

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday, April 2, 2026

1:00 pm

28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

REVISED AGENDA

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. **April 2, 2026 Meeting Agenda**

THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the revised agenda for its meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026 as circulated.

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

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

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

pg. 8

C. DELEGATIONS

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Revised

1. **Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation**

pg. 12

Report dated March 31, 2026, from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary

The attached presentation, titled “The Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation” (Attachment 1) is provided in support of the following items on the Zero Waste Committee meeting agenda for April 2, 2026:

- E2- Solid Waste Management Plan – Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary;
- E3 - Report from Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel; and
- E4 - Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Each item will be addressed separately after the overview presentation has been received. The presentation remains available for reference in support of the next three items.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 31, 2026 titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation”.

2. Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary*pg. 21*

Report dated March 23, 2026 from Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services.

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. 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 draft plan.

In late 2025, Metro Vancouver received feedback on draft targets and metrics from member jurisdiction staff and advisory committees. In early 2026, Metro Vancouver published an initial draft of the solid waste management plan and invited feedback from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, extended producer responsibility organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and over 900 contacts who subscribed to updates on the solid waste management plan update.

In addition to feedback gathered through meetings, Metro Vancouver received 45 written submissions expressing varied degrees of support for the plan and identifying areas for strengthening or requests for revision. Engagement generated a wide range of input on topics including accessibility, reuse and repair, timeframe of targets, financial considerations, regulatory tools, and residual waste. Considering this feedback, Metro Vancouver revised the draft plan and is now providing it to the Zero Waste Committee for consideration prior to a public comment period and submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 23, 2026, titled “Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary”.

3. Report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel

pg. 27

Report dated March 16, 2026 from Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary

The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel provided a report summarizing the panel’s reflections on engagement related to the solid waste management plan update (**Attachment 1**). Below is the executive summary in the panel’s report:

The Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel is pleased to report that Metro Vancouver’s solid waste management plan engagement process represents a genuine step change from previous practice. Across our three tests — transparency, participation breadth, and innovation in reaching underrepresented communities — this final phase has continued to demonstrate meaningful and measurable progress.

Two challenges are worth naming directly: a persistent trust gap with a small sub-group of participants for whom the deliberative formats in this phase were poorly matched to their advocacy interests; and compressed timelines that lowered accessibility for some Collaborative Engagement participants.

Looking ahead, three opportunities stand out: sustaining the relational capital built, particularly with equity-denied groups and First Nations; innovating tools to better support shared understanding across divergent viewpoints; and, for broader benefit to Metro Vancouver’s other departments and the public sector generally, documenting and sharing the impacts of empowering an independent panel in the engagement process.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 16, 2026, titled “Report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel”.

Revised**4. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan***pg. 33*

Report dated March 31, 2026, from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary

Following five years of engagement, this report presents a draft solid waste management plan to guide the region for the next 10 years and beyond. The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board received updates across all five phases of the solid waste management plan update, and the GVS&DD Board has approved components of the updated plan. The updated plan emphasizes affordability, collaboration, and transparency, while continuing to position Metro Vancouver as a North American leader in waste prevention and recycling.

An initial draft solid waste management plan was published on January 22, 2026, and presented to the Zero Waste Committee on February 5, 2026. Feedback on the initial draft was received from a range of groups and individuals and considered in developing the revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan (Attachments 1 and 2 of the report).

Key changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan following feedback include:

- a strategic principle of prioritizing local solid waste management solutions
- 2036 targets including sector specific targets
- key focus areas highlighting priority initiatives such as increasing multi-family diversion and reducing construction and demolition waste
- strengthened language with respect to implementation including education and outreach actions and actions tailored to newcomers and multilingual communities
- additional financial details including detail on allocation of expenditures to waste reduction and recycling within the five-year financial plan, and annual reporting on allocation of expenditures and efficacy of those expenditures

The Metro Vancouver solid waste system is cost effective compared to solid waste systems in other major Canadian cities, and provides reliable and resilient recycling and waste services to residents and businesses in the region. The Waste-to-Energy facility and Vancouver Landfill continue to be safe and cost-effective methods for managing residual garbage, and are approximately half the cost of remote disposal of garbage.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) direct staff to invite feedback on the draft updated solid waste management plan (the "Solid Waste Management Plan") from First Nations, interested parties, and the public;
- b) request that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair invite feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts; and
- c) authorize the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval the Solid Waste Management Plan materially in the form attached in Attachment 1 to the report dated March 31, 2026 titled "Draft Solid Waste Management Plan", along with feedback received by August 1, 2026.

5. **Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc.** *pg. 251*

Report dated March 24, 2026 from Chris Allan, Director, Solid Waste Operations, Solid Waste Services, and George Kavouras, Director, Procurement, Procurement & Real Estate Services.

Executive Summary

Arrow's proposal ranked highest overall, with the highest technical score, and demonstrated best value overall for Metro Vancouver.

The current contracts for managing organics at the North Shore, Maple Ridge, and Langley recycling and waste centres expire at the end of June 2026. Materials managed include yard trimmings, clean wood, municipally collected organics (combined yard trimmings and food scraps), and commercially collected organics (food scraps from multi-family and commercial/institutional sources).

RFP No. 25-580 was issued on December 23, 2025, and advertised publicly and the procurement was executed in accordance with the terms and conditions of Metro Vancouver's Procurement Policy. The RFP No. 25-580 evaluation team have considered the two proposals received, and on that basis recommend that the GVS&DD award RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc. ("Arrow").

The cost for services under this contract will be funded through tipping fees set through GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024.

Staff will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen organics management across the region. Initiatives under consideration include managing additional organics at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre and identifying new opportunities to support the development of additional local organics processing capacity.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) approve the award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres, in the amount of up to \$80,577,000 (exclusive of taxes) to Arrow Transportation System Inc., for a term of 5 1/2 years, subject to final review by the Commissioner; and
- b) authorize the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate to execute the required documentation once the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate is satisfied that the award should proceed.

6. **GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026 - Amends Bylaw No. 379, 2024** pg. 255

Report dated March 26, 2026 from Allen Jensen, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary

The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024 (Tipping Fee Bylaw) sets rates and requirements at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities.

This report recommends amendments to the Tipping Fee Bylaw effective July 1, 2026, including a \$2 per tonne increase to the garbage tipping fee for loads between 1.0 and 7.99 tonnes and loads greater than 8 tonnes, and increases to recycling fees for municipal organics, mixed organics (including multi-family and commercial/institutional organics), yard trimmings, and clean wood. The increases in garbage tipping fees are proposed to allocate some of the costs for multi-family and commercial/institutional organics to garbage tipping fees, thereby minimizing the difference in cost between organics recycling and disposal costs.

Municipal organics are delivered to the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre primarily by the five north shore municipalities. The increase in cost for municipal organics is significant but is required to align with processing costs. With rates for processing municipal organics set in the Tipping Fee Bylaw, municipalities have the option of securing organics processing independently of Metro Vancouver if they choose to.

Recommendation

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) approve the following amendments to the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024* effective July 1, 2026:
 - i. increase garbage tipping fees by \$2 to \$162 per tonne for the 1.0 to 7.99 tonnes weight category and by \$2 to \$136 per tonne for loads greater than 8 tonnes;
 - ii. increase municipal organics by \$38 to \$155 per tonne;
 - iii. increase mixed organics by \$25 to \$175 per tonne; and
 - iv. increase yard trimmings and clean wood by \$15 to \$139 per tonne;
- b) give first, second and third reading to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*; and
- c) pass and finally adopt *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*.

7. 2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update

pg. 270

Report dated February 9, 2026 from Alison Schatz, Senior Communications Specialist, Corporate Communications.

Executive Summary

Behaviour change campaigns are part of a suite of education, enforcement (policy), and engineering efforts by Metro Vancouver to reduce waste in the region. Four campaigns that support waste reduction and recycling goals will run in 2026 — these include “Food Scraps Aren’t Garbage” (food scraps recycling, March to May), “Repair and Re-Wear” (textiles waste reduction, March to April), “Love Food Hate Waste Canada” (food waste prevention, summer TBC), and “What’s Your Superhabit?” (single-use item reduction, summer TBC). As part of the 2025 Services and Cost Efficiencies Review, the holiday waste reduction campaign, “Create Memories, Not Garbage,” was discontinued due to high competition for paid media space and consumer attention during the holidays, combined with challenges in measuring change in behaviour. The four campaigns for 2026 are planned to continue in 2027 with similar budget allocations.

Recommendation

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 9, 2026, titled “2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update”.

8. Manager’s Report

pg. 280

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

Recommendation

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated March 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 April 2, 2026.

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, March 5, 2026

1:00 pm

28th Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair, Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vancouver (arrived at 1:01 pm)
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 (arrived at 1:03pm)

*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

Vice Chair Hodge presided over the meeting in the absence of Chair Kirby-Yung and called the meeting to order.

1:01 pm Chair Kirby-Yung joined the meeting and resumed the Chair.

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. March 5, 2026 Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**1. February 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes****It was MOVED and SECONDED**

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

CARRIED

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

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

Sue Maxwell gave a presentation titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan,” introducing the ambitious goals, residual disposal options, and plan timelines and costs of some other regional districts, and providing recommendations for developing the solid waste management plan for the Metro Vancouver region.

1:03pm Director Zhou joined the meeting.

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

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, providing an update on the status of valved single-use nitrous oxide cylinders in the waste stream and requesting that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to write to Canada’s Minister of Health and Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Nature, regarding the prohibition of the import and sale of these cylinders.

Paul Henderson gave a presentation titled “Proposed Ban on Import and Sale of Nitrous Oxide Cylinders,” informing members about explosions at Waste-to-Energy Facility due to inappropriate disposal of nitrous oxide cylinders and the implications, the current status of cylinder drop-off at recycling and waste centres, and proposing to ban the import and sale large single-use valved nitrous oxide cylinders.

Members discussed the necessity of working closely with stakeholders, including the BC Restaurant & Food Services Association and cultural communities, to proactively avoid any unintended consequences regarding the proposed ban on the import and sale of valved single-use nitrous oxide cylinders. Staff will prepare a cover report with additional information for the GVS&DD Board to consider.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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.

CARRIED**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, providing 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.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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

CARRIED**3. Manager's Report**

Report dated February 20, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, providing an update on the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, reclaimed wood use opportunity for the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System, 2025 "Create Memories, Not Garbage" holiday waste reduction campaign, 2026 textiles waste reduction campaign, and the Regional Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Working Group.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 20, 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 March 5, 2026.

CARRIED

(Time: 2:19 pm)

Christine Zhao,
Legislative Services Coordinator

Sarah Kirby-Yung,
Chair

83609034

To: Zero Waste Committee

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

Date: March 31, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 31, 2026 titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation”.

The attached presentation, titled “The Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation” (**Attachment 1**) is provided in support of the following items on the Zero Waste Committee meeting agenda for April 2, 2026:

- E2- Solid Waste Management Plan – Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary;
- E3 - Report from Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel; and
- E4 - Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Each item will be addressed separately after the overview presentation has been received. The presentation remains available for reference in support of the next three items.

ATTACHMENT

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

84186543



Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Terry Fulton, P.Eng.
Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services
Zero Waste Committee, April 2, 2026

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Plan timeline and process review
- Engagement statistics
- Revisions to the initial draft plan:
 - Prioritizing local solutions
 - Targets
 - Focus areas
 - Strengthened language
 - Actions related to education
 - Financial overview
- Next steps

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2

DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Three reports today:

- E1 Solid Waste Management Plan Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary
- E2 Report from Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel
- E3 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

3

PLAN TIMELINE



we are here

4

HIERARCHY AND GOALS

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

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ENGAGEMENT STATS

<p>70+</p> <p>Updates to member jurisdiction staff at advisory committees, workshops, MV Conference day, or on request</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Neighbouring regional district engagements</p>	<p>1,400</p> <p>Questionnaire responses</p>	<p>60</p> <p>Public/Technical Advisory Committee and Industry Advisory Committee meetings</p>
<p>3,000</p> <p>Reached through Collaborative Engagement with 23 not-for-profit organizations</p>	<p>3,000+</p> <p>Engaged at community events</p> <p>23,000+</p> <p>Engaged at the PNE</p>	<p>48</p> <p>Updates to Zero Waste Committee including 24 to the GVS&DD Board</p>	

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DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN



7

REVISIONS TO PLAN BASED ON FEEDBACK

Details on following slides

Including but not limited to:

- Highlighted a strategic principle of prioritizing local solid waste management solutions
- 2036 targets added, including targets by sector
- Focus areas added to highlight key strategies and actions
 - Includes multi-family and construction and demolition sectors
 - Includes strategic principle of local waste management
- Strengthened language throughout strategies and actions
- Enhanced actions related to education, including for newcomers
- Expanded financial section and added plan implementation schedule

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STRATEGIC PRINCIPLE - PRIORITIZE LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Local solutions for managing waste:

- Increase resilience
- Reduce transportation GHG emissions
- Create local employment and economic benefit
- Are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities

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TARGETS

Draft targets and timeline – draft solid waste management plan



*2010 baseline and includes disposal emissions from landfill and waste to energy

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FOCUS AREAS

Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention

Scale up reuse opportunities at Metro Vancouver facilities and beyond

Increase participation in organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses and institutions

Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics

Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material

Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics

STRENGTHENED LANGUAGE AND ACTIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION

- Language in the strategies and actions
 - Stronger language; action oriented
- Enhanced actions related to education and outreach
 - Specific actions related to education for newcomers to the region and populations facing barriers to access services

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

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW – REVISIONS

- Added description of expenditures by waste hierarchy
- Provided information on expenditures from 2030 onward
- Added provisions related to reporting on implementation expenditures and their effectiveness

ANTICIPATED NEXT 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**

60-day comment period on revised draft plan

Submit draft plan to Ministry



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To: Zero Waste Committee

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

Date: March 23, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 23, 2026, titled “Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary”.

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. 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 draft plan.

In late 2025, Metro Vancouver received feedback on draft targets and metrics from member jurisdiction staff and advisory committees. In early 2026, Metro Vancouver published an initial draft of the solid waste management plan and invited feedback from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, extended producer responsibility organizations, not-for-profit organizations, and over 900 contacts who subscribed to updates on the solid waste management plan update.

In addition to feedback gathered through meetings, Metro Vancouver received 45 written submissions expressing varied degrees of support for the plan and identifying areas for strengthening or requests for revision. Engagement generated a wide range of input on topics including accessibility, reuse and repair, timeframe of targets, financial considerations, regulatory tools, and residual waste. Considering this feedback, Metro Vancouver revised the draft plan and is now providing it to the Zero Waste Committee for consideration prior to a public comment period and submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

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 initial draft solid waste management plan, including draft targets, metrics, strategies/actions, and other components.

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.

Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

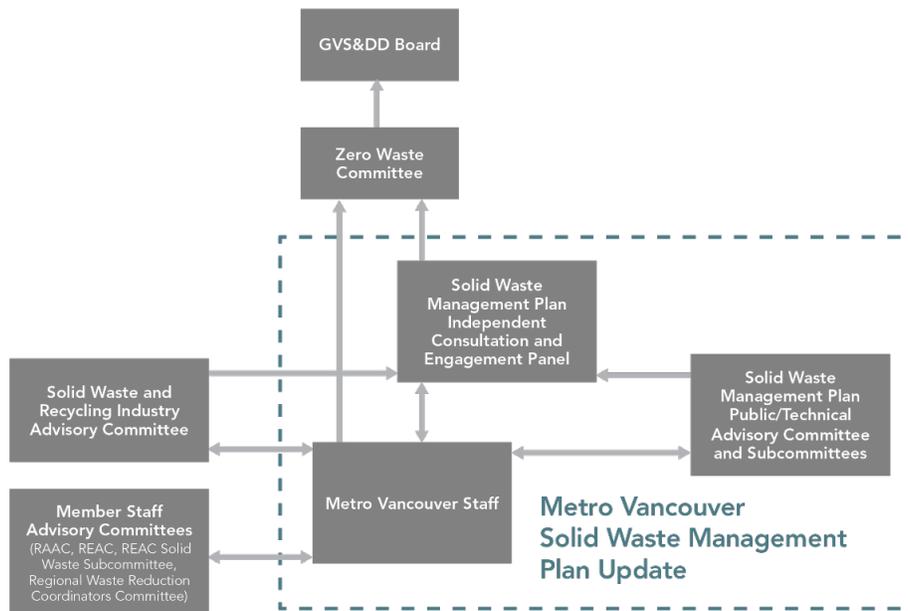
The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board have received updates across the different phases of the solid waste management plan update, including GVS&DD Board approval of components of the updated plan. In June 2024, the GVS&DD Board approved the vision and guiding principles, and in July 2025, the GVS&DD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

At its 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, advisory committees, and others for feedback. This report provides a summary of engagement feedback on targets, metrics, and the initial draft plan, which helped to inform a revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan that is being provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board. It is anticipated that 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.



TARGETS, METRICS, AND INITIAL DRAFT PLAN ENGAGEMENT

The engagement summary report for this phase (Reference 1) describes engagement feedback received on the initial draft plan in early 2026, as well as feedback on the draft targets and metrics in late 2025. A full record of comments received and Metro Vancouver responses is included as Reference 2.

Targets and Metrics Engagement

In late 2025, Metro Vancouver presented draft targets and metrics to advisory committees, including the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee.

Initial Draft Plan Engagement

An initial draft plan was developed while considering research and engagement in previous phases. Through the Options Analysis phase in 2025, Metro Vancouver received feedback on a set of potential strategies and actions, which helped to determine which strategies and actions to prioritize and include in the initial draft plan.

On January 22, 2026, Metro Vancouver published the initial draft solid waste management plan on its website. Emails were sent to the following groups, inviting feedback on the initial draft plan:

- First Nations in the Metro Vancouver region
- Member jurisdiction staff
- Neighbouring regional districts
- Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee
- Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee
- Extended Producer Responsibility Organizations
- Ministry of Environment and Parks staff
- Not-for-profit organizations previously participating in the Collaborative Engagement program
- A contact list of over 900 contacts who had subscribed to receive updates on Metro Vancouver solid waste projects, including the solid waste management plan update

Metro Vancouver received 30 written submissions from the public with feedback on the initial draft plan (Reference 3). In addition, Metro Vancouver held dedicated feedback sessions with member jurisdiction staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee. Feedback summaries from these three advisory committee sessions are included as References 4-6. Fifteen Solid Waste Management Plan Technical/Advisory Committee members also submitted brief written statements outlining feedback on the initial draft plan (Reference 5).

Public Engagement Feedback

The following summarizes key feedback on targets, metrics, and the initial draft plan. This feedback was gathered through engagement with the member jurisdiction staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, as well as through written submissions from adjacent regional districts, industry associations, not-for-profit organizations, and the public. The engagement summary report (Reference 1) provides further detail on the engagement process, feedback received, and Metro Vancouver's responses. A complete record of feedback and Metro Vancouver responses is included as Reference 2.

Key engagement feedback on targets, metrics, and initial draft solid waste management plan:

- **Accessibility and inclusion:** Respondents highlighted the importance of accessibility and inclusion, noting barriers faced by residents in multi-family housing, those without vehicles, and individuals with mobility or time constraints. Participants urged the plan to include defined actions to ensure equitable access to waste reduction and recycling services.
- **Action-oriented:** Feedback emphasized the need for stronger, more action-oriented language throughout the plan, including clearer definitions of key terms and more concrete commitments. Participants noted that aspirational wording and vague terminology reduced clarity and accountability, and recommended explicitly stating intended actions, timelines, and responsibilities to better support implementation.
- **Ambitious, prevention-focused:** Support for a more ambitious, transparent, and prevention-focused approach to waste management. Participants emphasized the need for clearly defined targets, robust regulation, with some suggesting stronger alignment with the zero waste hierarchy and circular economy principles. Some felt that the targets are too ambitious and are unrealistic.
- **Construction and demolition:** The construction and demolition sector was identified as both a major waste source and a significant opportunity for diversion through mandatory source separation, deconstruction over demolition, improved tracking, reuse hubs, and greater transparency around end markets.
- **Financial considerations:** Feedback emphasized the importance of clear financial transparency, including lifecycle costs of disposal facilities, cost-per-tonne comparisons across management options, and clearer investment in prevention-focused initiatives. Some participants expressed concern that current budgets appear weighted toward disposal rather than upstream solutions.
- **Privatization:** There was interest in a stronger role for private industry, including privatization of the system being one suggestion, particularly in driving innovation and service delivery. Some participants were against system privatization.
- **Regulatory tools and enforcement:** Feedback called for stronger regulatory tools and enforcement, noting that education alone is not sufficient to drive meaningful waste reduction. Suggested measures included mandatory source separation, standardized inspections, clear enforcement protocols, and consistent regulatory approaches across jurisdictions. Some felt that more regulation would be a barrier to innovation and private industry participation.
- **Residual waste:** Long-term residuals management and disposal planning emerged as a key issue, with questions about Vancouver Landfill capacity, environmental impacts, and contingency planning. Participants requested clearer accounting of residual waste, opposition to counting recovery of materials such as waste wood used as alternative fuel as recycling, and transparency around emissions, leachate, and hazardous materials management.
- **Reuse and repair:** Participants supported prioritizing upstream actions, particularly waste reduction/prevention, reuse, and repair. There was enthusiasm for regional reuse hubs, repair programs, deconstruction and salvage initiatives, and for tracking reuse separately from recycling. Food waste was identified as a major opportunity, with calls for stronger reduction targets, clearer definitions of preventable food waste, and enhanced support for food recovery organizations.
- **Shorter term targets:** The plan should include clear, measurable 5- and 10-year targets, with sector-specific goals and transparent reporting of per-capita and total waste generation. Participants stressed that consistent definitions, published assumptions, and accessible public reporting are essential to maintaining credibility and accountability.

- **Waste-to-energy:** Concern was expressed regarding continued reliance on the Waste-to-Energy Facility, with some participants advocating for phasing out or limiting its role, including the Fraser Valley Regional District. Incineration was widely viewed as disposal rather than diversion, and participants requested greater transparency around emissions, health impacts, facility lifespan, and financial costs.

Metro Vancouver Response to Feedback and Draft Plan Revisions

Metro Vancouver reviewed all feedback received during the engagement period, which closed on February 20, 2026. Staff compiled a comprehensive feedback log capturing comments from member jurisdictions, advisory committees, industry, adjacent regional districts, non-profit organizations, and the public. Feedback helped identify areas where the initial draft plan required clarification, strengthening, or modification to better reflect shared priorities and implementation realities.

The revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan incorporates this feedback through a series of changes that improve clarity, accountability, and alignment with waste reduction and circular economy principles.

First Nations Engagement

Metro Vancouver sent the initial draft plan via email to 10 First Nations with communities currently located within the region and 18 additional First Nations with interests within the region, to invite feedback. Metro Vancouver received written feedback from one First Nation. Metro Vancouver also met with a First Nation in December 2025, in between the Options Analysis and Initial Draft Plan engagement windows. Feedback included:

- Consider incorporating additional secondary metrics related to circular design standards, reuse service access and activity, sector-specific material generation, and greenhouse gas emissions avoided through circular action.
- Implement further studies to understand if clear bins and bags improve the effectiveness of disposal bans
- Work collaboratively with First Nations through shared governance, respecting First Nations governance structures, laws, protocols and including Traditional Knowledge in the plan implementation
- Ensure transparency and accountability in actions related to First Nations engagement
- Committing to support long-term environmental protection by considering cumulative environmental impacts across the region
- Address environmental effects within First Nations territories
- Ensure the plan supports meeting federal targets of single-use item reduction including defining types of plastics and methods for measuring plastics in waste streams
- Investigate using artificial intelligence for waste sorting and monitoring

Metro Vancouver has considered this feedback in drafting the revised Solid Waste Management Plan by including several actions that commit to exploring additional transparent data collection from sectors and consider environmental and economic benefits (Actions 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3, and 1.4.7), pursuing options to explore disposal ban efficacy by exploring artificial intelligence and policies involving clear bags (Action 4.8.1), and including a commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action in the guiding principles which will guide every aspect of the plan update for the next decade. The revised draft plan also establishes a per capita reduction target of 10% by 2036 which will help reduce single-use plastics entering the environment or sent for disposal. First Nations feedback received during the plan update process has been valuable in contributing to the draft plan.

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 revised 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's process to update its solid waste management plan is supported by a robust and inclusive engagement process. In late 2025 and early 2026, Metro Vancouver received engagement feedback on draft targets and metrics, and an initial draft solid waste management plan.

The engagement summary report (Reference 1) highlights feedback received on targets, metrics, and the initial draft plan. The feedback log (Reference 2) describes Metro Vancouver's response to feedback, including revisions made to the draft plan, or providing an explanation if a suggestion could not be incorporated. A revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan is being provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board for consideration. It is anticipated that following GVS&DD Board review, the draft Solid Waste Management Plan will be distributed for additional comment before submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics and Initial Draft Plan Engagement Summary Report. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmpu-targets-metrics-initial-draft-plan-engagement-summary.pdf>
2. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Targets, Metrics and Initial Draft Plan Feedback log. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmpu-targets-metrics-initial-draft-plan-feedback-log.pdf>
3. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Written feedback on the initial draft solid waste management plan. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/initial-draft-solid-waste-management-plan-written-feedback.pdf>
4. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Feedback Summary from member jurisdiction staff feedback session on initial draft plan. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/initial-draft-plan-member-jurisdiction-staff-feedback-summary.pdf>
5. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Feedback summary from Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee feedback session on initial draft plan, and member written submissions. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmp-public-technical-advisory-committee-feedback-summary.pdf>
6. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Feedback summary from Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee feedback session on initial draft plan. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/solid-waste-recycling-industry-advisory-committee-feedback-summary.pdf>

To: Zero Waste Committee

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

Date: March 16, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 16, 2026, titled “Report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel”.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel provided a report summarizing the panel’s reflections on engagement related to the solid waste management plan update (**Attachment 1**). Below is the executive summary in the panel’s report:

The Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel is pleased to report that Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan engagement process represents a genuine step change from previous practice. Across our three tests — transparency, participation breadth, and innovation in reaching underrepresented communities — this final phase has continued to demonstrate meaningful and measurable progress.

Two challenges are worth naming directly: a persistent trust gap with a small sub-group of participants for whom the deliberative formats in this phase were poorly matched to their advocacy interests; and compressed timelines that lowered accessibility for some Collaborative Engagement participants.

Looking ahead, three opportunities stand out: sustaining the relational capital built, particularly with equity-denied groups and First Nations; innovating tools to better support shared understanding across divergent viewpoints; and, for broader benefit to Metro Vancouver’s other departments and the public sector generally, documenting and sharing the impacts of empowering an independent panel in the engagement process.

REPORT FROM THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN INDEPENDENT CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PANEL

The attached report from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel provides the panel’s reflections on the adequacy of engagement during all phases of the solid waste management plan update, including the more recent phases on options analysis and the initial draft plan. The panel has reported to the Board at each phase of engagement on the solid waste management plan update.

Report From the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

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Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current plan and its success as a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. The draft updated plan identifies opportunities to further advance waste reduction and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a circular economy. The plan update is supported by a robust and inclusive engagement process. To bolster this commitment, Metro Vancouver receives guidance from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the development and implementation of engagement on the solid waste management plan update (Reference 1). This third-party panel includes seven members (Reference 2): Andrea Reimer (Chair), Celena Benndorf, Cheryl Brooks, Komal Fatima, Peter Fassbender, Ryan Williams, Veronika Bylicki, and Sarah Kirby-Yung (Zero Waste Committee liaison to the panel). The panel provides advice during engagement planning and implementation. In addition, the public was invited to present directly to the panel at each phase of the plan update, offering an opportunity to share feedback on the engagement process itself.

ATTACHMENTS

1. "Independent Panel Report on the Final Phase of Engagement for the SWMP Update", dated February 19, 2026.

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver. (2026, February). *Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Terms of Reference*. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmp-consultation-engagement-panel-terms-of-reference.pdf>
2. Metro Vancouver. (2026, February). *Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Member Biographies*. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/swmp-panel-bios.pdf>

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Independent Panel Report on the Final Phase of Engagement for the SWMP Update - February 19, 2026

Prepared by Andrea Reimer, Chair of the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel, with input and support from panel members

Executive Summary

The Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel is pleased to report that Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan engagement process represents a genuine step change from previous practice. Across our three tests — transparency, participation breadth, and innovation in reaching underrepresented communities — this final phase has continued to demonstrate meaningful and measurable progress.

Two challenges are worth naming directly: a persistent trust gap with a small sub-group of participants for whom the deliberative formats in this phase were poorly matched to their advocacy interests; and compressed timelines that lowered accessibility for some Collaborative Engagement participants.

Looking ahead, three opportunities stand out: sustaining the relational capital built, particularly with equity-denied groups and First Nations; innovating tools to better support shared understanding across divergent viewpoints; and, for broader benefit to Metro Vancouver's other departments and the public sector generally, documenting and sharing the impacts of empowering an independent panel in the engagement process.

Introduction

The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel (the Panel) is pleased to present our report reflecting on engagement for Metro Vancouver's updated solid waste management plan, as the region concludes its multi-year engagement process. For reference, the Panel was established by the Metro Vancouver GVS&DD Board (the Board) at the outset of the plan update in 2020 to *“ensure consultation is robust and adequate, and feedback is solicited from a variety of interested parties and stakeholders.”*

This report is structured in three sections: what went well, some reflections on the challenges of this phase, and opportunities for the future.

As a reminder, following pre-engagement in the early stages of our work (2021) the Panel established three tests by which to evaluate the effectiveness of engagement throughout this process. These are: (1) transparency of both the process and the information that staff are using to inform the process; (2) provision of multiple engagement avenues to allow participants to "right-size" their participation; and (3) persistent innovation in reaching those that have not traditionally had effective pathways for participation, including First Nations and equity-denied groups.

These tests have guided our evaluation at every phase, including this one.

1. What Went Well

Across all three tests, it is our opinion that engagement in this phase of plan development has continued to demonstrate meaningful and measurable progress.

On transparency, staff have gone to considerable lengths to provide the information people need to participate effectively in engagement. They have been responsive to requests for additional information, working to present it in language accessible to the relevant audience. Importantly, staff have also provided substantive commentary on the range of positions gathered through engagement to show what has been incorporated into the plan and, where positions could not be incorporated, they have given decision-makers clear line of sight into what those positions were and why they weren't included. This is a high standard of transparency that supports genuinely informed decision-making by the Zero Waste Committee (ZWC) and Board.

On expanding participation, every phase of this process has seen increasing numbers and breadth of people and sectors engaged. This is a direct result of deliberate effort and innovations such as the Collaborative Engagement program which provides funding and resources to not-for-profit organizations supporting underrepresented or equity-denied communities to engage their networks. 20 organizations participated in the program, reaching 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.

Equally significant is that people and participating organizations keep coming back — which speaks not just to quantity but to a continuing improvement in the quality of engagement. People return when they feel their participation is worthwhile.

The cumulative result of this work is a draft plan that reflects a far greater range of people, communities and interests than previous Metro Vancouver plans. That is a meaningful achievement.

2. Some Reflections on the Challenges

We offer these reflections in the spirit of continuous improvement and in recognition that a process this ambitious will surface tensions that are worth naming clearly.

2.a Trust gap

In the pre-engagement phase, the Panel noted a significant trust gap with a small sub-group of participants deeply involved in different aspects of the waste management sector. Our hope was that this process could help close that gap. It did not, and as engagement moved closer to decision points in this final phase, the friction between the varied content outcomes individuals in this sub-group wanted and staff charged with representing the results of engagement with broader interests became more pronounced. We offer the following observations on how this might be avoided in the future.

- *Matching interests to appropriate engagement formats.* With one exception, the individuals in this sub-group have various financial interests in the outcome of the plan and in all cases they joined one or both of the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) and Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) to advance their interests. These are legitimate interests — but people with strong and fixed positions on outcomes are not well served by a format designed for dialogue and deliberation, and the process is not well served by their participation in that format. A dedicated engagement stream better suited to advocacy and bilateral exchange would have been more appropriate for this sub-group and would likely have reduced friction for everyone.
- *Expectation setting about staff's role.* There was sustained concern from members of this sub-group about whether their views were being adequately represented in staff reports to the ZWC and Board, to the point where the Panel began attending all PTAC and IAC meetings beginning in the fall of 2025, to serve as a second set of eyes on staff's recording of feedback. We did not observe a single instance where staff failed to record feedback diligently and accurately. At the same time, some participants appeared to expect verbatim notes — which is poor engagement practice — and detailed individual responses to every question raised, which would be extremely difficult to resource. Staff put considerable effort into trying to meet these expectations. Clearer expectation-setting at the outset about what staff can and can't do, and why, would help in future processes.
- *Reinforcing agreements from earlier phases.* The phased approach provided valuable space in the earlier stages for ideation and for staff to build capacity and expand audiences. The downside of a four-year engagement process is that participants struggle to recall commitments and shared agreements established in earlier phases. Future processes should either be shorter, or invest much more deliberately in tools that bring participants back to the agreements reached along the way.

2.b. Accessibility

A smaller but equally important thread in this final phase concerned some challenges with the Collaborative Engagement program. It is worth emphasizing that in general, participating organizations and the people they engage in the process value and appreciate the opportunity to participate through Collaborative Engagement. However, the compressed timeline of this final phase relative to what was available in earlier phases made it harder for participating organizations to meaningfully engage their communities on the complexity of the draft plan.

This points to a structural issue worth naming directly: the final phases of a planning process — where the task shifts to building shared understanding of different viewpoints and converging on options — are inherently more demanding for participants. If anything, more time should be allocated as a process approaches its conclusion, not less.

3. Opportunities for the Future

Metro Vancouver's approach to engagement on the solid waste management plan represents a genuine step change from previous practice. The Panel's hope is that the lessons of this process — both its successes and its challenges — are carried forward into future major plan updates and do not have to be relearned from scratch.

Three opportunities stand out.

First, this process has built not just broader relationships but deeper ones. That relational capital, particularly in reaching equity-denied groups, hard-to-engage sectors and First Nations is an asset. Finding ways for those that did engage in this process to continue deepening their connections to solid waste planning by being engaged in the implementation of the plan will not just benefit the implementation but it will also save Metro Vancouver significant time and resources in building engagement in future planning.

Second, through this process Metro Vancouver has developed excellent tools and approaches for gathering broad high-level input on values and guiding principles, and generating and evaluating ideas — but the next frontier is helping people through the harder work of building shared understanding across divergent viewpoints, what engagement practitioners call the "Groan Zone." This is not a Metro Vancouver-specific challenge; it is one being faced across democracies. The engagement foundation built through this plan update is very strong, and taking that momentum into the Groan Zone challenge is worth doing.

Finally, the Panel intends to document and share what has been learned through this process in a final report, to be completed between April and July 2026. The innovations developed here have value beyond this plan and beyond Metro Vancouver, and we would like to give you the tools to realize those benefits.

The Panel thanks the ZWC, the Board and staff for the opportunity to contribute to this process. It has been a privilege to support engagement work of this significance.

To: Zero Waste Committee

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

Date: March 31, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Draft Solid Waste Management Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) direct staff to invite feedback on the draft updated solid waste management plan (the “Solid Waste Management Plan”) from First Nations, interested parties, and the public;
 - b) request that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair invite feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts; and
 - c) authorize the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval the Solid Waste Management Plan materially in the form attached in Attachment 1 to the report dated March 31, 2026 titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan”, along with feedback received by August 1, 2026.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following five years of engagement, this report presents a draft solid waste management plan to guide the region for the next 10 years and beyond. The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board received updates across all five phases of the solid waste management plan update, and the GVS&DD Board has approved components of the updated plan. The updated plan emphasizes affordability, collaboration, and transparency, while continuing to position Metro Vancouver as a North American leader in waste prevention and recycling.

An initial draft solid waste management plan was published on January 22, 2026, and presented to the Zero Waste Committee on February 5, 2026. Feedback on the initial draft was received from a range of groups and individuals and considered in developing the revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan (**Attachments 1 and 2**).

Key changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan following feedback include:

- a strategic principle of prioritizing local solid waste management solutions
- 2036 targets including sector specific targets
- key focus areas highlighting priority initiatives such as increasing multi-family diversion and reducing construction and demolition waste
- strengthened language with respect to implementation including education and outreach actions and actions tailored to newcomers and multilingual communities
- additional financial details including detail on allocation of expenditures to waste reduction and recycling within the five-year financial plan, and annual reporting on allocation of expenditures and efficacy of those expenditures

The Metro Vancouver solid waste system is cost effective compared to solid waste systems in other major Canadian cities, and provides reliable and resilient recycling and waste services to residents and businesses in the region. The Waste-to-Energy facility and Vancouver Landfill continue to be safe and cost-effective methods for managing residual garbage, and are approximately half the cost of remote disposal of garbage.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the draft solid waste management plan to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board, and seek Board direction to invite feedback on the draft in advance of submitting it to the Minister of Environment and Parks.

BACKGROUND

Regional districts are required to develop solid waste management plans under the *Environmental Management Act*, to be approved by the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks. Provincial guidelines recommend initiating an update of the plan every 10 years. In November 2019 the GVS&DD Board authorized initiating an update of the regional solid waste management plan approved in 2011.

The Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board have received updates at each phase of the solid waste management plan update process. The solid waste management plan is currently in the last phase of development, as depicted below. On February 5, 2026, the Zero Waste Committee received information on the components of the initial draft of the updated solid waste management plan. Comments on the initial draft have been considered and incorporated into the draft updated solid waste management plan (the “Solid Waste Management Plan”, **Attachment 1**).



The plan update process is supported by a robust engagement process. Across the multiple engagement phases, Metro Vancouver has:

- Held over 23 meetings or workshops with member jurisdiction staff
- Met with adjacent regional districts
- Held 60 meetings with the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee and Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee
- Worked with 23 not-for-profit organizations to reach over 3,000 residents who otherwise would not have been aware of or had access to participate in the engagement process
- Received over 1,400 questionnaire responses
- Engaged thousands of residents at the PNE and community events
- Provided over 50 updates to the Zero Waste Committee and/or GVS&DD Board

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Feedback from all phases of engagement, including the recent options analysis phase, was considered in developing an initial draft solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver published the initial draft plan on its website on January 22, 2026, and invited comments on the initial draft plan from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, adjacent regional district staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, provincial staff, and others. Metro Vancouver also held dedicated feedback sessions on the initial draft with member jurisdiction staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee. Several e-mail submissions were also received from other interested parties.

At the February 5, 2026, Zero Waste Committee meeting, committee members noted priority for strengthening actions related to education for newcomers, and waste reduction in the multi-family, construction, food, and commercial/institutional sectors. These all feature prominently in the actions within the Solid Waste Management Plan, as well as in the focus areas outlined below. They will also become areas of focus in the beginning stages of plan implementation.

The Solid Waste Management Plan was developed considering feedback received. Changes between the initial draft solid waste management plan and the current Solid Waste Management Plan are shown in the comparison (blackline) document included as Attachment 2 to this report.

Key changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan following feedback include:

Targets and Implementation

- Added targets to be achieved within a 10-year planning horizon, including sector-specific targets for waste diversion.
- Introduced a high-level implementation schedule to improve transparency around sequencing and timing.
- Provided greater clarity on the role of member jurisdictions in plan implementation.
- Outlined how potential impacts, including impacts to adjacent regional districts, will be assessed.
- Strengthened language throughout the plan, replacing aspirational wording with clearer commitments to implementation.

Focus Areas

- Identified priority focus areas for near-term action, including multi-family residential waste diversion, construction and demolition waste reduction, and food waste prevention. These focus areas are new or significantly enhanced compared to the 2011 plan. Identified how focus areas will contribute to the targets.
- Focus areas highlight key initiatives that are intended to drive progress towards goals and targets.

Financial transparency

- Expanded financial details, including a commitment to assess the efficacy of and regularly report on expenditures.

Inclusivity

- Enhanced actions related to education and outreach, with specific attention to newcomers to the region and populations facing access barriers, supporting more equitable service delivery.

Recycling and residuals management

- Highlighted that prioritizing local solid waste management is a strategic principle.
- Updated descriptions of recycled materials to include all source-separated recycled materials incorporated into new products, with only materials used as fossil fuel substitutes categorized as recovery.
- Listed current third-party disposal and composting facilities contracted by Metro Vancouver, and enhanced language on use of appropriate procurement processes for future disposal or composting capacity.
- Identified clear bags as a potential tool to improve the effectiveness of disposal bans, responding to feedback on enforcement challenges.

