

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE**

**MEETING**

**Thursday, March 5, 2026  
1:00 pm**

**28<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia**

**AGENDA**

**A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1. March 5, 2026 Meeting Agenda**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for March 5, 2026 as circulated.

**B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**1. February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held February 5, 2026 as circulated.

*pg. 4*

**C. DELEGATIONS**

**1. Sue Maxwell, Chair, Zero Waste BC**

Subject: What is Needed to Have a Strong Solid Waste Management Plan

**D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

- 1. Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**  
Report dated February 20, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services.

*pg. 8*

**Executive Summary**

Inappropriate disposal of large volume, valved, single-use nitrous oxide cylinders has been linked to explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, leading to safety concerns and cost implications. Inappropriate disposal of the cylinders also results in greenhouse gas emissions and potential impacts on emissions from the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Approximately 700 cylinders per month are being dropped off for recycling at recycling and waste centres. Cost implications of the nitrous oxide cylinders in the waste stream could reach millions of dollars per year.

Metro Vancouver wrote to Health Canada in December 2025 requesting confirmation that the sale or distribution of disposable nitrous oxide cylinders is illegal in Canada. Metro Vancouver has not received a formal response. Metro Vancouver has identified and reported to Health Canada a number of businesses selling large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders. Metro Vancouver estimates there are approximately 100 vape and smoke shops selling these cylinders within the Metro Vancouver region.

Staff recommend that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

#### **Recommendation**

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) request that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting the prohibition of the import and sale of single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders; and
- b) direct staff to work with other entities such as local health authorities, the Retail Council of Canada, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in support of requesting a prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

2. **Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement Summary**  
Report dated February 20, 2026 from Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services.

*pg. 18*

#### **Executive Summary**

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on its success as a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. The plan update is supported by a robust and inclusive engagement process. In 2025, Metro Vancouver completed the options analysis phase of engagement to assess and receive feedback on potential strategies and actions resulting from previous research and engagement. Considering options analysis feedback, an initial draft solid waste management plan was developed. The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board received updates across all phases of the solid waste management plan update, and the GVS&DD Board previously approved components of the updated plan.

The engagement summary report (Reference 1) highlights themes from feedback such as prioritizing reuse and repair, financial incentives, tailored education, accessibility of solid waste services and facilities, and standardized services and regulations. There were also comments to close the Waste-to-Energy Facility, stop the use of landfills, varying opinions on privatization of the regional solid waste system, and comments that recycling statistics should not include energy recovery.

Following options analysis engagement, the public was invited to share their feedback on the engagement process with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel.

**Recommendation**

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated February 20, 2026, titled “Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement Summary”.

**3. Manager’s Report**

*pg. 27*

Report dated February 20, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services.

**Recommendation**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 20, 2026 titled “Manager’s Report”.

**F. INFORMATION ITEM**

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

**H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

*Note: The Committee must state by resolution the basis under section 90 of the Community Charter on which the meeting is being closed. If a member wishes to add an item, the basis must be included below.*

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adjourn its meeting of March 5, 2026.

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Membership:

Chair, Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vancouver  
Vice Chair, Craig Hodge, Coquitlam  
Anmore, Paul Weverink  
Burnaby, Pietro Calendino

Langley City, Rosemary Wallace  
Langley Township, Steve Ferguson  
North Vancouver District, Lisa Muri  
Port Coquitlam, Steve Darling

Richmond, Michael Wolfe  
Surrey, Doug Elford  
Vancouver, Lenny Zhou



## METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE

### MEETING

Thursday, February 5, 2026

1:00 pm

28<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

### MINUTES

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vancouver  
Vice Chair, Craig Hodge, Coquitlam  
Anmore, Paul Weverink  
Burnaby, Pietro Calendino\*  
Langley City, Rosemary Wallace  
Langley Township, Steve Ferguson  
North Vancouver District, Lisa Muri (departed at 3:00 pm)  
Port Coquitlam, Steve Darling\*  
Richmond, Michael Wolfe  
Surrey, Doug Elford (arrived at 1:06 pm)  
Vancouver, Lenny Zhou\*

\*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by the *Procedure Bylaw*

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services  
Christine Zhao, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services  
Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services  
Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services  
Joanne Gauci, Senior Policy Advisor, Solid Waste Services

#### A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

##### 1. February 5, 2026 Meeting Agenda

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for February 5, 2026 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES****1. January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes****It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held January 15, 2026 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**C. DELEGATIONS**

No items presented.

**D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

No items presented.

**E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER****1. Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan**

Report dated January 22, 2026 from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, providing information to the Zero Waste Committee on components of the initial draft updated solid waste management plan and providing the Committee with an opportunity for discussion and comment.

Terry Fulton gave a presentation titled "Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan," presenting the timeline and components of the initial draft Solid Waste Management Plan, clarifying the terms of diversion, recovery and recycling, and noting that the revised draft solid waste management plan will be provided to the Committee and the GVS&DD Board for approval.

1:06 pm Director Elford joined the meeting.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**2. 2024 Annual Solid Waste Statistics**

Report dated January 22, 2026 from Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Zero Waste Planning, Solid Waste Services, providing an update to the Zero Waste Committee on progress towards waste reduction and diversion targets for the calendar year 2024.

