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## UPDATED PERFORMANCE MONITORING APPROACH

Consistent with performance metrics, hierarchy, and considering feedback

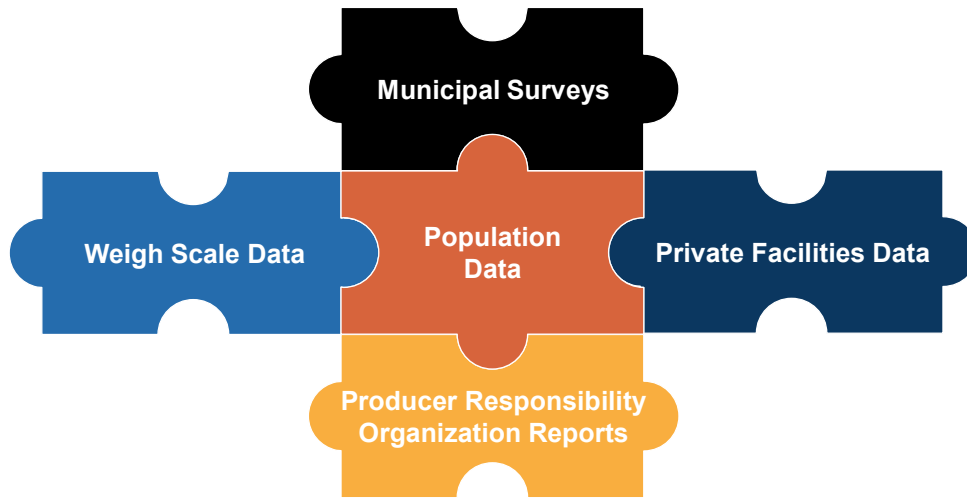
- Delineation of recycling vs. diversion rate (which includes recovery)
- Removal of asphalt from total recycling calculation
- Update concrete recycling numbers to current reported volumes
- Updated residential/commercial split on small loads (recycling and disposal) based on updated surveys

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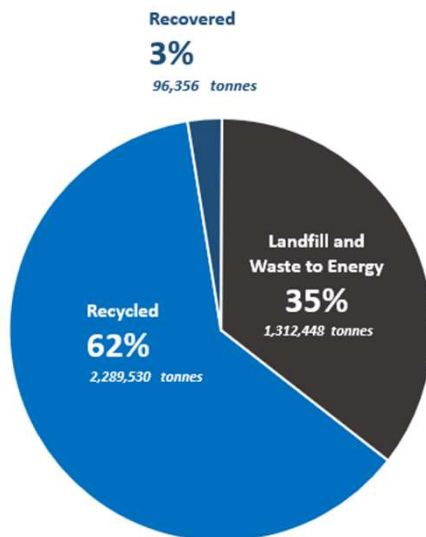
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## STATISTICS INFORMATION SOURCES



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## RECYCLING AND DIVERSION RATE



### 2024 Diversion Rate Highlights

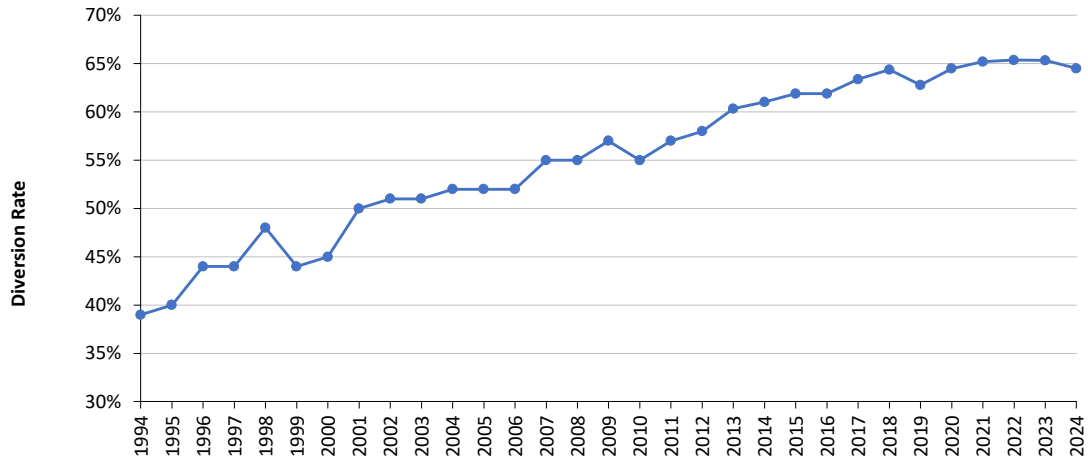
- Diversion rate remained same as 2023 and 2022
- Diverted materials: Includes materials used for alternative fuels