The Metro Vancouver system solid waste system is cost-effective compared to solid waste systems in other major Canadian cities and provides reliable and resilient recycling and waste services to residents and businesses in the region. The Waste-to-Energy facility and Vancouver Landfill continue to be safe and cost-effective methods for managing residual garbage and are approximately half the cost of alternatives. Key feedback that was received and not incorporated in the Solid Waste Management Plan is summarized in the following table, and more detail is available in Reference 1:

Table 1: Key Feedback not incorporated in Solid Waste Management Plan

Feedback	Rationale
Close the Waste-to-Energy Facility	Despite the region's success in reducing waste, approximately one million tonnes per year of garbage from residential commercial and institutional sources require disposal. Waste-to-energy costs are consistent with local landfilling, and half of remote landfilling. Emissions from the Waste-to-Energy Facility are closely monitored and openly shared in real time online, in addition to being reported to regulators. All regulated emission parameter values are below regulatory emission limits, with most parameters less than 10% of limits.
Stop landfilling waste	The plan prioritizes preventing the generation of waste and minimizing disposal. In terms of managing materials not diverted through reuse, repair and recycling, landfills are an important component of the regional solid waste system. Landfills provide approximately 75% of regional disposal capacity, and account for more than 95% of residuals disposal in Canada.
Private regional solid waste system	Through a network of recycling and waste disposal facilities operated under contract from a best value, fair and transparent procurement process, Metro Vancouver provides convenient drop-off for small loads of recyclables, and disposal of garbage for all residents and businesses in the region. This system provides reliable and resilient waste and recycling services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region. It also allows Metro Vancouver to implement the disposal ban program at its facilities which encourages recycling rather than disposal of many recyclable materials. Recycling sorting and processing facilities, and most commercial recyclables collection and drop-off are managed by the private sector. An integrated system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.

Feedback	Rationale
Do not send material to cement kilns and other industries to be used as alternative fuel	Where a feasible alternative exists, Metro Vancouver aims to manage materials according to the highest applicable level of the waste hierarchy (e.g. recycling before recovery). Recovering energy from non-recyclable materials is preferable to disposal according to Metro Vancouver's waste hierarchy, which is consistent with the provincial and federal hierarchies.

Prioritizing Local Solid Waste Management Solutions

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities. A number of actions within the solid waste management plan prioritize local solutions including:

- Work with economic development agencies to identify and implement circular businesses opportunities
- Develop, test and share definitions and approaches for zoning and development bylaws to clarify siting requirements for waste reduction and recycling activities
- Prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use
- Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management from recycling and waste centres
- Explore opportunities to reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Updated Targets

Table 2 outlines updated targets for the Solid Waste Management Plan. Feedback received on the 2050 targets in the initial draft plan indicated that while some groups felt the targets were unrealistic and unachievable, others felt they should be more ambitious. Targets were created based on assessment of the collective impact of the strategies and actions included in the Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan includes more detail on which key initiatives will drive progress toward these targets.

Primary Metric	Baseline	2036 Target (New)	2050 Vision
Per Capita Waste Generation (Disposal + Diversion)	1.2 tonnes/capita (2024)	1.1 tonnes/capita waste generation (10% reduction)	1 tonne/capita (20% reduction)
Diversion/Recycling Rate	65% Diversion (2024) 62% Recycling (2024)	75% Diversion 70% Recycling Diversion by sector: Single-family: 75% Multi-family: 60% Commercial/Institutional: 65% Construction and Demolition: 85%	80% Diversion 75% Recycling Diversion by sector: Single-family: 80% Multi-family: 70% Commercial/Institutional: 70% Construction and Demolition: 90%
Per Capita Disposal	430 kg/capita (2024)	300 kg/capita (30% reduction)	210 kg/capita (50% reduction)
Greenhouse gas Emissions	660,000 tonnes CO ₂ equivalent solid waste greenhouse emissions (2010)	360,000 tonnes CO ₂ equivalent (2030 target) 45% reduction from 2010	Carbon Neutral

Focus Areas

An executive summary was added to the revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan in response to feedback calling for better articulation of key initiatives to drive progress towards the plan goals and targets. These initiatives are referred to in the Plan as Focus Areas, and outline high priority strategies and actions consisting primarily of initiatives that are new since approval of the 2011 of the plan. The Focus Areas are summarized below:

1. Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention
2. Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond
3. Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions
4. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics
5. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials
6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics

Next Steps in the Process

The next steps in the solid waste management planning process are as follows:

- A revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan is being provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board for consideration.
- Following GVS&DD Board review, staff will invite feedback on the draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan from First Nations, interested parties, the public, adjacent regional districts, and member jurisdictions. Draft letters to member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts are included as **Attachments 3 and 4**.
- Submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks, for approval, the draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan, materially in the form of Attachment 1 to this report, along with the received feedback.

ALTERNATIVES

1. THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) direct staff to invite feedback on the draft updated solid waste management plan (the “Solid Waste Management Plan”) from First Nations, interested parties, and the public;
- b) request that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair invite feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts; and
- c) authorize the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval the Solid Waste Management Plan materially in the form attached in Attachment 1 to the report dated March 31, 2026 titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan”, along with feedback received by August 1, 2026.

2. THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 31, 2026 titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan”.

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 Solid Waste Management 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 will indicate how funds were allocated to Solid Waste Management Plan initiatives including corresponding metrics on the effectiveness of each, such as progress toward plan targets and improvements in secondary metrics. This reporting strategy will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments can be most strategically allocated.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The 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 comprise areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements.

CONCLUSION

Metro Vancouver shared an initial draft updated solid waste management plan which was developed considering feedback from all prior phases of engagement. Feedback on the initial draft plan indicated a need for stronger direction and prioritization to demonstrate a clear path forward to meet the goals and targets outlined. Revisions made in the Solid Waste Management Plan include the addition of priority initiatives to drive measurable progress in preventing waste, increasing recycling, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and transitioning to a circular economy. The next steps in the planning process are to invite feedback from First Nations, interested parties, the public, adjacent regional districts and member jurisdictions, and to submit for approval of the Ministry of Environment and Parks the Solid Waste Management Plan, materially in the form of Attachment 1.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.
2. Blackline Version – Revised Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.
3. Draft Letter to Member Jurisdictions.
4. Draft Letter to Adjacent Regional Districts.

REFERENCES

1. Metro Vancouver. (2026). Draft Summary of Ideas Staff Consider Unadvisable.
<https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/draft-summary-of-ideas-staff-consider-unadvisable.pdf>

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MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

Metro Vancouver Regional District Members

GVS&DD Members

Village of Anmore	City of Pitt Meadows	Village of Belcarra
City of Burnaby	City of Port Coquitlam	Bowen Island Municipality
City of Coquitlam	City of Port Moody	Village of Lions Bay
City of Delta	City of Richmond	scəwəθən məsteyəx™ (Tsawwassen First Nation)
Electoral Area A*	City of Surrey	
City of Langley	City of Vancouver	
Township of Langley	District of West Vancouver	
City of Maple Ridge	City of White Rock	
City of New Westminster	*The Director representing Electoral Area A on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District is a member of the GVS&DD Board.	
City of North Vancouver		
District of North Vancouver		

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND FOCUS AREAS

This Solid Waste Management Plan reflects a shift in how we think about waste. The plan provides a pathway for moving from a system focused on managing materials at the end of their life to one that strives to preserve resources, prevent waste and keep materials in use as long as possible. It builds on the diverse perspectives in our region to present opportunities to continue advancing leadership in waste reduction and recycling.

The plan is guided and organized by the waste hierarchy, which aims to rethink, reduce, and reuse material before managing it through the highest available option of recycling, recovery, or disposal. Each level of the hierarchy has an associated goal, and within these goals are strategies and actions which will require strong leadership from Metro Vancouver and collaboration with others. Although all strategies and actions in the plan are important to building a thriving region where materials are valued and nothing is wasted, there are six priorities or focus areas highlighted below.

1. **Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention:** Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.
2. **Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond:** Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.
3. **Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions:** Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.
4. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics:** Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.
5. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials:** Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest-value use of wood, supporting

efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

6. **Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics:** Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the Solid Waste Management Plan, and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities.

In addition, the Solid Waste Management Plan includes priorities described in the plan's three strategic approaches.

1. **Regulatory** – Continue to support the effectiveness of the generator levy, ensuring that all generators of waste contribute to the cost of the regional solid waste system. Advance regulatory measures to further encourage source separation and reduce barriers to participation. Conduct a comprehensive engagement process for the purpose of updating Metro Vancouver's licensing bylaw for private solid waste facilities.
2. **Recycling and Waste Centres** - Continue enhancing the recycling and waste centre network to improve convenience and access to reuse and recycling opportunities.
3. **Residuals Management** - Optimize the use of the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy facility to reduce reliance on remote disposal options. This will help maintain affordability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting waste. Continue to enhance environmental performance and pursue opportunities for energy recovery at both facilities, as well as beneficial use of materials such as bottom ash.



Figure E1: Solid Waste Management Plan At-a-Glance

METRO VANCOUVER'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Municipal solid waste management is the term used to describe how products, packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and other materials from residential, commercial, institutional, construction, and demolition sources are managed when they're no longer needed for their original purpose. It includes the decisions we make when preventing and reducing garbage, using recycling and green bins, and the services provided by businesses, governments, and non-profits to collect, transport, and process these materials.

This plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. The plan identifies how our region can continue to prevent and reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work toward a circular economy. Together as a region, we need to think about how we purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver to better manage our solid waste.

The BC government's *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* recommends initiating updates to regional solid waste management plans every 10 years. This plan replaces Metro Vancouver's *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* approved in 2011.

Vision and Guiding Principles

A vision statement and guiding principles for the Solid Waste Management Plan have been established, with input from First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

Vision: A thriving region where nothing is wasted and resources are valued.

Guiding Principles

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

These guiding principles are specific to the Metro Vancouver region, and complement the set of guiding principles provided by the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks in [A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning](#). Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement and are consistent with Metro Vancouver's overall organizational strategic priorities. The vision statement and guiding principles were approved by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) Board in 2023.

Goals and Hierarchy

The goals of the Solid Waste Management Plan describe the long-term aims to be achieved by the plan. The goals link closely to Metro Vancouver's waste management hierarchy, which builds on the provincial 5 R pollution prevention hierarchy, to outline priorities for solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region. The highest priorities are at the top of the hierarchy, and are associated with actions that preserve resources, prevent waste, and help transition to a circular economy. Specific terms used within the goals and hierarchy are defined in the Glossary, and more context for each goal is provided in the strategies and actions section of the plan.

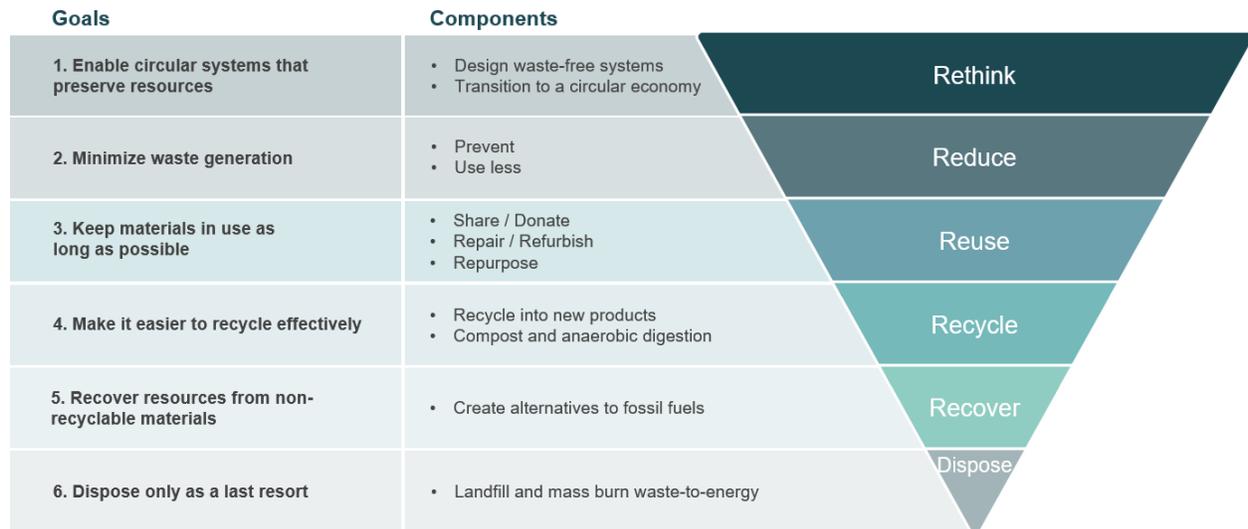


Figure 1: Goals and Hierarchy

Primary Performance Metrics and Targets

Performance metrics for this plan are categorized into primary and secondary metrics. The targets described in this plan correspond to the primary metrics of waste generation, diversion and recycling, disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions. The performance targets set by this plan were developed using existing baseline data and represent progress across all levels of the hierarchy.

Progress towards targets will be reported annually to the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the information will be publicly available.

Targets for waste generation and disposal are both on a per capita basis. For reference, total waste generation and disposal will also be tracked and reported annually.

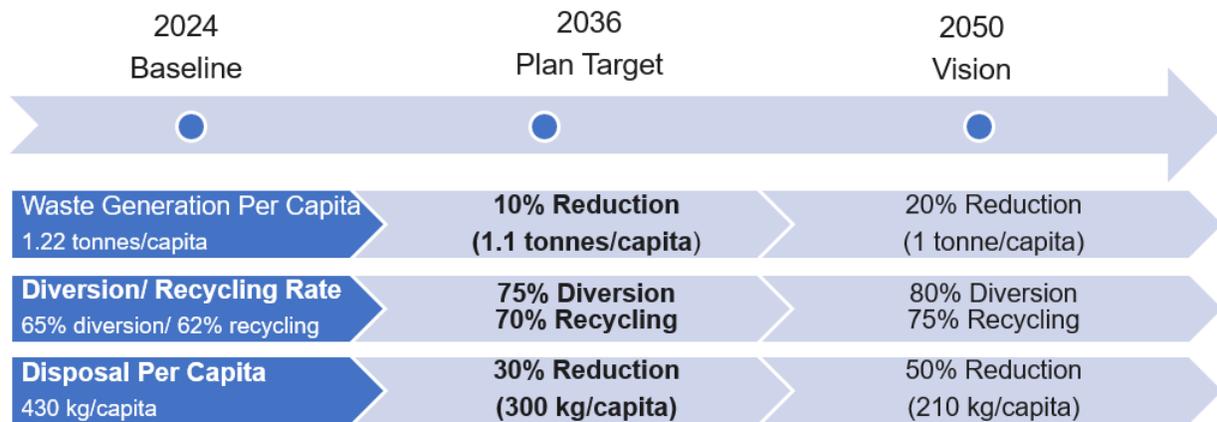


Figure 2 Solid Waste Management Plan Targets

Waste generation includes both quantities of material diverted as well as disposed and measures progress toward the goal of transitioning to a circular economy where resources are preserved, waste generation is minimized, and materials are kept in use as long as possible.

This plan establishes a target of a 10% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2036 compared to 2024, calculated on a 5-year rolling average (Figure 2). A longer-term target is also included, to map a trajectory beyond the 10 year term of the plan, and to recognize that many actions in the plan require longer time frames to fully implement. The long-term target for waste generation is 20% per capita reduction from 2024 levels (approximately 1 tonne/capita) by 2050.

To align with the goals of making it easier to recycle effectively and recovering resources from non-recyclable materials, waste must, as much as possible, be diverted away from disposal into programs aimed at recycling materials back into new materials, before recovering materials as fuel. This plan establishes a target of 75% diversion by 2036, with a minimum 70% recycling rate. The long-term target of the updated plan is to achieve a 75% recycling rate and 80% diversion rate by 2050. The difference between the diversion rate and recycling rate is described as follows:

Recycling rate refers to the tonnes of source separated material recycled into new products, including compost, as a proportion of the total tonnes of all material recycled, recovered and disposed.

Diversion rate includes all of the material recycled plus any material used to create alternatives to fossil fuels. The diversion rate refers to the tonnes of material diverted as a portion of the total tonnes of material recycled, recovered and disposed.

Sector specific diversion rate targets are summarized in Table 1.

Sector	2024 Baseline	2036 Target	2050 Target
Single-Family Residential	64%	75%	80%
Multi-Family Residential	36%	60%	75%
Commercial/ Institutional	47%	60%	75%
Construction and Demolition	81%	85%	90%

Table 1: 2036 Sector Specific Diversion Rate Targets

The sector specific diversion rates are calculated based the amount and type of material currently disposed and diverted in each sector, which would be addressed by the strategies and actions included in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

To reflect the goal of disposal only as a last resort, this plan sets a disposal rate target for the Metro Vancouver region of less than 350 kg/capita by 2031, less than 300 kg/capita by 2036, and 210 kg per capita by 2050: a 50% reduction from 2024 levels by 2050.

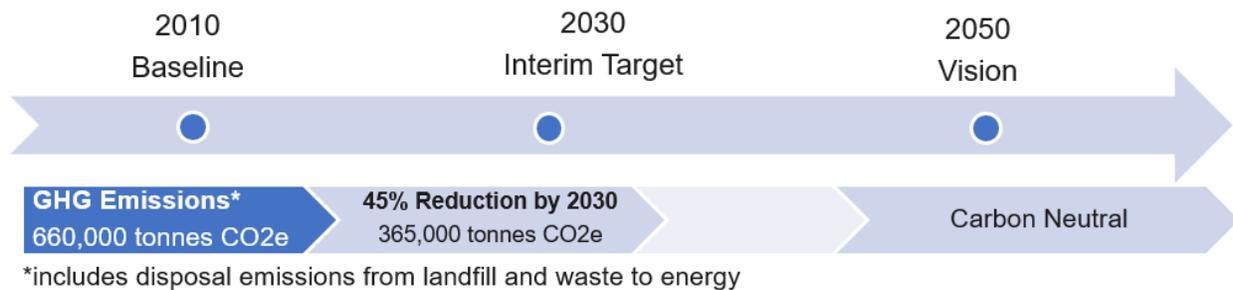


Figure 3 Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Disposal Emission Targets

In addition to waste reduction, recycling and diversion targets, the Solid Waste Management Plan adopts Metro Vancouver’s Climate 2050 Strategic Framework² targets which aspires to achieve carbon neutrality in solid waste management by 2050, and a 45% reduction in emissions from a 2010 baseline by 2030. The 2010 baseline is based on disposal emissions, and the target includes reduction in disposal

² Metro Vancouver. (2018). *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*. <https://metrovancover.org/services/air-quality-climate-action/Documents/climate-2050-strategic-framework-2018.pdf>

emissions and emission reduction initiatives. Initiatives that reduce emissions from the disposal of materials help us progress toward carbon neutrality. Waste reduction and recycling actions that reduce emissions, such as deconstruction and house relocation, reuse and repair initiatives, zero emissions hauling equipment, district energy, alternative fuel generation, and renewable natural gas production, are also essential to meeting the carbon neutrality goal of this plan.

Secondary Performance Metrics

To enhance performance monitoring, this Solid Waste Management Plan adopts a suite of metrics that provide insights on progress and emerging trends over time. Tracking progress can be challenging where quantitative data is limited, such as estimating reuse or assessing performance of waste prevention initiatives (rethink, reduce, and reuse). Secondary metrics provide quantitative and qualitative indicators to support progress measurement in specific areas. A suite of secondary metrics provides multiple measures of performance to assist with reviewing plan progress overall.

Secondary metrics help to measure progress related to the strategies and actions within the plan, and will be reported alongside the primary metrics and targets. Table 2 summarizes the secondary metrics that will be reported. Metrics will be reassessed periodically based on the availability and reliability of supporting data.

To help contextualize data, metrics will be presented alongside complementary indicators where possible. For example, statistics on construction and demolition waste can be compared with trends in housing starts and demolitions overall. Metrics will also be normalized against population growth or other indicators where appropriate to more accurately discern trends.

Table 2: Secondary Metrics

Goals Categories	Secondary Metrics
1. Rethink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of jobs that support a circular economy • number of circular initiatives supported/introduced¹ • summary of advocacy efforts • number of member jurisdictions with circular procurement policies and programs¹
2. Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of single-use items in garbage and recycling • amount of food waste in garbage and green bins plus a summary of available information on food loss • percentage of region covered by reusables for dine-in regulations¹
3. Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tonnes measurable reuse • number items repaired at repair events¹ • number of buildings relocated or deconstructed¹ • percentage of region by population covered by deconstruction or home relocation requirements¹

	tonnes food rescued to feed people or animals
4. Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recycling rate by material category, including the most common non-recyclable items identified trends in availability of and participation in organics recycling programs organics contamination rates
5. Recover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ratio of recycling as a portion of diversion
6. Dispose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> energy generated (waste-to-energy and Landfill)² greenhouse gas emissions from disposal facilities²

¹Data on municipal programs and policies will be requested through existing processes, including annual surveys, standard summaries for Metro Vancouver supported repair cafes, and the illegal dumping dashboard

²Metro Vancouver will continue to rely on existing information published by the City of Vancouver to estimate energy generated and greenhouse gas emissions from the Vancouver Landfill

OVERVIEW

Metro Vancouver's Role and Authority

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling, and operating a series of solid waste facilities located around the region. This work is guided by commitment to environmental stewardship, and affordable and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents, innovative businesses, and non-profits across the region, and the programs and services provided by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver operates a series of recycling and waste centres, where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage, and a waste-to-energy facility located in Burnaby. Metro Vancouver works closely with the City of Vancouver which owns and operates the Vancouver South Transfer Station and Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver leads educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage waste prevention, reduction, reuse and repair, and recycling.

Metro Vancouver (specifically, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District or GVS&DD) is established and operating pursuant to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act (GVS&DD Act). Under the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority, among other things, to enter into agreements, acquire property and assets, finance, design, construct and operate waste disposal facilities, set levies, set solid waste disposal fees, establish reserve funds and borrow in anticipation of revenue. Section 7B of the GVS&DD Act authorizes GVS&DD to set levies payable by generators of waste or by other persons who use the services of a waste hauler.

In addition to the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority under the Environmental Management Act to regulate in relation to the management of municipal solid waste and recycling

material. Section 25 of the Environmental Management Act authorizes Metro Vancouver to require an owner or operator of a site that accepts and manages municipal solid waste to hold a license, and to set terms and conditions for the issuing, suspending, amending or cancelling such license.

Solid waste management plans are authorized and regulated through the Environmental Management Act. Once a waste management plan is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, it becomes a regulatory document. In conjunction with regulations and operational certificates that may apply, a solid waste management plan regulates the operation of waste management facilities.

Plan History

Metro Vancouver's first solid waste management plan dates to 1985, with subsequent updates in 1995 and in 2011.

The 2011 solid waste management plan included key initiatives such as the creation of the National Zero Waste Council, the organics disposal ban, and support for emerging province-wide extended producer responsibility programs for packaging and printed paper. These, and other initiatives, led to a 24% decrease in disposal from 2011 to 2024.

In November 2019 the GVS&DD Board approved initiating an update to the regional solid waste management plan. This updated plan builds on the success of the 2011 solid waste management plan and will guide Metro Vancouver to continue to minimize waste, increase recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a circular economy.

Appendix A includes references to all the solid waste management planning technical reports.

Metro Vancouver staff and its consultants coordinated the planning process, participated directly in the development of technical reports and conducted engagement with interested parties. Metro Vancouver's goal was to ensure broad participation in the planning process. Key participants in the planning process included:

- Zero Waste Committee of the GVS&DD Board: reviewed and/or approved components of the plan and provided direction to staff.
- First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts and advisory committees, including the Solid Waste Management Plan Public / Technical Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee: reviewed information associated with the planning process and provided feedback to staff.
- Interested parties (including specific sectors, non-profit organizations, and the public): participated in consultation opportunities to provide input to the project team.

- The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation & Engagement Panel: provided advice and feedback on the engagement process, reported to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board at each phase.

Metro Vancouver's Strategic Priorities

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

- Financial Sustainability and Regional Affordability
- Climate Action
- Resilient Services and Infrastructure
- Reconciliation with First Nations

These strategic priorities guide all of Metro Vancouver's work, including solid waste management. These over-arching strategic priorities, together with the Solid Waste Management Plan's guiding principles, guide the implementation of the solid waste management plan.

Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including First Nations, local, provincial, and federal governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations, and the public.

First Nations

First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air. This extends to working with all orders of government to advance improvements to solid waste management which can help to protect the health of the environment, and achieve environmental, cultural, spiritual, and economic goals for their communities.

Federal Government

The federal government regulates in respect to waste management facilities under federal jurisdictions. The federal government also regulates in respect to the environment, which has implications for waste management operations, for example the *Landfill Methane Regulation* under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. Some functions of the federal government can influence solid waste management in Metro Vancouver, including policies and national strategies related to food loss and waste through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, solid waste infrastructure and innovation funding through Infrastructure Canada and Sustainable Development Technology Canada. Statistics Canada

supports solid waste data collection and reporting, allowing for comparison of certain key performance indicators across the country.

Provincial Government

In BC, the provincial government regulates environment and waste management through the *Environmental Management Act* and associated regulations. The Ministry of Environment and Parks approves solid waste management plans and local government bylaws adopted pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act*. The provincial government is responsible for setting the requirements for extended producer responsibility programs through the *Recycling Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*. Product stewardship programs are a cornerstone of the provincial regulatory framework to promote recycling. The province also aggregates and reports on regional district disposal rates.

Provincial legislation, such as the *Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*, creates consistency across the province. Metro Vancouver will continue to work with the provincial government to help explore similar initiatives.

Local Health Authorities

Local health authorities have various interests and responsibilities related to the waste management process. Some regulations in respect to waste management are administered jointly under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Public Health Act*, for example, the *Organic Matter Recycling Regulation*.

Metro Vancouver

In Metro Vancouver, regional solid waste management is provided by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD), a greater board established under the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage Act*. GVS&DD is one of the four entities forming part of “Metro Vancouver”, the other entities being Metro Vancouver Regional District, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, and the Greater Vancouver Water District. GVS&DD develops the regional solid waste management plan for the Metro Vancouver geographic area and implements regional actions in the solid waste management plan.

Metro Vancouver’s Member Jurisdictions

Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions provide local waste management services and implement municipal actions in the solid waste management plan where feasible. Member municipalities collect garbage and organics from residents and some businesses, either directly or through service agreements with service providers in the region and provide education and outreach in support of these services. Member jurisdictions provide street cleaning, abandoned waste and public realm litter management, and recycling collection services to protect the environment and public. Some member jurisdictions also own and operate recycling depots or organics processing facilities in the region. Member jurisdictions

have regulatory authority to adopt bylaws that influence requirements for recycling and garbage collection, and for controlling littering.

Waste and Recycling Industry

The waste and recycling industry in Metro Vancouver includes waste, recycling, and organics haulers as well as facility operators and material processors. The industry provides services to all sectors and is involved at every stage of waste management including education, collection and transportation, sorting, and processing of materials. Collaboration with industry is essential, and industry investment and innovation have contributed to the success of waste management and diversion goals in the region.

Producer Responsibility Organizations

Producer responsibility organizations are non-profit organizations that producers engage with to carry out their responsibilities to recycle materials listed in the *Recycling Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*. For example, RecycleBC is responsible for the collection and recycling of residential packaging and paper products in BC. As such, residential recycling collection in Metro Vancouver is typically provided directly by RecycleBC, or member jurisdictions under contract with RecycleBC.

Businesses and Institutions

Businesses and institutions in Metro Vancouver generate waste, and many also have influence on how products and packaging are designed, manufactured, distributed, and used. Some businesses provide waste reduction or circular economy related goods or services, such as zero waste stores or thrift stores, repair shops, and rental businesses. The region also has several established reuse businesses, and the network continues to grow and evolve. Metro Vancouver businesses that are helping transform our linear economy into a circular one are collaborating with others in their supply chain, strengthening our local economy, demonstrating innovation, building resiliency, and role modeling behavior shifts.

Environmental Non-Profit Organizations

Environmental non-profit organizations also play an integral role in the management of solid waste in Metro Vancouver, specifically with respect to waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling. Some organizations facilitate donation and redistribution of materials like textiles or rescued food, while others work on amplifying the voices of underrepresented and equity-denied communities, so their priorities are considered around accessibility, affordability, and availability of services. Others mobilize volunteers to contribute to waste reduction, the circular economy, and a clean public realm, often through programs supported by Metro Vancouver and its members.

Residents

Residents make decisions with respect to the purchase of products and services that contribute to the amount of waste in the region. Residents participate in waste reduction, reuse and repair initiatives, and organics and recycling programs, and are critical in minimizing the amount of contamination in these

programs. Residents also have a critical role in ensuring materials that are harmful to the environment and public health are not disposed appropriately.

Neighbouring Regional Districts

Outside of the Metro Vancouver geographic area, regional districts typically provide regional solid waste management. Regional districts are federations of municipalities and unincorporated areas, established and operating under the *Local Government Act*. Materials may flow between regional districts and Metro Vancouver for recycling or disposal. Metro Vancouver works collaboratively with adjacent regional districts to discuss consistency in solid waste management to work toward shared priorities on waste reduction and recycling.

Working Collaboratively with First Nations

Metro Vancouver recognizes and respects the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The governments of Canada and British Columbia have enacted legislation to contribute to the implementation of UNDRIP.

In its preamble, UNDRIP states that “respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.”³

As part of our continued reconciliation efforts, Metro Vancouver is committed to meaningful engagement, dialogue, and collaboration with First Nations on our plans, programs, and projects, as outlined in Metro Vancouver’s [Board Strategic Plan, 2022-2026](#). We also continue to build and strengthen respectful and reciprocal relationships with First Nations, guided by the principles of UNDRIP “as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect.”⁴ Metro Vancouver is working closely with the Province and First Nations to better understand its role in advancing UNDRIP and has engaged with First Nations to understand how to best reflect these principles in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

The provincial *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* provides guidance on developing and renewing solid waste management plans. The guide notes that a First Nations engagement strategy should outline an approach for sharing information and inviting participation in the preparation or review of a solid waste management plan.

The First Nations engagement strategy supporting the development of this Solid Waste Management Plan outlines a collaborative government-to-government engagement approach with First Nations

³ UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 11

⁴ UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 24

identified as having interests within the Metro Vancouver region⁵ as well as a community engagement approach inviting further dialogue with Indigenous peoples.

Metro Vancouver expresses deep appreciation to the First Nations who contributed their time, insights, and expertise throughout the engagement process to update the solid waste management plan. The conversations and knowledge shared have provided understandings that extend well beyond this plan and will continue to guide Metro Vancouver's work in the years ahead. The solid waste management plan seeks to honour the GVS&DD Board's commitment to reconciliation. The strategies and actions in the plan reflect key themes heard during engagement with First Nations. These themes include:

- Improving access to solid waste programs and services for First Nations communities
- Increasing education and awareness on how to reduce waste and recycle
- Highlighting economic opportunities where possible and considering affordability of services
- Continuing to share solid waste and recycling data to promote transparency and confidence in the solid waste system
- Focusing on environmental stewardship
- Encouraging innovation and collaboration
- Supporting the expansion of extended producer responsibility programs
- Maintaining high air quality standards and goals for emissions reductions monitoring
- Committing to meaningful engagement with First Nations on projects and plans that may affect their rights and interests
- Recognizing First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air
- Seeking to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and actively involve First Nations in regional solid waste management

These and other themes discussed with First Nations have been embedded in the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategies and actions of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver recognizes that all First Nations are unique, and we seek to work with each First Nation to determine

⁵ Metro Vancouver engages with First Nations whose consultative area overlaps with a project location. A Consultation Area is an area in which a First Nation claims their Aboriginal Rights. There are 34 First Nations with interests in the Metro Vancouver Regional District. First Nations' Consultation Areas can be found using the "Consultative Areas Database," a Provincial mapping tool available to the public.

how best to move forward together. Metro Vancouver looks forward to working in collaboration with First Nations to achieve the goals of the solid waste management plan.

Solid Waste System

The overall system for managing solid waste generated within Metro Vancouver is highly integrated, described as follows.

Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver operate a network of solid waste facilities across the region that offer recycling and reuse drop-off and waste disposal services, as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver owns and contracts operation of seven solid waste facilities:

- Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- Langley Recycling and Waste Centre
- Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre
- Waste-to-Energy Facility

Two facilities are owned and operated by the City of Vancouver:

- Vancouver Landfill
- Vancouver South Transfer Station (including Zero Waste Centre)

The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres and the Vancouver Transfer Station is to receive a range of recyclables and reusables from residents and businesses delivering those materials in small hand-unloaded vehicles for transfer to processing facilities and end markets, and to receive residential, commercial, and institutional garbage for transfer to disposal. The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill is to dispose of commercial, institutional and residential garbage.

More details on recycling and waste centres are provided in the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach, including information on municipal recycling depots. More details on disposal facilities are provided in the Residuals Management Strategic Approach.

Licensed Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Additional solid waste facilities operating in the region include municipal recycling depots and private solid waste facilities licensed under the GVS&DD *Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, 1996*, as amended (GVS&DD Bylaw 181). Facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 include recycling, compost, construction and demolition transfer stations, and material recovery facilities. Other facilities exempt from licensing, such as concrete processing facilities, also receive some materials for processing. As of 2026, one private licensed landfill within the region, Ecowaste Landfill, receives the majority of the region's construction and demolition garbage.

More information on facility licensing under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 is provided in the Regulatory Strategic Approach.

Private Sector Organic Materials Processing Facilities

In addition to private facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181, as of 2026, organic materials generated in the region are also managed at:

- Cache Creek Compost Facility, Cache Creek, BC (Provincial Permit 108485)
- Dicklands Biogas Plant, Chilliwack, BC (Provincial Permit 109932)
- Ingerbelle Composting Facility, Princeton, BC (Provincial Permit 110025)
- Net Zero Waste, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Permit 110185)
- Sea to Sky Soils, Pemberton, BC (Provincial Permit 106287)
- Surrey Biofuel Facility, Surrey, BC (Provincial Operational Certificate 108541)
- The Answer Garden Products, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Authorization 105492)

Remote Landfill Disposal

Metro Vancouver contracts for remote landfill disposal through procurement processes. As of 2026, garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills including Campbell Hill Landfill in Cache Creek, BC, the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Roosevelt, Washington, and the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon. Garbage is delivered to these remote landfills as part of contingency landfill services agreements via trucking or a combination of trucking and rail haul.

Some private licensed facilities and waste haulers send construction and demolition garbage to remote landfills. Metro Vancouver has no jurisdiction for these landfills.

Closed Landfills in Metro Vancouver

A series of historic closed municipal solid waste landfills are located across the region. The landfill owners are responsible for managing environmental impacts of these landfills. Strategy 6.5 within this plan includes actions Metro Vancouver will take regarding closed landfills in the region.

Example circumstances for potential expansion of solid waste services provided by Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is committed to encouraging private sector solutions to increase waste reduction and recycling in the region. Expansion of recycling and reuse drop-off services at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities is expected to be primarily for the purpose of expanding services for customers delivering loads in small vehicles. Metro Vancouver may consider further expansion of services in some circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Instances when private sector solutions may not be sufficient or adequate due to limited market participants, market disruptions, gaps, or failures, particularly in relation to services provided to member jurisdictions
- Changes to extended producer responsibility regulations that may impact the ability of the private sector to provide sufficient or adequate service
- Supply chain impacts, including temporary disruptions to facility access or use due to extreme weather or other unplanned events
- Opportunities for cost savings by co-locating services at Metro Vancouver facilities
- Pilot studies evaluating the feasibility of collecting and processing recyclable materials which currently do not have a viable market

Composition of Regional Waste Disposed Over Time

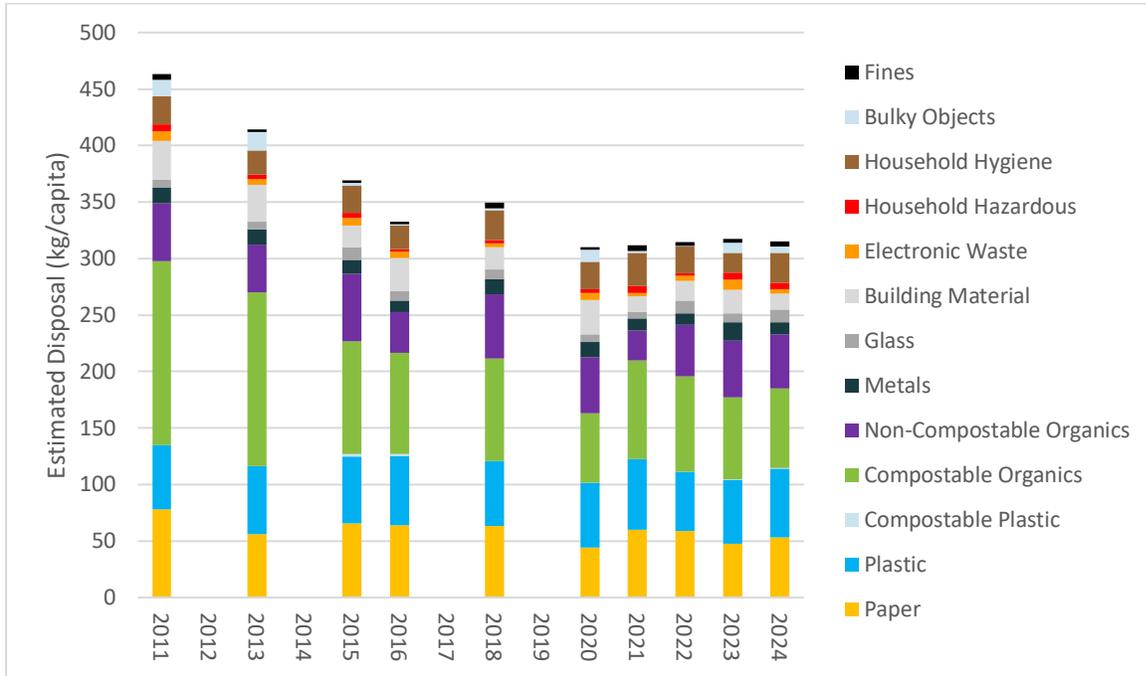


Figure 5: Waste Composition Over Time

As part of the process to update the solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver reviewed progress since the previous 2011 solid waste management plan was approved, including trends in waste composition (Figure 5), disposal, and recycling and waste generation data, to identify key issues and opportunities. 2024 will serve as the baseline year from which to assess future progress.

Circular Economy

The concept of a circular economy is embedded in this solid waste management plan and particularly as part of Goal 1: Enable Circular Systems. Strategies and actions under this goal aim to rethink solid waste management to shift toward a system in line with the plan's vision: *a thriving region where resources are valued and nothing is wasted*.

A circular economy is an alternative to the linear economy (make, use, dispose) and is restorative and regenerative by intention and design. Transitioning toward a circular economy means designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

The concept of a circular economy has gained momentum since the first Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication in 2012 which presented the circular economy as an opportunity for significant sustainable economic growth, creating jobs, increasing resilience, and fostering innovation while reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions. Moving toward a circular economy is a crucial step to addressing the impacts of climate change and has the potential to significantly reduce global emissions related to the products we create and consume.⁶ The Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched the butterfly diagram based on Braungaut & McDonough Cradle to Cradle, which presented strategies for technical and biological cycles (Figure 6). It presented three guiding principles:

1. **Eliminating waste and pollution:** developing effective systems that minimize the volume of waste that ends in landfills and negative externalities.
2. **Circulating products and materials at their highest value:** enhancing the usefulness of products, components and materials, and keeping them circulating in the economy.
3. **Regenerating Nature:** preserving natural capital, promoting the effective use of finite resources, and balancing the use of renewable resources.

⁶ *Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change* (2019).