Terry Fulton and Kelly Du gave a presentation titled "2024 Solid Waste Statistics – Integrated Solid Waste and Resources Management Plan Progress," introducing the updated performance monitoring approach and providing a summary of 2024 solid waste statistics and the historical performance.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**3. 2026 Solid Waste Services Capital Program Update No. 1**

Report dated January 22, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager Solid Waste Services, providing the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board with the first of three annual updates on the Solid Waste Services' Capital Program.

Paul Henderson gave a presentation titled "2026 Solid Waste Services Capital Program Update," providing a summary of the progress, budget, and schedule of landfill, recycling and waste centre, and Waste-to-Energy Facility projects.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated January 22, 2026 titled "2026 Solid Services Capital Program Update No. 1".

**CARRIED**

**4. Zero Waste Conference 2025**

Report dated January 22, 2026 from Joanne Gauci, Senior Policy Advisor, Solid Waste Services, providing a summary of the Zero Waste Conference presented by Metro Vancouver on November 27, 2025.

Joanne Gauci gave a presentation titled "Zero Waste Conference 2025," informing members about conference attendance, the theme, the speakers, and attendee satisfaction and feedback received based on the post conference survey, as well as showcasing photos taken at the conference and a video of the event.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

**CARRIED**

**5. Manager's Report**

Report dated January 22, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, providing an update on the Vancouver Landfill Agreement, Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, the Collaborative Engagement Program, nitrous oxide cylinders at recycling and waste centres, the 2026 Food Scraps Aren't Garbage Campaign, and the reuse service at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, as well as addressing a question from the previous meeting about ventilation index.

Paul Henderson introduced the report and displayed a video clip showcasing the Collaborative Engagement program's success in enabling underrepresented communities to provide input on the solid waste management plan update.

3:00 pm Director Muri left the meeting.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated January 22, 2026, titled "Manager's Report".

**CARRIED**

**F. INFORMATION ITEM**

No items presented.

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

No items presented.

**H. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

No items presented.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adjourn its meeting of February 5, 2026.

**CARRIED**

(Time: 3:02 pm)

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Christine Zhao,  
Legislative Services Coordinator

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Sarah Kirby-Yung,  
Chair

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: February 20, 2026 Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: **Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) request that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting the prohibition of the import and sale of single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders; and
  - b) direct staff to work with other entities such as local health authorities, the Retail Council of Canada, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in support of requesting a prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.
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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Inappropriate disposal of large volume, valved, single-use nitrous oxide cylinders has been linked to explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility, leading to safety concerns and cost implications.

Inappropriate disposal of the cylinders also results in greenhouse gas emissions and potential impacts on emissions from the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Approximately 700 cylinders per month are being dropped off for recycling at recycling and waste centres. Cost implications of the nitrous oxide cylinders in the waste stream could reach millions of dollars per year.

Metro Vancouver wrote to Health Canada in December 2025 requesting confirmation that the sale or distribution of disposable nitrous oxide cylinders is illegal in Canada. Metro Vancouver has not received a formal response. Metro Vancouver has identified and reported to Health Canada a number of businesses selling large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders. Metro Vancouver estimates there are approximately 100 vape and smoke shops selling these cylinders within the Metro Vancouver region.

Staff recommend that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to update the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board on the status of valved single-use nitrous oxide cylinders in the waste stream and request that the Board direct the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to write Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature to request prohibition of the import and sale of these cylinders.

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**BACKGROUND**

In January 2026, the Zero Waste Committee Manager's Report noted that a Metro Vancouver media announcement in December 2025 related to impacts of nitrous oxide cylinders in the waste stream resulted in national coverage of the issue. The February 2026 Manager's Report noted that since the media event, large numbers of cylinders are being dropped off for recycling at recycling and waste centres. However, explosions tied to the nitrous oxide cylinders continue.

**PROPOSED BAN ON THE IMPORT AND SALE OF VALVED SINGLE USE NITROUS OXIDE CYLINDERS****Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**

Nitrous oxide is legitimately used for medical purposes to relieve pain, for certain industrial processes, and food preparation purposes such as whipping cream. For commercial food and for medical purposes, nitrous oxide is provided in reusable cylinders that are leased or sold to users and refilled by specialty compressed gas companies such as Linde and Air Liquide. These companies have protocols in place to ensure proper use of the nitrous oxide that they provide.

Home users of nitrous oxide typically use approximately 8 gram nitrous oxide cylinders in whip cream dispensers. According to the internet, an 8 gram cylinder generates enough gas to whip approximately 0.5 litres of cream. These small metal cylinders are punctured on use and are appropriate for recycling. They don't create a disposal risk because once used, they are no longer pressurized.

The nitrous oxide cylinders that have been tied to explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility are single-use and valved with a capacity of up to 3,000 grams. Unlike propane cylinders, these large nitrous oxide cylinders do not have a pressure relief valve to allow gas to escape as pressure increases due to heat. Consequently, in the Waste-to-Energy Facility, the cylinders rupture under pressure and the nitrous oxide – an oxidant – is instantaneously released, potentially resulting in explosions.

Metro Vancouver is not aware of any use for the valved single-use cylinders other than for inhalation, a prohibited use in Canada, except when administered by an authorized healthcare professional for legitimate medical or dental procedures.

**Status of Collection and Explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility**

Approximately 700 cylinders per month are being dropped off at recycling and waste centres. A safety plan has been developed for receiving the cylinders and Metro Vancouver is in the process of updating its public communications to indicate that both intact and valve removed cylinders are accepted for recycling. The cost of recycling the cylinders is borne by the solid waste system. Metro Vancouver expects that these cylinders will be included in the recently announced expansion of extended producer responsibility programs by 2027, and as such, the cost of recycling the cylinders should be borne by producers.

