metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 5, 2026

ON TABLE

C1 Executive Summary and Presentation of the Delegation re: What is Needed to Have a Strong Solid Waste Management Plan

E1 Additional Slide for the Presentation tilted "Proposed Ban on Import and Sale of Nitrous Oxide Cylinders"

ZERO waste BRITISH COLUMBIA

Summary for March 5th, 2026 Delegation to the Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee

Zero Waste BC is on the Public Technical Advisory Committee and has also participated in hosting some Collaborative Engagement sessions. The Committee should receive an updated draft of the solid waste management plan at its April meeting. We have reviewed and provided input on the January 22nd version of the plan and are providing this input in the hopes that the Committee members will look for these features in the revised draft plan.

1. Use the Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour or more work on reduction.

2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, not burning of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.

3. Add actions to reduce toxic materials and pollution.

4. Commit to developing a proper residual disposal option analysis specifically for Metro Vancouver waste. Factor in the risks of each option. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38 year old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Over $400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.

5. Invest in zero waste solutions instead such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling. Ensure the plan actions are beyond just testing, encouraging and piloting to be more active such as implement, enact, develop, etc. Actions should include:
    a. Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
    b. Reuse and Repair -making it easier so unusable items do not get thrown out.
    c. Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.

d. Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
e. Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clear bags and mandatory source separation.

6. Measure and work to reduce the climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions on the planning and proposed actions.

7. Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget and staff time to ensure the plan can be implemented.

8. Pledge to be transparent - report waste performance clearly so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.

9. Spend money wisely and invest in the future- choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

Finally, we have submitted a petition calling for the phase out the incinerator by 2028 to protect public health, the environment and keep costs reasonable which garnered 385 signatures including those of 10 organizations.

We appreciate your time and opportunity to present to you.

Sue Maxwell
Zero Waste BC
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Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee

Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

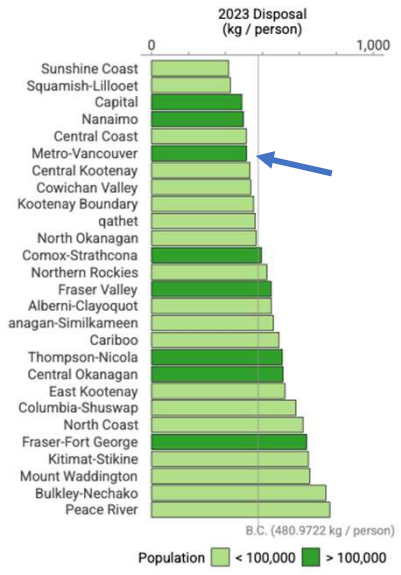
March 5, 2026

ZERO waste BRITISH COLUMBIA

A just world, of vibrant, resilient, regenerative Zero Waste communities, in harmony with nature…

1

Leadership goal



Municipal Solid Waste Disposal in BC 1990-2023
https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/indicators/sustainability/municipal-solid-waste.html

2

Goals

- RD Nanaimo -2018 plan
  - The introduction of programs and strategies to move the RDN towards 90% diversion by 2027 and/or a per capita disposal of 109 kg/year
- Capital RD -2021 plan
  - To surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target and aspire to achieve a disposal rate of 125 kg/capita/year
- District of Squamish 2022 plan
  - to reach 90% less waste by 2040 (i.e., 50 kg/capita)
  - to reach 50% less materials used by 2040 (i.e., 603 kg/capita) –waste generation
  - to reach 0% organics disposed to landfill, WTE or incineration by 2040
- Draft Metro Van plan –"to reduce the waste disposal rate to less than 210 kg per capita: a 50% reduction from 2025 levels by 2050

3

Hierarchy

- RDN -Promote the Zero Waste Hierarchy of highest and best uses and support a circular economy.
- CRD, District of Squamish, City of Vancouver, City of Victoria, Resort Municipality of Whistler –use of zero waste definition and language

Figure 1. Zero Waste Hierarchy [Zero Waste International Alliance]