Year	Diversion Rate
2022	65%
2023	65%
2024	65%

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# DIVERSION RATE OVER TIME

From all Sectors



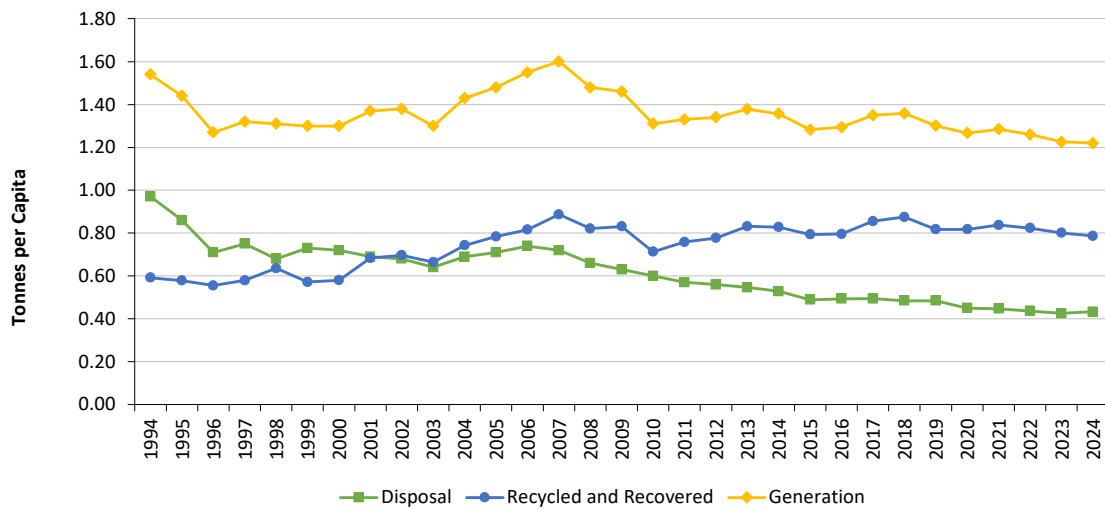
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# HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE OVER TIME

From all sectors



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## 2024 SUMMARY

WASTE SECTOR		DISPOSED (tonnes)		RECYCLED AND RECOVERED (tonnes)		DIVERSION RATE (%)		
		2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	% change
Residential	tonnes	538,897	513,591	571,230	570,375	51%	53%	1%
	tonnes/capita	0.18	0.17	0.19	0.19			
Single Family <sup>(1)</sup>	tonnes	252,993	233,664	421,472	415,753	62%	64%	2%
Multi-Family <sup>(2)</sup>	tonnes	285,904	279,927	149,758	154,622	34%	36%	1%
Commercial/Institutional <sup>(2)</sup>	tonnes	403,807	478,726	398,826	439,827	50%	48%	-2%
	tonnes/capita	0.14	0.16	0.13	0.15			
Residential + Commercial/Institutional	tonnes/ household	0.80	0.83	0.82	0.85	51%	50%	0%
Construction & Demolition <sup>(4)</sup>	tonnes	326,938	320,130	1,423,304	1,375,685	81%	81%	0%
Total	tonnes	1,269,643	1,312,448	2,393,360	2,385,887			
	tonnes/capita	0.42	0.43	0.80	0.79	65%	65%	-0.8%
	tonnes/ household	1.08	1.10	2.04	2.00			

\*numbers may not add up correctly due to rounding

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## DIVERTED MATERIALS

MATERIAL TYPE	TOTAL (tonnes)	CHANGE IN TOTAL (YEAR OVER YEAR) <sup>(1)</sup>
Batteries	13,556	-2%
Concrete	1,178,405	35%
Electronic & Electrical Equipment	11,293	5%
Paper/Paper Products	316,601	-2%
Glass	45,704	-5%
Gypsum	76,377	21%
Household Hazardous Waste	23,801	-3%
Metal	62,096	1%
Plastic	58,593	2%
Textiles	327	13%
Tires	20,241	2%
Wood <sup>(2)</sup>	167,783	-13%
Yard & Food	411,109	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,385,887</b>	<b>0%</b>