Metro Vancouver has communicated with member jurisdictions that cylinders picked up by member jurisdiction staff can be dropped off at no charge at recycling and waste centres. Metro Vancouver is also working with member staff that operate recycling depots with the goal of Metro Vancouver arranging pick-up of the cylinders from member jurisdiction depots at no cost.

**Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

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Explosions tied to the cylinders continue to occur at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Data from January and February 2026 suggest a reduction in the number of explosions compared to late 2025. More data is required prior to concluding that efforts to reduce the number of inappropriately disposed cylinders are reducing the number of explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

**Working with Health Canada**

In December 2025, Metro Vancouver wrote to Health Canada requesting confirmation that the sale and purchase of single-use nitrous oxide cylinders is not legal in Canada, given existing recalls for these products. To date, Metro Vancouver has not received a formal response to its letter; however, in conversation with Metro Vancouver staff, Health Canada staff have suggested that Metro Vancouver report individual businesses that appear to be selling the nitrous oxide cylinders for the purpose of inhalation and indicated that Health Canada would follow-up with those specific businesses. A preliminary review identified approximately 12 online vendors that appear to sell into Metro Vancouver. In-person visits to a small sample of vape and smoke shops found that about 30-40% had these products available for sale. With an estimated 256 vape and smoke shops across the region, this rough sampling suggests that approximately 100 vape and smoke shops could be selling the large single-use, valved cylinders. Metro Vancouver has reported to Health Canada a number of these businesses that are selling the nitrous oxide cylinders.

Metro Vancouver staff believe that the federal government, through Health Canada and/or the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and Nature, has the authority to prohibit the import and sale of the large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders, since the cylinders are only being used for inhalation purposes, and the inappropriate disposal of these cylinders is creating health and safety, economic, and environmental impacts. Staff recommend that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and the Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting that Canada prevent the import and sale of these containers. A proactive, preventative approach would be more effective than the current approach of ad-hoc or individual investigations of businesses that appear to be selling cylinders for the purpose of inhalation. A draft letter to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment and Climate Change is attached.

Metro Vancouver has also been in contact with other entities such as the Retail Council of Canada that may have an interest in preventing the import and sale of the large single-use nitrous oxide cylinders. Staff will continue to work with those entities.

**ALTERNATIVES****1. THAT the GVS&DD Board:**

- a) request that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting the prohibition of the import and sale of single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders; and
- b) direct staff to work with other entities such as local health authorities, the Retail Council of Canada, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in support of requesting a prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

**2. THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated February 20, 2026, titled "Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders".**

**Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Inappropriate disposal of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders has significant impacts on worker safety, public safety, and solid waste facilities. Explosions linked to the cylinders result in damage at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and consequential reductions in facility through-put and electrical production. Costs for recycling the cylinders dropped off at recycling and waste centres are borne by the solid waste system. Metro Vancouver has communicated with Ministry of Environment and Parks staff, noting that if the cylinders continue to be sold in British Columbia, they should be included in the compressed gas cylinder category of products that were recently added to the Recycling Regulation to transfer the cost of recycling the cylinders to producers. Recycling costs are small compared to costs associated with damage and lost production at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Cost impacts are still being assessed, but if current trends continue, the costs could be millions of dollars per year.

**CONCLUSION**

Approximately 700 large, valved, single-use nitrous oxide cylinders per month are being dropped off for recycling at recycling and waste centres but explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility that have worker safety and cost implications continue. To stop the inappropriate disposal of these cylinders, staff recommend that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting prohibition of the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders Presentation.
2. Draft Letter to Minister Michel, Minister of Health and Minister Dabrusin, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature. "Request for Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders".

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Waste-to-Energy Facility

# Proposed Ban on Import and Sale of Nitrous Oxide Cylinders

Paul Henderson, M.A.Sc., M.B.A., P.Eng.

General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Zero Waste Committee, March 5, 2026  
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## NITROUS OXIDE CYLINDERS

Explosions at Waste-to-Energy Facility due to inappropriate disposal of nitrous oxide cylinders

Implications of nitrous oxide in the waste stream:

- Worker safety
- Equipment damage
- Lost electricity revenue and reduced garbage throughput from downtime
- Potential impacts on Waste-to-Energy Facility emissions
- Greenhouse gas emissions

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# EXPLOSION RELATED DAMAGE

Grate bar damage



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3

# POST COMBUSTION NITROUS OXIDE CYLINDERS



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## CYLINDER DROP-OFF AT RECYCLING AND WASTE CENTRES

- Currently receiving approximately 700 cylinders per month
- Updating program to communicate receipt of partially full cylinders
- Working to receive cylinders from municipal crews and municipal recycling depots



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## PROPOSED BAN ON IMPORT AND SALE

- Large, single-use, cylinders sold for inhalation
- Available online and in vape and smoke shops
- Health Canada has recalled, enforcement appears to be on a retailer-by-retailer basis
- Approximately 100 vape and smoke shops selling in the region

**Recommendation:** Write to federal Health and Environment, Climate Change and Nature Ministers requesting prohibition on import and sale