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Residual Disposal Options

- Fraser Valley Regional District -part of planning process
  - 2016 plan –"The FVRD Board does not support Waste-to-Energy as a viable option for handling residual municipal solid waste"
- RD Okanagan Similkameen –commitment in the plan to "Optimize and harmonize waste disposal system infrastructure."
  - Develop a policy for responding to unsolicited technology proposals.
  - Review the feasibility of waste management technologies to confirm that any proposed technology has demonstrated financial and technical feasibility in ongoing operations in Canada for local or regional governments.
- SLRD -2016 plan–"mixed waste thermal treatment will be excluded from further consideration"
- SCRD –draft 2026 plan– "Not feasible –building a waste-to-energy facility"

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Risks

- Dioxins and pollution
- Environmental
- GHG
- Financial
- Reputational

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Plan timelines

Table C-1: SWMP Implementation Schedule

	Strategy	Plan Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Year	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036
	Reduction, Reuse, and Repair												
1	Implement new waste reduction and prevention campaigns.												
2	Activate and enhance existing education packages and toolkits.												
3	Promote waste prevention, reduction, and diversion through community events.												
4	Work with member municipalities to plan, develop, and deliver waste prevention, reduction, and reuse education.												
5	Support for disassembly and right to repair.												
6	Support advocacy for expansion of EPR to include reuse and repair elements in EPR programs.												
7	Directly support local reuse opportunities and organizations.												
8	Develop partnerships to increase reuse and repair networks and programs.												
	Organics, Recycling and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Diversion												
9	Implement education and behaviour change programs targeting organics diversion.												
10	Support use of compost in regional construction and operations.												
11	Expand organics collection for the ICI sector.												
12	Expand organics collection for the MF sector.												
13	Support changes to make recycling depots more accessible to residents.												
14	Advocate for expansion of EPR materials.												
15	Provide other options for recycling or diversion.												
16	Assess options to temporarily manage Fats, Oils, and Grease in emergency situations.												
17	Increase C&D waste reduction by updating legislation and permitting requirements.												
18	Develop a Deconstruction Bylaw for all pre-1960 structures.												
19	Work with member municipalities and the C&D Sector to improve diversion.												
20	Assess options for diverting asphalt shingles and gypsum.												
	Proper Waste Management Practice												
21	Work with member municipalities and local authorities to optimize residential organics diversion from SF homes.												
22	Work with member municipalities to coordinate monitoring and public education in curbside collection programs.												
23	Continue to develop methane management systems at landfills.												
24	Develop a Disaster Debris Management Plan.												
25	Review emerging waste management technologies.												
26	Develop annual waste monitoring reports.												
27	Complete regular waste composition studies.												
	Disposal System Efficiency and Financial Sustainability												
28	Engage in a government-to-government partnership with First Nations Indian Bands to identify opportunities to share resources, inform												
29	Optimize and harmonize waste disposal system infrastructure.												
30	Develop a long-term TAC.												
31	Coordinate with member municipalities and local authorities to provide efficient collection services throughout the region												
32	Develop a SWMP Monitoring Committee												
33	Complete a five-year SWMP effectiveness review.												
34	Review tipping fee structures based on user-pay principles.												
35	Support harmonizing fees between landfills in the region.												
36	Review the financial sustainability of solid waste revenues and facilities.												
37	Strengthen municipal implementation capacity.												
	Planned Infrastructure and Program Supports												
38	Implement construction of a Regional Organics Processing Facility.												
39	If required, construct organic waste transfer infrastructure at existing solid waste facilities and coordinate access to organics processir												
40	If required, purchase the equipment necessary to operate essential services.												
41	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Campbell Mountain Landfill over the next five years.												
42	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Okanagan Falls C&D Landfill over the next five years.												
43	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Keremeos Transfer Station over the next five years.												
44	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Apex Transfer Station over the next five years.												
45	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Oliver Landfill over the next five years.												
46	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Summerland Landfill over the next five years.												
47	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Osoyoos Landfill over the next five years.												