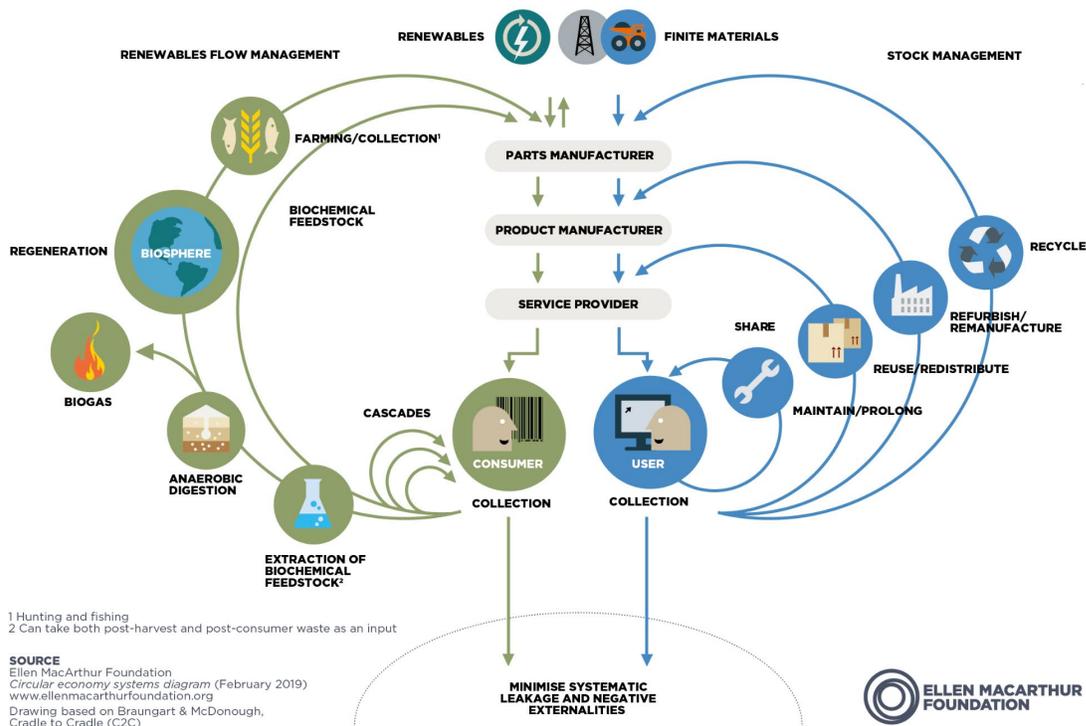


Figure 6 The Ellen MacArthur Butterfly Diagram

Waste Prevention and Advocacy

Waste prevention consists of actions that prevent or reduce waste from being created in the first place. Recycling is not waste prevention. While recycling is important, it is an activity that occurs after a product or material is used or consumed. The linear economy has created a system where decisions made in the early stages of a product's lifecycle (e.g. during the design, manufacturing, and packaging stages) are disconnected from the cost and challenges of managing those materials at end-of-life.

A focused effort to prevent the creation of waste will mean fewer natural resources are extracted and less energy is used in the production, distribution, and consumption of products. It also means that less spending, public or private, will be needed for recycling and disposal programs. Waste prevention provides many opportunities to create jobs and grow a low-carbon economy while mitigating pollution including greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste prevention efforts and transitioning to a circular economy require systemic change, which Metro Vancouver cannot achieve alone. Progress depends on collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, including governments, national agencies, and organizations, along with strong, coordinated advocacy to provincial and federal governments.

The National Zero Waste Council was developed following the approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan to support success in waste prevention. The work of the council emphasizes circularity as a solutions framework and seeks cross-jurisdiction and cross-sector approaches to reducing waste through changes in design and behaviour. Finding solutions to waste prevention requires knowledge-building, knowledge-sharing, collaboration, advocacy, and implementing system changes at scales ranging from local to national and beyond.

The User-Pay Principle

The user-pay principle is a core element of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver's solid waste system is primarily funded through tipping fees, which is consistent with the user-pay principle in that generators of waste fund the cost of managing the waste proportional to the amount of waste they generate. Metro Vancouver's variable tipping fee model aligns with the cost of managing different sized loads.

Metro Vancouver's generator levy is an extension of the user-pay principle. Through the generator levy, all generators of waste contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, regardless of where they choose to dispose of that waste. The generator levy is embedded in the tipping fee at Metro Vancouver facilities and supports a reliable and resilient waste and recycling system that benefits all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region.

Many successful waste prevention initiatives are based on the user-pay principle, where waste generators are held financially accountable for the waste they produce. This principle extends to the concept of extended producer responsibility, where producers are responsible for the products they create, and to residents and businesses that pay the generator levy and tipping fees to dispose of garbage but can drop-off many reusable and recyclable materials at no cost. This plan advocates for continued alignment with user pay principles through enhancement of extended producer responsibility programs, while continuing to consider affordability in how actions are implemented.

Scope of the Plan

The plan covers actions that Metro Vancouver, often in collaboration with its members or other organizations, can undertake to further advance waste prevention, reduce greenhouse gases, transition to a circular economy, and responsibly manage materials that are left over, in accordance with the plan's vision, principles, waste hierarchy and goals. This includes strategies for advocacy efforts to rethink the system, outreach and education, implementation or expansion of programs and policies, and services at Metro Vancouver facilities. The plan contemplates strategic priorities for regulation and recycling and waste centre development, as well as technical criteria for assessing residual management options as a framework for future decision making in those areas.

Actions in the plan focus on municipal solid waste: discarded solid material that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources. Waste from

agricultural and industrial sources is out of scope for this plan; however, waste prevention efforts may extend to these sectors.

The plan applies to the geographic area of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, including Belcarra, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and sc̓w̓aθ̓ən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen First Nation), which are not member jurisdictions of the GVS&DD. Figure 7 shows the boundaries of the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

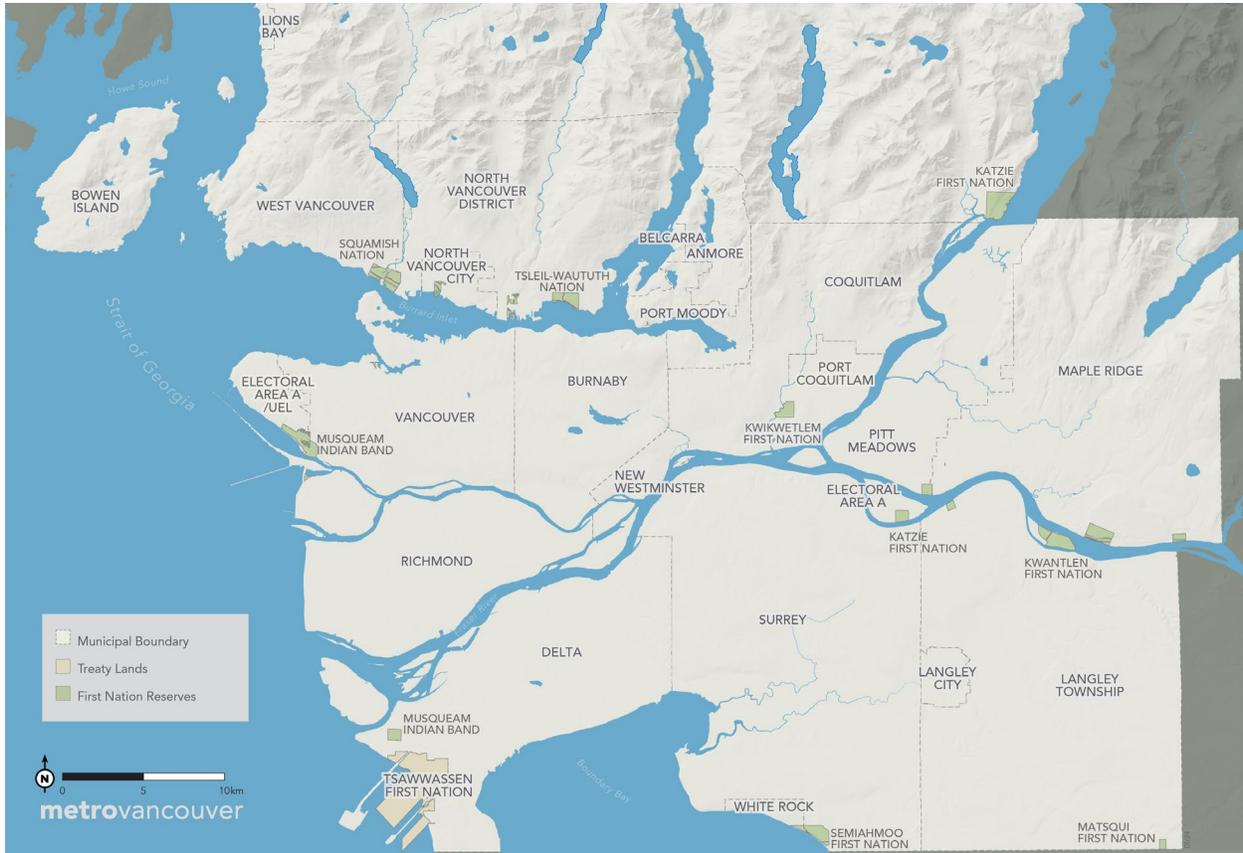


Figure 7 Metro Vancouver Regional District

Alignment and Linkages

Alignment with International Initiatives

All United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ in 2015, including 17 sustainable development goals. Although solid waste management is linked to several of these goals, the strongest alignment is with Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. This goal aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and has twelve associated targets. The United Nations sustainable development targets most closely linked with this plan are described in Table 3.

Table 3 Linkages between UN Sustainable Development Targets and the Solid Waste Management Plan

UN Sustainable Development Target	Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan
12.3 By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	Preventing food waste is a key focus area of the plan. By maximizing food waste reduction and other target materials, Metro Vancouver aims to reduce overall waste generation by 10% by 2036. Strategy 1.4 also looks at ways to better track progress towards a circular economy including better data for food waste.
12.5 By 2030 substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	The solid waste management plan prioritizes waste prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling as outlined in the waste hierarchy.

Alignment with National Initiatives

Various aspects of Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan align with national initiatives. For example, under the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2022-2026, Environment and Climate Change Canada has outlined indicators and associated targets to achieve the Goal 12: "Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles". Table 4 identifies two related Environment and Climate Change Canada targets, and comments on how Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan will help meet those targets.

⁷ United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agend>

Table 4 Alignments and Linkages Between Federal Targets and Metro Vancouver’s Solid Waste Management Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada Target	Metro Vancouver’s Solid Waste Management Plan
Zero plastic waste by 2030	The updated solid waste management plan outlines efforts to continue Metro Vancouver’s ongoing work to reduce plastic waste, which is supported by a robust provincial regulatory framework and efforts by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver aims to reduce the disposal of all materials by 50% by 2050, with plastic identified as a priority area.
Reduce the amount of waste Canadians send to disposal from a baseline of 699 kilograms per person in 2014 to 490 kilograms per person by 2030 (a 30% reduction); and to 350 kilograms per person by 2040 (a 50% reduction).	Metro Vancouver’s per capita disposal target is 300 kg per person by 2036, compared to a provincial target of 350 kg per person.

Alignment with Provincial Initiatives

This plan was completed in accordance with the provincial document, *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and as required by the *Environmental Management Act*. One of Metro Vancouver’s targets is to reduce per capita disposal to 300 kg per person by 2036, which is less than the provincial target of 350 kg per person.

Metro Vancouver’s hierarchy aligns with the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, with some exceptions:

- “Rethink” has been added as an additional tier above “Reduce” in response to feedback received on including a strong circular economy and waste prevention focus
- “Recover” includes all material used as an alternative fuel, and does not include mass burn waste-to-energy, reflecting that mass burn waste-to-energy is defined as a disposal method to manage residual garbage, similar to landfilling
- “Dispose” replaces “Residuals Management” and includes both landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy

Metro Vancouver’s guiding principles complement the provincial principles in *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and were developed based on the unique characteristics and conditions of the region. Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement, and are consistent with Metro Vancouver’s overall organizational strategic priorities.

Alignment with other Metro Vancouver plans

There is interdependence between the goals, strategies, and actions in this plan and those in other regional plans.

Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026) – The Board Strategic Plan provides a framework for regional decision-making, setting goals and priorities across service areas like utilities, planning, and environment, to guide staff, ensure sustainable growth, and foster a livable, resilient region for current and future generations.

Clean Air Plan (2021) – The Clean Air Plan is Metro Vancouver’s plan for reducing air contaminant emissions and managing air quality. The Clean Air Plan includes key actions to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this region, in pursuit of 2030 emissions targets. It also includes actions to reduce health harming air contaminants, as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to shift to zero carbon district energy systems, accelerate the transition to lower embodied emissions in buildings, accelerate emission reductions from industrial facilities, and implement leading management practices to continually improve regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate 2050 (2019) – Climate 2050 is a long-term region-wide strategy to guide the region toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future by 2050, with actions for all orders of government and other agencies. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate impacts through specific roadmaps for areas like energy, transport, buildings, nature, and health, aiming for carbon neutrality and protecting ecosystems.

The *Climate 2050 Solid Waste Primer* was developed to provide a linkage between the Climate 2050 Strategic Framework and the Solid Waste Management Plan. It provides an overview of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions from disposal of solid waste generated in the Metro Vancouver region since 2010 and offers a summary of actions taken to date to reduce climate impacts and offset over 35 per cent of annual emissions related to solid waste disposal by 2050. Future actions to reduce and offset emissions from solid waste disposal are not included in the primer but instead are identified within this solid waste management plan with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality for solid waste disposal by 2050.

Metro 2050 (2022) – Metro 2050 is the region’s vision for how growth will be managed to support the creation of complete, connected, and resilient communities, while protecting important lands and supporting the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities. Linkages with the Solid Waste Management Plan include a strategy to advance land use, infrastructure, and human settlement patterns that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, create carbon storage opportunities, and improve air quality.

Liquid Waste Management Plan (2026) – Metro Vancouver’s Liquid Waste Management Plan (provincial approval pending at the time of writing the Solid Waste Management Plan) includes community-specific solutions for Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions to manage wastewater and rainwater, and

to address growing pressures in the region, while protecting public health and the environment. Key linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to diversify options for biosolids and implement proven resource recovery technologies.

Regional Food Systems Strategy (2011) – Metro Vancouver’s Regional Food Systems Strategy supports a collaborative approach to creating a sustainable, resilient, and healthy food system that contributes to the well-being of all residents, the economic prosperity of the region, and the conservation of our ecological legacy. The Regional Food System Strategy has key intersections with the Solid Waste Management Plan with respect to food waste prevention and food recovery.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The following strategies and actions are specific initiatives to be pursued to achieve the goals and targets of the solid waste management plan. They are organized according to the waste hierarchy, and reflect the themes and priorities heard from residents and businesses across the region.

Strategies and actions were selected based on research, engagement feedback, and a third-party assessment of options based on economic, environmental and social impacts including:

- Affordability
- Economic prosperity
- Innovation
- Circularity
- Collaboration
- Waste reduction
- Greenhouse gas reduction
- Environmental stewardship
- Inclusion
- Convenience
- Community participation
- Supporting waste prevention habits and actions

A list of approximately 200 action options was discussed with interested parties during the options analysis phase of the plan update. Participants provided feedback on options, which contributed to their consolidation and refinement of action into the strategies and actions presented in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

Disposal actions were not included in the initial list of action options, but were developed collaboratively with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta and presented for feedback during engagement on the initial draft plan.

Member Jurisdiction Actions

Metro Vancouver’s member jurisdictions have an important role to play in accomplishing the goals of the solid waste management plan. While each member has unique goals and priorities reflecting their own community the strategies and actions include opportunities for Metro Vancouver and members to collaborate. Member jurisdiction actions presented in the Solid Waste Management Plan are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements. Many other actions not specifically presented as member jurisdiction actions can be amplified and improved through the support and input of members, including education and outreach, advocacy, and program pilots.

Goal 1: Rethink

To meet the region’s ambitious waste reduction goals, systemic change is needed through a broad shift toward a circular economy that conserves resources by keeping them in use longer and eliminates unnecessary or problematic products and packaging that cannot be reused or recycled. Achieving this transformation will require new circular policies, designs, and business models. Metro Vancouver will act as a catalyst for this transition by implementing the following strategies:

STRATEGY 1.1

Advocate for circular economy policies and programs

To enable a systems level shift from a linear to a circular economy, policy leadership from senior levels of government is essential. A consistent set of policies and programs will allow the business community to create innovative and circular waste prevention solutions. Priority areas for advocacy include food systems, the built environment, durable and repairable consumer goods, data collection, and reducing short-lived or unnecessary products and packaging – especially plastics. Metro Vancouver will work to align with international efforts and join voices with local governments and business leaders across Canada to amplify the message that circular policies are urgently needed to transition away from the current take-make-dispose economy.

1.1.

1.1.1. Advocate for incentives and funding programs for key circular activities:

- 1.1.1.1. Circular built environment solutions such as design for disassembly, buildings as material banks, and incorporation of used building materials for new construction.
- 1.1.1.2. Low-waste local food production such as vertical farms, gleaning, food remanufacturing, and industrial symbiosis opportunities.
- 1.1.1.3. Circular products and services.

1.1.2. Advocate for the phase-in of regulations that eliminate unnecessary, problematic, non-recyclable products and packaging.

1.1.3. Work with municipalities and regions across Canada to develop and advocate for implementation of priority circular economy policies.

1.1.4. Advocate for policies and programs to improve:

- 1.1.4.1. Circular built environment solutions

- 1.1.4.2. Circular food systems
- 1.1.4.3. Circular products and services

STRATEGY 1.2

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

To support the transition to a more circular regional economy, Metro Vancouver will draw on the circular innovation potential of regional businesses by connecting them with the resources and expertise they need to decouple their growth from waste, reduce their supply chain risk and carbon impacts, and keep valuable materials in circulation for longer.

1.2.

- 1.2.1. Lead by example by integrating additional waste prevention policy and programs within Metro Vancouver's corporate operations and share learnings with other jurisdictions.
- 1.2.2. Work with economic development agencies to:
 - 1.2.2.1. Identify and implement circular business opportunities.
 - 1.2.2.2. Co-develop industry-supported targets and standardized methods of tracking waste prevention performance by business type.
 - 1.2.2.3. Develop a recognition program to celebrate businesses in the region leading the adoption of new circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.2.4. Increase low barrier employment opportunities that support a circular economy.
- 1.2.3. Increase circular economy curriculum and training
 - 1.2.3.1. Embed circular economy into professional development
 - 1.2.3.2. Improve circular economy education in schools through field trips, hands-on learning, and co-developed innovative approaches
- 1.2.4. Work with trade schools, industry associations, practice leaders, and senior government to identify and implement solutions to fill skills training gaps required to:
 - 1.2.4.1. Scale circular food systems.
 - 1.2.4.2. Rethink approaches to a circular built environment, such as design for disassembly.
 - 1.2.4.3. Equip small and medium-sized enterprises with practical guidance to operationalize circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.4.4. Improve access to circular products and services including reuse and repair

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 1.2.5. Develop, test and share consistent approaches for tracking progress on circular policies and programs.
- 1.2.6. Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services

STRATEGY 1.3

Collaborate to advance a circular economy

Moving away from a linear economy to one that is circular requires a shift in mindset and a commitment to systems level change. This transformation also requires leadership by, and collaboration between, government, business, and non-governmental organizations. Metro Vancouver will help facilitate this work through a national platform for shared learning, collaboration, and leadership.

1.3.

- 1.3.1. Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention
- 1.3.2. Collaborate with external groups to identify and implement new circular economy initiatives in the community
- 1.3.3. Work with national waste reduction and circular economy organizations to learn and share circular practices with a focus on the following priority areas, and others as they emerge:
 - 1.3.3.1. Textiles
 - 1.3.3.2. Procurement
 - 1.3.3.3. Cities
 - 1.3.3.4. The built environment
 - 1.3.3.5. Plastics
- 1.3.4. Collaborate on research projects and pilots to further advance waste reduction and a circular economy, and share the findings broadly
 - 1.3.4.1. Collaborate with governments and industry to develop digital tools that map how buildings are constructed and what materials they contain, enabling better tracking and forecasting of used building materials for reuse

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 1.3.5 Develop, test and share circular procurement approaches, tools and templates

STRATEGY 1.4

Collect and share data to track progress toward a circular economy

Clear and consistent reporting frameworks and metrics are vital for advancing the circular economy. They provide data to measure and track progress, help inform decisions, and demonstrate the value of circular business models. Metro Vancouver will work across sectors to help develop and share best practices and results to enable a shared understanding of circular economic progress.

1.4.

- 1.4.1. Work toward annual solid waste management reporting by material type and sector on all levels of the waste hierarchy, starting with organics, wood, and textiles
 - 1.4.1.1. Pursue comprehensive materials flows for key sectors every 5-10 years to better track progress toward keeping materials in circulation for longer.
- 1.4.2. Continue to develop and improve key performance indicators to track progress on circular economy through rethinking and reducing waste.

- 1.4.3. Develop methods for estimating and reporting environmental and economic benefits for waste prevention actions such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (potentially including embodied carbon), potential cost savings, affordability, and life-cycle impacts.
- 1.4.4. Implement new data collection technology.
- 1.4.5. Strengthen waste composition data to improve actionable insights.
- 1.4.6. Research and pilot ways to measure success of collaborations.
- 1.4.7. Explore ways to measure diversity, equity, and inclusion in solid waste data starting with current practices and gaps.

Goal 2: Reduce

STRATEGY 2.1

Collaborate with businesses and institutions to reduce waste at the source

Businesses deliver products and services that meet the daily needs of Metro Vancouver residents. Metro Vancouver will work with businesses and institutions to reduce waste, starting with the construction, demolition, textiles, and hospitality sectors.

2.1.

- 2.1.1. Collaborate with the construction and demolition sector to develop solutions for waste reduction that can be implemented at the regional level:
 - 2.1.1.1. Co-host events with the construction and demolition industry, housing and development sectors, and member jurisdictions to help build awareness, share success stories and workshop solutions to reduce waste.
 - 2.1.1.2. Update the Metro Vancouver Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Toolkit starting with refreshed case studies that follow a format developed collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions.
- 2.1.2. Research, summarize and action the challenges and opportunities related to reducing construction and demolition waste.
- 2.1.3. Collaborate with the textiles sector on solutions for textile waste reduction such as resale and repair programs, and circular textiles designs.
- 2.1.4. Support reduction of waste from business with practical tools and education:
 - 2.1.4.1. Co-develop education tools with business leaders and associations to help businesses reduce waste, motivate customers to participate, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.
 - 2.1.4.2. Increase in-person education where businesses and others can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.
- 2.1.5. Host forums with large generators of waste to co-develop and implement waste reduction solutions.
- 2.1.6. Work with high waste generation sectors to develop, promote and implement circular procurement tools and templates.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 2.1.7. Develop, test and share approaches to further measures and reduce commercial and institutional waste.
- 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.

STRATEGY 2.2

Encourage residents to reduce and prevent waste

Many materials and products in British Columbia can be recycled, which has contributed to Metro Vancouver's North American leading recycling rate. However, to achieve the waste reduction goals outlined in this plan, we need to go beyond recycling and focus on preventing waste before it is created. Everyday waste prevention habits make a big difference. Metro Vancouver will encourage residents to prevent waste by implementing the following actions:

2.2.

- 2.2.1. Increase in-person education where residents can talk directly with waste reduction educators.
- 2.2.2. Educate residents on affordable everyday waste prevention actions, measure and communicate the estimated impact, and celebrate high performers.
- 2.2.3. Expand education tools to help residents of multi-family buildings to reduce waste, increase participation, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.

STRATEGY 2.3

Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives for the commercial and institutional sectors

Food production requires significant resources — land, water, and energy — and often involves long-distance transportation before reaching local stores, restaurants, and businesses. Yet much of this food is still wasted. Through the actions below, Metro Vancouver will support residents and businesses to reduce the amount of food that is wasted. This will help reduce waste locally and decrease the global environmental impacts associated with food loss from food production.

2.3.

- 2.3.1. Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.
- 2.3.2. Pilot and scale up initiatives to support food waste prevention practices and share learnings with the hospitality and entertainment sectors, post-secondary institutions, healthcare facilities, large-scale catering operations, and food distributors.

Goal 3: Reuse

STRATEGY 3.1

Support consistent approaches to reuse

Consistent approaches to government reuse policies and programs can reduce confusion for residents, improve efficiency for businesses, and help enable widespread adoption. Metro Vancouver will play a convening role to develop, test, and share guidance to help align programs and policies across the region for reusable food service ware and salvaged building materials:

3.1.

- 3.1.1. Advocate for the phase in of reusable food service ware requirements for non-residential sectors.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 3.1.2. Develop, test and share improved tools and approaches for house relocation and deconstruction programs and policies including data review.
- 3.1.3. Update the regionally harmonized approach to reducing single-use items and phasing in reuse measures.

STRATEGY 3.2

Enhance extended producer responsibility programs

Since the development of extended producer responsibility programs in British Columbia, Metro Vancouver has supported shifting recycling, reuse, and repair responsibilities to producers while advocating for continued expansion to include more sectors and material types. Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in discussions with the province, producer responsibility organizations, and member jurisdictions to build on the success of these programs. These actions focus on the role of extended producer responsibility programs in advancing waste reduction and recycling and their potential to facilitate the implementation of reuse and repair systems.

3.2.

- 3.2.1. Identify and advocate for additional products to be added to extended producer responsibility programs such as mattresses, textiles, household furniture, and packaging from sectors such as care homes and schools with similar materials to residential recycling programs.
- 3.2.2. Advocate for accelerated implementation of residential collection of an expanded suite of materials including flexible plastics and foam.
- 3.2.3. Advocate for consistent extended producer responsibility programs across Canada.
- 3.2.4. Participate in extended producer responsibility program engagements and advocate for:
 - 3.2.4.1. Improvements to existing programs and the implementation of new programs.
 - 3.2.4.2. Increased financial incentives for local government to participate in collection of extended producer responsibility programs materials for programs where local governments are not getting full cost recovery.
 - 3.2.4.3. Expansion of residential-only packaging drop-off programs to small businesses.

- 3.2.4.4. The inclusion of reuse and repair in extended producer responsibility programs.
- 3.2.4.5. Expansion of recycling drop-off options for products, including retail and mobile options to improve convenience and accessibility.
- 3.2.4.6. programs that reduce barriers for recycling large items.
- 3.2.5. Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to enhance data sharing, enabling better insights, greater transparency, and progress toward shared waste prevention and recycling goals

STRATEGY 3.3

Increase reuse of used building materials

To accommodate a growing region, more single-family homes are being replaced with higher density housing. As a result, construction and demolition waste - already a significant portion of the region's waste - is expected to continue to grow. Salvage and reuse of building materials can support affordability and reduce the strain on disposal capacity from increased densification of the housing stock. Building relocation, salvage, and reuse of building materials remains relatively uncommon. Metro Vancouver will work to increase these activities through the following actions:

3.3.

- 3.3.1. Advocate to increase the use of used building materials in new projects.
- 3.3.2. Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to:
 - 3.3.2.1. Prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use
 - 3.3.2.2. Expand the reach and use of a more contractor- and designer-friendly marketplaces for salvaged construction and demolition materials.
 - 3.3.2.3. Motivate residents to incorporate more used building materials into their home renovation projects.
- 3.3.3. Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to:
 - 3.3.3.1. Increase reuse of building materials.
 - 3.3.3.2. Research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building material resale.

STRATEGY 3.4

Work with businesses, institutions and event organizers

The public's ability to reduce waste often depends on the choices made by businesses, institutions, and event organizers — many of which increasingly rely on single-use products and packaging. In the hospitality and entertainment sectors, items such as disposable cups, containers, utensils, and food accessories are used briefly before being disposed or recycled. For electronics and appliances, repair can be costly or difficult to navigate. Metro Vancouver will work collaboratively with other levels of government, event organizers, businesses, and institutions to expand reuse, repair, and refill options that are convenient, affordable, and easy for residents to participate in.

3.4.

- 3.4.1. Advocate for funding for the expansion and development of reuse and repair infrastructure such as borrowing of items and products at public libraries, refill at retail, packaging reuse systems, furniture reuse, and a community reuse options database.
- 3.4.2. Seek approval to establish a business funding program to support the transition to reuse, refill, repair.
- 3.4.3. Collaborate with event organizers, event venues, and institutions to implement reusable food service ware, bag reuse programs, and food recovery.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 3.4.4. 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.

STRATEGY 3.5

Increase access to and foster the broad adoption of reuse, refill and repair

Sharing and repairing are already happening in a grassroots capacity through community fridges, repair cafés, thrift and vintage stores, buy-nothing groups, and lending libraries. However, access and reliability of these options vary across the region. Metro Vancouver will work to expand these opportunities and make it easier for residents to access reliable reuse, refill, and repair options through the following actions:

3.5.

- 3.5.1. Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.
- 3.5.2. Work collaboratively with food recovery and product reuse organizations to develop a where to reuse, refill, repair data set that can be displayed in universally accessible maps.
- 3.5.3. Accelerate adoption of donation collection options for reusable items such as clothing and books in multi-family buildings.
- 3.5.4. Research, trial and implement additional ways to scale reuse and repair.
 - 3.5.4.1. Support community-based waste reduction and reuse programs for schools, non-profits organizations and community groups
 - 3.5.4.2. Expand and improve convenience of online and in-person second-hand marketplaces.
 - 3.5.4.3. Facilitate expansion of community-based solutions like community share fridges and buy-nothing groups.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 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.

STRATEGY 3.6

Scale up efforts to recover food

Some businesses and organizations in the region produce surplus food, while others receive donated food to support those who are experiencing food insecurity. Surplus food can also be turned into food products for human and animal consumption. Developing efficient ways to connect those with surplus food to those who need food can reduce waste and help address food insecurity. Metro Vancouver will strengthen and expand the regional food recovery network to help ensure food is put to its highest best use.

3.6.

3.6.1. Maintain and scale a regional food recovery network.

- 3.6.1.1. Further map out food recovery assets/food waste solutions for each stage of the food supply chain, including a focus on clarifying what foods can be donated to people and animals.
- 3.6.1.2. Work toward developing a complete set of food recovery data for the region and consider incentives to encourage reporting.
- 3.6.1.3. Continue to share results of food recovery network initiatives across Metro Vancouver to foster cross-department collaboration on food security and waste reduction.

3.6.2. Work with industry experts and food related sectors to develop a practical guide to measuring and reporting food waste reduction efforts to facilitate development of a complete set of regional food recovery data.

STRATEGY 3.7

Celebrate residents and businesses that prioritize reuse and refill and encourage more residents to participate in these activities

Early adopters who prioritize reuse and refill can help normalize these practices for the general population. Metro Vancouver will support the shift toward reuse and refill by celebrating leaders in reuse and refill, and encouraging more residents to participate through the following actions:

3.7.

- 3.7.1. Develop waste prevention and reuse programs and education targeting specific sectors that may be unfamiliar with regional waste reduction practices such as newcomers and tourists.
- 3.7.2. Promote the use of reusable items such as cups and bags, incorporating co-developed messaging that resonates with a diverse audience.

Goal 4: Recycle

Make it easier to recycle effectively

When products and materials are no longer suitable for reuse, recycling is the preferred option. The Metro Vancouver region has made significant progress in recycling, and separation of recyclables, including organics, is now common practice. Despite this success, recycling faces unique challenges through new and changing material types, shifting markets, contamination, and a decrease in public trust. Metro Vancouver aims to address these barriers through the strategies and actions below, making

it easier for residents and businesses to recycle in a way that maximizes benefits while reducing contamination.

STRATEGY 4.1

Promote design for recyclability and the use of recycled content in products and packaging

Effective recycling depends on the presence of robust markets for recycled material, and those markets need both a steady supply of material that can reliably be recycled and strong demand for products and packaging containing recycled content. Although the marketing of recyclable commodities is traditionally managed by producer responsibility organizations or the private sector, Metro Vancouver and its members can help play a role by incorporating recycled material such as compost, recycled concrete, and recycled asphalt in their own operations and projects, as well as through strategic partnerships with organizations working to increase recycled content in consumer materials and products.

4.

4.1.

4.1.1. Work to improve the recyclability of products and packaging and incorporate recycled content.

4.1.1.1. Work with national plastics waste reduction organizations to understand barriers and advocate for increased recycled content in plastic products and packaging.

4.1.1.2. Research and advocate for improvements to the recyclability or phase out of multi-material products including coffee cups.

4.1.1.3. Enhance partnerships with the provincial government, industry, academia, and community groups to research, develop and share solutions.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.1.2. Work with engineering design and construction organizations to include recycled asphalt and concrete in roads, fill, and other applications.

4.1.3. Develop, test, and share educational materials, procurement tools and templates for recycled products including asphalt, concrete, and compost.

STRATEGY 4.2

Encourage the development of new recycling infrastructure

Recycling depends on facilities to sort materials into marketable commodities and to process those commodities into new products. As actions in this plan help to increase the amount and types of material recycled, Metro Vancouver can continue to work with its members and the private sector to help ensure that collection and processing capacity keeps pace. Ongoing conversations will ensure the region can accommodate the growing volume of recyclables.

4.2.

4.2.1. Convene recycling industry with the goal to maintain and increase recycling infrastructure that services the region.

- 4.2.1.1. Reduce barriers for siting of private sector recycling activities.
- 4.2.2. Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management.
- 4.2.3. Advocate for funding programs to help scale recycling infrastructure and innovation for challenging materials such as food for remanufacturing, anaerobic digestion feedstock, wood waste, and plastic-lined paper products.

STRATEGY 4.3

Improve participation in green bin programs and alternatives for residents, businesses and institutions

Since Metro Vancouver's organic disposal ban came into effect in 2015, residents and businesses have made significant progress in diverting food scraps and yard trimmings from disposal. However, compostable organics remain the largest component of the waste stream and not all residents and businesses participate in green bin programs. Metro Vancouver will aim to improve participation through the actions outlined under this strategy.

4.3.

- 4.3.1. Research technology options and support pilot programs to improve organics recycling in the commercial and institutional sectors.
- 4.3.2. Work collaboratively with the solid waste and recycling industry to increase participation and reduce contamination in organics programs focusing on sectors with the lowest participation rates and highest contamination rates.
- 4.3.3. Continue to provide tools and tips to residents to reduce green bin related concerns such as odours and cleanliness.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.3.4. Promote and provide education on worm bins, home composting, proper use of green bins, and use of compost products.

STRATEGY 4.4

Make recycling easier by improving convenience

To make recycling easier for residents and businesses, options for recycling should be widely available. Homes, recycling depots, and public spaces are three areas where Metro Vancouver and its members can help provide better, more convenient access to recycling services.

4.4.

- 4.4.1. Work with businesses, recycling depot operators, and producer responsibility organizations to improve consistency of recycling collection.
- 4.4.2. Improve access to textile donation and recycling collection services

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 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
- 4.4.4. Advocate for, test, and share consistent approaches to improve public space waste reduction and recycling.

STRATEGY 4.5

Make recycling more effective by simplifying sorting

Recycling is most effective when the materials are placed in the correct receptacles since this reduces contamination and results in more efficient processing. Clear and consistent instructions, effective signage, and accessible information can help simplify recycling sorting to improve recycling outcomes.

4.5.

- 4.5.1. Develop of a signage standard and customizable signage creation tool in collaboration with producer responsibility organizations.
- 4.5.2. Assess and pilot digital tools that allow users to scan waste items receive clear, multilingual instructions on options for reuse, repair, recycling, or disposal.
- 4.5.3. Centralize and improve awareness of recycling information and resources.

STRATEGY 4.6

Provide tailored recycling education for the residential, commercial and institutional sectors

Metro Vancouver has one of the highest recycling rates in North America thanks to the efforts of residents and businesses. However, survey data indicates that some recyclers – especially in multi-family buildings, commercial and institutional settings – are unsure about how to handle certain packaging and products. Metro Vancouver aims to improve recycling accuracy, consistency, and participation by providing resources designed for different sectors and recyclers.

4.6.

- 4.6.1. Provide tailored education to businesses by:
 - 4.6.1.1. Developing practical online resources for specific business types
 - 4.6.1.2. Working on understanding recycling data and challenges in specific sectors including events, film, tourism, food service, and health care.
 - 4.6.1.3. Hosting industry specific dialogues to better understand and co-solve recycling and waste prevention challenges.
- 4.6.2. Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to support tailored education for multi-family.
- 4.6.3. Research and test technologies and share approaches to providing tailored public education on proper residential recyclables sorting.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.6.4 Improve the reach of behaviour change campaigns by amplifying messaging through member jurisdiction public communications.

STRATEGY 4.7

Increase transparency of what happens to materials from recycling and green bin programs

Transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling is a guiding principle for this plan, since transparency helps build confidence that materials are recycled. Metro Vancouver will work to provide more information about where materials end up and make it easier for residents and businesses to access this information.

4.7.

- 4.7.1. Organize tours of recycling and organics facilities so that residents can see what happens to their materials.
- 4.7.2. Show where recycling goes and how it's processed to provide more transparency about the recycling system.
- 4.7.3. Add information about what happens to recyclable materials in online recycling database/search tools.

STRATEGY 4.8

Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program

At Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities, loads are inspected for materials banned from disposal such as recyclables. Surcharges apply if these banned materials are found. The disposal ban program helps encourage separation of recyclables by creating a financial disincentive for disposing of banned materials. By strengthening this program Metro Vancouver can keep more recyclable material out of the garbage.

4.8.

- 4.8.1. Pursue options to enhance disposal ban inspection efficacy such as innovative detection technologies and clear bags policies.
- 4.8.2. Create incentives for waste and recycling collectors to work with their customers to adopt additional recycling services and reduce waste.
- 4.8.3. Review and expand materials included in Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program when viable markets exist.
- 4.8.4. Business case increasing the number of disposal ban inspections at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities

STRATEGY 4.9

Identify recycling opportunities for common litter and illegal dumping items

Litter and illegal dumping impact the environment and wildlife and result in significant costs for member jurisdictions to collect and dispose of these materials. Efforts to prevent litter and illegal dumping are already underway, but Metro Vancouver and its members can amplify these efforts through continued collaboration and the actions listed under this strategy.

4.9.

- 4.9.1. Increase the number of community drop-off events to provide options for large or difficult to manage materials and prioritize diversion over disposal.
- 4.9.2. Support community clean-up initiatives through reduced disposal fees and information on recycling options if available
- 4.9.3. Enhance litter and illegal dumping data to identify opportunities to recycle commonly littered or illegally dumped materials.
- 4.9.4. Review approaches in other jurisdictions to reduce illegal dumping, including opportunities to recycled common illegally dumped materials, and consider implementation of initiatives proven effective elsewhere.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.9.5. Develop, test, share and advocate for approaches to minimize litter from residential recycling containers while optimizing material recycled.

Goal 5: Recover

Recover resources from materials not currently recycled

Not all materials are currently recycled into new products due to source separation constraints, materials, technology, market, or capacity limitations. While Metro Vancouver will work on increasing reuse and recycling for these materials, there is an opportunity to recover some of their value in the interim. This can be done by using materials that would otherwise be disposed to recover energy through the creation of fossil fuel alternatives.

STRATEGY 5.1

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

Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver facilities receive source-separated loads of clean wood, which are banned from disposal, as well as mixed loads containing a high proportion of engineered wood products which currently lack robust recycling markets within or near the region. While Metro Vancouver works to increase the capacity to recycle these materials, opportunities currently exist within the region for displacing fossil fuel use by utilizing energy recovered from these materials as an alternative. Opportunities also exist to recover bottom ash, a by-product of waste-to-energy disposal, to be used beneficially in cement production.

5.1.

- 5.1.1. Continue to collect clean dimensional lumber not currently reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity or technical constraints at existing facilities, to process into fuel to replace fossil fuels in district energy systems and other decentralized heating and agricultural/industrial systems.
- 5.1.2. Continue to pursue processing of small load waste to recover wood and other materials.

STRATEGY 5.2

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

Licensed private facilities manage most of the construction and demolition material generated in the region. A significant portion of this material is wood or other products that are currently challenging to recycle. Through research and collaboration with the construction and demolition industry, Metro Vancouver aims to decrease the amount of material that would otherwise be disposed, by helping to develop markets for energy recovery where reuse or recycling is not currently viable.

5.2.

- 5.2.1. Share information on construction and demolition waste characteristics and quantities to support the potential to recover energy from construction and demolition waste that are currently reused or recycled.
- 5.2.2. Encourage energy recovery from construction and demolition material currently not reused or recycled
- 5.2.3. Advocate for and support piloting of technologies to convert wood waste into energy and fuel while potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 6: Dispose

Dispose only as a last resort

Despite the region's success in reducing and recycling waste, approximately one million tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. The Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility serve the region as cost effective and environmentally responsible local disposal options for residential and commercial and institutional garbage, with contingency landfill disposal available for any garbage beyond what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility. Other materials such as construction and demolition waste, liquid waste system residuals, and soil are important considerations as optimizing the management of these materials helps to preserve disposal capacity for garbage.

STRATEGY 6.1

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

The cost of disposing garbage at the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility is roughly half the cost of remote disposal options. Continuing to use these facilities benefits the region economically and allows Metro Vancouver to continue to maximize associated environmental benefits, such as energy recovery and utilization, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from long distance waste hauling, while closely monitoring environmental performance and providing education for the public.

6.

6.1.