Exotic Whip Nitrous Oxide Cream Charger

C\$69.99 – C\$149.99

9 sold in last 9 hours

Brand: Exotic Whip

SIZE

640 grams 2000 grams

CHOOSE FLAVOR

Coconut Regular Strawberry

1

ADD TO CART

BUY NOW

Ask a Question

metrovancover

6

6



Thank you

**metrovancover**

7

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Office of the Chair

Tel. 604-432-6215 or via [EmailCAOAdministration@metrovancouver.org](mailto:EmailCAOAdministration@metrovancouver.org)

February 24, 2026

File: PE-12-01

The Honourable Marjorie Michel, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Address Locator 1801B  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K9  
**VIA EMAIL:** [marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marjorie.michel@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Julie Dabrusin, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6  
**VIA EMAIL:** [julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:julie.dabrusin@parl.gc.ca)

Dear Minister Michel and Minister Dabrusin:

### **Request for Ban on the Import and Sale of Valved Single-Use Nitrous Oxide Cylinders**

At its March 27, 2026, regular meeting, the Board of Directors of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (Metro Vancouver) passed the following resolution:

*THAT the GVS&DD Board :*

- a) Request that the Board Chair and Zero Waste Committee Chair write to Canada's Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature requesting the prohibition of the import and sale of single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders; and*
- b) direct staff to work with other entities such as local health authorities, the Retail Council of Canada, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in support of requesting a prohibition of the import and sale of single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.*

Metro Vancouver requests that the Government of Canada prohibit the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders. In addition to the health risks associated with inhalation of nitrous oxide (as noted by Health Canada), inappropriately disposed cylinders put workers at risk, and cause equipment damage and environmental impacts. There are significant costs as a result of the inappropriate disposal of the cylinders that are estimated to be in the order of millions of dollars per year.

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### **Nitrous Oxide Cylinders – Status and Safety Concerns**

Metro Vancouver is responsible for waste reduction, recycling planning, and operating a series of solid waste management facilities in the Metro Vancouver region. Over the last few months, Metro Vancouver's contractor staff noted a significant increase in nitrous oxide cylinders in the garbage at our facilities, damaging equipment and posing serious safety risks to workers and the public. In addition to the general risk of compressed gas cylinders in the garbage, there have been explosions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility linked to cylinders in the garbage. Inappropriate disposal of the cylinders also creates greenhouse gas emissions and may impact emissions at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Metro Vancouver started a new free recycling option for dropping off large single-use nitrous oxide cylinders at solid waste management facilities late in 2025 and is receiving approximately 700 cylinders per month. Additionally, as suggested by Health Canada staff, Metro Vancouver has identified and reported to Health Canada a number of businesses selling single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders in the Metro Vancouver region at storefronts or online. Metro Vancouver estimates there are approximately 100 vapes and smoke shops in the region selling the large single-use, valved nitrous oxide cylinders. To Metro Vancouver's knowledge, the only use of these large valved single-use cylinders is for the purpose of inhalation.

### **Cost Implications**

The cost impacts of nitrous oxide cylinders in the garbage are still being assessed; however, if current trends continue, costs could be in the millions per year. Costs are related to explosions causing damage to facilities, and down-time for repairs at Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility, in addition to the cost of collecting recycling nitrous oxide cylinders to keep them out of the garbage.

### **Request**

Metro Vancouver requests that Health Canada prohibit the import and sale of large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and would like to work with your staff on next steps. As such, we will be following up with your office. Staff are also welcome to reach out to Jean Lawson, Program Manager, Intergovernmental Relations, at [jean.lawson@metrovancover.org](mailto:jean.lawson@metrovancover.org) or 778-452-2633.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hurley  
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

Sarah Kirby-Yung  
Chair, Zero Waste Committee  
Metro Vancouver

MH/SKY/PH/si

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services

Date: February 20, 2026 Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: **Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement Summary**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated February 20, 2026, titled “Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement Summary”.

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### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on its success as a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. The plan update is supported by a robust and inclusive engagement process. In 2025, Metro Vancouver completed the options analysis phase of engagement to assess and receive feedback on potential strategies and actions resulting from previous research and engagement. Considering options analysis feedback, an initial draft solid waste management plan was developed. The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board received updates across all phases of the solid waste management plan update, and the GVS&DD Board previously approved components of the updated plan.

The engagement summary report (Reference 1) highlights themes from feedback such as prioritizing reuse and repair, financial incentives, tailored education, accessibility of solid waste services and facilities, and standardized services and regulations. There were also comments to close the Waste-to-Energy Facility, stop the use of landfills, varying opinions on privatization of the regional solid waste system, and comments that recycling statistics should not include energy recovery.

Following options analysis engagement, the public was invited to share their feedback on the engagement process with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board with information on engagement feedback related to the update of the regional solid waste management plan during the options analysis phase in 2025.

### **BACKGROUND**

In November of 2019 the GVS&DD Board authorized initiating an update of the regional solid waste management plan. Subsequently, a Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel (Engagement Panel) was formed to provide third-party expert advice on the development and implementation of a comprehensive and inclusive engagement process. Pre-engagement was completed in 2021 to receive feedback on how audiences prefer to be involved, and the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee were formed in 2022.

The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board have received updates across the different phases of the solid waste management plan update, including GVS&DD Board approval of components of the updated plan. In June 2024, the GVS&DD Board approved the vision and guiding principles, and in July 2025, the GVS&DD Board approved the goals and waste hierarchy.

At its November 6, 2025 meeting, the Zero Waste Committee received a preliminary update on the options analysis phase, including feedback from advisory committees and ideas arising from engagement considered unadvisable by staff. This report provides the final engagement summary from the options analysis phase following review of all feedback.