Implementation - New Strategies	Implementation Year 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
STRATEGY 1: Provide More Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Repair Opportunities										
Encourage businesses to reduce food waste and single-use items and packaging materials										
Pilot reuse model, such as community swap days or similar, and expand if deemed feasible										
Promote household waste reduction through communication campaigns targeting residents										
STRATEGY 2: Improve Circular Economy and Recycling Opportunities for Local Businesses										
Support suitable business organizations to pursue circular innovation through education										
Revisit procurement policies to better include circular economy aspects, and encourage alignment across regional municipalities										
Expand current grant funding program to support local innovations in the circular economy										
STRATEGY 3: Lobby for Better and More Provincial Product Stewardship Programs										
Continue to advocate for increased focus on reduce, reuse and repair efforts amongst existing EPR programs rather than collection and recycling										
Advocate for inclusion of new materials, under the Recycling Regulation, and for increased cost recovery by EPR programs										
STRATEGY 4: Improve Recycling and Organics Diversion Opportunities for Residents										

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Plan Costs and Staffing

Table C-2: SWMP Implementation Costs and Staffing

	Strategy	Program/Funding Type	Staff Required (Project Hours)	Staff Required (Annual Hours)	Plan Year: Year: Non-Staff Operational Cost	0 2026 Staffing	Cost	1 2027 Staffing	Cost	2 2028 Staffing	Cost	3 2029 Staffing	Cost	4 2030 Staffing	Cost	5 2031 Staffing	Cost	6 2032 Staffing	Cost	7 2033 Staffing	Cost	8 2034 Staffing	Cost	9 2035 Staffing	Cost	10 2036 Staffing	Cost
	Reduction, Reuse, and Repair																										
1	Implement new waste reduction and prevention campaigns.	RDOS Regional	780		$ 5,000	60		180	$ 5,000					180	$ 5,000					180	$ 5,000					180	$ 5,000
2	Activate and enhance existing education packages and toolkits.	RDOS Regional	180		$ -	60	$ -			180	$ -					180	$ -					180	$ -				
3	Promote waste prevention, reduction, and diversion through community events.	RDOS Regional		50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50		50	$ 5,000	50		50	$ 5,000	50		50	$ 5,000	50		50	$ 5,000	50		50	$ 5,000
4	Work with member municipalities to plan, develop, and deliver waste prevention, reduction, and reuse education.	RDOS Regional		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
5	Support for disassembly and right to repair.	RDOS Regional		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
6	Support advocacy for expansion of EPR to include reuse and repair elements in EPR programs.	RDOS Regional		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
7	Directly support local reuse opportunities and organizations.	RDOS Regional		50	$ 5,000			50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000	50	$ 5,000
8	Develop partnerships to increase reuse and repair networks and programs.	RDOS Regional		50	$ -			50		50		50		50		50		50		50		50		50		50	
	Organics, Recycling and Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste Diversion																										
9	Implement education and behaviour change programs targeting organics diversion.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	1240	50	$ -			1000		240		50		50		50		50		50		50		50		50	
10	Support use of compost in regional construction and operations.	RDOS Regional		10	$ -			10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
11	Expand organics collection for the ICI sector.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	1100	50	$ -							550		550		50		50		50		50		50		50	
12	Expand organics collection for the MF sector.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	360	50	$ -					360		360		50		50		50		50		50		50		50	
13	Support changes to make recycling depots more accessible to residents.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
14	Advocate for expansion of EPR materials.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		20	$ -			20						20						20				20		20	
15	Provide other options for recycling or diversion.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
16	Assess options to temporarily manage Fats, Oils, and Grease in emergency situations.	RDOS Regional	40		$ -															40							
17	Increase C&D waste reduction by updating legislation and permitting requirements.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	550		$ -							240		180		130											
18	Develop a Deconstruction Bylaw for all pre-1960 structures.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	360		$ 5,000																					360	$ 5,000
19	Work with member municipalities and the C&D Sector to improve diversion.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	180		$ -	90																					
20	Assess options for diverting asphalt shingles and gypsum.	RDOS Regional		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
	Proper Waste Management Practice																										
21	Work with member municipalities and local authorities to optimize residential organics diversion from SF homes.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	540		$ -							180						180						180			
22	Work with member municipalities to coordinate monitoring and public education in curbside collection programs.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		20	$ -	20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20	
23	Continue to develop methane management systems at landfills.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		10	$ -	10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10		10	
24	Develop a Disaster Debris Management Plan.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	400		$ 100,000									200	$ 50,000	200	$ 50,000										
25	Review emerging waste management technologies.	RDOS Regional		20	$ -	20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20		20	
26	Develop annual waste monitoring reports.	RDOS Regional		120/80	$ -	120		80		80		80		80		80		80		80		80		80		80	
27	Complete regular waste composition studies.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	180		$ 90,000									90	$ 90,000									90	$ 90,000		
	Disposal System Efficiency and Financial Sustainability																										
28	Engage in a government-to-government partnership with First Nations Indian Bands to identify opportunities to share resources, information, and infrastructure.	RDOS Regional		20	$ -	20																					
29	Optimize and harmonize waste disposal system infrastructure.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	500		$ 300,000																						
30	Develop a long-term TAC.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	100		$ -																						
31	Coordinate with member municipalities and local authorities to provide efficient collection services throughout the region.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	550		$ -																						
32	Develop a SWMP Monitoring Committee.	RDOS Regional		120	$ 1,000																						
33	Complete a five-year SWMP effectiveness review.	RDOS Regional	50		$ 20,000																						
34	Review tipping fee structures based on user-pay principles.	RDOS Regional	180		$ -	80																					
35	Support harmonizing fees between landfills in the region.	RDOS / Member Municipalities		10	$ -	10																					
36	Review the financial sustainability of solid waste revenues and facilities.	RDOS / Member Municipalities	80		$ 30,000																						
37	Strengthen municipal implementation capacity.	City of Penticton			No new resources.																						
	Planned Infrastructure and Program Supports																										
38	Implement construction of a Regional Organics Processing Facility.	RDOS Regional			No new resources.																						
39	If required, construct organic waste transfer infrastructure at existing solid waste facilities and coordinate access to organics processing capacity.	RDOS / Member Municipalities			No new resources.																						
40	If required, purchase the equipment necessary to operate essential services.	RDOS / Member Municipalities			No new resources.																						
41	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Campbell Mountain Landfill over the next five years.	RDOS Service Area			No new resources.																						
42	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Okanagan Falls C&D Landfill over the next five years.	RDOS Service Area			No new resources.																						
43	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Keremeos Transfer Station over the next five years.	RDOS Service Area			No new resources.																						
44	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Apex Transfer Station over the next five years.	RDOS Service Area			No new resources.																						
45	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Oliver Landfill over the next five years.	RDOS Service Area			No new resources.																						
46	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Summerland Landfill over the next five years.	District of Summerland			No new resources.																						
47	Implement the planned schedule of activities for the Osoyoos Landfill over the next five years.	Town of Osoyoos			No new resources.																						
					Total (Annual)	480	$ -																						