(1) Arrow indicators only appear for year-over-year tonnage changes greater than +/- 5%  
 (2) 96,356 tonnes are materials used as fuel substitutes

### 2024 Highlights

- Increase in gypsum, significant decrease in wood diversion
- Asphalt removed from recycled materials as predominantly from streets
- Concrete values based on most recent reported values

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## OTHER REPORTED MATERIALS EXCLUDED FROM SOLID WASTE STATISTICS

Material (Tonnes)	2022	2023	2024
Soil landfill cover <sup>(1)</sup>	437,493	455,900	603,018
Ground Construction Wood Waste used as landfill cover <sup>(1)</sup>	91,295	90,791	89,727
Aggregate <sup>(1)</sup>	91,764	99,860	89,492
Asphalt	490,758	492,602	437,715

<sup>(1)</sup> Data taken from Vancouver Annual Landfill Reports.



Metro Vancouver Skyline

Questions?

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Joanne Gauci, Senior Policy Advisor, Solid Waste Services

Date: January 22, 2026 Meeting Date: February 5, 2026

Subject: **Zero Waste Conference 2025**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 22, 2026, titled “Zero Waste Conference 2025”.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The 2025 Zero Waste Conference featured international, national, and local speakers sharing knowledge and experiences with approximately 500 attendees both in-person and online. The conference, presented by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council, focused on waste prevention and the circular economy with sessions building on the theme, “Innovation and the Business Case for Waste Prevention”. The program included networking opportunities and afternoon workshops. Survey results indicate that more than 85 per cent of attendees were “very” or “somewhat satisfied” with the conference and are likely to apply ideas from the conference to advance zero waste and circular economy initiatives.

The conference was delivered at a cost of \$390,000; \$70,000 less than the original budget of \$460,000. This cost reduction was achieved by moving to a single-day event and implementing other cost-saving measures. The conference was funded through MVRD funding, conference registration fees, and GVS&DD support for attendees from, for example, the National Zero Waste Council Management Board members, Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee members, and Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee members. The next Zero Waste Conference is tentatively scheduled for fall 2027, with more information to be provided closer to the event.

### **PURPOSE**

This report provides a summary of the Zero Waste Conference presented by Metro Vancouver on November 27, 2025.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Zero Waste Conference, presented by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council, includes a full program of keynote speakers, audience participation, thought leader insights and networking opportunities in the circular economy and waste prevention space. The event attracts interest from the business sector, sustainability practitioners, academia, all orders of government, and the public from the Metro Vancouver region and across Canada.

The Zero Waste Conference is one component of Metro Vancouver’s Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives, aimed at waste prevention and growing the circular economy. Launched in 2012 to fulfil a commitment in the solid waste management plan, the initiatives recognize that local systems change requires national collaboration. The 2025 conference was the 15th iteration. The conference was held annually until 2023 and is now held every other year.

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## 2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The 2025 conference was set against the backdrop of a rapidly changing economic landscape where cost and affordability are growing concerns in both the public and private sector. Conference sessions and speakers tackled how to demonstrate and communicate the business case for change in this rapidly evolving landscape — highlighting the economic and environmental benefits that can be realized through innovative new solutions and approaches over the long-term.

The conference had approximately 500 attendees in person and online including individuals from groups and committees that work on current solid waste issues supported by the GVS&DD, and staff from member jurisdictions. Several online attendees shared that they streamed the conference with several people gathered together in a room. Attendees included over 50 students and members of the Metro Vancouver Youth and Education Advisory Panel, highlighting the interest and relevance of this topic to the next generation of leaders in this region.

The conference opened with a thoughtful and warm welcome from Councillor Alec Guerin of Musqueam Indian Band. This was followed by welcome remarks from the Metro Vancouver Board Chair and the National Zero Waste Council Chair. Later in the day both the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and provincial Minister of Environment and Parks provided pre-recorded video remarks.