At its February 2026 meeting, the Zero Waste Committee received an overview of the initial draft solid waste management plan, which had been published and distributed to First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, and advisory committees for feedback. Feedback on the initial draft will help inform a revised draft plan that will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board. Following review by the GVS&DD Board, the revised draft will be distributed for additional public feedback prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval.

The following timeline shows the phases of the solid waste management plan update.



The following graphic depicts the various committees that have been involved in providing input to the plan update process over the past five years.



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## OPTIONS ANALYSIS ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The options analysis phase of the solid waste management plan update focused on determining what strategies and actions would be included in the draft updated solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver engaged with local First Nations and member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, industry sector organizations, and the public to review and receive feedback on a draft list of strategies and actions for the updated solid waste management plan, informed by previous research and engagement feedback.

Feedback helped Metro Vancouver prioritize strategies and actions and revise them to better meet our intended goals while considering potential impacts to residents, businesses, and governments.

### Feedback

Metro Vancouver heard from a wide range of audiences including First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, key sectors (healthcare, tourism, food, and construction and demolition), not-for-profit organizations, and the public.

The feedback was analyzed and summarized into 12 categories representing common themes. The engagement summary report (Reference 1) highlights the feedback received and Metro Vancouver's response. The feedback log (Reference 2) provides a full record of engagement feedback, including over 4,000 discrete lines of data detailing feedback from each meeting, workshop, event, interview, letter, or email.

Below is a snapshot of the feedback themes, listed alphabetically:

- **Circular Economy and Waste Prevention**
  - Preventing waste at the source by prioritizing reuse, repair, and reduction over disposal-focused options like landfilling or waste-to-energy.
  - System-level shifts towards a circular economy to keep materials in use for longer.
- **Cost, Funding, and Economic Feasibility**
  - Need for clear economic rationale, transparent budgeting, incentive mechanisms, and well-defined approaches for funding.
  - Some comments that privatization is unadvisable, and some comments that a regulated private model could achieve comparable performance while shifting risks away from taxpayers.
- **Data, Metrics, Reporting, and Transparency**
  - Clear, reliable data and transparent reporting for tracking and measuring progress, evaluating program performance, and building trust in waste reduction and circular economy initiatives.
- **Education, Engagement, and Behaviour Change**
  - Education, engagement, and behaviour change with clear, practical guidance and repeated, targeted outreach that helps people build confidence and new habits.
  - Tailoring education to different groups, diverse engagement methods, and supporting learning with policies and incentives.
- **Equitable and Accessible Approaches to Waste Management**
  - Waste management strategies designed to be inclusive and accessible, addressing cultural, language, financial, physical, and structural barriers.

- **Human and Environmental Health**
  - Minimize risk to people and ecosystems by addressing contamination, toxicity, emissions, and the safety of food and organics across the full lifecycle of materials.
- **Managing Complex Materials**
  - Clear, consistent, and material-specific systems to manage complex materials.
  - Consistent regulations, expanded producer responsibility take-back programs, and more accessible, user-friendly collection systems.
- **Operations and Infrastructure**
  - Accessible facilities, sufficient processing capacity, and strong collection, logistics, staffing and maintenance systems supported by land-use planning, innovation and technology to deliver efficient and reliable services across the region.
  - Phase out or reduce reliance on the Waste-to-Energy Facility and redirect resources to circular solutions.
- **Plan Scope, Clarity, and Definitions**
  - Defined targets, consistent terminology, and transparent priorities so interested parties understand what each action is intended to achieve, who it applies to, and how it aligns with circular economy and waste hierarchy principles.
  - Caution against conflating recycling with recovery performance results, noting energy recovery results in permanent loss of materials and should not be counted as recycling.
- **Policy, Regulation, and Enforcement**
  - Need for clear and well-defined regulatory tools, consistent regional guidelines, and enforceable requirements.
- **Roles, Responsibilities, and Collaboration**
  - Clearly defined roles, shared accountability, and strong collaboration to advance waste reduction and circular economy actions.
- **Standardization, Convenience, and Simplification**
  - Consistent, simple, and user-friendly waste and recycling systems across all municipalities, including standardized accepted materials, clear signage and colour coding, and reliable curbside collection coverage and frequency.

Results from an online questionnaire were analyzed separately, and emerging themes included:

- Support for the waste hierarchy with prevention-first
- Emphasis on cost and affordability
- Interest in sharing/lending libraries for tools and other infrequently used items
- Multi-unit housing – interest in clearer signage and cleaner infrastructure
- Identification of plastics packaging as the hardest waste stream to avoid
- Prioritization of durability and value over convenience, signalling support for waste prevention
- Recycling – increasing participation requires clearer, standardized guidance on sorting recycling, improved access, expanded accepted materials, and more transparency on recycling outcomes
- Support for repair, using reusables, refill/bulk purchasing, and buying less
- Support for waste prevention-first, system level solutions, and shared responsibility across governments, producers, and institutions

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### **Metro Vancouver Response**

Section 7 of the engagement summary report (Reference 1) includes Metro Vancouver’s responses to some of the key themes emerging from engagement feedback. The responses highlight sections of the initial draft plan that incorporate feedback heard, or describe how the feedback is addressed in other parts of the plan such as in the vision and guiding principles, waste hierarchy, or the strategic approaches. It also provides responses to ideas heard consistently in each phase that have been reviewed and are considered unadvisable by staff, as they are inconsistent with the Board strategic direction, the plan’s vision and guiding principles, or the plan’s goals and hierarchy. These were noted at the November 2025 Zero Waste Committee meeting with examples including closing the Waste-to-Energy Facility and privatizing the regional solid waste system (Reference 3). Metro Vancouver’s publicly owned solid waste system, including the Waste-to-Energy Facility, is operated with public oversight and contractor expertise and efficacy, and the system is cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and delivers North American leading waste reduction performance.