Note: Most of the activities listed in this solid waste management plan will be undertaken by the current staff (highlighted in peach). However, some new initiatives may require additional staff, which may be fulfilled t

Costs of New Strategies	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1 STRATEGY 1: Provide More Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Repair Opportunities										
A Encourage businesses to reduce food waste and single-use items and packaging materials	$5,000									
B Pilot reuse model, such as community swap days or similar, and expand if deemed feasible					$15,000					
C Promote household waste reduction through communication campaigns targeting residents	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000
2 STRATEGY 2: Improve Circular Economy and Recycling Opportunities for Local Businesses										
A Support suitable business organizations to pursue circular innovation through education	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000	$10,000					
B Revisit procurement policies to better include circular economy aspects, and encourage alignment across regional municipalities										
C Expand current grant funding program to support local innovations in the circular economy						$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000	$20,000
3 STRATEGY 3: Lobby for Better and More Provincial Product Stewardship Programs										
A Continue to advocate for increased focus on reduce, reuse and repair efforts amongst existing EPR programs rather than collection and recycling										
B Advocate for inclusion of new materials, under the Recycling Regulation, and for increased cost recovery by EPR programs										
4 STRATEGY 4: Improve Recycling and Organics Diversion Opportunities for Residents										
A Re-assess curbside recycling costs and provide better access to curbside recycling collection	$50,000	$50,000								
B Increase access to waste diversion services through expanded cleanup events		$100,000			$100,000			$100,000		
C Pilot recycling program with a suitable partner organization, either through a bulky item pick up collection, or collection days in a suitable area and expand if deemed feasible					$100,000					