The opening keynote address from Tom Wujec, Author of *The Future of Making*, TED Presenter, and former Chief Disruptor at Autodesk, inspired conference attendees to tackle complex problems in new ways and explore how the dimensions of circularity — the flow of materials, human experiences, and emerging technologies — can converge to redesign the future. *An Innovator's Showcase: Circular Solutions Transforming the Marketplace*, provided attendees the opportunity to learn from three speakers who brought their real-world circular economy success stories to the stage. This was followed by the *Circular Cities and Regions Armchair Discussion* with the City of Richmond and the City of Montreal. Next, attendees were invited to learn from thought leaders answering the question *Meeting the Moment: How Do We Scale Faster?*

Following lunch, attendees could choose one of three concurrent workshops. Workshops were added for the first time at the 2023 conference and received overwhelming positive feedback so were brought back in 2025. Workshops were interactive and brought together leading practitioners to discuss innovation pathways that can design out waste and enable industry-wide change. The three workshops were hosted in collaboration with industry leaders who helped shape the sessions and participated in different ways.

- Hospitality and Entertainment — Co-hosted by Canada Plastics Pact and Sodexo & Sodexo Live!
- High-Tech and Circularity — Co-hosted by Invest Vancouver and Innovate BC
- Housing and Construction — Co-hosted by Circular Economy Leadership Canada

The conference concluded with reflections from Jo Barnard, Founder and Creative Director of Morrama and Eric Corey Freed, Principal and Director of Sustainability of CannonDesign, who spoke on how we can design a regenerative future through a focus on products and buildings.

Recordings of all the conference sessions are now available on the conference website (Reference 1).

## Attendee Feedback

In an anonymous post-conference attendee survey, over 85 per cent of respondents were “very” or “somewhat satisfied” with the conference and are likely to apply ideas from the conference to advance zero waste and circular economy initiatives they are working on. Similar to previous conference feedback, attendees reported enjoying the networking opportunities and the opening and closing

keynote addresses the most. All three afternoon workshops were also positively reviewed. Feedback for suggested improvements included adding facilitated networking opportunities among attendees in specific industries, featuring more tangible solutions that can be easily replicated and applied, providing online attendees a mechanism to participate in the afternoon workshops, and more time for workshop activities. Attendees highlighted their appreciation of the high-quality production value, the exciting and inspirational speakers, and the extra time dedicated to networking breaks. Approximately a quarter of the conference attendees completed the post-event survey.

### **Next Zero Waste Conference**

The next conference is tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2027. More information on the conference will be provided as the event draws closer.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The conference cost was approximately \$390,000 compared to a budget of \$460,000. Cost savings were achieved by moving to a single-day conference and looking for opportunities to reduce expenses in each area of delivery including catering, marketing, and multi-media support. Expenditures have further been significantly reduced with the move to a bi-annual conference delivery model compared to the historic annual conference approach.

The 2025 conference was supported through the MVRD general government program of \$212,000, conference attendee registration fees, and GVS&DD support for groups integral to the region's solid waste management planning processes to attend including the National Zero Waste Council Management Board members, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee. Moving forward, funding for all Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives including the conference has been moved from MVRD general government program to GVS&DD.

### **CONCLUSION**

The 2025 Zero Waste Conference, presented by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council, received positive feedback from participants. Over 85 per cent of attendees surveyed were "very" or "somewhat satisfied" with the conference and are likely to take ideas from the conference to advance zero waste and circular economy initiatives they are working on. The messages around circular economy and waste prevention reached approximately 500 in-person and online attendees. The conference included networking breaks and afternoon workshops with extended participation opportunities.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Presentation re: Zero Waste Conference 2025.