### **First Nations Engagement**

Metro Vancouver sent letters to 10 local First Nations as well as 37 First Nations with interests in the region, to invite feedback and offer a meeting. Metro Vancouver met with one First Nation and received additional written feedback. Feedback included:

- Support for circular economy, greenhouse gas emission reduction, enhancing regional collaboration, and expanded recycling at depots
- Interest in collaborating to move toward zero waste
- Proposed solutions such as clear garbage bags to make disposal bans more effective, and Artificial Intelligence tools to improve sorting and monitoring
- Concerns related to Waste-to-Energy Facility emissions impacts on health and safety. Concern about bias within consultant studies funded by Metro Vancouver.
- Concern about inconsistent recycling services across the region, including First Nations communities
- Request to remain informed as the plan update advances

### **Collaborative Engagement**

The Collaborative Engagement program supports public engagement on the solid waste management plan update by advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the public engagement process. It involves collaborating with and providing funding and resources to not-for-profit organizations supporting underrepresented or equity-denied communities to engage their networks. The program has helped to reach over 3,000 residents over the last three phases – residents who otherwise may not be aware of or have access to opportunities to provide input.

During the options analysis phase, Metro Vancouver worked with 16 not-for-profit organizations who facilitated their own engagement activities such as focus groups, workshops, interviews, webinars, and questionnaires, reaching more than 900 residents. Feedback resulting from this initiative directly helped to shape the strategies and actions in the draft solid waste management plan.

## Advisory Committees

### *Member Jurisdictions*

Metro Vancouver provided updates on the solid waste management process at meetings of the Regional Administrators Advisory Committee, Regional Engineers Advisory Committee, Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee, Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee, Regional Planning Advisory Committee, Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee, and Agricultural Advisory Committee. Metro Vancouver also forwarded information reports to the Indigenous Relations Committee and Air Quality Committee.

Metro Vancouver worked closely with member jurisdiction staff to develop and review draft member jurisdiction actions, including a workshop with the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee in June 2025, a session at the Metro Vancouver Conference Day in June 2025, and a member jurisdiction staff workshop in October 2025. Metro Vancouver received feedback including:

- Request that member actions are specific and actionable, but flexible for member jurisdictions to adapt and implement where appropriate. Guidelines and resources are appreciated.
- Note members have a role in actions beyond the specific member actions; request for clarity on member jurisdiction role v.s. Metro Vancouver role
- Actions need to consider cost efficiency for member jurisdictions
- Emphasis needed on regulation and incentives, to complement education
- Supporting businesses, including the construction and demolition sector, is key. Challenging to add more regulation (e.g. mandatory recycling) for businesses, while businesses and institutions remain important focus areas for waste reduction
- Support for updating multi-family container space and access guidelines
- Support for expanding reuse options at drop off facilities, and mechanisms to increase refill/reuse systems in the commercial sector
- Some support for member-provided temporary repair and reuse spaces
- Support for working towards consistency, including standardized signage
- Feedback that municipalities must determine their own unique zoning needs, with Metro Vancouver providing guidelines or templates that can be adopted
- Support for more materials covered by extended producer responsibility programs

### *Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee*

A report to the Zero Waste Committee in November 2025 highlights feedback from the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee. This committee provides a forum for contribution from individuals with diverse experiences and expertise to inform the review and update of the solid waste management plan. Committee meeting notes are published on the committee web page (Reference 4).

During the options analysis phase the committee:

- Supported actions from the top three levels of the waste hierarchy (rethink, reduce, reuse), including suggesting focusing funding on these areas instead of disposal or recovery
- Called for more ambitious actions and targets to move up the hierarchy
- Provided suggestions on how to consolidate similar actions, and make them clearer, more specific, and actionable
- Stressed the importance of regulation, enforcement, and financial incentives/disincentives to accompany advocacy, tools, templates, and education

- Noted privatization of the solid waste system would not be advisable, citing risks such as reduced accountability and oversight
- Some members expressed strong opposition to waste-to-energy, citing environmental impacts, costs, and diverting resources away from upstream actions

#### *Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee*

A report to the Zero Waste Committee in November 2025 highlights feedback from the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee. The committee provides a forum for industry contribution and advice on solid and recycling issues in Metro Vancouver, including but not limited to the solid waste management plan update. Committee meeting notes and feedback summaries are published on the committee web page (Reference 5).