6.1.1. Vancouver Landfill

- 6.1.1.1. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to maximize landfill gas utilization at the Vancouver Landfill through projects such as renewable natural gas development.
- 6.1.1.2. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to further enhance environmental performance at the Vancouver Landfill including minimizing discharge of clean surface water into the liquid waste system and maximizing landfill gas recovery.
- 6.1.1.3. Report annually on the remaining disposal capacity at the Vancouver Landfill and generate projections for the timing of eventual closure of the facility.
- 6.1.1.4. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to maximize opportunities for early use of the Western 40 Hectares at the Vancouver Landfill, an area of the landfill that is no longer being filled.
- 6.1.1.5. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to raise awareness about the role of the Vancouver Landfill and the importance of waste prevention and recycling over disposal through open houses, tours, and other public education

6.1.2. Waste-to-Energy

- 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 exploring options to further reduce emissions and increase environmental monitoring.
- 6.1.2.3. Continue to ensure environmental performance data compared to regulatory requirements for the Waste-to-Energy Facility is publicly available.
- 6.1.2.4. Continue to provide and expand opportunities for education and public awareness on the Waste-to-Energy Facility and associated infrastructure such as interactive displays and tours, and the importance of waste prevention and recycling over disposal.
- 6.1.2.5. Continue to pursue the beneficial use of bottom ash from the Waste-to-Energy Facility in cement plants.

6.1.3. Optimize Use of Local Disposal Facilities

- 6.1.3.1. Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

STRATEGY 6.2

Use suitable procurement processes for any contingency disposal requirements

Garbage received at recycling and waste centres that cannot be accommodated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility or Vancouver Landfill must be managed under contracts with remote disposal facilities. These contingency contracts are awarded through fair and transparent competitive procurement processes.

6.2.

- 6.2.1. Consider, among other factors, the following as part of the procurement process(es) for contingency disposal: cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, availability, and reliability.

STRATEGY 6.3

Explore additional long-term disposal capacity if required

According to Metro Vancouver's current waste generation projections, there is sufficient capacity to manage most garbage at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility, with some remote disposal under contingency contracts currently required. No new long-term disposal capacity is currently anticipated over the duration of this plan, but in the event new long-term disposal capacity is required in the future, Metro Vancouver will research, review, and evaluate options. In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. Mass burn waste-to-energy is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world with communities choosing between the two options based on local and national circumstances. Technical criteria have been developed to help guide decisions for selecting the most appropriate approach to managing residual waste, if new long-term capacity is required in the future (for more information, refer to Residuals Management Strategic Approach).

6.3.

- 6.3.1. If additional long-term disposal capacity is required
 - 6.3.1.1. consider the residuals management technical criteria outlined within the solid waste management plan to compare options for securing the required capacity
 - 6.3.1.2. facilitate broad and inclusive regional engagement on options. Findings and recommendations will be reported publicly before any decision to proceed.

STRATEGY 6.4

Monitor disposal options for waste that requires specialized disposal

Some types of waste require specialized disposal. Licensed private facilities exist in the region for managing and disposing construction and demolition material, which is considered a component of municipal solid waste. Other materials, such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, and international waste, must be managed according to specific regulations and procedures. Soil disposal at the Vancouver Landfill consumes space that would otherwise be used for disposal of garbage. By monitoring

these materials, Metro Vancouver minimizes operational impacts to regional facilities and ensures effective management of these materials.

6.4.

- 6.4.1. Engage with industry representatives to monitor disposal capacity and options for construction and demolition materials generated.
- 6.4.2. Work with adjacent regional districts to better understand the flow of mixed construction and demolition material between regions.
- 6.4.3. Work with the City of Vancouver to ensure convenient and appropriate disposal at Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver solid waste facilities for materials which require dedicated handling and/or disposal requirements such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, international waste, and materials generated outside of the region where appropriate.
- 6.4.4. Work with health authorities to review disposal options for hospital garbage, the non-biomedical garbage generated from health care facilities.
- 6.4.5. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to pursue opportunities for beneficial use of soil within the Vancouver Landfill property so as not to displace garbage disposal capacity.

STRATEGY 6.5

Advance closure activities at closed landfills in the region

Metro Vancouver owns the land previously used as the Coquitlam Landfill, which stopped receiving waste in 1983. A portion of the site is occupied by the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, a portion is leased to a private entity for operation of a golf course, and the remainder of the site, Lot 3, is currently being used for temporary uses such as house storage. Metro Vancouver is responsible for completing all closure and post-closure activities at the site under Ministry of Environment and Parks requirements. As of 2026, a total of 24 known closed municipal or regional landfills exist in the region.

6.5.

- 6.5.1. Complete closure activities at the former Coquitlam Landfill
 - 6.5.1.1. Undertake closure activities within Coquitlam Landfill Lot 3 to minimize leachate production and landfill gas migration and prepare the area for end-use.
 - 6.5.1.2. Continue to use Lot 3 to support waste reduction initiatives until final closure.
- 6.5.2. Prepare an updated report summarizing the closure status of all closed landfills in the region, including a map with the location of all such landfills.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies and actions of this plan will be implemented in alignment with the guiding principles, goals and targets. This plan is meant to be a living document, meaning that as new priorities emerge and the relative priority of each strategy and action changes in the coming decade, Metro Vancouver will assess the relevancy of each action prior to implementation to verify each action continues to respond to emerging issues and opportunities in solid waste management.

Focus Areas

Six focus areas represent collections of actions which work toward big changes in specific areas, with a high potential to promote meaningful change and help reach the targets of the plan. These initiatives are seen as priorities for the updated solid waste management plan and consist primarily of initiatives that are new or haven't yet been initiated.

1. **Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention:** Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.
2. **Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond:** Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.
3. **Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions:** Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.
4. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics:** Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.
5. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials:** Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest-value use of wood, supporting

efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

6. **Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics:** Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Table 5 describes how the focus areas will help meet the targets and long-term vision of the plan.

Table 5 Anticipated contribution of focus areas to the plan 10-year targets and 2050 vision.

2036 Target	2050 Vision	Focus Area ¹
1.1 tonnes/capita waste generation (10% reduction from 2024 baseline)	1 tonne/capita waste generation (20% reduction from 2024 baseline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention (Up to 5% decrease) • Scale up reuse opportunities at Metro Vancouver facilities and beyond (Up to 5% decrease) • Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics (Up to 5% decrease) • Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% decrease) • Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics (Up to 5% decrease)
75% Diversion (10% increase from baseline) 70% Recycling	80% Diversion (15% increase from baseline) 75% Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation in organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions (Up to 10% increase) • Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% increase) • Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics, and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics. (Up to 5% increase)

300 kg/capita disposal (30% reduction from 2024 baseline)	210 kg/capita disposal (50% reduction from 2024 baseline)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal decreases as a result of both decreasing waste generation and increased diversion, as described by the initiatives above
45% reduction in GHG emissions from solid waste by 2030 (2010 baseline)	Carbon Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As waste disposal decreases, associated GHG emissions decrease as well. Meeting the 50% disposal target will decrease emissions by at least 50% if high GHG emitting materials are targeted Initiatives with the potential to recover energy to offset fossil fuel use such as the focus area “Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material” can further contribute to carbon neutrality

¹ Estimated progress towards targets shown indicates results at 2050. 2036 results are expected to be approximately halfway toward the 2050 targets.

Strategic Principle: Prioritize local solid waste management solutions

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities. A number of actions within the solid waste management plan prioritize local solutions including:

- Action 1.2.2.1 Work with economic development agencies to identify and implement circular businesses opportunities
- Action 1.2.6 Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services
- Action 1.3.1 Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention
- Action 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,
- Action 2.3.1 Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.
- Action 3.3.3.2 Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building resale

- Action 3.5.1 Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.
- Action 3.3.2.1 Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use,
- Action 4.2.2 Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management; and
- Action 6.1.3 Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Regulatory Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan regulatory strategic approach outlines the types of regulatory initiatives, such as bylaws, that Metro Vancouver may consider over the lifespan of the Solid Waste Management Plan, including how potential Metro Vancouver regulations are assessed, engaged on, and implemented. Recognizing that future changes to regulation require dedicated engagement beyond the scope of this solid waste management plan, the regulatory strategic approach aims to clarify Metro Vancouver's outlook with respect to any future regulatory actions to advance solid waste management plan goals and targets. Advocacy efforts encouraging regulations at other orders of government are not referenced in this section, but are included under strategies and actions.

Overview

The GVS&DD Board enacts bylaws to manage waste and protect public health and the environment. This authority is granted to the GVS&DD by the province under the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act*.

Existing Regulations

The primary bylaws related to solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region are listed below and their key components are summarized in Table 6.

- (1) The *GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379,2024*, as amended (GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw), which sets garbage and recycling fees at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities, identifies recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal, specifies surcharges, and establishes the requirements of the generator levy;
- (2) The *GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996*, as amended (GVS&DD Bylaw 181), which specifies licensing requirements for solid waste facilities, including reporting, inspection, and enforcement provisions.
- (3) The *GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.378, 2024*, as amended (GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Bylaw), which allows the issuance of penalties up to \$500 per contravention ⁸of specified provisions of GVS&DD Bylaw 181 and the GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw. It also establishes a process for dispute adjudication.

Table 6: Existing Regulations

Bylaw	Key Components
<i>GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379, 2024</i> , as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees and surcharges

⁸ Penalties are subject to change from time to time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal • Generator levy • Hauler records
<u>GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996, as amended</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility licensing • Powers of Solid Waste Manager and Officers • Fees
<u>GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.278, 2024, as amended</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw violations and penalties • Dispute adjudication

Since approval of Metro Vancouver’s 2011 solid waste management plan, the generator levy has been implemented, and new bylaw enforcement tools have been added. The generator levy was added to the GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw in 2017 (effective January 2018). It encourages the use of Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities where disposal bans for recyclable materials are in place. This levy also ensures that all garbage generators contribute to funding the cost of the regional solid waste system – a system that provides reliable and resilient services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses in the region. The generator levy is included in the garbage tipping fee charged at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities; however, if garbage is delivered to other facilities, haulers must pay the per-tonne generator levy directly to Metro Vancouver. The generator levy is a key contributor to Metro Vancouver’s continued success in advancing waste reduction and recycling.

Metro Vancouver’s Regulatory Role

Metro Vancouver’s solid waste facilities provide convenient garbage drop-off for residents and businesses, determine the final disposal destination of that material, and provide both free and paid recycling opportunities primarily for materials delivered in small hand-unloaded vehicles. Recycling sorting and processing facilities are managed by the private sector in accordance with requirements set out in GVS&DD Bylaw 181. Organics management facilities are managed by the private sector or member jurisdictions. This system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.

Metro Vancouver’s regulatory authority does not currently include the ability to enforce bylaws at the generator or property level. Generally, that authority resides with municipalities. Also, outside of Metro Vancouver’s regulatory authority are extended producer responsibility programs, regulations impacting the sale and distribution of specific products, and eco fees or refundable deposit fees charged for some products, which may be implemented at the provincial or federal level. Metro Vancouver plans to advocate for continuous improvement of extended producer responsibility programs and regulations at the federal and provincial level that will help rethink waste and transition to a circular economy, including design for recyclability, the right to repair, and waste prevention legislation, as described in the strategies and actions section of the plan.

Compliance and Enforcement

Metro Vancouver's Environmental Regulation & Enforcement group is responsible for enforcing the provisions of GVS&DD Bylaw 181, including reviewing licence applications and ensuring compliance with licence terms and conditions. Officers appointed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 have authority to issue notices of bylaw violation under the *GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.378, 2024*, as amended, which includes penalties of up to \$500 per contravention⁹ (penalties are subject to change) of specified provisions of the generator levy and GVS&DD Bylaw 181. GVS&DD Bylaw 181 also allows for penalties for each day an offence is committed under the Bylaw, as well as suspension or cancellation of a licence. All active solid waste licences are available on Metro Vancouver's website, as well as Notices of Bylaw Violation issued to corporate entities since March 13, 2024, that have been paid, upheld, or are no longer in a dispute process. The appointment of enforcement officers is reported publicly.

Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Metro Vancouver publicly reports annually on the top surcharges under the GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw. In addition, Metro Vancouver publishes information from the Smart Waste Program to help understand the movement of waste around the region. This information is used to assess the effectiveness of the disposal ban and generator levy programs, respectively, and helps inform decisions on how these programs can continue to be improved.

Strategic Approach

Regulatory Priorities

Metro Vancouver's regulatory priorities for the solid waste management plan align with the vision and guiding principles and can help to achieve the plan's strategies and actions. These priorities and their linkage to the guiding principles are listed below, in alphabetical order. Priorities are numbered for reference in Table 7 but the numbering does not indicate relative importance.

⁹ Penalties are subject to change from time to time

Table 7: Regulatory Priorities

Regulatory Priority	Solid Waste Management Plan Guiding Principle
1. Improve data accuracy, transparency and availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to reporting requirements in regulations can help improve transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling
2. Increase reuse and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to increase reuse and recycling demonstrates Metro Vancouver's commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action
3. Reduce barriers to participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing barriers to participation helps in delivering inclusive solid waste services and programs
4. Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility licensing system helps maintain accountability from residents, businesses and governments to prevent waste
5. Support effectiveness of the generator levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By ensuring all generators contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, the generator levy supports a solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarly, the generator levy enables Metro Vancouver to maintain a solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges
6. Support innovation, particularly for reuse and repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding reuse and repair into regulations can spur innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation

Example Future Regulatory Enhancements

Table 8 provides examples of regulations that Metro Vancouver could consider implementing in support of the priorities above. Potential future regulations are organized by what sector they would apply to. Some of these regulatory undertakings would require an amendment to provincial legislation.

Table 8 Example Regulations and the Regulatory Priority they Support

Sector	Example Regulation	Regulatory Priority Supported
Generator	Mandatory source separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling
Hauler	Hauler Licensing including mandatory source separation and separate management of streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation • Support effectiveness of the generator levy • Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability
	Reduced disposal ban surcharges for collectors that meet minimum requirements, as described in action 4.8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation
	Additional disposal ban categories for recyclable materials and increased surcharges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling
Licensed Private Facilities	Updated reuse and recycling minimums in licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Support innovation
	Expanded types of facilities that require a licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability • Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system
	Incentives for innovation within licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support innovation
	Administrative monetary penalties to address non-compliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support effectiveness of licensing system
	Administrative improvements to licensing bylaw including updating definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system

Considerations

For any proposed regulations during the implementation of the solid waste management plan, at a minimum the following will be considered:

- What is the objective of the proposed regulation, and are there other options for achieving the same objective?
- Does GVS&DD currently have authority to implement the proposed regulation, and if not, what would be required to obtain that authority?
- What are the resource requirements for developing, administering, and enforcing the proposed regulation?

- Which sectors, businesses, or individuals would be subject to the proposed regulation, and what is the estimated impact of the proposed regulation on helping the region meet the Solid Waste Management Plan goals and targets?
- What are the expected operational consequences to the solid waste system overall?
- What are the expected financial implications resulting from the proposed regulation, such as tipping fee changes or other costs borne by residents, businesses, Metro Vancouver or member jurisdictions?
- At which level of government would this regulation be most effective? Does this conflict with any existing regulation at another level of government?
- If amending an existing regulation, how does this amendment impact those currently regulated?
- Are there any unintended consequences of implementing the proposed regulation?

Engagement

Any proposed new regulatory measures will be accompanied by a transparent and meaningful engagement process. Engagement will follow Metro Vancouver's Public Engagement Board Policy and Public Engagement Guide. Metro Vancouver will also comply with any provincial requirements related to public consultation.

Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach

Purpose

The Solid Waste Management Plan recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver's plans for continuous improvement of Metro Vancouver's network of recycling and waste centres. This approach sets key priorities and associated considerations in line with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan.

The focus of this strategy is to inform future upgrades, replacements and additions to the Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre network. This network and the region rely on other public and private solid waste facilities that directly support the regional network, and in addition provide valuable services to public and private generators of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials.

Background

Metro Vancouver provides a range of recycling and waste drop-off services before and after the weigh scales at its recycling and waste centres, conveniently located to serve residents across the region. This regional network of recycling drop-off services supports and enhances the programs and services provided by other levels of government, member jurisdictions, producer responsibility programs, non-profits, and the private sector, all together forming one of the most successful and resilient recycling systems in North America. Approximately 88,000 tonnes of recyclable and reusable materials are collected at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities such as organics, mattresses, and extended producer responsibility materials like packaging and paper.

Recycling depots located before the weigh scales at recycling and waste centres allow customers to drop off recyclable materials for free. As of 2026, recycling depots are in place at the North Shore, United Boulevard, Maple Ridge, and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres. The 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan identifies new recycling depots for the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres. Recycling depots provide convenient, accessible, and free drop-off of a wide range of recyclable materials including metal, paper, plastic, glass, and other producer responsibility materials such as electronics, batteries, paint and pesticides.

As recycling and waste centre infrastructure ages and service needs evolve, Metro Vancouver seeks to identify system upgrades or new developments to increase reuse and recycling and ensure system resilience while accommodating the region's growing population.

Metro Vancouver owns six recycling and waste centres in the region, which provide convenient drop-off of recyclables and garbage for residents, member jurisdictions, and businesses, and incorporate opportunities for reuse:

- Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- Langley Recycling and Waste Centre

- Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

The facility locations are depicted below in Figure 8, which also includes the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility and City of Vancouver owned facilities (the Vancouver South Transfer Station including the Vancouver Zero Waste Centre, and the Vancouver Landfill):

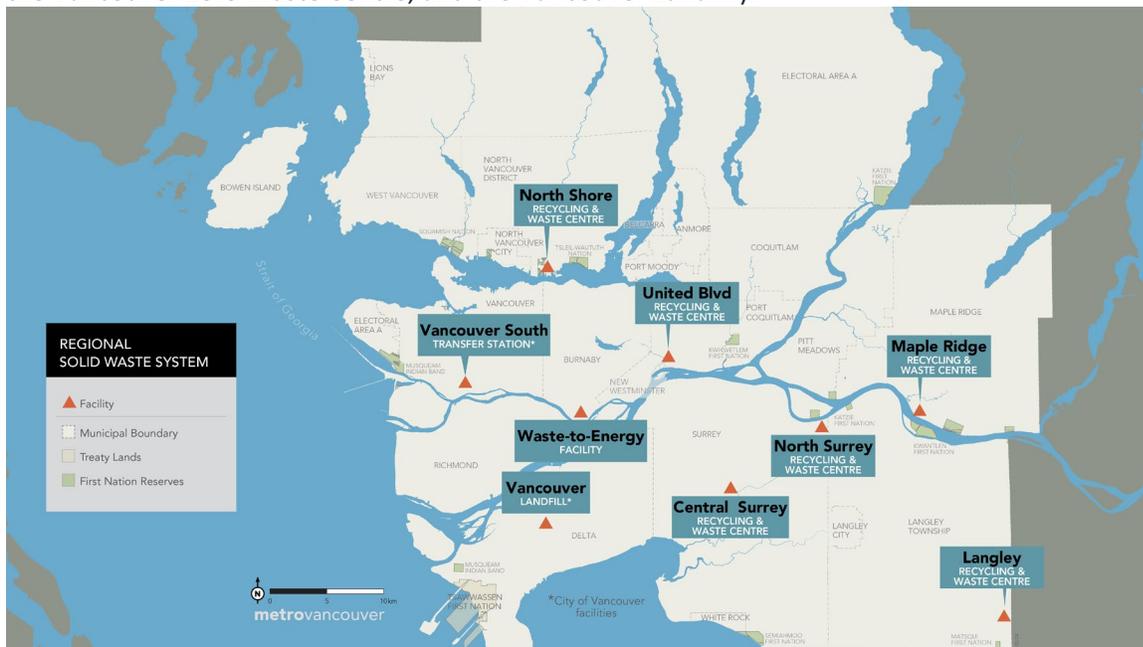


Figure 8: Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver uses the term "recycling and waste centres" to reflect the priority to maximize recycling drop-off services. Improvements to the system since 2014 include:

- 2014: Establishment of a recycling depot ahead of the weigh scales at the previous Coquitlam Transfer Station
- 2017: Redevelopment and integration of the previous municipal recycling depot into the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- 2021: Implementation of a recycling depot funding strategy to recognize the contribution of municipally operated depots to the regional system
- 2022: Opening of the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, including expanded opportunities for recycling before the scale
- 2022: Opening of the Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, reducing overall system drive times
- 2023: Initiation of design to upgrade the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres to add recycling depots ahead of the scales

Various recyclable and reusable materials have been added at recycling and waste centres over the years. Metro Vancouver will continue to add new materials at facilities as opportunities arise, and ensure sufficient space is available at recycling and waste centres for this purpose.

Municipal Recycling Depots

Metro Vancouver provides funding to municipalities operating recycling depots, to recognize the contribution of municipal depots to the regional system. The funding is contingent on municipalities accepting a core suite of recyclable materials at the depots and making the depots available to all residents in the region. Municipalities continue to independently manage and operate the depots and work collaboratively with Metro Vancouver on harmonizing materials accepted, where feasible. As of 2026, these include:

- Burnaby Eco-Centre
- Richmond Recycling Depot
- Ridge Meadows Recycling Depot
- Vancouver Zero Waste Centre

Strategic Approach

Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Future continuous improvements and upgrades to facilities aim to improve consistency of services at all recycling and waste centres, maximize opportunities for reuse and recycling, minimize drive times for residents, increase accessibility, and optimize the layout of any new facilities or facility upgrades according to best practices. Cost effective and affordable operations are a key focus in delivering the service. The following table outlines priorities for continuous improvement of the recycling and waste centre network, presented in alphabetical order. Collectively, the considerations under each priority reflect the seven guiding principles of the plan and help ensure that the evolution of the recycling and waste centre system is consistent with the direction and values of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Table 9 Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Priority	Considerations
Best practices in facility design, construction, and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate best practices in facility design that maximize reuse and recycling, and improve convenience and safety for users such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recycling before the scale at all facilities ○ Flat tipping floors (instead of pits) for improved safety and flexibility ○ Sufficient on-site queuing space to mitigate back-ups of traffic onto public streets ○ Access considerations for cyclists and pedestrians ○ Containers designed to improve accessibility and safety during access ○ Flexibility to add additional materials and space to host temporary events or pilots ○ Traffic flow design that reduces the probability of accidents ○ Separating public and service/operating areas for improved safety. • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through low or zero carbon equipment and fuel • Consider greenhouse gas emission implications, potentially including embodied carbon when selecting construction materials and methods for the development and maintenance of facilities. • Incorporate sustainability features, such as reused or recycled construction materials such as concrete, asphalt, and wood where possible • Consider resilience in facility design and construction, including use of robust, low maintenance building materials • Continue to align with regulations and published industry best practices such as the BC Building Code and Master Municipal Construction Documents • Design for worker and customer safety, accessibility, and inclusivity • Consider incorporating new technologies to improve operational and customer efficiencies, and to maximize material diversion from disposal • Consider overall aesthetics of the design to improve user experience and reduce operational and environmental impacts such as noise, odour, and dust
Consistent and maximized reuse and recycling opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent services across locations • Continue to expand the types of materials accepted including planning for expanded extended producer responsibility programs • Maximize opportunities for reuse • Ensure clear and consistent communication of services available to increase participation, educate, and build confidence in the solid waste management system • Consider inclusivity in the development of each program • Include flex space at facilities to expand or trial new opportunities for reuse and recycling
New facilities developed in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for population growth patterns when assessing new facility locations • Incorporate population growth estimates into drive time analyses

areas with expected future growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess facility accessibility for cyclists and transit users as the region continues to develop and transportation methods diversify
Reasonable and consistent drive times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site future facilities close to areas that experience relatively high drive times, accounting for population density (Figure 9) Aim to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions through reduced drive times
Resilient and cost-effective service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider replacement or upgrades to aging and outdated facilities Secure public land at market rates where possible Design and operate facilities in such a way to minimize risk of disruptions due to extreme weather events, or other unexpected occurrences Continue to strive for best value solutions for operating facilities and providing convenient drop-off services that maximize service level and waste reduction potential Ensure that extended producer responsibility programs' contributions are consistent with cost of managing materials

Drive Time Analysis

Metro Vancouver completed a study in 2023 to evaluate the regional solid waste system and analyze future system service and infrastructure needs and opportunities over the next 30 years. To evaluate the recycling system, access to regional, municipal, and private depots were mapped to understand how the system meets service level standards.

The study reviewed tonnage and vehicle data to understand system capacities and developed a model to evaluate the impact to regional drive times, kilometres driven, and greenhouse gas emissions using a 2050 population and provide insight to potential future facility upgrades, replacements, or relocations to best achieve service level standards. An example of the model output in a heat map for small loads and baseline waste (2023 system) is shown in the below figure.

Drive time analysis will continue to be used in evaluating locations for future recycling and waste centre development.

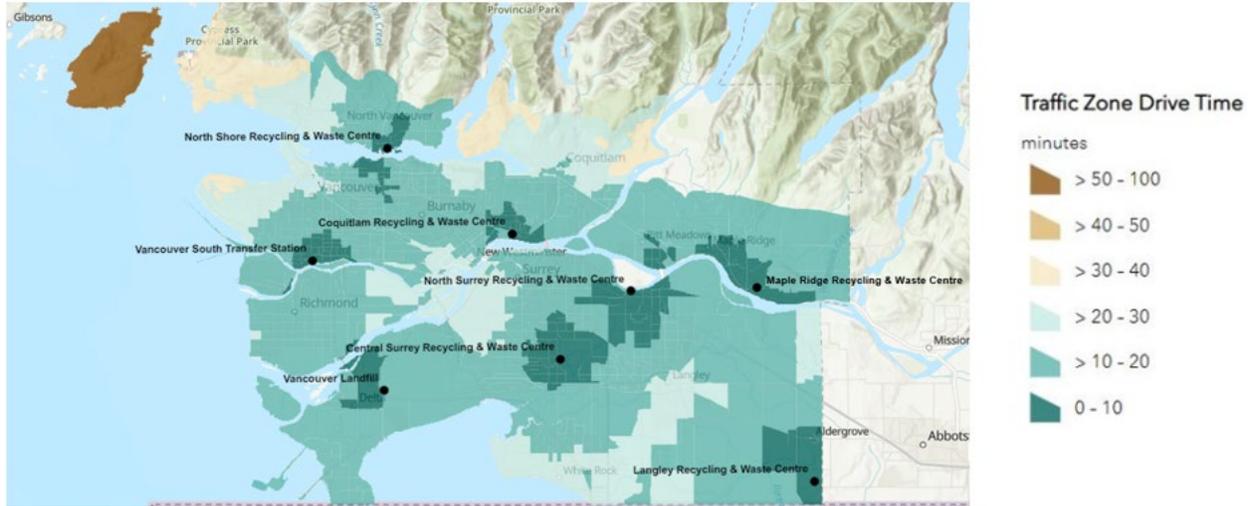


Figure 9: Comparative Drive Time Analysis

Residual Management Strategic Approach

Purpose

The Solid Waste Management Plan residual management strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver's plans for managing residual solid waste (garbage) remaining after efforts to reduce waste and recycle, in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. This approach describes the existing process for managing garbage in the region and sets out technical criteria for assessing future disposal capacity if required. As of 2026, Metro Vancouver has no plans to actively pursue additional disposal capacity.

Background

Metro Vancouver manages the disposal of residential and commercial/institutional garbage generated within the region. Despite the region's success in reducing waste, approximately 1,000,000 tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. Existing disposal methods as of 2026 are as follows:

- Vancouver Landfill
- Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Remote landfills under contingency disposal contracts

Vancouver Landfill (Operational Certificate 1611)

The Vancouver Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. The landfill has been operating since 1966 and received approximately 65% of the region's residential and commercial/institutional garbage in 2024. Under the Provincial Landfill Operational Certificate, the annual tonnage of garbage received at the landfill is capped at 750,000 tonnes.

A 2026 agreement between Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Delta establishes the responsibilities of the three parties with respect to the Vancouver Landfill. Under the agreement, the landfill will operate until 2050 or when the landfill reaches a post-settlement height of 39 metres, whichever comes first. In either case, the Vancouver Landfill is expected to continue to serve as a primary disposal facility for the term of this Solid Waste Management Plan. Meeting the waste reduction targets outlined in this plan helps ensure the landfill can remain a disposal option for as long as possible.

The Vancouver Landfill provides opportunities for public drop-off of recyclable materials and through its operations optimizes the beneficial use of materials such as construction and demolition material for road building. Landfill gas collected from the landfill is recovered as renewable natural gas, and leachate is collected and discharged to the regional liquid waste system for treatment.

Waste-to-Energy Facility (Operational Certificate 107051)

Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility has operated in Burnaby since 1988 and handles about 240,000 tonnes of garbage per year — roughly a quarter of the region's garbage. It is a mass-burn facility

that turns waste into electricity — approximately 180,000 MWh/year (enough to power 16,000 homes) — and recovers about 5,000 tonnes of metal annually. Metro Vancouver sells the electricity to BC Hydro and the metals to a local recycler. Approximately 12,000 tonnes of fly ash and 45,000 tonnes of bottom ash are generated annually at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Fly ash is disposed at a facility located outside of the Metro Vancouver region and bottom ash is disposed at the Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver is exploring options for beneficial use of bottom ash.

Metro Vancouver is developing a district energy system to supply heat and hot water resulting from the operation of the Waste-to-Energy Facility, for up to 50,000 homes in Vancouver and Burnaby. This project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70,000 tonnes per year, and aligns with Metro Vancouver's goals for a resilient region. The Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System project will triple the energy recovery of the Waste-to-Energy Facility by using some of the steam generated through the combustion of garbage to heat water and deliver it through an underground piping network to nearby neighbourhoods.

Contingency Disposal

Garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is sent to remote landfills for disposal. Contingency disposal contracts with remote landfills are awarded following procurement processes based on overall best value which consider cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, general environmental impact, availability, and reliability. Metro Vancouver seeks to minimize the amount of garbage sent for contingency disposal, as it is approximately twice the cost of local disposal options. As of 2026, contingency disposal landfills used include:

- Campbell Hill Landfill, Cache Creek, BC
- Roosevelt Landfill, Roosevelt, WA, USA
- Columbia Ridge Landfill, Arlington, OR, USA

Construction & Demolition Waste

Construction and demolition material is generated at construction sites across the region and is typically managed by private processing and disposal facilities. Residual construction and demolition material that cannot feasibly be recycled is sent for disposal at the following facilities:

- Vancouver Landfill, Delta BC (Operational Certificate 4922)
- Ecowaste Landfill, Richmond, BC

Strategic Approach

Future Disposal Capacity

In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. Mass burn waste-to-energy is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world, with communities choosing either landfilling or mass burn waste-to-energy. Technologies, other than the mass burn and two-stage waste-to-energy technology, such as gasification and pyrolysis, have not been successfully implemented at a commercial scale to process residual waste. Commercial-scale mixed waste processing has also not been implemented successfully, with studies showing that current source-separated recycling programs are more cost effective and more likely to help the region meet recycling targets.

Metro Vancouver commissioned a report titled *Residuals Waste Management Options Review*¹⁰ which includes an overview of considerations of all potential residuals management options and technical criteria to consider for evaluating residual waste management options, should additional long-term disposal capacity be required. Table 10 summarizes these criteria.

Table 10: Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options

Criteria Category	Criteria for Evaluating Residual Waste Management Options
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall cost, including capital construction, operational, closure and post closure costs • Opportunities and risks related to revenue generation through selling recovered materials or energy to markets • Opportunities for efficient or reducing transport costs (e.g. backhauling) • Potential variability in waste volumes over time • Opportunity cost in comparison to alternative investment options • Financial risk from geopolitical or regulatory environment
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to emit pollutant emissions/discharges to air, land and water

¹⁰ Stantec. (2025). *Residual Waste Management Options Review*.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions - direct and indirect contributions and offsets (avoided greenhouse gas emissions) • General environmental factors such as dust, odour, litter, noise, and vectors • Risk and mitigation potential from climate change and natural disasters • Geotechnical considerations (e.g. slope failure, flooding risk) • Groundwater, surface water and ambient air quality protection and monitoring and testing systems
Regulatory Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or exceeds all current or anticipated environmental and waste management regulations • Permitting and approval processes required for implementing the system
Resource Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land requirements for facilities and operations • Energy generation and use potential and proximity • Opportunities for co-locating complimentary operations, such as public reuse and recycling depot services, processing of specific materials streams
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential negative impact on public health and safety • Public perception, cultural considerations and community acceptance of the system • Job creation during construction and operation
Technical Feasibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maturity, reliability and degree to which the system has been proven on a commercial scale • Compatibility with residual waste as the feedstock material and ability to adapt to changing waste streams

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity and scalability to handle expected volumes of waste consistently and meet future needs • Pre-processing requirements • Percentage of the residual waste stream effectively processed by the system
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Education and Outreach

Metro Vancouver’s behaviour change campaigns are valuable tools for encouraging waste prevention habits and are expected to continue as a core component of Metro Vancouver’s approach. Many strategies in the plan have dedicated education and outreach components. Metro Vancouver will continue to:

- Share knowledge and collaborate with member jurisdictions to amplify the reach of education and outreach initiatives and support consistency
- Leverage expertise and lessons learned from others, including not-for-profits, institutions, and businesses
- Increase the public’s familiarity with the solid waste system by practicing accessible engagement and meeting people where they are at, including in-person interactions, public events, tours, and conversations with experts
- Continue to use research to develop communications strategies that align with the strategies and actions in the Solid Waste Management Plan
- Continue to assess the effectiveness of waste reduction and recycling messaging among target audiences
- Strive to make resources, education, and engagement materials as inclusive and accessible as possible, considering the barriers faced by underrepresented and equity-denied groups, and opportunities to provide material in a way that works best with them
- Continue to use varied communications and outreach tactics that keep pace with evolving technology and trends
- Work with academia on opportunities to test evidence-based approaches to influence waste reduction and recycling behaviours

Accessibility and Inclusion

Guiding Principle

Inclusive solid waste services and programs is a guiding principle of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Metro Vancouver will consider accessibility and inclusivity in the implementation of all actions under this plan and will take into consideration the ideas provided when developing new programs, communications, and policies.

Commitment

Metro Vancouver's approach is guided by Metro Vancouver's *Accessibility Plan (2023–2026)*, which emphasizes universal design, adaptability, and collaboration. These principles will be integrated into implementation of the plan's strategies and actions to remove barriers and enable participation by people of all abilities.

The potential actions listed under each of the principles below are illustrative examples intended to demonstrate possible approaches. Metro Vancouver will continue to adapt programs and services based on community needs, feedback, and emerging best practices.

1. Accessible Infrastructure
 - Continue to provide clear visual indicators at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres
 - Prioritize accessibility improvements and incorporation of universal design standards at recycling and waste centres
2. Inclusive Service and Program Delivery
 - Support options for individuals with mobility limitations
 - Add programs and services for underserved areas and residents facing barriers
 - Identify and address gaps in accessibility across the region for reuse, recycling, and disposal services
3. Community Support and Engagement
 - Foster the development of volunteer networks to assist seniors, residents without a personal vehicle, and people with disabilities in recycling and waste reduction efforts
 - Collaborate with community organizations to provide training and resources

4. Education and Awareness

- Provide signage and resources designed to help reduce complexity for residents with disabilities or communication barriers
- Offer training for staff on accessibility to aid in service and program development

5. Continuous Improvement

- Conduct regular assessments to identify barriers and opportunities for improvement
- Seek feedback from people with lived or professional experience in program and service design and evaluation
- Commit to ongoing adaptation in alignment with the *Accessibility Plan*

Financial Overview

Overview

Metro Vancouver is committed to reflecting the public's high expectation of environmental stewardship while keeping waste management resilient, affordable, and accessible. "A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region" is a guiding principle of the plan.

Metro Vancouver's solid waste management system is funded primarily by garbage and paid recyclables tipping fees, with additional funding from energy sales from the Waste-to-Energy Facility, and other external revenues such as recyclables material sales, extended producer responsibility program revenues, and disposal ban surcharges. This total revenue funds the Metro Vancouver solid waste system, including contracted operations of the solid waste facilities, debt servicing for capital expenditures, waste reduction and recycling planning and programs, and the net cost of environmental regulation & enforcement. Most of the actions within the plan are initiated and managed by Metro Vancouver working collaboratively with member jurisdictions, operations contractors, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The majority of residential and commercial garbage flows through recycling and waste centres prior to transfer to disposal sites including the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Any garbage that can't be managed at the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills in central British Columbia and the United States. After accounting for proportional recycling and waste centre and transportation expenditures, the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility are comparable in cost per tonne. In contrast, contingency disposal is nearly double the cost, as shown in the table below.

The Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill are finite resources with each facility having maximum annual disposal capacity, and for the Vancouver Landfill overall long-term capacity. For near-term future planning, the only practical alternative to the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is contingency disposal at remote private landfills. Therefore, closing either facility would lead to significant disposal cost increases.

Table 11 2024 Disposal Costs

	Vancouver Landfill	Waste-to-Energy Facility	Contingency Disposal
Total Costs / Tonne	\$123.10	\$122.90	\$230.60

A new agreement between the City of Vancouver, the City of Delta, and GVS&DD was signed in 2026 and outlines the terms for continued operation of the Vancouver Landfill. Under this

agreement, the landfill continue to operate until approximately 2050 without increasing the previously agreed height and area of the Landfill. Without the new agreement, the landfill was expected to close as early as 2030. Extending the life of the landfill results in more than \$300 million in avoided future tipping fees for residents and businesses.

Solid Waste Planning and Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives

The strategies and actions in this updated plan prioritize rethinking, reducing, and reusing materials to advance a circular economy and account for changes in the solid waste management system.

Gross expenditures by Metro Vancouver for waste reduction and recycling are approximately \$25 million per year, roughly 15 per cent of the solid waste services operating budget. Some of these expenditures are recovered through recycling drop-off fees, material revenues, and through contributions from extended producer responsibility programs. The remainder are recovered through tipping fees.

Table 12: 2026 Allocation of Expenditures

Hierarchy	\$ (Millions)
Rethink, Reduce, and Reuse	\$5.5
Recycle	\$19.5
Recover and Dispose	\$120
Debt Servicing, Contribution to Reserves and other	\$25
Total	\$170

This allocation reflects the range of costs associated with material that Metro Vancouver handles directly – garbage and recyclables delivered to recycling and waste centres. In contrast, Metro Vancouver provides support for region wide recycling but the funding for management of recyclable materials falls to generators, producer responsibility organizations, the private sector and others. The expenditure allocation for waste prevention activities, relative to other goal areas, reflects Metro Vancouver’s role at this level of the hierarchy, which primarily involves collaboration, research, and advocacy, where every dollar spent can have impacts many times beyond Metro Vancouver’s expenditure.

Providing cost estimates for each initiative outlined in the plan, at the time of plan development, is not practical given the number and scope of actions and the interdependence of various organizations in delivering solid waste programs and services. Instead, Metro Vancouver will apply a business casing approach aligned with the existing annual GVS&DD Board budgeting process based on conditions at the time of implementation of the actions. This process involves a triple bottom line assessment of capital, operating, and life cycle costs for Metro Vancouver. It also considers cost implications for residents, businesses, and organizations involved in or impacted by each initiative, such as tipping fee changes, as well as potential benefits such as job creation, improved environmental outcomes, and economic benefits realized over a longer timeframe.

Metro Vancouver Five-Year Financial Plan

Metro Vancouver's solid waste budget is approved by the GVS&DD on an annual basis as part of the overall GVS&DD budget. A five-year financial plan is endorsed by the GVS&DD Board at the time the budget is approved.

Actions in the solid waste management 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 targets. Annual reporting on progress to achieve the targets of the Solid Waste Management Plan will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments are most appropriately allocated.

Metro Vancouver solid waste capital expenditures are approved by the GVS&DD Board on a similar basis to operating expenditures. Capital expenditures for the solid waste system are related to new facility development, facility upgrades, maintenance, and replacement. Project specific business cases are prepared for any significant expenditures as part of the identification, planning, and conceptualization for those projects.

On October 31, 2025, the GVS&DD Board approved the 2026 solid waste budget and endorsed the five-year solid waste capital plan. Key actions included in the 2026 operating budget include:

- Complete the solid waste management plan update. Submission of an updated plan to the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks, following Board approval.
- Continue to enhance customer service and monitoring including investigating continuous feedback mechanisms.
- Continue to expand reuse and repair opportunities in partnership with member jurisdictions.
- Leverage the National Zero Waste Council to advance the circular economy and waste reduction at a national level.