### **REFERENCES**

1. Zero Waste Conference. (2026, January). Innovation and the Business Case for Waste Prevention. [Innovation and the Business Case for Waste Prevention](#)



Circular Cities and Regions: Armchair Discussion

# Zero Waste Conference 2025

Joanne Gauci

Senior Policy Advisor, Solid Waste Services

Zero Waste Committee, February 5, 2026

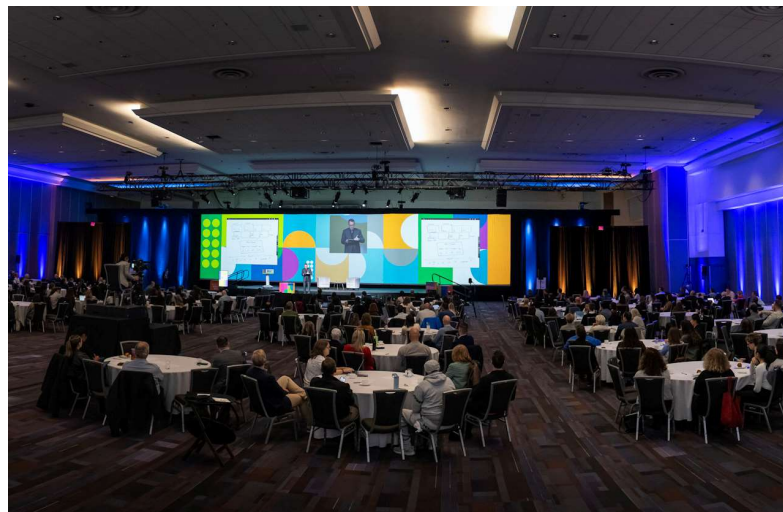
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## ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE

November 27, 2025

- Approximately 500 attendees in-person and online
- Theme: Innovation and the Business Case for Waste Prevention



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## OPENING

- Welcome from Alec Guerin, Councillor with the Musqueam Indian Band
- Metro Vancouver Board Chair and the National Zero Waste Council Chair
- Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Provincial Minister of Environment and Parks



Alec Guerin, Councillor, Musqueam Indian Band




Craig Hodge, Chair, National Zero Waste Council

## SPEAKERS

- International, national, and local speakers
- **Opening Keynote - Tom Wujec**, Author of The Future of Making, TED presenter, formerly Chief Disruptor of Autodesk



Tom Wujec, Author of The Future of Making, TED presenter



## CLOSING KEYNOTE

- **Jo Barnard**, Founder and Creative Director of Morrama
- **Eric Corey Freed**, Principal and Director of Sustainability of CannonDesign

Joe Barnard,  
Founder and Creative  
Director, Morrama

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# 2025 ZERO WASTE CONFERENCE



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Networking

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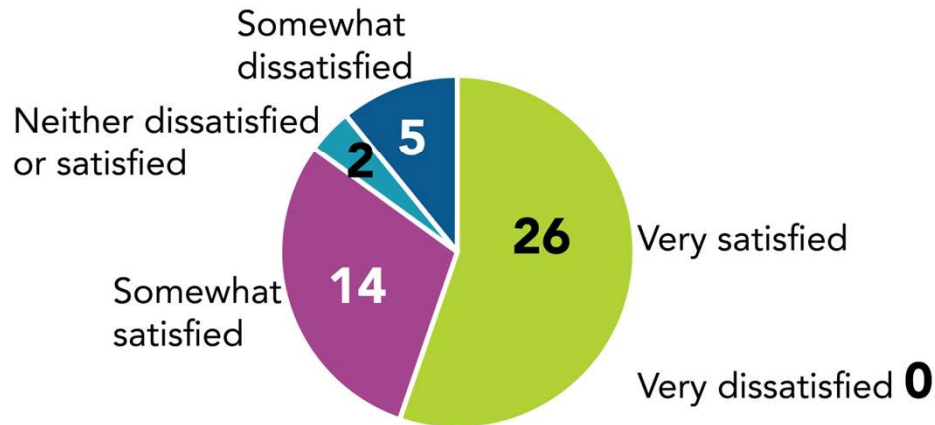
Networking

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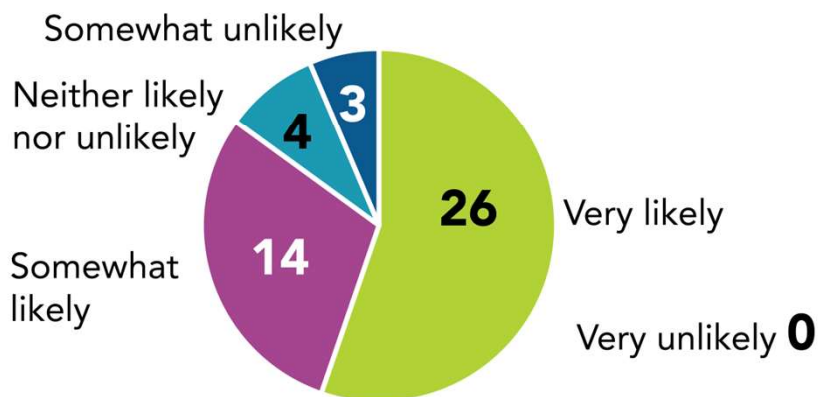
## POST CONFERENCE SURVEY – SATISFACTION

Overall, how satisfied were you with the conference?