During the options analysis phase the committee:

- Supported waste reduction and recycling actions, and suggested consolidation or clarification of actions to make them more practical and actionable
- Preferred incentive-based approaches over new regulations, considering business viability and affordability
- Emphasized need to ensure markets exist and clarifying criteria and rationale before introducing new disposal bans
- Provided mixed views on hauler incentive programs, noting limited tools are available to haulers to influence customer behaviour
- Some members noted incineration results in toxic outputs and that alternatives exist
- Some members advocated for closure of the Waste-to-Energy Facility, noting long-term commitments regarding district energy were made without committee consultation
- Advocated for exploring privatization of solid waste services, noting with proper regulation the private sector could match or exceed public sector performance
- Expressed concern that previous input was not adequately considered, and the result feels predetermined

#### **Neighbouring Regional Districts**

Metro Vancouver sent letters to neighbouring regional district boards to invite feedback and offer meetings. Metro Vancouver met with neighbouring regional district staff, and received written feedback. In addition, Metro Vancouver presented at a Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Board meeting at the regional district's request. There was interest in opportunities for collaboration on advancing construction and demolition waste reduction (particularly through developing second-hand building material markets), enhancing extended producer responsibility programs (such as extending to small businesses and including household hazardous waste), and sharing educational and promotional materials. There was support for Metro Vancouver leading advocacy for circular economy policies across the province and country, such as for provincial or federal incentive programs for business food waste reduction. Fraser Valley Regional District noted concerns about the Waste-to-Energy Facility, including opposition to development of any new future capacity, and a request to phase out the existing facility, due to concerns regarding air quality and health impacts. Long-term disposal capacity was flagged as an important issue to address specifically in the plan, and concerns were expressed on potential air quality impacts from technologies that convert wood waste into energy and fuel, with a preference for non-combustion-based technologies and a caution that investment in energy recovery infrastructure may disincentivize other processes that promote reuse or recycling.

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### **Presentations to Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel**

Following options analysis engagement, Metro Vancouver hosted an opportunity for the public to share their feedback on the engagement process with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel. The engagement panel provides advice to Metro Vancouver staff and the Board on the development and implementation of engagement on the solid waste management plan update. Nine members of the public presented their feedback to the engagement panel in February 2026. The presentations and recording are included as References 6 and 7. Below is a summary of key feedback:

- **Incorporation of feedback:** Participants want clearer explanations of how input is used, including why ideas are accepted or not, to strengthen trust and demonstrate meaningful participation.
- **Collaborative engagement:** Flexible and inclusive, but would benefit from more preparation time, longer consultation windows, more in-person activities, and greater Metro Vancouver presence. The number of actions reviewed should be more manageable. Suggestions that Panel members be included in engagement activities.
- **Inclusivity:** Appreciation for youth involvement, with calls to further engage youth who are underrepresented or live with disabilities. Materials could better accommodate diverse learning styles and reading levels, and more community-based, on-the-spot feedback opportunities are recommended. Some felt engagement audiences felt too selective.
- **Advisory committees:** Members felt their concerns were not reflected and that the direction was predetermined. Insufficient opportunities to reach whole-group consensus. Panel attendance at meetings was appreciated.
- **Plan content:** The draft plan lacks clarity on how sectors will participate and has limited ability to advance actions because many require future consultation.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Engagement activities related to the solid waste management plan update is included in the approved Solid Waste Services budget.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The 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

In 2025, Metro Vancouver completed the options analysis phase of engagement on updating the solid waste management plan. Through this phase, Metro Vancouver sought feedback on a list of potential strategies and actions resulting from previous research and engagement. Considering options analysis feedback, an initial draft solid waste management plan was developed. Feedback is summarized in an engagement summary report highlighting themes like prioritizing reuse and repair, financial incentives, tailored education, accessibility of solid waste services and facilities, and standardized services and regulations. There were also comments to phase out the Waste-to-Energy Facility and privatization of the regional solid waste system. Following options analysis engagement, the public was invited to share their feedback on the engagement process with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel.

An initial draft solid waste management was published in January 2026 and distributed for feedback. Feedback on the initial draft will help inform a revised draft plan that will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board. Following review by the GVS&DD Board, the revised draft will be distributed for additional public feedback prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval.

## REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste Management Plan Options Analysis Engagement Summary Report. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/options-analysis-engagement-summary-report.pdf>
2. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste Management Plan Options Analysis Feedback Log. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/options-analysis-phase-feedback-log.pdf>
3. Metro Vancouver. (2025). Draft Summary of Ideas Staff Consider Unadvisable. [Draft Summary of Ideas Staff Consider Unadvisable](#)
4. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee web page. [Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee | Metro Vancouver](#)
5. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee web page. [Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee | Metro Vancouver](#)
6. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Public Presentations to Engagement Panel – Submitted Presentations. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmp-independent-consultation-engagement-panel-agenda-2026-02-11.pdf>
7. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Public Presentations to Engagement Panel – Recording. <https://vimeo.com/1164065148>

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: February 20, 2026 Meeting Date: March 5, 2026

Subject: **Manager's Report**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 20, 2026, titled "Manager's Report".

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**Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee**

The Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee was convened in 2022 to provide advice and input on the development of an updated solid waste management plan. The committee has provided valuable feedback during each phase of the solid waste management plan development, and Metro Vancouver greatly appreciates the dedication, time commitment, and meaningful contributions from each member. As Metro Vancouver is now in the last phase of engagement, the committee's final meeting will take place on April 2, 2026.

**Reclaimed Wood Use Opportunity for the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System**

As part of the construction of the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System, an approximately 975 square metre energy centre will be constructed adjacent to the Waste-to-Energy Facility. The building will house equipment to convert steam to hot water as well as pumps to deliver the hot water to the River District community in Vancouver and the City of Burnaby's district energy utility. The detailed design of the energy centre is in progress and an opportunity to use reclaimed wood from the deconstruction of nearby buildings has been identified.