Key capital plan initiatives included in the five-year financial plan include:

- Constructing recycling depots at North Surrey and Langley recycling and waste centres to provide consistent services at all recycling waste centres maximizing opportunities for waste reduction and recycling
- Biosolids processing at the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy system construction
- Acid gas reduction system construction
- Funding for land acquisition for future solid waste facilities

The 2026 operating budget for the solid waste function is \$170 million. The five-year financial plan capital budget is \$390 million. The Waste-to-Energy Facility Operational Certificate issued by the

Ministry of Environment and Parks on September 23, 2025 may result in the acid gas reduction system requirements changing, which if occurs would be reflected in future capital budgets.

The weighted average tipping fee for 2026 is \$156 per tonne with garbage tipping fees projected to increase at 5 per cent per year over five years. Tipping fees in Metro Vancouver are less than public system tipping fees in comparable jurisdictions such as Toronto and Seattle. The annual budget and five-year financial plan are updated each year based on expected expenditures and revenues. Annual budget reviews will continue to explore opportunities to reduce expected future tipping fees through innovation and expenditure reduction.

Capital expenditures for 2026-2035 are projected to be \$900 million, including \$390 million estimated for 2026-2030. The focus from 2031-2035 will be consistent with 2026-2030 estimates, with the goal of continuing to prevent waste while minimizing tipping fee increases.

The 2026-2030 solid waste operating and capital budget details are included in Appendix B.

Regional District Collaboration

Metro Vancouver is bordered by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to the north, the Fraser Valley Regional District to the east, and the Sunshine Coast Regional District to the northwest. Materials for recycling, recovery, and disposal regularly flow between Metro Vancouver and these adjacent regional districts, as well as to recycling and disposal facilities in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Collaboration with these regional districts helps to further shared priorities, including advancing a circular economy, advocating for expanded extended producer responsibility programs, and managing construction and demolition material. Collaboration may include sharing data and information, amplifying or aligning education and outreach programming, coordinated advocacy efforts, and direct implementation of programs in a pan-regional area. This plan was developed with input from adjacent regional districts, including discussions on opportunities for continued communication and coordination.

Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor impacts to adjacent regional districts throughout plan implementation, identifying and discussing any potential impacts with adjacent regional districts as they arise. No significant negative impacts are anticipated through implementation of the plan, but it is expected that Metro Vancouver and adjacent regional districts will share the economic, environmental, and social benefits of transitioning to a circular regional economy, preventing waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Not all priorities are shared between adjacent regional districts. During development of this plan, the Fraser Valley Regional District expressed concern about environmental impacts related to ongoing use of the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Waste-to-energy continues to be a cost effective and environmentally responsible method to manage residual garbage, and the facility's contributions of nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and anthropogenic (human caused) greenhouses gases are less than 1% of regional emissions. Metro Vancouver will continue to engage in open dialogue with Fraser Valley Regional District staff on opportunities to collaborate and welcomes additional feedback from all regional districts during plan implementation.

Risk Analysis

The strategies within this plan were developed based on engagement feedback and selected based on their ability to help achieve the plan's goals. Each strategy focuses on a specific part of the goal, such as the type of material, the sector involved, or the method for making progress in each area. If the full list of strategies and actions are not initiated, the plan may fall short of its goals and targets. This can also affect strategies in other parts of the waste hierarchy. For example, if construction and demolition waste is not reduced as outlined in Strategy 2.1, it will impact the reuse of building materials in Strategy 3.3.

Metro Vancouver will work to implement actions from multiple strategies at the same time under each goal. This approach will help ensure meaningful and measurable progress.

The success of the plan is also dependent on factors that GVS&DD can influence but are ultimately beyond its control. Examples of factors include:

- Markets for recyclable materials, particularly for materials like wood, which have experienced market declines in the years prior to the development of this plan
- The success of extended producer responsibility organizations in reaching their objectives
- The ability of member jurisdictions to implement member actions as described in this plan
- The degree to which residents and businesses respond to behaviour change campaigns, regulations and requirements, and participate in waste reduction and recycling programs
- Unplanned events such as storms or pandemics that result in a surge of waste materials
- The success of provincial and federal initiatives
- Economic factors influencing the production and consumption of materials

These risks can be mitigated in part through ongoing collaboration with the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, members, and the provincial and federal government. The flexible approach to implementation outlined in the plan also allows GVS&DD to re-prioritize actions and resources accordingly to respond to unforeseen challenges.

Compliance Promotion

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver is highly integrated and depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including First Nations, local, provincial and federal governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and the public. The following strategies, if undertaken by the applicable party, help to contribute to the overall success of the plan through promoting compliance with the strategies and actions.

- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can provide education on the plan, highlighting focus areas, and new initiatives to raise awareness and encourage participation

- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can work together to enhance data accuracy and sharing, helping to reliably track progress and identify emerging issues
- Metro Vancouver can advance regulatory priorities specified in the regulatory strategic approach of this plan
- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, and senior levels of government can develop, enact, and enforce regulations

Plan Monitoring

Metro Vancouver will continue to report annually on solid waste management statistics including the targets and applicable secondary metrics outlined in the Solid Waste Management Plan. At the five-year mark, Metro Vancouver will complete an effectiveness review detailing the status of each initiative in the plan. This will be shared publicly, and all feedback received will be submitted along with the results of the review to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

In the event new regulations, facilities, or residuals management options are considered, Metro Vancouver will use the corresponding section of this plan to guide the process. The plan will be maintained as a living document, with schedules or appendices added as necessary. Any updated schedules or appendices will be highlighted in the submission to the ministry as part of the corresponding effectiveness review.

“Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation” is a guiding principle of the plan, and many strategies and actions reference collaboration with First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, residents, businesses and the solid waste and recycling industry. Continued collaboration is essential both for implementation and monitoring of the plan.

The provincial *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* recommends plan progress is reviewed with a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee representing a variety of interests, experiences and expertise. In the Metro Vancouver context, the purpose of a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee would be to provide feedback on:

- plan progress in conjunction with annual progress reports
- planned implementation of strategies and actions
- advancement of measures contemplated in the regulatory, residuals, or recycling and waste centre strategic approaches

Committee members are typically recruited through an application process. Applications would be reviewed by staff and membership recommendations made to the GVS&DD Board.

In addition to developing a mechanism for feedback on plan progress such as a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in working groups and committees that operate at a provincial, national or international level to develop solutions on topics such as producer responsibility, products and materials, and the circular economy. Locally, Metro Vancouver will continue to report progress and evaluate opportunities for collaboration and share information through the current committees (Table 13) and/or new committees with overlapping responsibilities:

Table 13: Committees as of 2026

Committee	Membership
Zero Waste Committee	Elected officials from Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions, as appointed by the Board Chair
Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee	Representatives from the solid waste and recycling industry including waste haulers and facility operators
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Subcommittee	Solid waste management staff from member jurisdictions
Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee	Solid waste and waste reduction operations and communication staff from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts and communities

Additional plan monitoring activities include the following:

- Exploring increasing transparency and access to data through a public dashboard of solid waste management plan performance indicators
- Continued provision of data to the province to support updates to the BC Disposal Calculator
- Meeting with Ministry of Environment and Parks staff routinely to discuss plan progress and other topics of shared interest
- Completion of regular waste composition studies to determine the types and quantities of material disposed to help monitor progress and inform implementation of programs
- Reporting on progress in implementing actions and strategies in the Solid Waste Management Plan
- Identifying and sharing potential impacts of implementing actions and strategies with affected parties, including First Nations and adjacent regional districts
- Reporting on expenditures related to the plan and their effectiveness

Plan Implementation Schedule

All actions within the plan are important; however, some strategies within the plan are best initiated early on to facilitate the implementation of others. For example, many of the advocacy initiatives described in the plan, if successful, will simplify implementation of related programs and policies in the region.

A high-level schedule outlining the anticipated schedule for key initiatives within each of the plan's focus areas is attached as Appendix C. This will be updated annually, and the timing of remaining initiatives in the plan will be assessed each year as part of the plan monitoring process.

As part of reporting on progress in implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan, a list of actions currently underway will be included along with new actions expected to be implemented in the next reporting period. This approach will ensure that the scheduling of actions is dynamic based on the goals and targets of the plan, as well as emerging issues and success in implementing actions currently underway.

Plan Amendments

This Solid Waste Management Plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. It is anticipated that the various actions implementing the solid waste management system that occur over the life of the Plan will not require an amendment to the Plan. Major changes to the solid waste management system contemplated in the Plan may require an amendment to the Plan.

Without being exhaustive, the following actions do not require an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan:

- Establishing a new site or facility that requires a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Any changes to operations of a facility that is licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Establishing a new site or facility, or changes to an existing site or facility that is exempt or excluded from requiring a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Procurement of new organics processing capacity or facilities located outside of the Metro Vancouver region, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Procurement of new contingency disposal at a remote landfill located outside the Metro Vancouver region, or changes to existing contingency disposal facilities, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Introducing any regulatory initiatives contemplated in the Regulatory Strategic Approach in the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Establishing a new Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre, or a municipal recycling depot, or upgrading, or changing the location or operations of an existing Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre or a municipal depot.
- Establishing a new organics composting or anaerobic digestion processing facility within the region.
- Any changes to the operations of the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility that do not make it a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations, irrespective of whether such changes require an amendment to the Operational Certificate for the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Any changes to timelines or budgets for implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to performance reporting, including secondary metrics.
- Addition of any new strategies and actions in alignment with the vision, guiding principles and goals of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to the dispute resolution procedure, the plan implementation schedule, the annual solid waste services 5-year financial plan, or the list of supporting documents.

The Solid Waste Management Plan will only be amended if there are major changes in the solid waste management system described in the plan, for example:

- A change in the geographic boundary of the plan.
- New landfills or waste-to-energy facilities or any new disposal facility in the region that is a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations.

- Changes to the Solid Waste Management Plan vision, guiding principles, hierarchy and goals, primary performance metrics and targets.
- The addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minister's approval letter.

With the exception of the addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minister's approval letter, when a plan amendment becomes necessary, Metro Vancouver will undergo a public engagement process and submit an amended plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks for approval, along with a detailed consultation report.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

Appendix D outlines a dispute resolution procedure for disputes involving an administrative decision made by the GVS&DD in the issuance of a license, interpretation of a statement or provision in the plan, or any other matter not related to a proposed change to the actual wording of the plan or an operational certificate. The process provides an opportunity for the complainant/disputant to participate with Metro Vancouver in non-binding mediation. If a resolution is not reached, a decision on the issue will be made by a committee of the GVS&DD Board. This ensures an open and transparent process.

GLOSSARY

Acid gas refers to acidic gaseous pollutants such as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), hydrogen chloride (HCl), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Anaerobic digestion is the biological process by which organic matter (e.g., food scraps), is broken down in the absence of oxygen, producing raw biogas and other byproducts. The raw biogas is commonly used to generate electricity through cogeneration or upgraded to natural gas.

Backyard composting means the composting of food scraps or yard trimmings, or both, at a site where (a) the food scraps or yard trimmings are generated by the residents of a residential dwelling unit, and (b) the annual production of compost does not exceed 20 cubic metres.

Biosolids are treated solids recovered from wastewater. The solids have been treated by microorganisms and heat to eliminate pathogens and reduce odours. The end result is an earth-like product that is rich in nutrients and organic matter.

Bottom ash is a residual from the incineration of municipal solid waste, largely comprised of slag (stony waste separated from metals), ceramic, glass, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and un-combusted organics.

Built environment refers to all human-made physical structures, spaces, and associated infrastructures, including buildings, urban infrastructure, private and public spaces, and built assets, that provide settings for human habitation, work, mobility, and social life. This encompasses all life-cycle phases from planning and construction through use, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction.

Buy-nothing group refers to an online group where residents can share and obtain items for free from other residents, rather than purchasing new items. The goal is to empower people to keep more items in use, while building strong communities and sustainable livelihoods for the makers, fixers, and others who transform old into new, over and over again.

Bulky objects includes any household item that is too large to be disposed of via regular household garbage and recycling pick-up programs. Bulky household items include, for example, furniture, large appliances (e.g., dishwasher, refrigerator), domestic construction materials, exercise equipment, and mattresses.

Circularity refers to a waste management approach that keeps materials and products in use for as long as possible by prioritizing waste prevention, reuse, repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling, while minimizing the extraction of new resources and reducing environmental impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of materials.

Circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make – use – dispose). The circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracts the maximum value from them while in use, then recovers and regenerates products and materials at the end of their service life.

Climate change is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Commercial/institutional means municipal solid waste originating from commercial and institutional sources.

Construction and demolition waste means municipal solid waste that originates from demolition or construction sources that has not been handled, managed or mixed with municipal solid waste from other sources.

Deconstruction is the systematic dismantling of buildings or other structures to maximize the recovery of reusable and recyclable materials, as opposed to traditional demolition which focuses on rapid removal and often results in different types of materials being mixed together.

Design for disassembly is an approach to designing buildings, products, or systems so that their components can be easily taken apart at the end of their useful life, allowing materials and parts to be reused, refurbished, or recycled rather than ending up as waste.

Disposal ban means the regulatory tool by which defined materials are banned from being disposed of in regional facilities. Surcharges are levied if banned materials are present in the loads, at levels beyond thresholds defined in the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

District energy is a system where energy from a central generation facility is converted to energy, typically in the form of electricity, steam, or hot water, and distributed through underground piping to supply energy to a larger area.

Diversion refers to the sum of both recycling and recovery, but does not include reuse and materials used as landfill cover.

Dispose/disposal refers to landfilling and mass burn waste-to-energy.

Embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the life cycle of a product or system. Embodied carbon is typically measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kgCO₂e).

Environmental stewardship is the protection, preservation and enhancement of natural spaces and resources in an environmentally responsible manner.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a management system based on industry and consumers taking life-cycle responsibility for the products they produce and use.

Fly ash consists of fine particulates that are captured in a waste-to-energy facility's air pollution control system. These particulates are a mixture of ash from the combustion process and lime and carbon which are added to capture acid gases and mercury.

Food loss refers to losses in the stages between production and distribution of food, including spoilage as a result of production and processing technologies.

Food recovery involves taking good and healthy food products, considered surplus or not marketable by food industry standards, and redirecting it to food programs who redistribute it to individuals and households in need. This is considered reuse in the waste hierarchy, as food originally intended for sale is repurposed. Food recovery is different from recovery, as defined.

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Food scraps means municipal solid waste that is comprised of food, including meat, fish, fat, dairy products, bread, baking products, fruits and vegetables, whether cooked or uncooked.

Food waste is the loss of edible and inedible food parts at the point of retail or consumer use.

Generator levy means the levy payable by a generator pursuant to the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379 at the rate set out at section 7.1 of the Bylaw.

Gleaning refers to harvesting leftover crops from a farmers' field after the commercial harvest.

Green bin program is a municipal solid waste collection program that targets organic waste collection including food scraps and yard waste.

House relocation is an alternative to demolition and involves the lifting and transport of part, or all, of an existing house.

Household hazardous waste is a term used to describe a broad range of potentially hazardous products, including flammables, gasoline, pesticides, toxics, corrosives, all of which are not municipal solid waste. It is critical that they are collected and disposed of responsibly, so they do not endanger humans, wildlife, or our environment.

Industrial symbiosis is a collaborative approach in which the residues from one industrial process serve as nutrients for another, creating a closed-loop system that mimics natural ecosystems. This concept aims to enhance resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact by forming integrated industrial networks that share materials, energy, and information.

International waste means waste that originates from outside of Canada, including from airports, cruise ships, land-border crossings, and other points of entry.

Illegal dumping is the deliberate abandonment of waste on public or private property. Illegal dumping happens in both rural and urban environments (e.g., furniture left in back alleys, construction waste dumped on farmland).

Landfilling is the process of disposing of waste in or on the land in an organized manner while establishing engineered systems and approaches for minimizing impacts from things like leachate, landfill gas and vectors.

Linear economy a system where resources are extracted to make products and materials that eventually end up as waste and are thrown away; materials move in one direction, from raw material to waste.

Low barrier employment refers to opportunities that are available to persons with persistent and multiple barriers (long-term barriers) and that are not expected to be overcome in the short-term.

Material banks (buildings) are systematic inventories or databases that document and track building materials and components throughout their lifecycle, particularly focusing on their potential for reuse, recycling, or recovery at the end of a building's life.

Multi-family refers to residential buildings containing more than four dwelling units. This includes typical building types like apartment buildings, condominium blocks, townhomes/row-housing, or other multiple-unit residential developments.

Municipal solid waste refers to recyclables, compostable materials, and residuals that originate from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources or solid waste included in the Solid Waste Management Plan. It excludes agricultural and industrial waste.

Organics is unpackaged food scraps, yard trimmings, clean wood, recyclable paper that has been soiled by or comingled with food residue, tissue paper, paper napkins or paper towels.

Performance targets are specific, measurable and time-bound objectives that can be used to assess progress toward a goal (e.g., 80% reduction from 2010 waste generation levels).

Performance indicators are specific performance metrics that indicate progress toward a given target (e.g., recycling rate).

Performance metrics are data that can be used to track progress (e.g., tonnes of waste recycled).

Producer responsibility organization (PRO) refers to not-for-profit organization or industry association that is the entity designated by a producer or producers to act on their behalf to administer an extended producer responsibility or product stewardship program. In Canada, a PRO may also be referred to as a “stewardship organization,” an “industry funding organization” or a “delegated administrative organization”.

Recycling is the collection, transportation and processing of products that are no longer useful in their present form and the subsequent use, including composting or anaerobic digestion, of their material content in the manufacture of new products for which there is a market.

Recycling depot is a facility where residents and businesses can drop off a variety of recyclable materials.

Recycling and waste centre refers to Metro Vancouver owned facilities throughout the region where residents and businesses drop off garbage, yard trimmings and a variety of other recyclable materials.

Reduce means decreasing the amount of municipal solid waste generated at source. It includes activities which result in more efficient reuse or recycling of primary products or materials but does not include only compacting or otherwise densifying the waste.

Reuse refers to at least one further use of a product in the same form (but not necessarily for the same purpose).

Recovery in the context of this plan is the reclaiming energy from municipal solid waste. This does not include food recovery, composting, anaerobic digestion, or waste-to-energy.

Residuals is the fraction of municipal solid waste that is left after prevention, reuse, and recycling and is destined for disposal.

Salvage means removing materials such that they are protected from damage and kept intact so that they can be reused.

Single-family refers to detached homes generally comprised of six units or less. In the context of this plan, single-family waste typically refers to waste that is collected at curbside.

Single-use item means the item is designed to be disposed of after a single use or short-term use, whether or not it could be reused.

Small load waste is a load of municipal solid waste that is under 1 tonne.

Tipping fee means the fee charged by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) for disposing of municipal solid waste at a solid waste facility, as set out in Table 1 of Schedule “B” of the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

Waste generation is the total amount of disposed municipal solid waste and diverted recyclables or recovered material. This does not include material that is reused.

Waste hierarchy is a framework that ranks waste management practices by environmental impact, from most to least favourable.

Waste prevention refers to actions that avoid waste from being created in the first place.

Waste-to-energy refers to the combustion of residual waste using mass burn processes that typically includes energy recovery through the production of electricity or heat.

Worm bins are containers used in vermicomposting in which worms live and are used to break down food scraps and other organic matter.

Yard trimmings includes municipal solid waste that comprises vegetative matter resulting from gardening, landscaping or land clearing

Zero waste as both a philosophy and a goal, aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate municipal solid waste

Solid Waste Management Plan Technical Studies and Supporting Documents

Metro Vancouver. (2024). *Informational Handouts Supporting Discussion Topics – Idea Generation*. <https://metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/waste-prevention-reduction-idea-generation-supporting-documents.pdf>

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Stantec Consulting Ltd. (2025). *Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan: Performance Metrics Review*.

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Item 54
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
SOLID WASTE SERVICES
2026 — 2030 FINANCIAL PLAN
2026 BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	% CHANGE	2027 PLAN	% CHANGE	2028 PLAN	% CHANGE	2029 PLAN	% CHANGE	2030 PLAN	% CHANGE
REVENUES											
Solid Waste Tipping Fees	\$148,874,301	\$160,039,613	7.5%	\$172,609,790	7.9%	\$180,406,743	4.5%	\$195,533,526	8.4%	\$204,605,382	4.6%
Energy Sales	6,250,000	6,250,000		6,250,000		6,000,000		6,000,000		6,060,000	
Other External Revenues	4,928,890	3,614,141		6,571,114		9,525,103		9,956,322		9,864,813	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%
EXPENDITURES											
Operating Programs:											
Solid Waste Operations											
Allocated Quality Control	\$ 25,407	\$ 26,274		\$ 26,752		\$ 28,940		\$ 28,098		\$ 29,216	
Ashcroft Ranch	616,197	-		-		-		-		-	
Engineers in Training	123,306	130,788		135,225		138,156		141,142		144,205	
Landfills	44,458,053	43,979,138		43,510,599		39,077,120		41,168,681		41,974,607	
Recycling and Waste Centre	53,831,557	59,376,424		61,990,346		65,782,042		67,917,393		69,714,518	
Waste to Energy Facility	28,523,685	33,334,956		37,909,430		38,127,313		41,644,844		43,189,540	
	<u>127,578,205</u>	<u>136,847,580</u>	7.3%	<u>143,572,352</u>	4.9%	<u>143,153,571</u>	(0.3%)	<u>150,900,158</u>	5.4%	<u>155,052,086</u>	2.8%
Solid Waste Planning											
Policy and Facility Development	609,217	616,462		636,684		650,077		663,730		677,687	
Zero Waste Implementation	2,956,614	2,796,643		2,773,676		2,836,540		2,900,630		2,965,817	
Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives	-	745,254		1,214,548		746,986		1,237,652		770,551	
Community Engagement	1,364,396	1,366,358		1,297,990		1,305,098		1,360,327		1,365,871	
	<u>4,930,227</u>	<u>5,524,717</u>	12.1%	<u>5,922,898</u>	7.2%	<u>5,538,701</u>	(6.5%)	<u>6,162,339</u>	11.3%	<u>5,779,926</u>	(6.2%)
Administration and Department Support	756,095	778,512	3.0%	805,059	3.4%	822,777	2.2%	840,841	2.2%	859,305	2.2%
Environmental Regulation and Enforcement	1,616,473	1,679,330	3.9%	1,724,461	2.7%	1,758,251	2.0%	1,796,541	2.2%	1,827,863	1.7%
Allocation of Centralized Support Costs	5,828,516	5,666,647	(2.8%)	6,924,633	22.2%	7,117,539	2.8%	6,957,975	(2.2%)	6,959,443	0.0%
Total Operating Programs	<u>140,709,516</u>	<u>150,496,786</u>	7.0%	<u>158,949,403</u>	5.6%	<u>158,390,839</u>	(0.4%)	<u>166,657,854</u>	5.2%	<u>170,478,623</u>	2.3%
Allocation of Project Delivery Cost	397,060	360,015	(9.3%)	349,668	(2.9%)	356,880	2.1%	362,811	1.7%	367,801	1.4%
Debt Service	17,138,153	18,431,056	7.5%	25,029,164	35.8%	33,687,060	34.6%	41,662,467	23.7%	49,311,167	18.4%
Contribution to Reserve	1,808,462	615,897	(65.9%)	1,102,669	79.0%	3,497,067	217.1%	2,806,716	(19.7%)	372,604	(86.7%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%

Item 5A
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
CAPITAL PORTFOLIO
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

	APPROVED CAPITAL BUDGET	2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2027 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2028 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2029 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2030 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2026 TO 2030 TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES									
Landfills									
Coquitlam Landfill Maintenance	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000	Multiple	Maintenance
Total Landfills	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000		
Recycling and Waste Centres									
Langley Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	\$ 20,500,000	\$ 8,250,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre Upgrades	1,500,000	750,000	650,000	-	-	-	1,400,000	Construction	Upgrade
North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	44,100,000	2,500,000	9,750,000	6,000,000	-	-	18,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Recycling and Waste Centre Maintenance	11,500,000	1,000,000	4,500,000	3,500,000	500,000	500,000	10,000,000	Construction	Maintenance
Solid Waste Facility Land Purchase	-	-	-	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	80,000,000	Design	Resilience
Total Recycling and Waste Centres	\$ 77,600,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 18,900,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 125,900,000		
Waste To Energy Facility									
Acid Gas Reduction	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000,000	Design	Upgrade
Biosolids Processing	24,250,000	5,000,000	7,000,000	6,400,000	1,200,000	-	19,600,000	Construction	Resilience
Waste-to-Energy Facility Maintenance	72,150,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	34,250,000	Construction	Maintenance
Waste to Energy Facility District Energy	84,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	25,000,000	28,600,000	98,600,000	Multiple	Resilience
Total Waste To Energy Facility	\$ 185,850,000	\$ 21,850,000	\$ 88,850,000	\$ 73,250,000	\$ 33,050,000	\$ 35,450,000	\$ 252,450,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 287,500,000	\$ 40,950,000	\$ 111,250,000	\$ 87,490,000	\$ 73,800,000	\$ 76,200,000	\$ 389,690,000		

Appendix C – Plan Implementation Schedule

Focus Area	Key Initiatives	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1. Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention	Advocate for circular programs and policies	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular food systems	█	█	█	█	█	█				
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular built environment solutions	█	█	█	█	█	█				
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular products and services						█	█	█	█	█
2. Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond	Expand reuse at recycling and waste centres	█	█	█	█	█	█				
	Increase reuse at events	█	█	█	█	█					
	Engage with food and hospitality businesses to expand reuse	█	█	█	█	█					
	Advocate for reuse requirements encompassing the region				█	█	█	█			
3. Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses and institutions	Advance hauler incentive program	█	█	█							
	Assess regulatory options to increase source separation				█	█	█				
	Provide tailored education and tools				█	█	█				
	Update space and access requirements			█	█	█					
4. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics	Enhance and expand the regional food recovery network	█	█	█	█						
	Improve data on food waste		█	█	█	█	█				
	Develop additional local organics processing capacity				█	█	█	█			
5. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials	Enable house relocation and deconstruction programs			█	█	█	█	█			
	Expand local reuse markets	█	█	█	█	█					
	Recover energy from building materials not currently recyclable			█	█	█	█				
6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycling plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics	Promote elimination of unnecessary plastics	█	█	█	█	█					
	Advocate for faster implementation of more consistent and broader residential collection programs	█	█	█	█	█					

APPENDIX D – DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

BACKGROUND:

- A. As part of preparing and updating a solid waste management plan under the Environmental Management Act, the Ministry of Environment and Parks recommends that Metro Vancouver should establish a dispute resolution procedure
- B. Section C.1.1 of the Ministry of Environment's "A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning" (2016) (the "Guide") describes the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure as follows:

32. Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure

- (1) The GVS&DD should establish its own dispute resolution procedure for dealing with disputes arising during implementation of the plan.
- (2) The procedure should be limited to disputes involving
 - (a) an administrative decision made by the GVS&DD in the issuance of a license,
 - (b) interpretation of a statement or provision in the plan, or
 - (c) any other matter not related to a proposed change to the actual wording of the plan or an operational certificate

NOW THEREFORE the Board hereby adopts this Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure in satisfaction of Section 32 of the Guide:

PART A - DISPUTES INVOLVING AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION MADE BY THE GVS&DD IN THE ISSUANCE OF A SOLID WASTE FACILITY LICENCE

1. This Part A of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes relating to an administrative decision made by the Solid Waste Manager or the Deputy Solid Waste manager, as such terms are defined in GVS&DD Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, as amended or replaced from time to time ("Bylaw 181"), in connection with the issuance, amendment, suspension, refusal or cancellation of a licence pursuant to Bylaw 181 (a "Decision").
2. Pursuant to Bylaw 181 any person who considers himself or herself aggrieved by a Decision (a "Disputing Party") may dispute the Decision by delivering written notice ("Written Notice") to the Solid Waste Manager within 21 days after the disputed Decision is made.
3. In the Written Notice, the Disputing Party may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation with GVS&DD.
4. If the Disputing Party does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the Disputing Party may proceed with the appeal process specified in Bylaw 181.
5. If the Disputing Party indicates that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process:

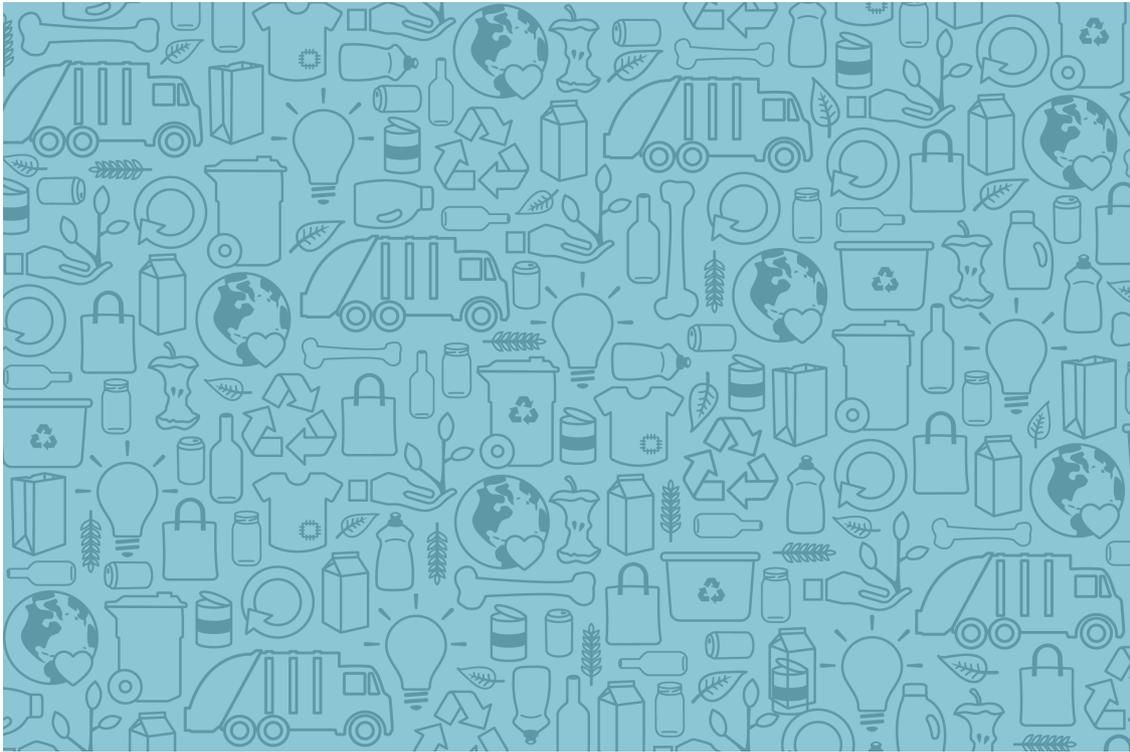
- a. The Commissioner will, as permitted under Bylaw 181, extend the time for commencing the appeal under Bylaw 181 until such time as the non-binding mediation has concluded; and
 - b. The parties will proceed to non-binding mediation in accordance with the process specified in section 6 below.
6. The following process applies to non-binding mediation under this Part A:
- a. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Disputing Party will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Disputing Party) two weeks prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Disputing Party, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation;
 - d. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives. The Commissioner will not participate in the mediation meeting; and
 - e. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
7. If the Disputing Party and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through mediation, the Disputing Party may either:
- a. Terminate the dispute; or
 - b. Proceed with the appeal in accordance with the process specified in Bylaw 181.

PART B - DISPUTES INVOLVING INTERPRETATION OF A STATEMENT OR PROVISION IN THE PLAN OR ANY OTHER MATTER NOT RELATED TO A PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ACTUAL WORDING OF THE PLAN

8. This Part B of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes involving interpretation of a statement or provision in the Solid Waste Management Plan or disputes of any matter connected to the Solid Waste Management Plan other than proposed changes to the wording of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
9. Any person who disputes the GVS&DD's interpretation of a statement or provision in the Solid Waste Management Plan or who disputes any matter connected to the Solid Waste Management Plan other than proposed changes to the wording of the Solid Waste Management Plan (a "Complainant") may commence a dispute under this Part B.
10. A dispute under this Part B is commenced when the Complainant delivers written notice ("Part B Written Notice") to GVS&DD's Commissioner indicating that the Complainant wishes to resolve a dispute, and summarizing the nature of the dispute.
11. In the Part B Written Notice, the Complainant may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process with GVS&DD.

12. If the Complainant does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the dispute will proceed in accordance with the process specified in section 15 below.
13. If the Complainant indicates in the part B Written Notice that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process the following process applies:
- a. The Complainant and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Complainant will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) two weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) one week prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Complainant, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation; d. The Complainant and GVS&DD may bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives; and
 - e. The Complainant and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
14. If the Complainant and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation, the Complainant may:
- a. Terminate the dispute; or
 - b. Proceed with the dispute resolution process specified in section 15 below.
15. The process for dispute resolution under this Part B is as follows:
- a. The Complainant will submit a non-refundable payment of \$2,000 to the GVS&DD to cover a portion of the GVS&DD's costs of this dispute resolution process;
 - b. GVS&DD will appoint 3 members of its Board to form an ad hoc dispute resolution select committee ("Committee");
 - c. Changes in the membership of the Committee may only be made prior to the presentation of oral submissions to the Committee and such changes can only be made by the Board;
 - d. Committee members will be remunerated in accordance with the provisions of *Metro Vancouver Regional District Remuneration Bylaw No. 1425, 2025* as amended or replaced from time to time as if they were attending a Board meeting;
 - e. The Committee may set its own procedures for considering the dispute, which procedure will include the hearing of the dispute on a date set by the Committee. In addition, the Committee may:
 - i. ask questions of the Complainant and the GVSⅅ
 - ii. determine that the dispute resolution hearing will be closed to the public;
 - iii. adjourn to consider its decision;
 - iv. provide its decision at the conclusion of the hearing, or may specify a future date on which it will deliver its oral decision; and

- v. determine any other matter that the Committee considers necessary.
- f. The Complainant and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to participate in the dispute resolution hearing. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives;
- g. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the Committee. The Complainant will provide its brief to the Committee (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the dispute resolution hearing and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) two weeks prior to the hearing; and
- h. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each have a maximum of 45 minutes to make oral submissions to the Committee.



Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

March 26, 2026

ABOUT THE GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT

The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) is a statutory corporation to service its 18 member municipalities and a portion of Electoral Area A. Under the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has authority for, among other things, the management of municipal solid waste, including the purchase, construction, operation, maintenance, and administration of facilities for solid waste management. GVS&DD is governed by the GVS&DD Board. Directors of the GVS&DD Board are mayors and councillors appointed by membership councils¹, and their votes on resolutions are population-weighted. The GVS&DD and its member jurisdictions work together to plan for and manage municipal solid waste across the region. The GVS&DD also manages major sewerage and drainage facilities in the region. A Liquid Waste Management Plan is developed and managed separately from this Solid Waste Management Plan.

In this plan, the GVS&DD is referred to as ‘Metro Vancouver’. All references to ‘Metro Vancouver’, or commitments and responsibilities assigned to ‘Metro Vancouver’ in this plan should be interpreted to refer to the ‘Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD)’ alone. In this plan, ‘Metro Vancouver’ does not refer to any entity other than the GVS&DD.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region’s residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 First Nations with communities currently located within the Metro Vancouver region: q̓icə́y (Katzie), q̓ʷa:ńłə́n (Kwantlen), k̓ʷikʷə́łəm (Kwkwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), x̓ʷməθk̓ʷə́yəm (Musqueam), q̓iqéyt (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, S̓k̓w̓xwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scə́wəθən məsteyə́x̓ (Tsawwassen), and sə́ilwə́tə (Tsleil-Waututh).

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

¹ The Director for Electoral Area A is not a mayor or councillor appointed by a membership council, but rather, is elected by residents to represent them on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District and is also a member of the GVS&DD Board.

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

Metro Vancouver Regional District Members

GVS&DD Members

Village of Anmore

City of Burnaby

City of Coquitlam

City of Delta

Electoral Area A*

City of Langley

Township of Langley

City of Maple Ridge

City of New Westminster

City of North Vancouver

District of North Vancouver

City of Pitt Meadows

City of Port Coquitlam

City of Port Moody

City of Richmond

City of Surrey

City of Vancouver

District of West Vancouver

City of White Rock

*The Director representing Electoral Area A on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District is a member of the GVS&DD Board.

Village of Belcarra

Bowen Island Municipality

Village of Lions Bay

scəwəθən məsteyəx*
(Tsawwassen First Nation)

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND FOCUS AREAS

This Solid Waste Management Plan reflects a shift in how we think about waste. The plan provides a pathway for moving from a system focused on managing materials at the end of their life to one that strives to preserve resources, prevent waste and keep materials in use as long as possible. It builds on the diverse perspectives in our region to present opportunities to continue advancing leadership in waste reduction and recycling.

The plan is guided and organized by the waste hierarchy, which aims to rethink, reduce, and reuse material before managing it through the highest available option of recycling, recovery, or disposal. Each level of the hierarchy has an associated goal, and within these goals are strategies and actions which will require strong leadership from Metro Vancouver and collaboration with others. Although all strategies and actions in the plan are important to building a thriving region where materials are valued and nothing is wasted, there are six priorities or focus areas highlighted below.

- 1. Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention:** Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.
- 2. Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond:** Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.
- 3. Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions:** Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.
- 4. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics:** Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.
- 5. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials:** Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest-value use of wood, supporting

efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

- 6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics:** Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the Solid Waste Management Plan, and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities.

In addition, the Solid Waste Management Plan includes priorities described in the plan's three strategic approaches.

- 1. Regulatory** – Continue to support the effectiveness of the generator levy, ensuring that all generators of waste contribute to the cost of the regional solid waste system. Advance regulatory measures to further encourage source separation and reduce barriers to participation. Conduct a comprehensive engagement process for the purpose of updating Metro Vancouver's licensing bylaw for private solid waste facilities.
- 2. Recycling and Waste Centres** - Continue enhancing the recycling and waste centre network to improve convenience and access to reuse and recycling opportunities.
- 3. Residuals Management** - Optimize the use of the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy facility to reduce reliance on remote disposal options. This will help maintain affordability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting waste. Continue to enhance environmental performance and pursue opportunities for energy recovery at both facilities, as well as beneficial use of materials such as bottom ash.



Figure E1: Solid Waste Management Plan At-a-Glance

METRO VANCOUVER'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Municipal solid waste management is the term used to describe how products, packaging, food scraps, yard trimmings, and other materials from residential, commercial, institutional, construction, and demolition sources are managed when they're no longer needed for their original purpose. It includes the decisions we make when preventing and reducing garbage, using recycling and green bins, and the services provided by businesses, governments, and non-profits to collect, transport, and process these materials.

This plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. The plan identifies how our region can continue to prevent and reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work toward a circular economy. Together as a region, we need to think about how we purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver to better manage our solid waste.

The BC government's A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning recommends initiating updates to regional solid waste management plans every 10 years. This plan replaces Metro Vancouver's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan approved in 2011.

Vision and Guiding Principles

A vision statement and guiding principles for the Solid Waste Management Plan have been established, with input from First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

Vision: A thriving region where nothing is wasted and resources are valued.

Guiding Principles

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

These guiding principles are specific to the Metro Vancouver region, and complement the set of guiding principles provided by the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks in [A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning](#). [Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement and are consistent with Metro Vancouver's overall organizational strategic priorities. The vision statement and guiding principles were approved by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District \(GVS&DD\) Board in 2023.](#)

Goals and Hierarchy

The goals of the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) describe the long-term aims to be achieved by the plan. The goals link closely to Metro Vancouver's waste management hierarchy, which builds on the [provincial 5 R pollution prevention hierarchy](#), to outline priorities for solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region. The highest priorities are at the top of the hierarchy, and are associated with actions that preserve resources, prevent waste, and help transition to a circular economy. Specific terms used within the goals and hierarchy are defined in the [Glossary](#), and more context for each goal is provided in the [strategies](#) and [actions](#) section of the plan.