## POST CONFERENCE SURVEY – TAKE AWAYS

How likely are you to take ideas from this event to advance zero waste, climate action, and/or circular economy initiatives you are working on?





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Questions

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To: Liquid Waste Committee

From: Carol Nicolls, Communications Specialist, External Relations

Date: January 27, 2026 Meeting Date: February 11, 2026

Subject: **2025 “Wipe It, Green Bin It” Campaign Results**

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## RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Liquid Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 27, 2026, titled “2025 ‘Wipe It, Green Bin It’ Campaign Results”.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The disposal of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) into the sewer system is an ongoing issue that costs the region over \$4.3 million every year. The 2025 “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign ran from October 6 to November 16, asking residents to put fats, oils, and grease in their green bins and not down their sinks. The campaign included social media, Pinterest, YouTube, Google Ads, digital banners, and out-of-home advertising on bus sides, SkyTrain stations, and in elevators.

The campaign reached over 718,000 residents, delivering 71 million impressions, 2,159 engagements, 8,060 clicks for more information, and 6,733 web page views. A post-campaign survey of residents showed a trend of improved knowledge and practices related to fats, oils, and grease disposal. The campaign will run again in 2026, likely targeting a younger audience, as research shows this demographic remains most likely to put fats, oils, and grease down the drain.

## PURPOSE

To update the Liquid Waste Committee on the 2025 regional “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign to reduce the disposal of fats, oils, and grease in the sewer system.

## BACKGROUND

The disposal of FOG into the sewer system is an ongoing issue around the region. Fats, oils, and grease can harden in sewers, producing costly “fatbergs” that block sewers and lead to overflows into homes, businesses, and the environment. Metro Vancouver and its members spend over \$4.3 million every year to deal with the impact of FOG in the wastewater system. Fats, oils, and grease enter sewers mainly from kitchen drains within homes and food sector establishments. The “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign targets FOG from homes, asking residents to put FOG in the green bin and not down the sink. Metro Vancouver has conducted regional campaigns to reduce FOG since 2017. This campaign is part of a suite of source control interventions including regulation and enforcement of commercial food sector and industrial sectors.

This report provides an overview of the main results of the 2025 “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign, as identified in the 2026 Liquid Waste Committee Work Plan.

## 2025 REGIONAL “WIPE IT, GREEN BIN IT” CAMPAIGN

The “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign took place from October 6 to November 16, 2025. The campaign aimed to reach residents in the lead-up to Thanksgiving and during a time of heavier fall/winter cooking. The campaign materials (**Attachment 1**) featured dripping grease, oil, or dairy (fat), reminding residents to “Wipe It, Green Bin It” to avoid clogged pipes.

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## Media Strategy

The campaign targeted Metro Vancouver residents aged 18+, with particular focus on those aged 30 to 44 who cook or are involved in cooking cleanup. Paid media included digital placements on social media (Facebook/Instagram), Pinterest, YouTube, digital banners, Google Search and out-of-home advertising on transit (bus sides, SkyTrain stations) and in residential building elevators. All placements directed residents to the campaign website (Reference 1) for more information about the issue and types of FOG-laden foods.

## Engagement of Metro Vancouver Member Jurisdictions

Campaign details and creative materials were shared with members' communication staff prior to the campaign's launch. All materials were made available for download on the Metro Vancouver website and custom, co-branded materials were offered upon request.

## Results

The campaign performed well overall, exceeding targets for paid media placements and showing positive trends in post-campaign survey results.