A large-scale deconstruction project is underway at the former Saputo facility located in Burnaby. The site is being redeveloped by Peterson Group. Metro Vancouver is assessing the potential to use reclaimed lumber from the Saputo facility buildings in the construction of the energy centre. The specific uses for the lumber are still being determined. More details on the opportunity will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee once the wood is fully assessed and contractual details with respect to the use of the wood are completed.

**2025 "Create Memories Not Garbage" Holiday Waste Reduction Campaign Update**

The 2025 Create Memories, Not Garbage campaign was in market from Monday, November 3 to Wednesday, December 24, 2025. It was the 15th and final year of the campaign. The objective was to encourage residents to celebrate the holidays with less waste. Similar to 2024, the target audience was people who are likely to be purchasing holiday gifts and are aware of environmental issues and being mindful consumers (adults 18–44). The region-wide, two-phased campaign delivered relevant messages for the gift-planning and purchasing stages of the holiday season. The media promotion included social media (YouTube, Instagram, Facebook), connected TV, television PSA, radio ads (Move 103.5 and the Breeze 104.3), and Google Search ads.

The campaign website [creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca](https://creatememoriesnotgarbage.ca) features mindful gift-planning tips and over 200 low-waste gift ideas. Besides the landing page, the most popular pages were “Low-Waste Gift Ideas,” followed by “Gift-Planning,” “Wrap Wise,” and “Tips to Reduce.”

The 2025 campaign performed well with over 10 million impressions, 1.4 million reach, 8,500 website visits, and 1.4 million video views. Impressions are the total number of times anyone sees an ad or campaign and reach is the total number of people who see it. Five member jurisdictions shared campaign content on social media. Although the campaign will not continue in 2026, the website will remain available for those searching for low-waste gift ideas.

### **2026 Textiles Waste Reduction Campaign Update**

The 2026 textiles waste reduction campaign will be in market from March 16 to April 26, 2026. This is the tenth year of a textiles reduction campaign and the second year of the “Repair and Re-Wear” campaign. The objective is to reduce the amount of textiles disposed in the garbage and, indirectly, the amount of textiles waste overall by encouraging the audience to repair their clothes instead of donating or throwing them away. The strategy is to highlight the feeling of pride that comes from repairing your clothes. Women aged 45 to 64 were selected as the target audience because research showed they both generate a lot of textile waste and are more likely to say they do, or want to do, repairs. The creative features diverse women from the target audience wearing everyday clothes. Regional paid media placements will include YouTube, connected TV, Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Google Search, and television (CTV and City TV). The campaign website, [repairandrewear.ca](https://repairandrewear.ca), features a series of how-to repair/alteration videos, a stain removal guide, and laundry tips. A post-campaign survey will be conducted in 2026 to measure effectiveness and impact.

A report providing an overview of behaviour change campaigns that support waste reduction and recycling goals in 2026 will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee in April.

### **Regional Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group**

The Regional Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste Reduction Working Group, comprised of member jurisdiction staff, continues to advance priority actions identified by member jurisdictions to reduce construction and demolition waste, and support implementation of the updated solid waste management plan. The working group was established following the February 2024 municipal C&D workshop, where member jurisdictions identified the need for ongoing collaboration, improved data consistency and shared tools to strengthen C&D waste reduction initiatives.

Over the past year, the working group has made progress in updating the regional C&D toolkit, documenting current data collection practices and identifying gaps and opportunities for improved alignment across municipal bylaws and definitions. A consistent approach to data collection will provide better insights into the number of buildings moved, deconstructed or demolished as well as the associated waste reduction benefits and greenhouse gas emissions impacts.

Additional work planned for 2026 includes updating case studies for the C&D toolkit, engaging a UBC Sustainability Scholar to assess local end markets for reclaimed wood, and identify opportunities to support market development. Engagement planning is also progressing, with stakeholder mapping underway and exploration of partnerships to support targeted industry outreach and broader stakeholder engagement.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Zero Waste Committee 2026 Work Plan dated February 20, 2026.

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## Zero Waste Committee 2026 Work Plan

Report Date: February 20, 2026

### Priorities

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>Status</b>
2025 Zero Waste Committee Meeting Schedule and Work Plan	Complete
2025 Zero Waste Conference	Complete
2026 Food Scraps Recycling Campaign Update	Complete
Solid Waste Capital Program Update	Complete
2024 Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Statistics and Biennial Report	Complete
Draft Solid Waste Management Plan	Complete
2025 Holiday Waste Reduction Campaign Results	In Progress
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	Pending
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>Status</b>
2025 Waste Composition Program Results	Pending
2025 Disposal Ban Program Results	Pending
2026 Textile Waste Reduction Campaign Update	In Progress
2026 Single-Use Item Reduction Campaign Update	Pending
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	Pending
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>Status</b>
2025 Waste-to-Energy Facility Environmental Performance Summary	Pending
2025 Waste-to-Energy Facility Financial Summary	Pending
2026 Textile Waste Reduction Campaign Results	Pending
Solid Waste Capital Program Five Year Outlook	Pending
2026 Food Scraps Recycling Campaign Results	Pending
2026 Single-Use Item Reduction Campaign Results	Pending
Construction and Demolition Materials Recycling and Reuse Update	Pending
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	Pending
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Quarter</b>	<b>Status</b>
Solid Waste Services Annual Budget and 5-Year Financial Plan	Pending
2027 Tipping Fee Bylaw Revisions	Pending
Solid Waste Capital Program Update	Pending
2026 Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Report	Pending
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	Pending