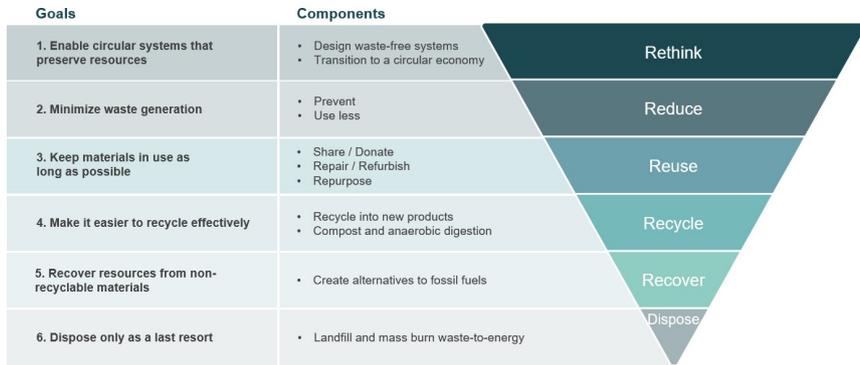


Figure 1: Goals and Hierarchy

Primary Performance Metrics and Targets

Performance metrics for this plan are categorized into primary and secondary metrics. The targets described in this plan correspond to the primary metrics of waste generation, diversion and recycling, disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions. The performance targets set by this plan were developed using existing baseline data and represent progress across all levels of the hierarchy.

Progress towards targets will be reported annually to the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the information will be publicly available.

Targets for waste generation and disposal are both on a per capita basis. For reference, total waste generation and disposal will also be tracked and reported annually.

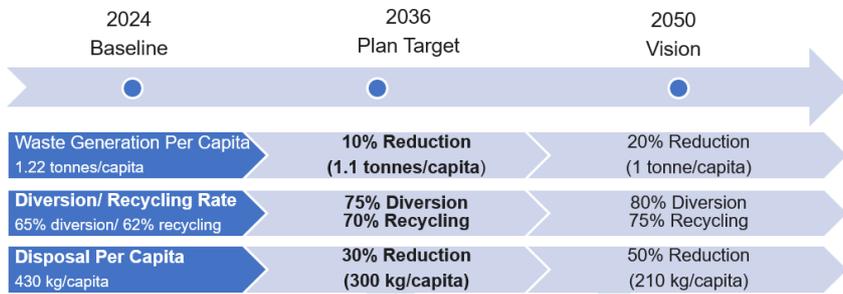


Figure 2 Solid Waste Management Plan Targets

Waste generation includes both quantities of material diverted as well as disposed and measures progress toward the goal of transitioning to a circular economy where resources are preserved, waste generation is minimized, and materials are kept in use as long as possible.

This plan establishes a target of a 10% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2036 compared to 2024, calculated on a 5-year rolling average (Figure 2). A longer-term target is also included, to map a trajectory beyond the 10 year term of the plan, and to recognize that many actions in the plan require longer time frames to fully implement. The long-term target for waste generation is 20% per capita reduction from 2024 levels (approximately 1 tonne/capita) by 2050.

To align with the goals of making it easier to recycle effectively and recovering resources from non-recyclable materials, waste must, as much as possible, be diverted away from disposal into programs aimed at recycling materials back into new materials, before recovering materials as fuel. This plan establishes a target of 75% diversion by 2036, with a minimum 70% recycling rate. The long-term target of the updated plan is to achieve a 75% recycling rate and 80% diversion rate by 2050. The difference between the diversion rate and recycling rate is described as follows:

Recycling rate refers to the tonnes of source separated material recycled into new products, including compost, as a proportion of the total tonnes of all material recycled, recovered and disposed.

Diversion rate includes all of the material recycled plus any material used to create alternatives to fossil fuels. The diversion rate refers to the tonnes of material diverted as a portion of the total tonnes of material recycled, recovered and disposed.

Sector specific diversion rate targets are summarized in Table 1.

<u>Sector</u>	<u>2024 Baseline</u>	<u>2036 Target</u>	<u>2050 Target</u>
<u>Single-Family Residential</u>	<u>64%</u>	<u>75%</u>	<u>80%</u>
<u>Multi-Family Residential</u>	<u>36%</u>	<u>60%</u>	<u>75%</u>
<u>Commercial/ Institutional</u>	<u>47%</u>	<u>60%</u>	<u>75%</u>
<u>Construction and Demolition</u>	<u>81%</u>	<u>85%</u>	<u>90%</u>

Table 1: 2036 Sector Specific Diversion Rate Targets

The sector specific diversion rates are calculated based the amount and type of material currently disposed and diverted in each sector, which would be addressed by the strategies and actions included in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

To reflect the goal of disposal only as a last resort, this plan sets a disposal rate target for the Metro Vancouver region of less than 350 kg/capita by 2031, less than 300 kg/capita by 2036, and 210 kg per capita by 2050; a 50% reduction from 2024 levels by 2050.



Figure 3 Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Disposal Emission Targets.

In addition to waste reduction, recycling and diversion targets, the Solid Waste Management Plan adopts Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Strategic Framework² targets which aspires to achieve carbon neutrality in solid waste management by 2050, and a 45% reduction in emissions from a 2010 baseline by 2030. The 2010 baseline is based on disposal emissions, and the target includes reduction in disposal

² Metro Vancouver. (2018). *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*. <https://metrovancover.org/services/air-quality-climate-action/Documents/climate-2050-strategic-framework-2018.pdf>

emissions and emission reduction initiatives. Initiatives that reduce emissions from the disposal of materials help us progress toward carbon neutrality. Waste reduction and recycling actions that reduce emissions, such as deconstruction and house relocation, reuse and repair initiatives, zero emissions hauling equipment, district energy, alternative fuel generation, and renewable natural gas production, are also essential to meeting the carbon neutrality goal of this plan.

Secondary Performance Metrics

To enhance performance monitoring, this Solid Waste Management Plan adopts a suite of metrics that provide insights on progress and emerging trends over time. Tracking progress can be challenging where quantitative data is limited, such as estimating reuse or assessing performance of waste prevention initiatives (rethink, reduce, and reuse). Secondary metrics provide quantitative and qualitative indicators to support progress measurement in specific areas. A suite of secondary metrics provides multiple measures of performance to assist with reviewing plan progress overall.

Secondary metrics help to measure progress related to the strategies and actions within the plan, and will be reported alongside the primary metrics and targets. Table 2 summarizes the secondary metrics that will be reported. Metrics will be reassessed periodically based on the availability and reliability of supporting data.

To help contextualize data, metrics will be presented alongside complementary indicators where possible. For example, statistics on construction and demolition waste can be compared with trends in housing starts and demolitions overall. Metrics will also be normalized against population growth or other indicators where appropriate to more accurately discern trends.

Table 2: Secondary Metrics

Goals Categories	Secondary Metrics
<u>1. Rethink</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of <u>jobs that support a circular economy</u> • number of circular initiatives supported/<u>introduced</u>¹ • summary of advocacy efforts • number of member jurisdictions with circular procurement policies <u>and programs</u>¹
<u>2. Reduce</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of single-use items in garbage <u>and recycling</u> • amount of food waste in garbage <u>and green bins</u> plus a summary of available information on food loss • percentage of region covered by reusables for dine-in <u>regulations</u>¹
<u>3. Reuse</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tonnes measurable reuse • number items repaired at repair <u>events</u>¹ • number of buildings relocated or <u>deconstructed</u>¹ • percentage of region by population covered by deconstruction or home relocation <u>requirements</u>¹

	<u>tonnes food rescued to feed people or animals</u>
<u>4. Recycle</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>recycling rate by material category, including the most common non-recyclable items identified</u> • <u>trends in availability of and participation in organics recycling programs</u> • <u>organics contamination rates</u>
<u>5. Recover</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ratio of recycling as a portion of diversion</u>
<u>6. Dispose</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>energy generated (waste-to-energy and Landfill)²</u> • <u>greenhouse gas emissions from disposal facilities²</u>

¹Data on municipal programs and policies will be requested through existing processes, including annual surveys, standard summaries for Metro Vancouver supported repair cafes, and the illegal dumping dashboard

²Metro Vancouver will continue to rely on existing information published by the City of Vancouver to estimate energy generated and greenhouse gas emissions from the Vancouver Landfill

OVERVIEW

Metro Vancouver's Role and Authority

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling, and operating a series of solid waste facilities located around the region. This work is guided by commitment to environmental stewardship, and affordable and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents, innovative businesses, and non-profits across the region, and the programs and services provided by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver operates a series of recycling and waste centres, where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage, and a waste-to-energy facility located in Burnaby. Metro Vancouver works closely with the City of Vancouver, which owns and operates the Vancouver South Transfer Station and Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver leads educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage waste prevention, reduction, reuse and repair, and recycling.

Metro Vancouver (specifically, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District or GVS&DD) is established and operating pursuant to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act (GVS&DD Act). Under the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority, among other things, to enter into agreements, acquire property and assets, finance, design, construct and operate waste disposal facilities, set levies, set solid waste disposal fees, establish reserve funds and borrow in anticipation of revenue. Section 7B of the GVS&DD Act authorizes GVS&DD to set levies payable by generators of waste or by other persons who use the services of a waste hauler.

In addition to the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority under the Environmental Management Act to regulate in relation to the management of municipal solid waste and recycling

material. Section 25 of the Environmental Management Act authorizes Metro Vancouver to require an owner or operator of a site that accepts and manages municipal solid waste to hold a license, and to set terms and conditions for the issuing, suspending, amending or cancelling such license.

Solid waste management plans are authorized and regulated through the Environmental Management Act. Once a waste management plan is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, it becomes a regulatory document. In conjunction with regulations and operational certificates that may apply, a solid waste management plan regulates the operation of waste management facilities.

Plan History

Metro Vancouver's first solid waste management plan dates to 1985, with subsequent updates in 1995 and in 2011.

The 2011 solid waste management plan included key initiatives such as the creation of the National Zero Waste Council, the organics disposal ban, and support for emerging province-wide extended producer responsibility programs for packaging and printed paper. These, and other initiatives, led to a 24% decrease in disposal from 2011 to 2024.

In November 2019 the GVS&DD Board approved initiating an update to the regional solid waste management plan. This updated plan builds on the success of the 2011 solid waste management plan and will guide Metro Vancouver to continue to minimize waste, increase recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a circular economy.

Appendix A includes references to all the solid waste management planning technical reports.

Metro Vancouver staff and its consultants coordinated the planning process, participated directly in the development of technical reports and conducted engagement with interested parties. Metro Vancouver's goal was to ensure broad participation in the planning process. Key participants in the planning process included:

- Zero Waste Committee of the GVS&DD Board: reviewed and/or approved components of the plan and provided direction to staff.
- First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts and advisory committees, including the Solid Waste Management Plan Public / Technical Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee: reviewed information associated with the planning process and provided feedback to staff.
- Interested parties (including specific sectors, non-profit organizations, and the public): participated in consultation opportunities to provide input to the project team.

- [The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation & Engagement Panel: provided advice and feedback on the engagement process, reported to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board at each phase.](#)

Metro Vancouver's Strategic Priorities

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

- Financial Sustainability and Regional Affordability
- Climate Action
- Resilient Services and Infrastructure
- Reconciliation [with First Nations](#)

These strategic priorities guide all of Metro Vancouver's work, including solid waste management. These over-arching strategic priorities, together with the [Solid Waste Management Plan's](#) guiding principles, guide the implementation of the solid waste management plan.

Governance, Roles, and Responsibilities

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including First Nations, [local, provincial, and federal governments](#), the private sector, non-profit organizations, and the public.

First Nations

First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air. This extends to working with all orders of government to advance improvements to solid waste management which can help to protect the health of the environment, and achieve environmental, cultural, spiritual, and economic goals for their communities.

Federal Government

[The federal government regulates in respect to waste management facilities under federal jurisdictions. The federal government also regulates in respect to the environment, which has implications for waste management operations, for example the Landfill Methane Regulation under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Some](#) functions of the federal government can influence solid waste management in Metro Vancouver, including policies and national strategies related to food loss and waste through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, solid waste infrastructure and innovation funding through Infrastructure Canada and Sustainable Development Technology Canada. Statistics Canada.

supports solid waste data collection and reporting, allowing for comparison of certain key performance indicators across the country.

Provincial Government

In BC, the provincial government regulates environment and waste management through the *Environmental Management Act* and associated regulations. The Ministry of Environment and Parks approves solid waste management plans and local government bylaws adopted pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act*. The provincial government is responsible for setting the requirements for extended producer responsibility programs through the *Recycling Regulation under the Environmental Management Act*. Product stewardship programs are a cornerstone of the provincial regulatory framework to promote recycling. The province also aggregates and reports on regional district disposal rates.

Provincial legislation, such as the *Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation under the Environmental Management Act*, creates consistency across the province. Metro Vancouver will continue to work with the provincial government to help explore similar initiatives.

Local Health Authorities

Local health authorities have various interests and responsibilities related to the waste management process. Some regulations in respect to waste management are administered jointly under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Public Health Act*, for example, the *Organic Matter Recycling Regulation*.

Metro Vancouver

In Metro Vancouver, regional solid waste management is provided by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD), a greater board established under the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage Act*. GVS&DD is one of the four entities forming part of "Metro Vancouver", the other entities being Metro Vancouver Regional District, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, and the Greater Vancouver Water District. GVS&DD develops the regional solid waste management plan for the Metro Vancouver geographic area and implements regional actions in the solid waste management plan.

Metro Vancouver's Member Jurisdictions

Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions provide local waste management services and implement municipal actions in the solid waste management plan where feasible. Member municipalities collect garbage and organics from residents and some businesses, either directly or through service agreements with service providers in the region and provide education and outreach in support of these services. Member jurisdictions provide street cleaning, abandoned waste and public realm litter management, and recycling collection services to protect the environment and public. Some member jurisdictions also own and operate recycling depots or organics processing facilities in the region. Member jurisdictions,

have regulatory authority to adopt bylaws that influence requirements for recycling and garbage collection, and for controlling littering.

Waste and Recycling Industry

The waste and recycling industry in Metro Vancouver includes waste, recycling, and organics haulers as well as facility operators and material processors. The industry provides services to all sectors and is involved at every stage of waste management including education, collection and transportation, sorting, and processing of materials. Collaboration with industry is essential, and industry investment and innovation have contributed to the success of waste management and diversion goals in the region.

Producer Responsibility Organizations

Producer responsibility organizations are non-profit organizations that producers engage with to carry out their responsibilities to recycle materials listed in the Recycling Regulation under the Environmental Management Act. For example, RecycleBC is responsible for the collection and recycling of residential packaging and paper products in BC. As such, residential recycling collection in Metro Vancouver is typically provided directly by RecycleBC, or member jurisdictions under contract with RecycleBC.

Businesses and Institutions

Businesses and institutions in Metro Vancouver generate waste, and many also have influence on how products and packaging are designed, manufactured, distributed, and used. Some businesses provide waste reduction or circular economy related goods or services, such as zero waste stores or thrift stores, repair shops, and rental businesses. The region also has several established reuse businesses, and the network continues to grow and evolve. Metro Vancouver businesses that are helping transform our linear economy into a circular one are collaborating with others in their supply chain, strengthening our local economy, demonstrating innovation, building resiliency, and role modeling behavior shifts.

Environmental Non-Profit Organizations

Environmental non-profit organizations also play an integral role in the management of solid waste in Metro Vancouver, specifically with respect to waste reduction, reuse, repair, and recycling. Some organizations facilitate donation and redistribution of materials like textiles or rescued food, while others work on amplifying the voices of underrepresented and equity-denied communities, so their priorities are considered around accessibility, affordability, and availability of services. Others mobilize volunteers to contribute to waste reduction, the circular economy, and a clean public realm, often through programs supported by Metro Vancouver and its members.

Residents

Residents make decisions with respect to the purchase of products and services that contribute to the amount of waste in the region. Residents participate in waste reduction, reuse and repair initiatives, and organics and recycling programs, and are critical in minimizing the amount of contamination in these.

programs. Residents also have a critical role in ensuring materials that are harmful to the environment and public health are not disposed appropriately.

Neighbouring Regional Districts

Outside of the Metro Vancouver geographic area, regional districts typically provide regional solid waste management. Regional districts are federations of municipalities and unincorporated areas, established and operating under the Local Government Act. Materials may flow between regional districts and Metro Vancouver for recycling or disposal. Metro Vancouver works collaboratively with adjacent regional districts to discuss consistency in solid waste management to work toward shared priorities on waste reduction and recycling.

Working Collaboratively with First Nations

Metro Vancouver recognizes and respects the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The governments of Canada and British Columbia have enacted legislation to contribute to the implementation of UNDRIP.

In its preamble, UNDRIP states that “respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.”³

As part of our continued reconciliation efforts, Metro Vancouver is committed to meaningful engagement, dialogue, and collaboration with First Nations on our plans, programs, and projects, as outlined in Metro Vancouver’s Board Strategic Plan, 2022-2026. We also continue to build and strengthen respectful and reciprocal relationships with First Nations, guided by the principles of UNDRIP “as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect.”⁴ Metro Vancouver is working closely with the Province and First Nations to better understand its role in advancing UNDRIP and has engaged with First Nations to understand how to best reflect these principles in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

The provincial *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* provides guidance on developing and renewing solid waste management plans. The guide notes that a First Nations engagement strategy should outline an approach for sharing information and inviting participation in the preparation or review of a solid waste management plan.

The First Nations engagement strategy supporting the development of this Solid Waste Management Plan outlines a collaborative government-to-government engagement approach with First Nations.

³ UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 11

⁴ UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 24

identified as having interests within the Metro Vancouver region⁵, as well as a community engagement approach inviting further dialogue with Indigenous peoples.

Metro Vancouver expresses deep appreciation to the First Nations who contributed their time, insights, and expertise throughout the engagement process to update the solid waste management plan. The conversations and knowledge shared have provided understandings that extend well beyond this plan and will continue to guide Metro Vancouver's work in the years ahead. The solid waste management plan seeks to honour the GVS&DD Board's commitment to reconciliation. The strategies and actions in the plan reflect key themes heard during engagement with First Nations. These themes include:

- Improving access to solid waste programs and services for First Nations communities
- Increasing education and awareness on how to reduce waste and recycle
- Highlighting economic opportunities where possible and considering affordability of services
- Continuing to share solid waste and recycling data to promote transparency and confidence in the solid waste system.
- Focusing on environmental stewardship.
- Encouraging innovation and collaboration.
- Supporting the expansion of extended producer responsibility programs.
- Maintaining high air quality standards and goals for emissions reductions monitoring.
- Committing to meaningful engagement with First Nations on projects and plans that may affect their rights and interests
- Recognizing First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air
- Seeking to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and actively involve First Nations in regional solid waste management.

These and other themes discussed with First Nations have been embedded in the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategies and actions of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver recognizes that all First Nations are unique, and we seek to work with each First Nation to determine

⁵ [Metro Vancouver engages with First Nations whose consultative area overlaps with a project location. A Consultation Area is an area in which a First Nation claims their Aboriginal Rights. There are 34 First Nations with interests in the Metro Vancouver Regional District. First Nations' Consultation Areas can be found using the "Consultative Areas Database," a Provincial mapping tool available to the public.](#)

how best to move forward together. Metro Vancouver looks forward to working in collaboration with First Nations to achieve the goals of the solid waste management plan.

DRAFT

Solid Waste System

The overall system for managing solid waste generated within Metro Vancouver is highly integrated, described as follows.

Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver operate a network of solid waste facilities across the region that offer recycling and reuse drop-off and waste disposal services, as shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4: Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver owns and contracts operation of seven solid waste facilities:

- [Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [Langley Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre](#)
- [Waste-to-Energy Facility](#)

Two facilities are owned and operated by the City of Vancouver:

- [Vancouver Landfill](#)
- [Vancouver South Transfer Station \(including Zero Waste Centre\)](#)

The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres and the Vancouver Transfer Station is to receive a range of recyclables and reusables from residents and businesses delivering those materials in small hand-unloaded vehicles for transfer to processing facilities and end markets, and to receive residential, commercial, and institutional garbage for transfer to disposal. The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill is to dispose of commercial, institutional and residential garbage.

More details on recycling and waste centres are provided in the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach, including information on municipal recycling depots. More details on disposal facilities are provided in the Residuals Management Strategic Approach.

Licensed Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Additional solid waste facilities operating in the region include municipal recycling depots and private solid waste facilities licensed under the GVS&DD Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, 1996, as amended (GVS&DD Bylaw 181). Facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 include recycling, compost, construction and demolition transfer stations, and material recovery facilities. Other facilities exempt from licensing, such as concrete processing facilities, also receive some materials for processing. As of 2026, one private licensed landfill within the region, Ecowaste Landfill, receives the majority of the region's construction and demolition garbage.

More information on facility licensing under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 is provided in the Regulatory Strategic Approach.

Private Sector Organic Materials Processing Facilities

In addition to private facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181, as of 2026, organic materials generated in the region are also managed at:

- Cache Creek Compost Facility, Cache Creek, BC (Provincial Permit 108485)
- Dicklands Biogas Plant, Chilliwack, BC (Provincial Permit 109932)
- Ingerbelle Composting Facility, Princeton, BC (Provincial Permit 110025)
- Net Zero Waste, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Permit 110185)
- Sea to Sky Soils, Pemberton, BC (Provincial Permit 106287)
- Surrey Biofuel Facility, Surrey, BC (Provincial Operational Certificate 108541)
- The Answer Garden Products, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Authorization 105492)

Remote Landfill Disposal

Metro Vancouver contracts for remote landfill disposal through procurement processes. As of 2026, garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills including Campbell Hill Landfill in Cache Creek, BC, the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Roosevelt, Washington, and the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon. Garbage is delivered to these remote landfills as part of contingency landfill services agreements via trucking or a combination of trucking and rail haul.

Some private licensed facilities and waste haulers send construction and demolition garbage to remote landfills. Metro Vancouver has no jurisdiction for these landfills.

Closed Landfills in Metro Vancouver

A series of historic closed municipal solid waste landfills are located across the region. The landfill owners are responsible for managing environmental impacts of these landfills. Strategy 6.5 within this plan includes actions Metro Vancouver will take regarding closed landfills in the region.

Example circumstances for potential expansion of solid waste services provided by Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is committed to encouraging private sector solutions to increase waste reduction and recycling in the region. Expansion of recycling and reuse drop-off services at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities is expected to be primarily for the purpose of expanding services for customers delivering loads in small vehicles. Metro Vancouver may consider further expansion of services in some circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Instances when private sector solutions may not be sufficient or adequate due to limited market participants, market disruptions, gaps, or failures, particularly in relation to services provided to member jurisdictions.
- Changes to extended producer responsibility regulations that may impact the ability of the private sector to provide sufficient or adequate service.
- Supply chain impacts, including temporary disruptions to facility access or use due to extreme weather or other unplanned events.
- Opportunities for cost savings by co-locating services at Metro Vancouver facilities.
- Pilot studies evaluating the feasibility of collecting and processing recyclable materials which currently do not have a viable market.

Composition of Regional Waste Disposed Over Time

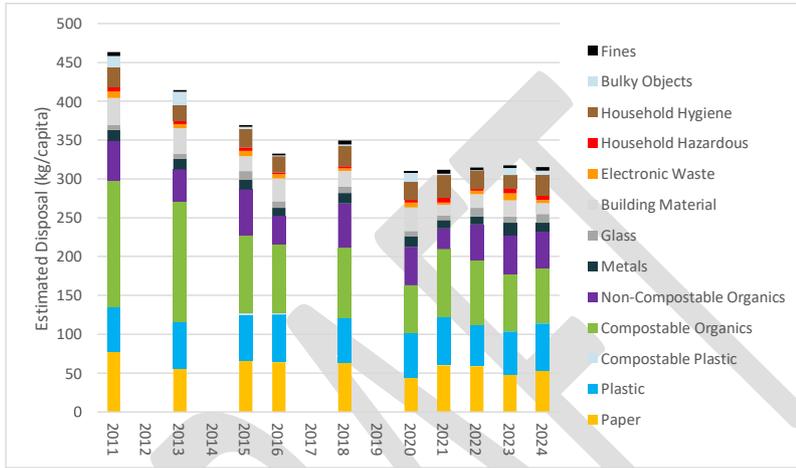


Figure 5: Waste Composition Over Time

As part of the process to update the solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver reviewed progress since the previous 2011 [solid waste management plan](#) was [approved](#), including trends in waste composition (Figure 5), disposal, and recycling and waste generation data, to identify key issues and opportunities. 2024 will serve as the baseline year from which to assess future progress.

Circular Economy

The concept of a circular economy is embedded in this solid waste management plan and particularly as part of Goal 1: Enable Circular Systems. Strategies and actions under this goal aim to rethink solid waste management to shift toward a system in line with the plan's vision: *a thriving region where resources are valued and nothing is wasted*.

A circular economy is an alternative to the linear economy (make, use, dispose) and is restorative and regenerative by intention and design. Transitioning toward a circular economy means designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

The concept of a circular economy has gained momentum since the first Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication in 2012 which presented the circular economy as an opportunity for significant sustainable economic growth, creating jobs, increasing resilience, and fostering innovation while reducing [waste and greenhouse gas emissions](#). Moving toward a circular economy is a crucial step to addressing the impacts of climate change and has the potential to significantly reduce global emissions related to the products we create and consume.⁶ [The Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched the butterfly diagram based on Braungaut & McDonough Cradle to Cradle](#), which presented strategies for technical and biological cycles (Figure 6). It presented three guiding principles:

1. **Eliminating waste and pollution:** developing effective systems that minimize the volume of waste that ends in landfills and negative externalities.
2. **Circulating products and materials at their highest value:** enhancing the usefulness of products, components and materials, and keeping them circulating in the economy.
3. **Regenerating Nature:** preserving natural capital, promoting the effective use of finite resources, and balancing the use of renewable resources.

⁶ [Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change \(2019\)](#).

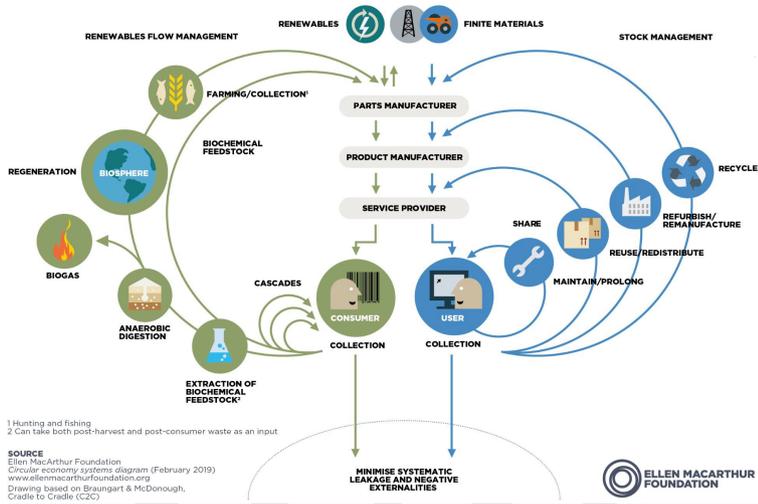


Figure 6 The Ellen MacArthur Butterfly Diagram

Waste Prevention and Advocacy

Waste prevention consists of actions that prevent or reduce waste from being created in the first place. Recycling is not waste prevention. While recycling is important, it is an activity that occurs after a product or material is used or consumed. The linear economy has created a system where decisions made in the early stages of a product's lifecycle (e.g. during the design, manufacturing, and packaging stages) are disconnected from the cost and challenges of managing those materials at end-of-life.

A focused effort to prevent the creation of waste will mean fewer natural resources are extracted and less energy is used in the production, distribution, and consumption of products. It also means that less spending, public or private, will be needed for recycling and disposal programs. Waste prevention provides many opportunities to create jobs and grow a low-carbon economy while mitigating pollution including greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste prevention efforts [and transitioning to a circular economy](#) require systemic change, which Metro Vancouver cannot achieve alone. Progress depends on collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, including governments, national agencies, and organizations, along with strong, coordinated advocacy to provincial and federal governments.

The National Zero Waste Council was developed following the approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan to support success in waste prevention. The work of the council emphasizes circularity as a solutions framework and seeks cross-jurisdiction and cross-sector approaches to reducing waste through changes in design and behaviour. Finding solutions to waste prevention requires knowledge-building, knowledge-sharing, collaboration, advocacy, and implementing system changes at scales ranging from local to national and beyond.

The User-Pay Principle

The user-pay principle is a core element of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver's solid waste system is primarily funded through tipping fees, which is consistent with the user-pay principle in that generators of waste fund the cost of managing the waste proportional to the amount of waste they generate. Metro Vancouver's variable tipping fee model aligns with the cost of managing different sized loads.

Metro Vancouver's generator levy is an extension of the user-pay principle. Through the generator levy, all generators of waste contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, regardless of where they choose to dispose of that waste. The generator levy is embedded in the tipping fee at Metro Vancouver facilities and supports a reliable and resilient waste and recycling system that benefits all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region.

Many successful waste prevention initiatives are based on the user-pay principle, where waste generators are held financially accountable for the waste they produce. This principle extends to the concept of extended producer responsibility, where producers are responsible for the products they create, and to residents and businesses that pay the generator levy and tipping fees to dispose of garbage but can drop-off many reusable and recyclable materials at no cost. This plan advocates for continued alignment with user pay principles through enhancement of extended producer responsibility programs, while continuing to consider affordability in how actions are implemented.

Scope of the Plan

The plan covers actions that Metro Vancouver, often in collaboration with its members or other organizations, can undertake to further advance waste prevention, reduce greenhouse gases, transition to a circular economy, and responsibly manage materials that are left over, in accordance with the plan's vision, principles, waste hierarchy and goals. This includes strategies for advocacy efforts to rethink the system, outreach and education, implementation or expansion of programs and policies, and services at Metro Vancouver facilities. The plan contemplates strategic priorities for regulation and recycling and waste centre development, as well as technical criteria for assessing residual management options as a framework for future decision making in those areas.

Actions in the plan focus on municipal solid waste: discarded solid material that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources. Waste from

agricultural and industrial sources is out of scope for this plan; however, waste prevention efforts may extend to these sectors.

The plan applies to the geographic area of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, including Belcarra, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and scəwəθən məsteyəx™ (Tsawwassen First Nation), which are not member jurisdictions of the GVS&DD. Figure 7 shows the boundaries of the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

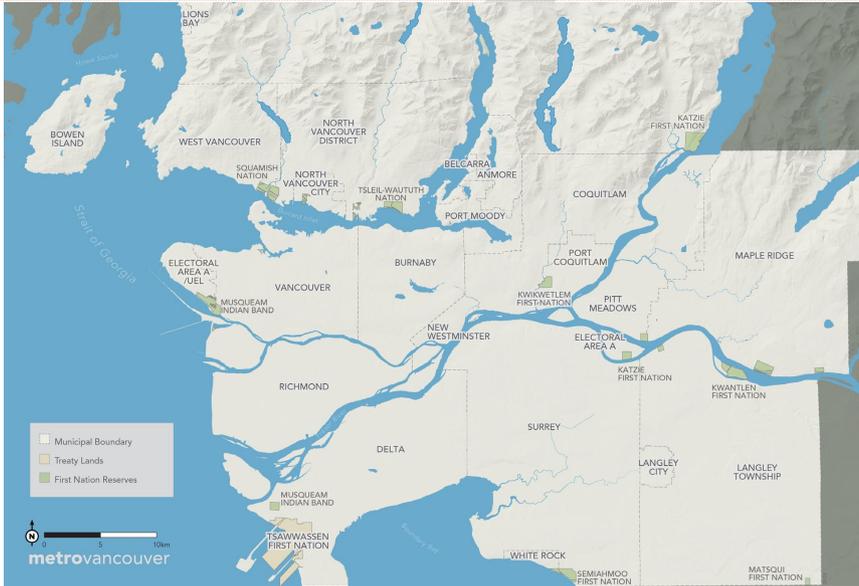


Figure 7 Metro Vancouver Regional District

Alignment and Linkages

Alignment with International Initiatives

All United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁷ in 2015, including 17 sustainable development goals. Although solid waste management is linked to several of these goals, the strongest alignment is with Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. This goal aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and has twelve associated targets. The United Nations sustainable development targets most closely linked with this plan are described in Table 3.

Table 3 Linkages between UN Sustainable Development Targets and the Solid Waste Management Plan

<u>UN Sustainable Development Target</u>	<u>Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan</u>
<u>12.3 By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses</u>	<u>Preventing food waste is a key focus area of the plan. By maximizing food waste reduction and other target materials, Metro Vancouver aims to reduce overall waste generation by 10% by 2036. Strategy 1.4 also looks at ways to better track progress towards a circular economy including better data for food waste.</u>
<u>12.5 By 2030 substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse</u>	<u>The solid waste management plan prioritizes waste prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling as outlined in the waste hierarchy.</u>

Alignment with National Initiatives

Various aspects of Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan align with national initiatives. For example, under the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2022-2026, Environment and Climate Change Canada has outlined indicators and associated targets to achieve the Goal 12: "Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles". Table 4 identifies two related Environment and Climate Change Canada targets, and comments on how Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan will help meet those targets.

⁷United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

Table 4. Alignments and Linkages Between Federal Targets and Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada Target	Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan
<u>Zero plastic waste by 2030</u>	The updated solid waste management plan outlines efforts to continue Metro Vancouver's ongoing work to reduce <u>plastic waste</u> , which is supported by a robust provincial regulatory framework and efforts by member jurisdictions. <u>Metro Vancouver aims to reduce the disposal of all materials by 50% by 2050, with plastic identified as a priority area.</u>
Reduce the amount of waste Canadians send to disposal from a baseline of 699 kilograms per person in 2014 to 490 kilograms per person by 2030 (a 30% reduction); and to 350 kilograms per person by 2040 (a 50% reduction).	Metro Vancouver's per capita disposal target is <u>300 kg per person by 2036, compared to a provincial target of 350 kg per person.</u>

Alignment with Provincial Initiatives

This plan was completed in accordance with the provincial document, *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and as required by the *Environmental Management Act*. One of Metro Vancouver's targets is to reduce per capita disposal to 300 kg per person by 2036, which is less than the provincial target of 350 kg per person.

Metro Vancouver's hierarchy aligns with the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, with some exceptions:

- "Rethink" has been added as an additional tier above "Reduce" in response to feedback received on including a strong circular economy and waste prevention focus.
- "Recover" includes all material used as an alternative fuel, and does not include mass burn waste-to-energy, reflecting that mass burn waste-to-energy is defined as a disposal method to manage residual garbage, similar to landfilling.
- "Dispose" replaces "Residuals Management" and includes both landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy.

Metro Vancouver's guiding principles complement the provincial principles in *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and were developed based on the unique characteristics and conditions of the region. Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement, and are consistent with Metro Vancouver's overall organizational strategic priorities.

Alignment with other Metro Vancouver plans

There is interdependence between the goals, strategies, and actions in this plan and those in other regional plans.

Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026) – [The Board Strategic Plan](#) provides a framework for regional decision-making, setting goals and priorities across service areas like utilities, planning, and environment, to guide staff, ensure sustainable growth, and foster a livable, resilient region for current and future generations.

Clean Air Plan (2021) – The Clean Air Plan is Metro Vancouver’s plan for reducing air contaminant emissions and managing air quality. The Clean Air Plan includes key actions to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this region, in pursuit of 2030 emissions targets. It also includes actions to reduce health harming air contaminants, as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to shift to zero carbon district energy systems, accelerate the transition to lower embodied emissions in buildings, accelerate emission reductions from industrial facilities, and implement leading management practices to continually improve regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate 2050 (2019) – Climate 2050 is a long-term region-wide strategy to guide the region toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future by 2050, with actions for all orders of government and other agencies. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate impacts through specific roadmaps for areas like energy, transport, buildings, nature, and health, aiming for carbon neutrality and protecting ecosystems.

The *Climate 2050 Solid Waste Primer* was developed to provide a linkage between the [Climate 2050 Strategic Framework](#) and the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#). It provides an overview of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions from disposal of solid waste generated in the Metro Vancouver region since 2010 and offers a summary of actions taken to date to reduce climate impacts and offset over 35 per cent of annual emissions related to solid waste disposal by 2050. Future actions to reduce and offset emissions from solid waste disposal are not included in the primer but instead are identified within this solid waste management plan with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality for solid waste disposal by 2050.

Metro 2050 (2022) – Metro 2050 is the region’s vision for how growth will be managed to support the creation of complete, connected, and resilient communities, while protecting important lands and supporting the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities. Linkages with the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) include a strategy to advance land use, infrastructure, and human settlement patterns that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, create carbon storage opportunities, and improve air quality.

Liquid Waste Management Plan (2026) – Metro Vancouver’s [Liquid Waste Management Plan](#) (provincial approval pending at the time of writing [the Solid Waste Management Plan](#)) includes community-specific solutions for Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions to manage wastewater and rainwater, and

to address growing pressures in the region, while protecting public health and the environment. Key linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to diversify options for biosolids and implement proven resource recovery technologies.

Regional Food Systems Strategy (2011) – Metro Vancouver’s Regional Food Systems Strategy supports a collaborative approach to creating a sustainable, resilient, and healthy food system that contributes to the well-being of all residents, the economic prosperity of the region, and the conservation of our ecological legacy. The Regional Food System Strategy has key intersections with the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) with respect to food waste prevention and food recovery.

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The following strategies and actions are specific initiatives to be pursued to achieve the goals and targets of the solid waste management plan. They are organized according to the waste hierarchy, and reflect the themes and priorities heard from residents and businesses across the region.

Strategies and actions were selected based on research, engagement feedback, and a third-party assessment of options based on economic, environmental and social impacts including:

- [Affordability](#)
- [Economic prosperity](#)
- [Innovation](#)
- [Circularity](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Waste reduction](#)
- [Greenhouse gas reduction](#)
- [Environmental stewardship](#)
- [Inclusion](#)
- [Convenience](#)
- [Community participation](#)
- [Supporting waste prevention habits and actions](#)

A list of approximately 200 action options was discussed with interested parties during the options analysis phase of the plan update. Participants provided feedback on options, which contributed to their consolidation and refinement of action into the strategies and actions presented in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

Disposal actions were not included in the initial list of action options, but were developed collaboratively with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta and presented for feedback during engagement on the initial draft plan.

Member Jurisdiction Actions

Metro Vancouver’s member jurisdictions have an important role to play in accomplishing the goals of the solid waste management plan. While each member has unique goals and priorities reflecting their own community the strategies and actions include opportunities for Metro Vancouver and members to collaborate. Member jurisdiction actions presented in the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements. [Many other actions not specifically presented as member jurisdiction actions can be amplified and improved through the support and input of members, including education and outreach, advocacy, and program pilots.](#)

Goal 1: Rethink

To meet the region’s ambitious waste reduction goals, systemic change is needed through a broad shift toward a circular economy that conserves resources by keeping them in use longer and eliminates unnecessary or problematic products and packaging that cannot be reused or recycled. Achieving this transformation will require new circular policies, designs, and business models. Metro Vancouver will act as a catalyst for this transition by implementing the following strategies:

STRATEGY 1.1

Advocate for circular economy policies and programs

To enable a systems level shift from a linear to a circular economy, policy leadership from senior levels of government is essential. A consistent set of policies and programs will allow the business community to create innovative and circular waste prevention solutions. Priority areas for advocacy include food systems, the built environment, durable and repairable consumer goods, data collection, and reducing short-lived or unnecessary products and packaging – especially plastics. Metro Vancouver will work to align with international efforts and join voices with local governments and business leaders across Canada to amplify the message that circular policies are urgently needed to transition away from the current take-make-dispose economy.

1.1.

- 1.1.1. Advocate for incentives and funding programs for key circular activities:
 - 1.1.1.1. Circular built environment solutions such as design for disassembly, buildings as material banks, and incorporation of used building materials for new construction.
 - 1.1.1.2. Low-waste local food production such as vertical farms, gleaning, food remanufacturing, and industrial symbiosis opportunities.
 - 1.1.1.3. Circular products and services.
- 1.1.2. Advocate for the phase-in of regulations that eliminate unnecessary, problematic, non-recyclable products and packaging.
- 1.1.3. Work with municipalities and regions across Canada to develop and advocate for implementation of priority circular economy policies.
- 1.1.4. Advocate for policies and programs to improve:
 - 1.1.4.1. Circular built environment solutions.

- 1.1.4.2. Circular food systems.
- 1.1.4.3. Circular products and services.

STRATEGY 1.2

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

To support the transition to a more circular regional economy, Metro Vancouver will draw on the circular innovation potential of regional businesses by connecting them with the resources and expertise they need to decouple their growth from waste, reduce their supply chain risk and carbon impacts, and keep valuable materials in circulation for longer.

1.2.