### Media Buy and Website

- The campaign generated 71 million impressions and reached over 718,000 residents
- Facebook, Instagram, and Pinterest generated 2,159 engagements (reactions, comments, shares, saves) and 6,664 clicks to the website for more information — with the oil creative generating the highest reach and number of impressions
- YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook placements generated two million video views
- Digital banners had a high viewability rate (88 per cent), demonstrating that the content was relevant to the audience

### Post-campaign Survey

A biannual post-campaign survey of 1,100 residents was conducted to help assess campaign performance. The 2025 survey largely showed that residents continued to improve their knowledge and practices related to FOG disposal since 2017. Survey results show that:

- The amount of people who report putting FOG down the drain continued to drop — 23 per cent reported doing this in 2025 compared to 37 per cent in 2017.
- Over two-thirds (67 per cent) of residents now think it is unsafe to put any amount of FOG down the drain — a 16 per cent increase from 2017.
- About one-third (30 per cent) of residents report putting FOG from plates and cooking implements down the drain — a 15 per cent drop since 2017.
- Younger residents aged 18 to 34 are most likely to put FOG down the drain, with 39 per cent reporting this practice, compared to 29 per cent of those aged 35 to 44 and 24 per cent of those aged 45 or more.
- Of the residents who saw the campaign, 55 per cent say they are more likely to dispose of FOG in the green bin.

## FATS, OILS, AND GREASE MEASUREMENT

Fats, oils, and grease levels have been monitored at various pump stations since 2018. This monitoring uses a visual rating scale, which helps assess FOG issues and evaluate campaign effectiveness. In general, 2025 data shows comparable FOG levels to 2023, with average yearly FOG levels dropping since 2019. This monitoring should be considered as just one metric to measure campaign success, as external conditions (such as rain and cleaning schedules) can affect FOG build-up.

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**PLANS FOR 2026**

The campaign will run again in 2026, with similar timing. Survey results show that younger residents remain by far the most likely to put FOG down the drain and the campaign will likely focus more heavily on this group in 2026. More research may be needed to better understand what would motivate this group to adopt correct disposal practices, along with different creative materials to more effectively reach this group. Metro Vancouver channels will also be used to provide year-round messaging for seasonal holidays and events, such as Lunar New Year and the Grey Cup.

**ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 2025 “Wipe It, Green Bin It” regional campaign had a budget of \$160,784 supported under the Liquid Waste Services Communications Program. The disposal of fats, oils, and grease into the sewer system is an ongoing issue that costs the region over \$4.3 million every year.

**CONCLUSION**

The 2025 “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign generally performed well, exceeding paid media targets and showing positive trends in the post-campaign survey. Survey and pump station monitoring results show a steady improvement in residents’ FOG disposal practices and knowledge over the last nine years, suggesting that the “Wipe It, Green Bin It” campaign is contributing to behaviour changes in this area. Younger residents (aged 18–34) remain by far the most likely group to put FOG down the drain. For 2026, the campaign will likely focus more heavily on this younger demographic. Additional research and different creative materials may be needed to better understand and motivate this group.

**ATTACHMENT**

1. Sample of campaign materials.

**REFERENCE**

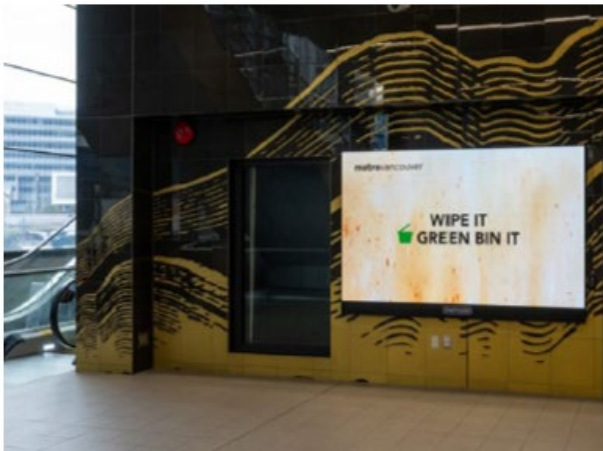
1. Metro Vancouver. (2026, January). Disposal of *Fats, Oils, and Grease at Home* (campaign website). <https://metrovancover.org/services/liquid-waste/what-to-do-with-fats-oils-and-grease>

### Sample of Campaign Materials

#### Advertising on bus sides



#### SkyTrain station placements



#### Residential elevator placement



#### Social media post