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Plan Costs - Capital

Appendix D: List of Planned Capital Projects to Be Completed by the RDOS and Member Municipalities During the SWMP

Facility	Year Estimated	Estimated Cost	Year Plan Year	2025 0	2027 1	2028 2	2029 3	2030 4	2031 5	2032 6	2033 7	2034 8	2035 9	2036 10
RDOS Facilities														
Campbell Mountain Landfill														
Leachate Management	2025	$ 200,000		$ 200,000										
Bio Cover	2025	$ 4,145,112		$ 1,600,000	$ 2,000,000	$ 300,000	$ 150,000	$ 95,112						
Design, Operations, and Closure Plan (DOCP)	2025	$ 65,000		$ 40,000			$ 25,000							
Cell Design and Geotech	2016	$ 1,757,500				$ 220,000	$ 1,537,500							
Phase 3 Expansion	2016	$ 4,650,431				$ 4,650,431								
Phase 4 Expansion	2016	$ 4,248,608										$ 4,248,608		
Phase 1 Closure	2026	$ 750,000		$ 750,000										
Phase 2 Closure	2016	$ 7,079,877						$ 7,079,877						
Phase 3 Closure	2016	$ 4,371,458											$ 4,371,458	
Okanagan Falls Waste Management Facility														
Phase 2 Expansion Design	2025	$ 100,000		$ 100,000										
Phase 2 Expansion Construction	2025	$ 1,400,000		$ 1,400,000										
Phase 1 Closure	2021	$ 527,619				$ 527,619								
Oliver Landfill														
Leachate Pond Design and Construction	2025	$ 225,000		$ 225,000										
Phase 3 Expansion (incl. Leachate Management)	2022	$ 4,198,832					$ 150,000	$ 4,048,832						
Phase 2 Closure	2022	$ 369,696							$ 369,696					
Keremeos Landfill / Transfer Station														
Closure Plan and Closure Work	2025	$ 650,000		$ 550,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000								
Replacement of Scale House	2025	$ 125,000		$ 125,000										
Site Layout, Design and Construction	2025	$ 250,000			$ 50,000	$ 200,000								
Regional Organics Processing Facility														
Facility Construction and Commissioning	2025	$ 19,000,000												
Municipal Capital Budgets														
Summerland Landfill														
Water Supply Well	2022	$ 30,000		$ 30,000										
Groundwater Monitoring Wells	2022	$ 30,000		$ 30,000										
Office Trailer	2022	$ 50,000					$ 50,000							
Phase 1, Cell 3A Liner Construction	2022	$ 1,014,513		$ 1,014,513										
Phase 1, Cell 3B Liner Construction	2022	$ 1,612,269									$ 1,612,269			
Phase 1, Area A Progressive Closure	2022	$ 962,018						$ 962,018						
Phase 1, Area A Temporary Cover	2022	$ 557,997				$ 557,997								
Stormwater System Improvements	2022	$ 260,500						$ 260,500						
Final Closure	2022	$ 3,309,600												
Osoyoos Landfill														
Final Closure	2018	$ 546,000												
Princeton Landfill														
Final Closure	2022	$ 4,892,000												

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Recommendations

- Use the Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition. Eliminate the goals for recovery.
- Set ambitious targets for five years (2032) and ten years (2037). Include sector specific targets and one for food waste.
- Add actions to reduce toxic materials and pollution.
- Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator and no new incineration facilities.
- Invest in zero waste solutions instead such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling.
- Measure and work on reducing consumption-based GHG emissions.
- Establish and commit to a timeline and budget.
- Pledge to be transparent. Burning of waste ≠ recycling nor diversion.
- Spend money wisely and invest in the future- choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

10

Petition

- Phase out the incinerator by 2028 to protect public health, the environment and keep costs reasonable

385 signatures
10 organizations

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Thank you

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