- 1.2.1. Lead by example by integrating additional waste prevention policy and programs within Metro Vancouver's corporate operations and share learnings with other jurisdictions.
- 1.2.2. Work with economic development agencies to:
 - 1.2.2.1. Identify and implement circular business opportunities.
 - 1.2.2.2. Co-develop industry-supported targets and standardized methods of tracking waste prevention performance by business type.
 - 1.2.2.3. Develop a recognition program to celebrate businesses in the region leading the adoption of new circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.2.4. Increase low barrier employment opportunities that support a circular economy.
- 1.2.3. Increase circular economy curriculum and training
 - 1.2.3.1. Embed circular economy into professional development.
 - 1.2.3.2. Improve circular economy education in schools through field trips, hands-on learning, and co-developed innovative approaches.
- 1.2.4. Work with trade schools, industry associations, practice leaders, and senior government to identify and implement solutions to fill skills training gaps required to:
 - 1.2.4.1. Scale circular food systems.
 - 1.2.4.2. Rethink approaches to a circular built environment, such as design for disassembly.
 - 1.2.4.3. Equip small and medium-sized enterprises with practical guidance to operationalize circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.4.4. Improve access to circular products and services including reuse and repair.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 1.2.5. Develop test and share consistent approaches for tracking progress on circular policies and programs.
- 1.2.6. Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services.

STRATEGY 1.3

Collaborate to advance a circular economy

Moving away from a linear economy to one that is circular requires a shift in mindset and a commitment to systems level change. This transformation also requires leadership by, and collaboration between, government, business, and non-governmental organizations. Metro Vancouver will help facilitate this work through a national platform for shared learning, collaboration, and leadership.

1.3.

- 1.3.1. Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention.
- 1.3.2. Collaborate with external groups to identify and implement new circular economy initiatives in the community.
- 1.3.3. Work with national waste reduction and circular economy organizations to learn and share circular practices with a focus on the following priority areas, and others as they emerge:
 - 1.3.3.1. Textiles
 - 1.3.3.2. Procurement
 - 1.3.3.3. Cities
 - 1.3.3.4. The built environment
 - 1.3.3.5. Plastics
- 1.3.4. Collaborate on research projects and pilots to further advance waste reduction and a circular economy, and share the findings broadly.
 - 1.3.4.1. Collaborate with governments and industry to develop digital tools that map how buildings are constructed and what materials they contain, enabling better tracking and forecasting of used building materials for reuse.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 1.3.5 Develop, test and share circular procurement approaches, tools and templates.

STRATEGY 1.4

Collect and share data to track progress toward a circular economy

Clear and consistent reporting frameworks and metrics are vital for advancing the circular economy. They provide data to measure and track progress, help inform decisions, and demonstrate the value of circular business models. Metro Vancouver will work across sectors to help develop and share best practices and results to enable a shared understanding of circular economic progress.

1.4.

- 1.4.1. Work toward annual solid waste management reporting by material type and sector on all levels of the waste hierarchy, starting with organics, wood, and textiles.
 - 1.4.1.1. Pursue comprehensive materials flows for key sectors every 5-10 years to better track progress toward keeping materials in circulation for longer.
- 1.4.2. Continue to develop and improve key performance indicators to track progress on circular economy through rethinking and reducing waste.

- 1.4.3. Develop methods for estimating and reporting environmental and economic benefits for waste prevention actions such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (potentially including embodied carbon), potential cost savings, affordability, and life-cycle impacts.
- 1.4.4. Implement new data collection technology.
- 1.4.5. Strengthen waste composition data to improve actionable insights.
- 1.4.6 Research and pilot ways to measure success of collaborations.
- 1.4.7 Explore ways to measure diversity, equity, and inclusion in solid waste data starting with current practices and gaps.

Goal 2: Reduce

STRATEGY 2.1

Collaborate with businesses and institutions to reduce waste at the source

Businesses deliver products and services that meet the daily needs of Metro Vancouver residents. Metro Vancouver will work with businesses and institutions to reduce waste, starting with the construction, demolition, textiles, and hospitality sectors.

2.1.

- 2.1.1. Collaborate with the construction and demolition sector to develop solutions for waste reduction that can be implemented at the regional level:
 - 2.1.1.1. Co-host events with the construction and demolition industry, housing and development sectors, and member jurisdictions to help build awareness, share success stories and workshop solutions to reduce waste.
 - 2.1.1.2. Update the Metro Vancouver Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Toolkit starting with refreshed case studies that follow a format developed collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions.
- 2.1.2. Research, summarize and action the challenges and opportunities related to reducing construction and demolition waste.
- 2.1.3. Collaborate with the textiles sector on solutions for textile waste reduction, such as resale and repair programs, and circular textiles designs.
- 2.1.4. Support reduction of waste from business with practical tools and education:
 - 2.1.4.1. Co-develop education tools with business leaders and associations to help businesses reduce waste, motivate customers to participate, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.
 - 2.1.4.2. Increase in-person education where businesses and others can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.
- 2.1.5. Host forums with large generators of waste to co-develop and implement waste reduction solutions.
- 2.1.6 Work with high waste generation sectors to develop, promote and implement circular procurement tools and templates.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 2.1.7. Develop, test and share approaches to further measures and reduce commercial and institutional waste.
- 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.

STRATEGY 2.2

Encourage residents to reduce and prevent waste

Many materials and products in British Columbia can be recycled, which has contributed to Metro Vancouver's North American leading recycling rate. However, to achieve the waste reduction goals outlined in this plan, we need to go beyond recycling and focus on preventing waste before it is created. Everyday waste prevention habits make a big difference. Metro Vancouver will encourage residents to prevent waste by implementing the following actions:

2.2.

- 2.2.1. Increase in-person education where residents can talk directly with wastereduction educators.
- 2.2.2. Educate residents on affordable everyday waste prevention actions, measure and communicate the estimated impact, and celebrate high performers.
- 2.2.3. Expand education tools to help residents of multi-family buildings to reduce waste, increase participation, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.

STRATEGY 2.3

Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives for the commercial and institutional sectors

Food production requires significant resources — land, water, and energy — and often involves long-distance transportation before reaching local stores, restaurants, and businesses. Yet much of this food is still wasted. Through the actions below, Metro Vancouver will support residents and businesses to reduce the amount of food that is wasted. This will help reduce waste locally and decrease the global environmental impacts associated with food loss from food production.

2.3.

- 2.3.1. Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.
- 2.3.2. Pilot and scale up initiatives to support food waste prevention practices and share learnings with the hospitality and entertainment sectors, post-secondary institutions, healthcare facilities, large-scale catering operations, and food distributors.

Goal 3: Reuse

STRATEGY 3.1

Support consistent approaches to reuse

Consistent approaches to government reuse policies and programs can reduce confusion for residents, improve efficiency for businesses, and help enable widespread adoption. Metro Vancouver will play a convening role to develop, test, and share guidance to help align programs and policies across the region for reusable food service ware and salvaged building materials;

3.1.

- 3.1.1. Advocate for the phase in of reusable food service ware requirements for non-residential sectors.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 3.1.2. Develop, test and share improved tools and approaches for house relocation and deconstruction programs and policies including data review.
- 3.1.3. Update the regionally harmonized approach to reducing single-use items and phasing in reuse measures.

STRATEGY 3.2

Enhance extended producer responsibility programs.

Since the development of extended producer responsibility programs in British Columbia, Metro Vancouver has supported shifting recycling, reuse, and repair responsibilities to producers while advocating for continued expansion to include more sectors and material types. Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in discussions with the province, producer responsibility organizations, and member jurisdictions to build on the success of these programs. These actions focus on the role of extended producer responsibility programs in advancing waste reduction and recycling and their potential to facilitate the implementation of reuse and repair systems.

3.2.

- 3.2.1. Identify and advocate for additional products to be added to extended producer responsibility programs such as mattresses, textiles, household furniture, and packaging from sectors such as care homes and schools with similar materials to residential recycling programs.
- 3.2.2. Advocate for accelerated implementation of residential collection of an expanded suite of materials including flexible plastics and foam.

- 3.2.3. Advocate for consistent extended producer responsibility programs across Canada.

3.2.4. Participate in extended producer responsibility program engagements and advocate for;

- 3.2.4.1. Improvements to existing programs and the implementation of new programs.
- 3.2.4.2. Increased financial incentives for local government to participate in collection of extended producer responsibility programs materials for programs where local governments are not getting full cost recovery.
- 3.2.4.3. Expansion of residential-only packaging drop-off programs to small businesses.

- 3.2.4.4. The inclusion of reuse and repair in extended producer responsibility programs,
- 3.2.4.5. Expansion of recycling drop-off options for products, including retail and mobile options to improve convenience and accessibility.
- 3.2.4.6. programs that reduce barriers for recycling large items.
- 3.2.5. Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to enhance data sharing, enabling better insights, greater transparency, and progress toward shared waste prevention and recycling goals

STRATEGY 3.3

Increase reuse of used building materials

To accommodate a growing region, more single-family homes are being replaced with higher density housing. As a result, construction and demolition waste - already a significant portion of the region's waste - is expected to continue to grow. Salvage and reuse of building materials can support affordability and reduce the strain on disposal capacity from increased densification of the housing stock. Building relocation, salvage, and reuse of building materials remains relatively uncommon. Metro Vancouver will work to increase these activities through the following actions:

3.3.

- 3.3.1. Advocate to increase the use of used building materials in new projects.
- 3.3.2. Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to:
 - 3.3.2.1. Prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use.
 - 3.3.2.2. Expand the reach and use of a more contractor- and designer-friendly marketplaces for salvaged construction and demolition materials.
 - 3.3.2.3. Motivate residents to incorporate more used building materials into their home renovation projects.
- 3.3.3. Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to:
 - 3.3.3.1. Increase reuse of building materials.
 - 3.3.3.2. Research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building material resale.

STRATEGY 3.4

Work with businesses, institutions and event organizers

The public's ability to reduce waste often depends on the choices made by businesses, institutions, and event organizers — many of which increasingly rely on single-use products and packaging. In the hospitality and entertainment sectors, items such as disposable cups, containers, utensils, and food accessories are used briefly before being disposed or recycled. For electronics and appliances, repair can be costly or difficult to navigate. Metro Vancouver will work collaboratively with other levels of government, event organizers, businesses, and institutions to expand reuse, repair, and refill options that are convenient, affordable, and easy for residents to participate in.

3.4.

- 3.4.1. Advocate for funding for the expansion and development of reuse and repair infrastructure such as borrowing of items and products at public libraries, refill at retail, packaging reuse systems, furniture reuse, and a community reuse options database.
- 3.4.2. Seek approval to establish a business funding program to support the transition to reuse, refill, repair.
- 3.4.3. Collaborate with event organizers, event venues, and institutions to implement reusable food service ware, bag reuse programs, and food recovery.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 3.4.4. 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.

STRATEGY 3.5

Increase access to and foster the broad adoption of reuse, refill and repair. *Sharing and repairing are already happening in a grassroots capacity through community fridges, repair cafés, thrift and vintage stores, buy-nothing groups, and lending libraries. However, access and reliability of these options vary across the region. Metro Vancouver will work to expand these opportunities and make it easier for residents to access reliable reuse, refill, and repair options through the following actions:*

3.5.

- 3.5.1. Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.
- 3.5.2. Work collaboratively with food recovery and product reuse organizations to develop a where to reuse, refill, repair data set that can be displayed in universally accessible maps.
- 3.5.3. Accelerate adoption of donation collection options for reusable items such as clothing and books in multi-family buildings.
- 3.5.4. Research and implement additional ways to scale reuse and repair.
 - 3.5.4.1. Support community-based waste reduction and reuse programs for schools, non-profits organizations and community groups.
 - 3.5.4.2. Expand and improve convenience of online and in-person second-hand marketplaces.
 - 3.5.4.3. Facilitate expansion of community-based solutions like community share fridges and buy-nothing groups.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 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.

STRATEGY 3.6

Scale up efforts to recover food

Some businesses and organizations in the region produce surplus food, while others receive donated food to support those who are experiencing food insecurity. Surplus food can also be turned into food products for human and animal consumption. Developing efficient ways to connect those with surplus food to those who need food can reduce waste and help address food insecurity. Metro Vancouver will strengthen and expand the regional food recovery network to help ensure food is put to its highest best use.

3.6.

- 3.6.1. Maintain and scale a regional food recovery network.
 - 3.6.1.1. Further map out food recovery assets/food waste solutions for each stage of the food supply chain, including a focus on clarifying what foods can be donated to people and animals.
 - 3.6.1.2. Work toward developing a complete set of food recovery data for the region and consider incentives to encourage reporting.
 - 3.6.1.3. Continue to share results of food recovery network initiatives across Metro Vancouver to foster cross-department collaboration on food security and waste reduction.
- 3.6.2. Work with industry experts and food related sectors to develop a practical guide to measuring and reporting food waste reduction efforts to facilitate development of a complete set of regional food recovery data.

STRATEGY 3.7

Celebrate residents and businesses that prioritize reuse and refill and encourage more residents to participate in these activities

Early adopters who prioritize reuse and refill can help normalize these practices for the general population. Metro Vancouver will support the shift toward reuse and refill by celebrating leaders in reuse and refill, and encouraging more residents to participate through the following actions:

3.7.

- 3.7.1. Develop waste prevention and reuse programs and education targeting specific sectors that may be unfamiliar with regional waste reduction practices such as newcomers and tourists.
- 3.7.2. Promote the use of reusable items such as cups and bags, incorporating co-developed messaging that resonates with a diverse audience.

Goal 4: Recycle

Make it easier to recycle effectively.

When products and materials are no longer suitable for reuse, recycling is the preferred option. The Metro Vancouver region has made significant progress in recycling, and separation of recyclables, including organics, is now common practice. Despite this success, recycling faces unique challenges through new and changing material types, shifting markets, contamination, and a decrease in public trust. Metro Vancouver aims to address these barriers through the strategies and actions below, making

it easier for residents and businesses to recycle in a way that maximizes benefits while reducing contamination.

STRATEGY 4.1

Promote design for recyclability and the use of recycled content in products and packaging.

Effective recycling depends on the presence of robust markets for recycled material, and those markets need both a steady supply of material that can reliably be recycled and strong demand for products and packaging containing recycled content. Although the marketing of recyclable commodities is traditionally managed by producer responsibility organizations or the private sector, Metro Vancouver and its members can help play a role by incorporating recycled material such as compost, recycled concrete, and recycled asphalt in their own operations and projects, as well as through strategic partnerships with organizations working to increase recycled content in consumer materials and products.

4.

4.1.

4.1.1. Work to improve the recyclability of products and packaging and incorporate recycled content.

4.1.1.1. Work with national plastics waste reduction organizations to understand barriers and advocate for increased recycled content in plastic products and packaging.

4.1.1.2. Research and advocate for improvements to the recyclability or phase out of multi-material products including coffee cups.

4.1.1.3. Enhance partnerships with the provincial government, industry, academia, and community groups to research, develop and share solutions.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.1.2. Work with engineering design and construction organizations to include recycled asphalt and concrete in roads, fill, and other applications.

4.1.3. Develop, test, and share educational materials, procurement tools and templates for recycled products including asphalt, concrete, and compost.

STRATEGY 4.2

Encourage the development of new recycling infrastructure

Recycling depends on facilities to sort materials into marketable commodities and to process those commodities into new products. As actions in this plan help to increase the amount and types of material recycled, Metro Vancouver can continue to work with its members and the private sector to help ensure that collection and processing capacity keeps pace. Ongoing conversations will ensure the region can accommodate the growing volume of recyclables.

4.2.

4.2.1. Convene recycling industry with the goal to maintain and increase recycling infrastructure that services the region.

- 4.2.1.1. Reduce barriers for siting of private sector recycling activities.
- 4.2.2. Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management.
- 4.2.3. Advocate for funding programs to help scale recycling infrastructure and innovation for challenging materials such as food for remanufacturing, anaerobic digestion feedstock, wood waste, and plastic-lined paper products.

STRATEGY 4.3

Improve participation in green bin programs and alternatives for residents, businesses and institutions

Since Metro Vancouver's organic disposal ban came into effect in 2015, residents and businesses have made significant progress in diverting food scraps and yard trimmings from disposal. However, compostable organics remain the largest component of the waste stream and not all residents and businesses participate in green bin programs. Metro Vancouver will aim to improve participation through the actions outlined under this strategy.

4.3.

- 4.3.1. Research technology options and support pilot programs to improve organics recycling in the commercial and institutional sectors.
- 4.3.2. Work collaboratively with the solid waste and recycling industry to increase participation and reduce contamination in organics programs focusing on sectors with the lowest participation rates and highest contamination rates.
- 4.3.3. Continue to provide tools and tips to residents to reduce green bin related concerns such as odours and cleanliness.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.3.4. Promote and provide education on worm bins, home composting, proper use of green bins, and use of compost products.

STRATEGY 4.4

Make recycling easier by improving convenience.

To make recycling easier for residents and businesses, options for recycling should be widely available. Homes, recycling depots, and public spaces are three areas where Metro Vancouver and its members can help provide better, more convenient access to recycling services.

4.4.

- 4.4.1. Work with businesses, recycling depot operators, and producer responsibility organizations to improve consistency of recycling collection.
- 4.4.2. Improve access to textile donation and recycling collection services.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 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.
- 4.4.4. Advocate for, test, and share consistent approaches to improve public space waste reduction and recycling.

STRATEGY 4.5

Make recycling more effective by simplifying sorting.

Recycling is most effective when the materials are placed in the correct receptacles since this reduces contamination and results in more efficient processing. Clear and consistent instructions, effective signage, and accessible information can help simplify recycling sorting to improve recycling outcomes.

4.5.

- 4.5.1. **Develop** of a signage standard and customizable signage creation tool in collaboration with producer responsibility organizations.
- 4.5.2. **Assess and pilot** digital tools that allow users to scan waste items receive clear, multilingual instructions on options for reuse, repair, recycling, or disposal.
- 4.5.3. Centralize and improve awareness of recycling information and resources.

STRATEGY 4.6

Provide tailored recycling education for the residential, commercial and institutional sectors

*Metro Vancouver has one of the highest recycling rates in North America thanks to the efforts of residents and businesses. However, survey data indicates that some recyclers – especially in multi-family buildings, commercial and institutional settings – are unsure about how to handle certain packaging and products. Metro Vancouver aims to improve recycling accuracy, consistency, and participation by providing resources **designed** for different sectors and recyclers.*

4.6.

- 4.6.1. Provide tailored education to businesses by:
 - 4.6.1.1. Developing practical online resources for specific business types.
 - 4.6.1.2. Working on understanding recycling data and challenges in specific sectors including events, film, tourism, food service, and health care.
 - 4.6.1.3. Hosting industry specific dialogues to better understand and co-solve recycling and waste prevention challenges.
- 4.6.2. Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to support tailored education for multi-family.
- 4.6.3. Research and test technologies and share approaches to providing tailored public education on proper residential recyclables sorting.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.6.4 Improve the reach of behaviour change campaigns by amplifying messaging through member jurisdiction public communications.

STRATEGY 4.7

Increase transparency of what happens to materials from recycling and green bin programs.

Transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling is a guiding principle for this plan, since transparency helps build confidence that materials are recycled. Metro Vancouver will work to provide more information about where materials end up and make it easier for residents and businesses to access this information.

4.7.

- 4.7.1. Organize tours of recycling and organics facilities so that residents can see what happens to their materials.
- 4.7.2. Show where recycling goes and how it's processed to provide more transparency about the recycling system.
- 4.7.3. Add information about what happens to recyclable materials in online recycling database/search tools.

STRATEGY 4.8

Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program.

At Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities, loads are inspected for materials banned from disposal such as recyclables. Surcharges apply if these banned materials are found. The disposal ban program helps encourage separation of recyclables by creating a financial disincentive for disposing of banned materials. By strengthening this program Metro Vancouver can keep more recyclable material out of the garbage.

4.8.

- 4.8.1. Pursue options to enhance disposal ban inspection efficacy such as innovative detection technologies and clear bags policies.
- 4.8.2. Create incentives for waste and recycling collectors to work with their customers to adopt additional recycling services and reduce waste.
- 4.8.3. Review and expand materials included in Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program when viable markets exist.
- 4.8.4 Business case increasing the number of disposal ban inspections at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities.

STRATEGY 4.9

Identify recycling opportunities for common litter and illegal dumping items

Litter and illegal dumping impact the environment and wildlife and result in significant costs for member jurisdictions to collect and dispose of these materials. Efforts to prevent litter and illegal dumping are already underway, but Metro Vancouver and its members can amplify these efforts through continued collaboration and the actions listed under this strategy.

4.9.

4.9.1. Increase the number of community drop-off events to provide options for large or difficult to manage materials and prioritize diversion over disposal.

4.9.2. Support community clean-up initiatives through reduced disposal fees and information on recycling options if available

4.9.3. Enhance litter and illegal dumping data to identify opportunities to recycle commonly littered or illegally dumped materials.

4.9.4. Review approaches in other jurisdictions to reduce illegal dumping, including opportunities to recycled common illegally dumped materials, and consider implementation of initiatives proven effective elsewhere.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.9.5. Develop, test, share and advocate for approaches to minimize litter from residential recycling containers while optimizing material recycled.

Goal 5: Recover

Recover resources from materials not currently recycled

Not all materials are currently recycled into new products due to source separation constraints, materials, technology, market, or capacity limitations. While Metro Vancouver will work on increasing reuse and recycling for these materials, there is an opportunity to recover some of their value in the interim. This can be done by using materials that would otherwise be disposed to recover energy through the creation of fossil fuel alternatives.

STRATEGY 5.1

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

Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver facilities receive source-separated loads of clean wood, which are banned from disposal, as well as mixed loads containing a high proportion of engineered wood products which currently lack robust recycling markets within or near the region. While Metro Vancouver works to increase the capacity to recycle these materials, opportunities currently exist within the region for displacing fossil fuel use by utilizing energy recovered from these materials as an alternative. Opportunities also exist to recover bottom ash, a by-product of waste-to-energy disposal, to be used beneficially in cement production.

5.1.

- 5.1.1. Continue to collect clean dimensional lumber not currently reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity or technical constraints at existing facilities, to process into fuel to replace fossil fuels in district energy systems and other decentralized heating and agricultural/industrial systems.
- 5.1.2. Continue to pursue processing of small load waste to recover wood and other materials.

STRATEGY 5.2

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

Licensed private facilities manage most of the construction and demolition material generated in the region. A significant portion of this material is wood or other products that are currently challenging to recycle. Through research and collaboration with the construction and demolition industry, Metro Vancouver aims to decrease the amount of material that would otherwise be disposed, by helping to develop markets for energy recovery where reuse or recycling is not currently viable.

5.2.

- 5.2.1. Share information on construction and demolition waste characteristics and quantities to support the potential to recover energy from construction and demolition waste that are currently reused or recycled.
- 5.2.2. Encourage energy recovery from construction and demolition material currently not reused or recycled.
- 5.2.3. Advocate for and support piloting of technologies to convert wood waste into energy and fuel while potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 6: Dispose

Dispose only as a last resort.

Despite the region's success in reducing and recycling waste, approximately one million tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. The Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility serve the region as cost effective and environmentally responsible local disposal options for residential and commercial and institutional garbage, with contingency landfill disposal available for any garbage beyond what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility. Other materials such as construction and demolition waste, liquid waste system residuals, and soil are important considerations as optimizing the management of these materials helps to preserve disposal capacity for garbage.

STRATEGY 6.1

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

The cost of disposing garbage at the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility is roughly half the cost of remote disposal options. Continuing to use these facilities benefits the region economically and allows Metro Vancouver to continue to maximize associated environmental benefits, such as energy recovery and utilization, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from long distance waste hauling, while closely monitoring environmental performance and providing education for the public.

6.

6.1.

6.1.1. Vancouver Landfill

- 6.1.1.1. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to maximize landfill gas utilization at the Vancouver Landfill through projects such as renewable natural gas development.
- 6.1.1.2. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to further enhance environmental performance at the Vancouver Landfill including minimizing discharge of clean surface water into the liquid waste system and maximizing landfill gas recovery.
- 6.1.1.3. Report annually on the remaining disposal capacity at the Vancouver Landfill and generate projections for the timing of eventual closure of the facility.
- 6.1.1.4. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to maximize opportunities for early use of the Western 40 Hectares at the Vancouver Landfill, an area of the landfill that is no longer being filled.
- 6.1.1.5. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to raise awareness about the role of the Vancouver Landfill and the importance of waste prevention and recycling over disposal through open houses, tours, and other public education

6.1.2. Waste-to-Energy

- 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 exploring options to further reduce emissions and increase environmental monitoring.
- 6.1.2.3. Continue to ensure environmental performance data compared to regulatory requirements for the Waste-to-Energy Facility is publicly available.
- 6.1.2.4. Continue to provide and expand opportunities for education and public awareness on the Waste-to-Energy Facility and associated infrastructure such as interactive displays and tours, and the importance of waste prevention and recycling over disposal.

6.1.2.5. Continue to pursue the beneficial use of bottom ash from the Waste-to-Energy Facility in cement plants.

6.1.3. Optimize Use of Local Disposal Facilities

- 6.1.3.1. Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

STRATEGY 6.2

Use suitable procurement processes for any contingency disposal requirements

Garbage received at recycling and waste centres that cannot be accommodated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility or Vancouver Landfill must be managed under contracts with remote disposal facilities. These contingency contracts are awarded through fair and transparent competitive procurement processes.

6.2.

6.2.1. Consider, among other factors, the following as part of the procurement process(es) for contingency disposal: cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, availability, and reliability.

STRATEGY 6.3

Explore additional long-term disposal capacity if required.

According to Metro Vancouver's current waste generation projections, there is sufficient capacity to manage most garbage at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility, with some remote disposal under contingency contracts currently required. No new long-term disposal capacity is currently anticipated over the duration of this plan, but in the event new long-term disposal capacity is required in the future, Metro Vancouver will research, review, and evaluate options. In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. Mass burn waste-to-energy is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world with communities choosing between the two options based on local and national circumstances. Technical criteria have been developed to help guide decisions for selecting the most appropriate approach to managing residual waste, if new long-term capacity is required in the future (for more information, refer to Residuals Management Strategic Approach).

6.3.

6.3.1. If additional long-term disposal capacity is required

- 6.3.1.1. consider the residuals management technical criteria outlined within the solid waste management plan to compare options for securing the required capacity
- 6.3.1.2. facilitate broad and inclusive regional engagement on options. Findings and recommendations will be reported publicly before any decision to proceed.

STRATEGY 6.4

Monitor disposal options for waste that requires specialized disposal.

Some types of waste require specialized disposal. Licensed private facilities exist in the region for managing and disposing construction and demolition material, which is considered a component of municipal solid waste. Other materials, such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, and international waste, must be managed according to specific regulations and procedures. Soil disposal at the Vancouver Landfill consumes space that would otherwise be used for disposal of garbage. By monitoring,

these materials, Metro Vancouver minimizes operational impacts to regional facilities and ensures effective management of these materials.

6.4.

- 6.4.1. Engage with industry representatives to monitor disposal capacity and options for construction and demolition materials generated.
- 6.4.2. Work with adjacent regional districts to better understand the flow of mixed construction and demolition material between regions.
- 6.4.3. Work with the City of Vancouver to ensure convenient and appropriate disposal at Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver solid waste facilities for materials which require dedicated handling and/or disposal requirements such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, international waste, and materials generated outside of the region where appropriate.
- 6.4.4. Work with health authorities to review disposal options for hospital garbage, the non-biomedical garbage generated from health care facilities.
- 6.4.5. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to pursue opportunities for beneficial use of soil within the Vancouver Landfill property so as not to displace garbage disposal capacity.

STRATEGY 6.5

Advance closure activities at closed landfills in the region

Metro Vancouver owns the land previously used as the Coquitlam Landfill, which stopped receiving waste in 1983. A portion of the site is occupied by the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, a portion is leased to a private entity for operation of a golf course, and the remainder of the site, Lot 3, is currently being used for temporary uses such as house storage. Metro Vancouver is responsible for completing all closure and post-closure activities at the site under Ministry of Environment and Parks requirements. As of 2026, a total of 24 known closed municipal or regional landfills exist in the region.

6.5.

6.5.1. Complete closure activities at the former Coquitlam Landfill

- 6.5.1.1. Undertake closure activities within Coquitlam Landfill Lot 3 to minimize leachate production and landfill gas migration and prepare the area for end-use.
- 6.5.1.2. Continue to use Lot 3 to support waste reduction initiatives until final closure.

6.5.2. Prepare an updated report summarizing the closure status of all closed landfills in the region, including a map with the location of all such landfills.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies and actions of this plan will be implemented in alignment with the guiding principles, goals and targets. This plan is meant to be a living document, meaning that as new priorities emerge and the relative priority of each strategy and action changes in the coming decade, Metro Vancouver will assess the relevancy of each action prior to implementation to verify each action continues to respond to emerging issues and opportunities in solid waste management.

Focus Areas

Six focus areas represent collections of actions which work toward big changes in specific areas, with a high potential to promote meaningful change and help reach the targets of the plan. These initiatives are seen as priorities for the updated solid waste management plan and consist primarily of initiatives that are new or haven't yet been initiated.

1. **Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention:** Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.
2. **Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond:** Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.
3. **Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions:** Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.
4. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics:** Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.
5. **Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials:** Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest-value use of wood, supporting

efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

- 6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics:** Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Table 5 describes how the focus areas will help meet the targets and long-term vision of the plan.

Table 5 Anticipated contribution of focus areas to the plan 10-year targets and 2050 vision.

<u>2036 Target</u>	<u>2050 Vision</u>	<u>Focus Area¹</u>
<u>1.1 tonnes/capita waste generation (10% reduction from 2024 baseline)</u>	<u>1 tonne/capita waste generation (20% reduction from 2024 baseline)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention (Up to 5% decrease)</u> <u>Scale up reuse opportunities at Metro Vancouver facilities and beyond (Up to 5% decrease)</u> <u>Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics (Up to 5% decrease)</u> <u>Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% decrease)</u> <u>Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics (Up to 5% decrease)</u>
<u>75% Diversion (10% increase from baseline) 70% Recycling</u>	<u>80% Diversion (15% increase from baseline) 75% Recycling</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Increase participation in organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions (Up to 10% increase)</u> <u>Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% increase)</u> <u>Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics, and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics. (Up to 5% increase)</u>

<u>300 kg/capita disposal (30% reduction from 2024 baseline)</u>	<u>210 kg/capita disposal (50% reduction from 2024 baseline)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Disposal decreases as a result of both decreasing waste generation and increased diversion, as described by the initiatives above</u>
<u>45% reduction in GHG emissions from solid waste by 2030 (2010 baseline)</u>	<u>Carbon Neutral</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>As waste disposal decreases, associated GHG emissions decrease as well. Meeting the 50% disposal target will decrease emissions by at least 50% if high GHG emitting materials are targeted</u> • <u>Initiatives with the potential to recover energy to offset fossil fuel use such as the focus area “Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material” can further contribute to carbon neutrality</u>

¹ Estimated progress towards targets shown indicates results at 2050. 2036 results are expected to be approximately halfway toward the 2050 targets.

Strategic Principle: Prioritize local solid waste management solutions

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities. A number of actions within the solid waste management plan prioritize local solutions including:

- Action 1.2.2.1 Work with economic development agencies to identify and implement circular businesses opportunities
- Action 1.2.6 Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services
- Action 1.3.1 Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention
- Action 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,
- Action 2.3.1 Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.
- Action 3.3.3.2 Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building resale

- Action 3.5.1 Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.
- Action 3.3.2.1 Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use.
- Action 4.2.2 Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management; and
- Action 6.1.3 Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Regulatory Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan [regulatory strategic approach](#) outlines the types of regulatory initiatives, such as bylaws, that Metro Vancouver may consider over the lifespan of the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#), including how potential Metro Vancouver regulations are assessed, engaged on, and implemented. Recognizing that future changes to regulation require dedicated engagement beyond the scope of this solid waste management plan, the regulatory strategic approach aims to clarify Metro Vancouver's outlook with respect to any future regulatory actions [to advance solid waste management plan goals and targets](#). [Advocacy efforts encouraging regulations at other orders of government are not referenced in this section, but are included under strategies and actions](#).

Overview

The [GVS&DD Board](#) enacts bylaws to manage waste and protect public health and the environment. This authority is granted to the [GVS&DD](#) by the province under the *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act*.

Existing Regulations

The primary bylaws related to solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region are [listed below and their key components are summarized in Table 6](#).

- (1) The [GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024](#), as amended ([GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw](#)), which sets garbage and recycling fees at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities, identifies recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal, specifies surcharges, and establishes the requirements of the generator levy.
- (2) The [GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No. 181, 1996](#), as amended ([GVS&DD Bylaw 181](#)), which specifies [licensing](#) requirements for solid waste facilities, including reporting, inspection, and enforcement provisions.
- (3) The [GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No. 378, 2024](#), as amended ([GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Bylaw](#)), which allows the issuance of penalties up to \$500 per contravention⁸ of specified provisions of [GVS&DD Bylaw 181](#) and the [GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw](#). It also establishes a process for dispute adjudication.

[Table 6: Existing Regulations](#)

Bylaw	Key Components
GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024 , as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees and surcharges

⁸ Penalties are subject to change from time to time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal • Generator levy • Hauler records
GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility licensing • Powers of Solid Waste Manager and Officers • Fees
GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.278, 2024, as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw violations and penalties • Dispute adjudication

Since approval of Metro Vancouver's 2011 solid waste management plan, the generator levy has been implemented, and new bylaw enforcement tools have been added. The generator levy was added to the [GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw](#) in 2017 (effective January 2018). It encourages the use of Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities where disposal bans for recyclable materials are in place. This levy also ensures that all garbage generators contribute to funding the cost of the regional solid waste system – a system that provides reliable and resilient services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses in the region. The generator levy is included in the garbage tipping fee charged at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities; however, if garbage is delivered to other facilities, haulers must pay the per-tonne generator levy directly to Metro Vancouver. The generator levy is a key contributor to Metro Vancouver's continued success in advancing waste reduction and recycling.

Metro Vancouver's Regulatory Role

[Metro Vancouver's](#) solid waste facilities [provide](#) convenient garbage drop-off for residents and businesses, [determine](#) the final disposal destination of that material, and [provide](#) both free and paid recycling opportunities primarily for materials delivered in small hand-unloaded vehicles. Recycling sorting and processing facilities are managed by the private sector in accordance with requirements set out in [GVS&DD Bylaw 181](#). [Organics management facilities are managed by the private sector or member jurisdictions](#). This system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.

Metro Vancouver's regulatory authority does not currently include the ability to enforce bylaws at the generator or property level. Generally, that authority resides with municipalities. Also, outside of Metro Vancouver's regulatory authority are extended producer responsibility programs, [regulations impacting the sale and distribution of specific products](#), [and](#) eco fees or refundable deposit fees charged for some products, which may be implemented at the provincial or federal level. Metro Vancouver plans to advocate for continuous improvement of extended producer responsibility programs and regulations at the federal and provincial level that will help rethink waste and transition to a circular economy, including design for recyclability, the right to repair, and waste prevention legislation, [as described in the strategies and actions section of the plan](#).

Compliance and Enforcement

Metro Vancouver's Environmental Regulation & Enforcement group is responsible for enforcing the provisions of [GVS&DD](#) Bylaw 181, including reviewing licence applications and ensuring compliance with licence terms and conditions. Officers appointed under [GVS&DD](#) Bylaw 181 have authority to issue notices of bylaw violation under the *GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.378, 2024*, as amended, which includes penalties of up to \$500 per contravention⁹ ([penalties are subject to change](#)) of specified provisions of the generator levy and [GVS&DD](#) Bylaw 181. [GVS&DD](#) Bylaw 181 also allows for penalties for each day an offence is committed under the Bylaw, as well as suspension or cancellation of a licence. All active solid waste licences are available on Metro Vancouver's website, as well as Notices of Bylaw Violation issued to corporate entities since March 13, 2024, that have been paid, upheld, or are no longer in a dispute process. The appointment of enforcement officers is reported publicly.

Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Metro Vancouver publicly reports annually on the top surcharges under the [GVS&DD](#) Tipping Fee Bylaw. In addition, Metro Vancouver publishes information from the Smart Waste Program to help understand the movement of waste around the region. This information is used to assess the effectiveness of the disposal ban and generator levy programs, respectively, and helps inform decisions on how these programs can continue to be improved.

Strategic Approach

Regulatory Priorities

Metro Vancouver's regulatory priorities for the solid waste management plan align with the vision and guiding principles and can help to achieve the plan's strategies and actions. These priorities and their linkage to the guiding principles are listed below, in alphabetical order. Priorities are numbered for reference in [Table 7](#) but the numbering does not indicate relative importance.

⁹ [Penalties are subject to change from time to time](#)

Table 7: Regulatory Priorities

Regulatory Priority	Solid Waste Management Plan Guiding Principle
1. Improve data accuracy, transparency and availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to reporting requirements in regulations can help improve transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling
2. Increase reuse and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to increase reuse and recycling demonstrates Metro Vancouver's commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action
3. Reduce barriers to participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing barriers to participation helps in delivering inclusive solid waste services and programs
4. Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility licensing system helps maintain accountability from residents, businesses and governments to prevent waste
5. Support effectiveness of the generator levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By ensuring all generators contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, the generator levy supports a solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region Similarly, the generator levy enables Metro Vancouver to maintain a solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges
6. Support innovation, particularly for reuse and repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding reuse and repair into regulations can spur innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation

Example Future Regulatory Enhancements

Table 8 provides examples of regulations that Metro Vancouver could consider implementing in support of the priorities above. Potential future regulations are organized by what sector they would apply to. Some of these regulatory undertakings would require an amendment to provincial legislation.

Table 8 Example Regulations and the Regulatory Priority they Support

Sector	Example Regulation	Regulatory Priority Supported
Generator	Mandatory source separation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling
Hauler	Hauler Licensing including mandatory source separation and separate management of streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation • Support effectiveness of the generator levy • Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability
	Reduced disposal ban surcharges for collectors that meet minimum requirements, as described in action 4.8.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation
	Additional disposal ban categories for recyclable materials and increased surcharges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling
Licensed Private Facilities	Updated reuse and recycling minimums in licences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reuse and recycling • Support innovation
	Expanded types of facilities that require a licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability • Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system
	Incentives for innovation within licences, Administrative monetary penalties to address non-compliances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support innovation • Support effectiveness of licensing system
	Administrative improvements to licensing bylaw including updating definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system

Considerations

For any proposed regulations during the implementation of the solid waste management plan, at a minimum the following will be considered:

- What is the objective of the proposed regulation, and are there other options for achieving the same objective?
- Does GVS&DD currently have authority to implement the proposed regulation, and if not, what would be required to obtain that authority?
- What are the resource requirements for developing, administering, and enforcing the proposed regulation?

- Which sectors, businesses, or individuals would be subject to the proposed regulation, and what is the estimated impact of the proposed regulation on helping the region meet the Solid Waste Management Plan goals and targets?
- What are the expected operational consequences to the solid waste system overall?
- What are the expected financial implications resulting from the proposed regulation, such as tipping fee changes or other costs borne by residents, businesses, Metro Vancouver or member jurisdictions?
- At which level of government would this regulation be most effective? Does this conflict with any existing regulation at another level of government?
- If amending an existing regulation, how does this amendment impact those currently regulated?
- Are there any unintended consequences of implementing the proposed regulation?

Engagement

Any proposed new regulatory measures will be accompanied by a transparent and meaningful engagement process. Engagement will follow Metro Vancouver's Public Engagement Board Policy and Public Engagement Guide. Metro Vancouver will also comply with any provincial requirements related to public consultation.

Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach

Purpose

The [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver's plans for continuous improvement of Metro Vancouver's network of recycling and waste centres. This approach sets key priorities and associated considerations in line with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan.

The focus of this strategy is to inform future upgrades, replacements and additions to the Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre network. This network and the region rely on other public and private solid waste facilities that directly support the regional network, and in addition provide valuable services to public and private generators of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials.

Background

Metro Vancouver provides a range of recycling and waste drop-off services before and after the weigh scales at its recycling and waste centres, conveniently located to serve residents across the region. This regional network of recycling drop-off services supports and enhances the programs and services provided by other levels of government, member jurisdictions, producer responsibility programs, non-profits, and the private sector, all together forming one of the most successful and resilient recycling systems in North America. Approximately 88,000 tonnes of recyclable and reusable materials are collected at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities [such as](#) organics, mattresses, and extended producer responsibility materials [like](#) packaging and paper.

Recycling depots located before the weigh scales at recycling and waste centres allow customers to drop off recyclable materials for free. [As of 2026](#), recycling depots are in place at the North Shore, United Boulevard, Maple Ridge, and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres. The 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan identifies new recycling depots for the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres. Recycling depots provide convenient, accessible, and free drop-off of a wide range of recyclable materials including metal, paper, plastic, glass, and other producer responsibility materials such as electronics, batteries, paint and pesticides.

As recycling and waste centre infrastructure ages and service needs evolve, Metro Vancouver seeks to identify system upgrades or new developments to increase reuse and recycling and ensure system resilience while accommodating the region's growing population.

Metro Vancouver owns six recycling and waste centres in the region, which provide convenient drop-off of recyclables and garbage for residents, member jurisdictions, and businesses, and incorporate opportunities for reuse:

- Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- Langley Recycling and Waste Centre

- Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

The facility locations are depicted below in Figure 8, which also includes the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility and City of Vancouver owned facilities (the Vancouver South Transfer Station including the Vancouver Zero Waste Centre, and the Vancouver Landfill):



Figure 8: Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver uses the term "recycling and waste centres" to reflect the priority to maximize recycling drop-off services. Improvements to the system since 2014 include:

- 2014: Establishment of a recycling depot ahead of the weigh scales at the [previous](#) Coquitlam Transfer Station
- 2017: Redevelopment and integration of the previous municipal recycling depot into the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- 2021: Implementation of a recycling depot funding strategy to recognize the contribution of municipally operated depots to the regional system
- 2022: Opening of the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, including expanded opportunities for recycling before the scale
- 2022: Opening of the Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, reducing overall system drive times
- 2023: Initiation of design to upgrade the Langley and North Surrey [recycling and waste centres](#) to add recycling depots ahead of the scales

Various recyclable and reusable materials have been added at recycling and waste centres over the years. Metro Vancouver will continue to add new materials at facilities as opportunities arise, and ensure sufficient space is available at recycling and waste centres for this purpose.

Municipal Recycling Depots

Metro Vancouver provides funding to municipalities operating recycling depots, to recognize the contribution of municipal depots to the regional system. The funding is contingent on municipalities accepting a core suite of recyclable materials at the depots, and making the depots available to all residents in the region. Municipalities continue to independently manage and operate the depots and work collaboratively with Metro Vancouver on harmonizing materials accepted, where feasible. As of 2026, these include:

- Burnaby Eco-Centre
- Richmond Recycling Depot
- Ridge Meadows Recycling Depot
- Vancouver Zero Waste Centre

Strategic Approach

Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Future continuous improvements and upgrades to facilities aim to improve consistency of services at all recycling and waste centres, maximize opportunities for reuse and recycling, minimize drive times for residents, increase accessibility, and optimize the layout of any new facilities or facility upgrades according to best practices. Cost effective and affordable operations are a key focus in delivering the service. The following table outlines priorities for continuous improvement of the recycling and waste centre network, presented in alphabetical order. Collectively, the considerations under each priority reflect the seven guiding principles of the plan and help ensure that the evolution of the recycling and waste centre system is consistent with the direction and values of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

Table 9 Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Priority	Considerations
Best practices in facility design, construction, and operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate best practices in facility design that maximize reuse and recycling, and improve convenience and safety for users such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recycling before the scale at all facilities ○ Flat tipping floors (instead of pits) for improved safety and flexibility ○ Sufficient on-site queuing space to mitigate back-ups of traffic onto public streets ○ Access considerations for cyclists and pedestrians ○ Containers designed to improve accessibility and safety during access ○ Flexibility to add additional materials and space to host temporary events or pilots ○ Traffic flow design that reduces the probability of accidents ○ Separating public and service/operating areas for improved safety. • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through low or zero carbon equipment and fuel. • Consider greenhouse gas emission implications, potentially including embodied carbon when selecting construction materials and methods for the development and maintenance of facilities. • Incorporate sustainability features, such as reused or recycled construction materials such as concrete, asphalt, and wood where possible. • Consider resilience in facility design and construction, including use of robust, low maintenance building materials. • Continue to align with regulations and published industry best practices such as the BC Building Code and Master Municipal Construction Documents. • Design for worker and customer safety, accessibility, and inclusivity. • Consider incorporating new technologies to improve operational and customer efficiencies, and to maximize material diversion from disposal. • Consider overall aesthetics of the design to improve user experience and reduce operational and environmental impacts such as noise, odour, and dust.
Consistent and maximized reuse and recycling opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent services across locations • Continue to expand the types of materials accepted including planning for expanded extended producer responsibility programs • Maximize opportunities for reuse • Ensure clear and consistent communication of services available to increase participation, educate, and build confidence in the solid waste management system. • Consider inclusivity in the development of each program • Include flex space at facilities to expand or trial new opportunities for reuse and recycling
New facilities developed in	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for population growth patterns when assessing new facility locations • Incorporate population growth estimates into drive time analyses.

<u>areas with expected future growth</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Assess facility accessibility for cyclists and transit users as the region continues to develop and transportation methods diversify</u>
<u>Reasonable and consistent drive times</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Site future facilities close to areas that experience relatively high drive times, accounting for population density (Figure 9)</u> • <u>Aim to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions through reduced drive times</u>
<u>Resilient and cost-effective service delivery</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Consider replacement or upgrades to aging and outdated facilities</u> • <u>Secure public land at market rates where possible</u> • <u>Design and operate facilities in such a way to minimize risk of disruptions due to extreme weather events, or other unexpected occurrences</u> • <u>Continue to strive for best value solutions for operating facilities and providing convenient drop-off services that maximize service level and waste reduction potential</u> • <u>Ensure that extended producer responsibility programs' contributions are consistent with cost of managing materials</u>

Drive Time Analysis

Metro Vancouver completed a study in 2023 to evaluate the regional solid waste system and analyze future system service and infrastructure needs and opportunities over the next 30 years. To evaluate the recycling system, access to regional, municipal, and private depots were mapped to understand how the system meets service level standards.

The study reviewed tonnage and vehicle data to understand system capacities and developed a model to evaluate the impact to regional drive times, kilometres driven, and greenhouse gas emissions using a 2050 population and provide insight to potential future facility upgrades, replacements, or relocations to best achieve service level standards. An example of the model output in a heat map for small loads and baseline waste (2023 system) is shown in the below figure.

Drive time analysis will continue to be used in evaluating locations for future recycling and waste centre development.

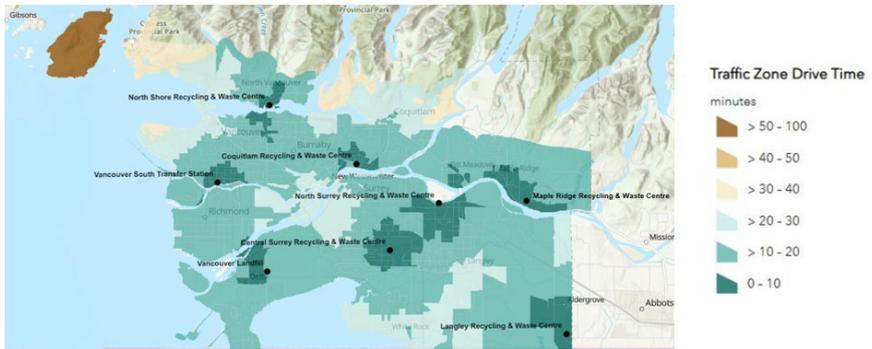


Figure 9: Comparative Drive Time Analysis

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Residual Management Strategic Approach

Purpose

The [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) residual management strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver's plans for [managing](#) residual solid waste (garbage) remaining after [efforts to reduce waste](#) and [recycle](#), in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. This approach describes the existing process for managing garbage in the region and sets out technical criteria for assessing future disposal capacity if required. As of [2026](#), Metro Vancouver has no plans to actively pursue additional [disposal](#) capacity.

Background

Metro Vancouver manages the disposal of residential and commercial/institutional garbage generated within the region. Despite the region's success in reducing waste, approximately 1,000,000 tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. Existing disposal methods as of [2026](#) are as follows:

- Vancouver Landfill
- Waste-to-Energy Facility
- [Remote landfills under](#) contingency disposal [contracts](#)

Vancouver Landfill (Operational Certificate 1611)

The Vancouver Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. The [landfill](#) has been operating since 1966 and [received](#) approximately 65% of the region's residential and commercial/institutional garbage [in 2024](#). Under the Provincial Landfill Operational Certificate, the annual tonnage of garbage received at the [landfill](#) is capped at 750,000 tonnes.

A 2026 agreement between Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Delta establishes the responsibilities of the three parties with respect to the Vancouver Landfill. Under the agreement, the [landfill will operate until 2050 or when the landfill reaches a post-settlement height of 39 metres, whichever comes first. In either case, the Vancouver Landfill is expected to continue to serve as a primary disposal facility for the term of this Solid Waste Management Plan. Meeting the waste reduction targets outlined in this plan helps ensure the landfill can remain a disposal option for as long as possible.](#)

The [Vancouver](#) Landfill provides opportunities for [public](#) drop-off of recyclable materials and [through its operations optimizes the](#) beneficial use of materials such as construction and demolition material for road building. Landfill gas collected from the [landfill](#) is recovered as renewable natural gas, and leachate is collected and discharged to the regional liquid waste system for treatment.

Waste-to-Energy Facility (Operational Certificate 107051)

Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility has operated in Burnaby since 1988 and [handles about](#) 240,000 tonnes of garbage per year — roughly a quarter of the region's garbage. It is a mass-burn facility.

that turns waste into electricity — approximately 180,000 MWh/year (enough to power 16,000 homes) — and recovers about 5,000 tonnes of metal annually. Metro Vancouver sells the electricity to BC Hydro and the metals to a local recycler. Approximately 12,000 tonnes of fly ash and 45,000 tonnes of bottom ash are generated annually at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Fly ash is disposed at a facility located outside of the Metro Vancouver region and bottom ash is disposed at the Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver is exploring options for beneficial use of bottom ash.

Metro Vancouver is developing a district energy system to supply heat and hot water resulting from the operation of the Waste-to-Energy Facility, for up to 50,000 homes in Vancouver and Burnaby. This project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70,000 tonnes per year, and aligns with Metro Vancouver's goals for a resilient region. The Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System project will triple the energy recovery of the Waste-to-Energy Facility by using some of the steam generated through the combustion of garbage to heat water and deliver it through an underground piping network to nearby neighbourhoods.

Contingency Disposal

Garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is sent to remote landfills for disposal. Contingency disposal contracts with remote landfills are awarded following procurement processes based on overall best value which consider cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, general environmental impact, availability, and reliability. Metro Vancouver seeks to minimize the amount of garbage sent for contingency disposal, as it is approximately twice the cost of local disposal options. As of 2026, contingency disposal landfills used include:

- Campbell Hill Landfill, Cache Creek, BC
- Roosevelt Landfill, Roosevelt, WA, USA
- Columbia Ridge Landfill, Arlington, OR, USA

Construction & Demolition Waste

Construction and demolition material is generated at construction sites across the region and is typically managed by private processing and disposal facilities. Residual construction and demolition material that cannot feasibly be recycled is sent for disposal at the following facilities:

- Vancouver Landfill, Delta BC (Operational Certificate 4922)
- Ecowaste Landfill, Richmond, BC

Strategic Approach

Future Disposal Capacity

In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. Mass **burn waste-to-energy** is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world, with communities choosing either landfilling or mass burn waste-to-energy. **Technologies**, other than the mass burn and two-stage waste-to-energy technology, such as gasification and pyrolysis, have not been successfully implemented at a commercial scale to process residual waste. Commercial-scale mixed waste processing has also not been implemented successfully, with studies showing that current source-separated recycling programs are more cost effective and more likely to help the region meet recycling targets.

Metro Vancouver commissioned a report titled *Residuals Waste Management Options Review*¹⁰, which includes an overview of considerations of all potential residuals management options and technical criteria to consider for evaluating residual waste management options, should additional long-term disposal capacity be required. Table 10 summarizes these criteria.

Table 10: Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options

Criteria Category	Criteria for Evaluating Residual Waste Management Options
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall cost, including capital construction, operational, closure and post closure costs • Opportunities and risks related to revenue generation through selling recovered materials or energy to markets • Opportunities for efficient or reducing transport costs (e.g. backhauling) • Potential variability in waste volumes over time • Opportunity cost in comparison to alternative investment options • Financial risk from geopolitical or regulatory environment
Environmental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to emit pollutant emissions/discharges to air, land and water

¹⁰ Stantec. (2025). *Residual Waste Management Options Review*.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Greenhouse gas emissions - direct and indirect contributions and offsets (avoided greenhouse gas emissions)</u> • <u>General environmental factors such as dust, odour, litter, noise, and vectors</u> • <u>Risk and mitigation potential from climate change and natural disasters</u> • <u>Geotechnical considerations (e.g. slope failure, flooding risk)</u> • <u>Groundwater, surface water and ambient air quality protection and monitoring and testing systems</u>
<u>Regulatory Compliance</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Meets or exceeds all current or anticipated environmental and waste management regulations</u> • <u>Permitting and approval processes required for implementing the system</u>
<u>Resource Use</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Land requirements for facilities and operations</u> • <u>Energy generation and use potential and proximity</u> • <u>Opportunities for co-locating complimentary operations, such as public reuse and recycling depot services, processing of specific materials streams</u>
<u>Social</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Potential negative impact on public health and safety</u> • <u>Public perception, cultural considerations and community acceptance of the system</u> • <u>Job creation during construction and operation</u>
<u>Technical Feasibility</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Maturity, reliability and degree to which the system has been proven on a commercial scale</u> • <u>Compatibility with residual waste as the feedstock material and ability to adapt to changing waste streams</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Capacity and scalability to handle expected volumes of waste consistently and meet future needs</u> • <u>Pre-processing requirements</u> • <u>Percentage of the residual waste stream effectively processed by the system</u>
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Education and Outreach

Metro Vancouver’s behaviour change campaigns are valuable tools for encouraging waste prevention habits and are expected to continue as a core component of Metro Vancouver’s approach. Many strategies in the plan have dedicated education and outreach components. Metro Vancouver will continue to:

- Share knowledge and collaborate with member jurisdictions to amplify the reach of education and outreach initiatives and support consistency
- Leverage expertise and lessons learned from others, including not-for-profits, institutions, and businesses
- [Increase](#) the public’s familiarity with the [solid waste system](#) by practicing accessible engagement and meeting people where they are at, [including](#) in-person interactions, public events, tours, and conversations with experts
- Continue to use research to develop communications strategies that align with the strategies and actions in the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#)
- Continue to assess the effectiveness of waste reduction and recycling messaging among target audiences
- Strive to make [resources](#), education, and engagement materials as inclusive and accessible as possible, considering the barriers faced by underrepresented and equity-denied groups, and opportunities to provide material in a way that works best with them
- Continue to use varied communications and outreach tactics that keep pace with evolving technology and trends
- Work with academia on opportunities to test evidence-based approaches to influence waste reduction and recycling behaviours

Accessibility and Inclusion

Guiding Principle

Inclusive solid waste services and programs is a guiding principle of the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#). Metro Vancouver will consider accessibility and inclusivity in the implementation of all actions under this plan and will take into consideration the ideas provided when developing new programs, communications, and policies.

Commitment

Metro Vancouver's approach is guided by [Metro Vancouver's Accessibility Plan \(2023–2026\)](#), which emphasizes universal design, adaptability, and collaboration. These principles will be integrated into implementation of the [plan's](#) strategies and actions to remove barriers and [enable](#) participation by people of all abilities.

The potential actions listed under each [of the principles below](#) are illustrative examples intended to demonstrate possible approaches. Metro Vancouver will continue to [adapt](#) programs and services based on community needs, feedback, and emerging best practices.

1. Accessible Infrastructure

- Continue to provide clear visual indicators at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste [centres](#)
- [Prioritize accessibility improvements and incorporation of universal design standards at recycling and waste centres](#)

2. Inclusive Service and Program Delivery

- [Support](#) options for individuals with mobility limitations
- [Add](#) programs and services for underserved areas and residents facing barriers
- Identify and address gaps in accessibility across the region for reuse, recycling, and disposal [services](#)

3. Community Support and Engagement

- Foster the development of volunteer networks to assist seniors, residents without a personal vehicle, and people with disabilities in recycling and waste reduction efforts
- Collaborate with community organizations to provide training and resources

4. Education and Awareness

- Provide signage and resources designed to help reduce complexity for residents with disabilities or communication barriers
- Offer training for staff on accessibility to aid in service and program development

5. Continuous Improvement

- Conduct regular assessments to identify barriers and opportunities for improvement
- Seek feedback from people with lived or professional experience in program and service design and evaluation
- Commit to ongoing adaptation in alignment with the *Accessibility Plan*

Financial Overview

Overview

Metro Vancouver is committed to reflecting the public's high expectation of environmental stewardship while keeping waste management resilient, affordable, and accessible. "A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region" is a guiding principle of the plan.

Metro Vancouver's solid waste management system is funded primarily by garbage and paid recyclables tipping fees, with additional funding from energy sales from the Waste-to-Energy Facility, and other external revenues such as recyclables material sales, extended producer responsibility program revenues, and disposal ban surcharges. This total revenue funds the Metro Vancouver solid waste system, including contracted operations of the solid waste facilities, debt servicing for capital expenditures, waste reduction and recycling planning and programs, and the net cost of environmental regulation & enforcement. Most of the actions within the plan are initiated and managed by Metro Vancouver working collaboratively with member jurisdictions, operations contractors, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

The majority of residential and commercial garbage flows through recycling and waste centres prior to transfer to disposal sites including the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Any garbage that can't be managed at the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills in central British Columbia and the United States. After accounting for proportional recycling and waste centre and transportation expenditures, the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility are comparable in cost per tonne. In contrast, contingency disposal is nearly double the cost, as shown in the table below.

The Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill are finite resources with each facility having maximum annual disposal capacity, and for the Vancouver Landfill overall long-term capacity. For near-term future planning, the only practical alternative to the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is contingency disposal at remote private landfills. Therefore, closing either facility would lead to significant disposal cost increases.

Table 11 2024 Disposal Costs

	Vancouver Landfill	Waste-to-Energy Facility	Contingency Disposal
Total Costs / Tonne	\$123.10	\$122.90	\$230.60

A new agreement between the City of Vancouver, the City of Delta, and GVS&DD was signed in 2026 and outlines the terms for continued operation of the Vancouver Landfill. Under this,

agreement, the landfill continue to operate until approximately 2050 without increasing the previously agreed height and area of the Landfill. Without the new agreement, the landfill was expected to close as early as 2030. Extending the life of the landfill results in more than \$300 million in avoided future tipping fees for residents and businesses.

Solid Waste Planning and Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives

The strategies and actions in this updated plan prioritize rethinking, reducing, and reusing materials to advance a circular economy and account for changes in the solid waste management system.

Gross expenditures by Metro Vancouver for waste reduction and recycling are approximately \$25 million per year, roughly 15 per cent of the solid waste services operating budget. Some of these expenditures are recovered through recycling drop-off fees, material revenues, and through contributions from extended producer responsibility programs. The remainder are recovered through tipping fees.

Table 12: 2026 Allocation of Expenditures

<u>Hierarchy</u>	<u>\$(Millions)</u>
<u>Rethink, Reduce, and Reuse</u>	<u>\$5.5</u>
<u>Recycle</u>	<u>\$19.5</u>
<u>Recover and Dispose</u>	<u>\$120</u>
<u>Debt Servicing, Contribution to Reserves and other</u>	<u>\$25</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$170</u>

This allocation reflects the range of costs associated with material that Metro Vancouver handles directly – garbage and recyclables delivered to recycling and waste centres. In contrast, Metro Vancouver provides support for region wide recycling but the funding for management of recyclable materials falls to generators, producer responsibility organizations, the private sector and others. The expenditure allocation for waste prevention activities, relative to other goal areas, reflects Metro Vancouver’s role at this level of the hierarchy, which primarily involves collaboration, research, and advocacy, where every dollar spent can have impacts many times beyond Metro Vancouver’s expenditure.

Providing cost estimates for each initiative outlined in the plan, at the time of plan development, is not practical given the number and scope of actions and the interdependence of various organizations in delivering solid waste programs and services. Instead, Metro Vancouver will apply a business casing approach aligned with the existing annual GVS&DD Board budgeting process based on conditions at the time of implementation of the actions. This process involves a triple bottom line assessment of capital, operating, and life cycle costs for Metro Vancouver. It also considers cost implications for residents, businesses, and organizations involved in or impacted by each initiative, such as tipping fee changes, as well as potential benefits such as job creation, improved environmental outcomes, and economic benefits realized over a longer timeframe.

Metro Vancouver Five-Year Financial Plan

Metro Vancouver's solid waste budget is approved by the GVS&DD on an annual basis as part of the overall GVS&DD budget. A five-year financial plan is endorsed by the GVS&DD Board at the time the budget is approved.

Actions in the solid waste management 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 targets. Annual reporting on progress to achieve the targets of the Solid Waste Management Plan will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments are most appropriately allocated.

Metro Vancouver solid waste capital expenditures are approved by the GVS&DD Board on a similar basis to operating expenditures. Capital expenditures for the solid waste system are related to new facility development, facility upgrades, maintenance, and replacement. Project specific business cases are prepared for any significant expenditures as part of the identification, planning, and conceptualization for those projects.

On October 31, 2025, the GVS&DD Board approved the 2026 solid waste budget and endorsed the five-year solid waste capital plan. Key actions included in the 2026 operating budget include:

- Complete the solid waste management plan update. Submission of an updated plan to the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks, following Board approval.
- Continue to enhance customer service and monitoring including investigating continuous feedback mechanisms.
- Continue to expand reuse and repair opportunities in partnership with member jurisdictions.
- Leverage the National Zero Waste Council to advance the circular economy and waste reduction at a national level.

Key capital plan initiatives included in the five-year financial plan include:

- Constructing recycling depots at North Surrey and Langley recycling and waste centres to provide consistent services at all recycling waste centres maximizing opportunities for waste reduction and recycling
- Biosolids processing at the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy system construction
- Acid gas reduction system construction
- Funding for land acquisition for future solid waste facilities.

The 2026 operating budget for the solid waste function is \$170 million. The five-year financial plan capital budget is \$390 million. The Waste-to-Energy Facility Operational Certificate issued by the

Ministry of Environment and Parks on September 23, 2025 may result in the acid gas reduction system requirements changing, which if occurs would be reflected in future capital budgets.

The weighted average tipping fee for 2026 is \$156 per tonne with garbage tipping fees projected to increase at 5 per cent per year over five years. Tipping fees in Metro Vancouver are less than public system tipping fees in comparable jurisdictions such as Toronto and Seattle. The annual budget and five-year financial plan are updated each year based on expected expenditures and revenues. Annual budget reviews will continue to explore opportunities to reduce expected future tipping fees through innovation and expenditure reduction.

Capital expenditures for 2026-2035 are projected to be \$900 million, including \$390 million estimated for 2026-2030. The focus from 2031-2035 will be consistent with 2026-2030 estimates, with the goal of continuing to prevent waste while minimizing tipping fee increases.

The 2026-2030 solid waste operating and capital budget details are included in Appendix B.

Regional District Collaboration

Metro Vancouver is bordered by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to the north, the Fraser Valley Regional District to the east, and the Sunshine Coast Regional District to the northwest. Materials for recycling, recovery, and disposal regularly flow between Metro Vancouver and these adjacent regional districts, as well as to recycling and disposal facilities in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Collaboration with these regional districts helps to further shared priorities, including advancing a circular economy, advocating for expanded extended producer responsibility programs, and managing construction and demolition material. Collaboration may include sharing data and information, amplifying or aligning education and outreach programming, coordinated advocacy efforts, and direct implementation of programs in a pan-regional area. This plan was developed with input from adjacent regional districts, including discussions on opportunities for continued communication and coordination.

Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor impacts to adjacent regional districts throughout plan implementation, identifying and discussing any potential impacts with adjacent regional districts as they arise. No significant negative impacts are anticipated through implementation of the plan, but it is expected that Metro Vancouver and adjacent regional districts will share the economic, environmental, and social benefits of transitioning to a circular regional economy, preventing waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Not all priorities are shared between adjacent regional districts. During development of this plan, the Fraser Valley Regional District expressed concern about environmental impacts related to ongoing use of the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Waste-to-energy continues to be a cost effective and environmentally responsible method to manage residual garbage, and the facility's contributions of nitrogen dioxide, fine particulates, and anthropogenic (human caused) greenhouses gases are less than 1% of regional emissions. Metro Vancouver will continue to engage in open dialogue with Fraser Valley Regional District staff on opportunities to collaborate, and welcomes additional feedback from all regional districts during plan implementation.

Risk Analysis

The strategies within this plan were developed based on engagement feedback and selected based on their ability to help achieve the plan's goals. Each strategy focuses on a specific part of the goal, such as the type of material, the sector involved, or the method for making progress in each area. If the full list of strategies and actions are not initiated, the plan may fall short of its goals and targets. This can also affect strategies in other parts of the waste hierarchy. For example, if construction and demolition waste is not reduced as outlined in Strategy 2.1, it will impact the reuse of building materials in Strategy 3.3.

Metro Vancouver will work to implement actions from multiple strategies at the same time under each goal. This approach will help ensure meaningful and measurable progress.

The success of the plan is also dependent on factors that GVS&DD can influence but are ultimately beyond its control. Examples of factors include:

- Markets for recyclable materials, particularly for materials like wood, which have experienced market declines in the years prior to the development of this plan
- The success of extended producer responsibility organizations in reaching their objectives
- The ability of member jurisdictions to implement member actions as described in this plan
- The degree to which residents and businesses respond to behaviour change campaigns, regulations and requirements, and participate in waste reduction and recycling programs
- Unplanned events such as storms or pandemics that result in a surge of waste materials
- The success of provincial and federal initiatives
- Economic factors influencing the production and consumption of materials

These risks can be mitigated in part through ongoing collaboration with the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, members, and the provincial and federal government. The flexible approach to implementation outlined in the plan also allows GVS&DD to re-prioritize actions and resources accordingly to respond to unforeseen challenges.

Compliance Promotion

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver is highly integrated and depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including First Nations, local, provincial and federal governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and the public. The following strategies, if undertaken by the applicable party, help to contribute to the overall success of the plan through promoting compliance with the strategies and actions.

- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can provide education on the plan, highlighting focus areas, and new initiatives to raise awareness and encourage participation

- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can work together to enhance data accuracy and sharing, helping to reliably track progress and identify emerging issues
- Metro Vancouver can advance regulatory priorities specified in the regulatory strategic approach of this plan
- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, and senior levels of government can develop, enact, and enforce regulations

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Plan Monitoring

Metro Vancouver will continue to report annually on solid waste management statistics including the targets and applicable secondary metrics outlined in the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#). At the five-year mark, Metro Vancouver will complete an effectiveness review detailing the status of each initiative in the plan. This will be shared publicly, and all feedback received will be submitted along with the results of the review to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

In the event new regulations, facilities, or residuals management options are considered, Metro Vancouver will use the corresponding section of this plan to guide the process. The plan will be maintained as a living document, with schedules [or appendices](#) added as necessary. Any updated schedules [or appendices](#) will be highlighted in the submission to the ministry as part of the corresponding effectiveness review.

“Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation” is a guiding principle of the plan, and many strategies and actions reference collaboration with First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, residents, businesses and the solid waste and recycling industry. Continued collaboration is essential both for implementation and monitoring of the plan.

[The provincial A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning recommends plan progress is](#) reviewed with a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee representing a variety of interests, experiences and expertise. [In the Metro Vancouver context, the](#) purpose of [a](#) Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee [would](#) be to provide feedback on:

- plan progress in conjunction with annual progress reports
- planned implementation of strategies and actions
- advancement of measures contemplated in the regulatory, residuals, or recycling and waste centre strategic approaches.

Committee members [are typically](#) recruited through an application process. Applications [would](#) be reviewed by staff and membership recommendations [made to the GVS&DD Board](#).

In addition to [developing a mechanism for feedback on plan progress such as a](#) Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in working groups and committees that operate at a provincial, national or international level to develop solutions on topics such as producer responsibility, products and materials, and the circular economy. Locally, Metro Vancouver will continue to report progress and evaluate opportunities for collaboration and share information through the [current](#) committees ([Table 13](#)) and/or new committees with overlapping responsibilities:

Table 13: Committees as of 2026

Committee	Membership
Zero Waste Committee	Elected officials from Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions, as appointed by the Board Chair
Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee	Representatives from the solid waste and recycling industry including waste haulers and facility operators
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Subcommittee	Solid waste management staff from member jurisdictions
Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee	Solid waste and waste reduction operations and communication staff from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts and communities

Additional plan monitoring activities include the following:

- Exploring increasing transparency and access to data through a public dashboard of solid waste management plan performance indicators
- Continued provision of data to the province to support updates to the BC Disposal Calculator
- Meeting with Ministry of Environment and Parks staff routinely to discuss plan progress and other topics of shared interest
- Completion of regular waste composition studies to determine the types and quantities of material disposed to help monitor progress and inform implementation of programs
- Reporting on progress in implementing actions and strategies in the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#)
- [Identifying and sharing potential impacts of implementing actions and strategies with affected parties, including First Nations and adjacent regional districts](#)
- [Reporting on expenditures related to the plan and their effectiveness](#)

Plan Implementation Schedule

All actions within the plan are important; however, some strategies within the plan are best initiated early on to facilitate the implementation of others. For example, many of the advocacy initiatives described in the plan, if successful, will simplify implementation of related programs and policies in the region.

A high-level schedule outlining the anticipated schedule for key initiatives within each of the plan's focus areas is attached as Appendix C. This will be updated annually, and the timing of remaining initiatives in the plan will be assessed each year as part of the plan monitoring process.

As part of reporting on progress in implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan, a list of actions currently underway will be included along with new actions expected to be implemented in the next reporting period. This approach will ensure that the scheduling of actions is dynamic based on the goals and targets of the plan, as well as emerging issues and success in implementing actions currently underway.

Plan Amendments

This Solid Waste Management Plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. It is anticipated that the various actions implementing the solid waste management system that occur over the life of the Plan will not require an amendment to the Plan. Major changes to the solid waste management system contemplated in the Plan may require an amendment to the Plan.

Without being exhaustive, the following actions do not require an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan:

- Establishing a new site or facility that requires a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Any changes to operations of a facility that is licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Establishing a new site or facility, or changes to an existing site or facility that is exempt or excluded from requiring a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Procurement of new organics processing capacity or facilities located outside of the Metro Vancouver region, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Procurement of new contingency disposal at a remote landfill located outside the Metro Vancouver region, or changes to existing contingency disposal facilities, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Introducing any regulatory initiatives contemplated in the Regulatory Strategic Approach in the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Establishing a new Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre, or a municipal recycling depot, or upgrading, or changing the location or operations of an existing Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre or a municipal depot.
- Establishing a new organics composting or anaerobic digestion processing facility within the region.
- Any changes to the operations of the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility that do not make it a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations, irrespective of whether such changes require an amendment to the Operational Certificate for the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Any changes to timelines or budgets for implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to performance reporting, including secondary metrics.
- Addition of any new strategies and actions in alignment with the vision, guiding principles and goals of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to the dispute resolution procedure, the plan implementation schedule, the annual solid waste services 5-year financial plan, or the list of supporting documents.

The Solid Waste Management Plan will only be amended if there are major changes in the solid waste management system described in the plan, for example:

- A change in the geographic boundary of the plan.
- New landfills or waste-to-energy facilities or any new disposal facility in the region that is a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations.

- Changes to the Solid Waste Management Plan vision, guiding principles, hierarchy and goals, primary performance metrics and targets.
- The addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minister's approval letter.

With the exception of the addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minister's approval letter, when a plan amendment becomes necessary, Metro Vancouver will undergo a public engagement process and submit an amended plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks for approval, along with a detailed consultation report.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

Appendix D outlines a dispute resolution procedure for disputes involving an administrative decision made by the GVS&DD in the issuance of a license, interpretation of a statement or provision in the plan, or any other matter not related to a proposed change to the actual wording of the plan or an operational certificate. The process provides an opportunity for the complainant/disputant to participate with Metro Vancouver in non-binding mediation. If a resolution is not reached, a decision on the issue will be made by a committee of the GVS&DD Board. This ensures an open and transparent process.

GLOSSARY

Acid gas refers to acidic gaseous pollutants such as hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), hydrogen chloride (HCl), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Anaerobic digestion is the biological process by which organic matter (e.g., **food scraps**), is broken down in the absence of oxygen, producing raw biogas and other byproducts. The raw biogas is commonly used to generate electricity through cogeneration or upgraded to natural gas.

Backyard composting means the composting of **food scraps** or **yard trimmings**, or both, at a site where (a) the **food scraps** or **yard trimmings** are generated by the residents of a residential dwelling unit, and (b) the annual production of compost does not exceed 20 cubic metres.

Biosolids are treated solids recovered from wastewater. The solids have been treated by microorganisms and heat to eliminate pathogens and reduce odours. The **end result is an earth-like product** that is rich in nutrients and organic matter.

Bottom ash is a residual from the incineration of municipal solid waste, largely comprised of slag (stony waste separated from metals), ceramic, glass, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and un-combusted organics.

Built environment refers to all human-made physical structures, spaces, and associated infrastructures, including buildings, urban infrastructure, private and public spaces, and built assets, that provide settings for human habitation, work, mobility, and social life. This encompasses all life-cycle phases from planning and construction through use, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction.

Buy-nothing group refers to an online group where residents can share and obtain items for free from other residents, rather than purchasing new items. The goal is to empower people to keep more items in use, while building strong communities and sustainable livelihoods for the makers, fixers, and others who transform old into new, over and over again.

Bulky objects includes any household item that is too large to be disposed of via regular household garbage and recycling pick-up programs. Bulky household items include, for example, furniture, large appliances (e.g., dishwasher, refrigerator), domestic construction materials, exercise equipment, and mattresses.

Circularity refers to a waste management approach that keeps materials and products in use for as long as possible by prioritizing **waste prevention, reuse, repair**, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling, while minimizing the extraction of new resources and reducing environmental impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of materials.

Circular economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make – use – dispose). The circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracts the maximum value from them while in use, then recovers and regenerates products and materials at the end of their service life.

Climate change is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Commercial/institutional means **municipal solid waste** originating from commercial and institutional sources.

Construction and demolition waste means **municipal solid waste** that originates from demolition or construction sources that has not been handled, managed or mixed with **municipal solid waste** from other sources.

Deconstruction is the systematic dismantling of buildings or other structures to maximize the recovery of reusable and recyclable materials, as opposed to traditional demolition which focuses on rapid removal and often results in different types of materials being mixed together.

Design for disassembly is an approach to designing buildings, products, or systems so that their components can be easily taken apart at the end of their useful life, allowing materials and parts to be reused, refurbished, or recycled rather than ending up as waste.

Disposal ban means the regulatory tool by which defined materials are banned from being disposed of in regional facilities. Surcharges are levied if banned materials are present in the loads, at levels beyond thresholds defined in the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

District energy is a system where energy from a central generation facility is converted to energy, typically in the form of electricity, steam, or hot water, and distributed through underground piping to supply energy to a larger area.

Diversion refers to the sum of both recycling and recovery, but does not include reuse and materials used as landfill cover.

Dispose/disposal refers to landfilling and mass burn waste-to-energy.

Embodied carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the life cycle of a product or system. Embodied carbon is typically measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kgCO₂e).

Environmental stewardship is the protection, preservation and enhancement of natural spaces and resources in an environmentally responsible manner.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a management system based on industry and consumers taking life-cycle responsibility for the products they produce and use.

Fly ash consists of fine particulates that are captured in a **waste-to-energy facility's** air pollution control system. These particulates are a mixture of ash from the combustion process and lime and carbon which are added to capture acid gases and mercury.

Food loss refers to losses in the stages between production and distribution of food, including spoilage as a result of production and processing technologies.

Food recovery involves taking good and healthy food products, considered surplus or not marketable by food industry standards, and redirecting it to food programs who redistribute it to individuals and households in need. This is considered reuse in the waste hierarchy, as food originally intended for sale is repurposed. Food recovery is different from recovery, as defined.

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Food scraps means municipal solid waste that is comprised of food, including meat, fish, fat, dairy products, bread, baking products, fruits and vegetables, whether cooked or uncooked.

Food waste is the loss of edible and inedible food parts at the point of retail or consumer use.

Generator levy means the levy payable by a generator pursuant to the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379 at the rate set out at section 7.1 of the Bylaw.

Gleaning refers to harvesting leftover crops from a farmers' field after the commercial harvest.

Green bin program is a municipal solid waste collection program that targets organic waste collection including food scraps and yard waste.

House relocation is an alternative to demolition and involves the lifting and transport of part, or all, of an existing house.

Household hazardous waste is a term used to describe a broad range of potentially hazardous products, including flammables, gasoline, pesticides, toxics, corrosives, all of which are not municipal solid waste. It is critical that they are collected and disposed of responsibly, so they do not endanger humans, wildlife, or our environment.

Industrial symbiosis is a collaborative approach in which the residues from one industrial process serve as nutrients for another, creating a closed-loop system that mimics natural ecosystems. This concept aims to enhance resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact by forming integrated industrial networks that share materials, energy, and information.

International waste means waste that originates from outside of Canada, including from airports, cruise ships, land-border crossings, and other points of entry.

Illegal dumping is the deliberate abandonment of waste on public or private property. Illegal dumping happens in both rural and urban environments (e.g., furniture left in back alleys, construction waste dumped on farmland).

Landfilling is the process of disposing of waste in or on the land in an organized manner while establishing engineered systems and approaches for minimizing impacts from things like leachate, landfill gas and vectors.

Linear economy a system where resources are extracted to make products and materials that eventually end up as waste and are thrown away; materials move in one direction, from raw material to waste.

Low barrier employment refers to opportunities that are available to persons with persistent and multiple barriers (long-term barriers) and that are not expected to be overcome in the short-term.

Material banks (buildings) are systematic inventories or databases that document and track building materials and components throughout their lifecycle, particularly focusing on their potential for reuse, recycling, or recovery at the end of a building's life.

Multi-family refers to residential buildings containing more than four dwelling units. This includes typical building types like apartment buildings, condominium blocks, townhomes/row-housing, or other multiple-unit residential developments.

Municipal solid waste refers to recyclables, compostable materials, and residuals that originate from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources or solid waste included in the Solid Waste Management Plan. It excludes agricultural and industrial waste.

Organics is unpackaged food scraps, yard trimmings, clean wood, recyclable paper that has been soiled by or comingled with food residue, tissue paper, paper napkins or paper towels.

Performance targets are specific, measurable and time-bound objectives that can be used to assess progress toward a goal (e.g., 80% reduction from 2010 waste generation levels).

Performance indicators are specific performance metrics that indicate progress toward a given target (e.g., recycling rate).

Performance metrics are data that can be used to track progress (e.g., tonnes of waste recycled).

Producer responsibility organization (PRO) refers to not-for-profit organization or industry association that is the entity designated by a producer or producers to act on their behalf to administer an extended producer responsibility or product stewardship program. In Canada, a PRO may also be referred to as a “stewardship organization,” an “industry funding organization” or a “delegated administrative organization”.

Recycling is the collection, transportation and processing of products that are no longer useful in their present form and the subsequent use, including composting or anaerobic digestion, of their material content in the manufacture of new products for which there is a market.

Recycling depot is a facility where residents and businesses can drop off a variety of recyclable materials.

Recycling and waste centre refers to Metro Vancouver owned facilities throughout the region where residents and businesses drop off garbage, yard trimmings and a variety of other recyclable materials.

Reduce means decreasing the amount of municipal solid waste generated at source. It includes activities which result in more efficient reuse or recycling of primary products or materials but does not include only compacting or otherwise densifying the waste.

Reuse refers to at least one further use of a product in the same form (but not necessarily for the same purpose).

Recovery in the context of this plan is the reclaiming energy from municipal solid waste. This does not include food recovery, composting, anaerobic digestion, or waste-to-energy.

Residuals is the fraction of municipal solid waste that is left after prevention, reuse, and recycling and is destined for disposal.

Salvage means removing materials such that they are protected from damage and kept intact so that they can be reused.

Single-family refers to detached homes generally comprised of six units or less. In the context of this plan, single-family waste typically refers to waste that is collected at curbside.

Single-use item means the item is designed to be disposed of after a single use or short-term use, whether or not it could be reused.

Small load waste is a load of municipal solid waste that is under 1 tonne.

Tipping fee means the fee charged by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) for disposing of municipal solid waste at a solid waste facility, as set out in Table 1 of Schedule “B” of the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

Waste generation is the total amount of disposed municipal solid waste and diverted recyclables or recovered material. This does not include material that is reused.

Waste hierarchy is a framework that ranks waste management practices by environmental impact, from most to least favourable.

Waste prevention refers to actions that avoid waste from being created in the first place.

Waste-to-energy refers to the combustion of residual waste using mass burn processes that typically includes energy recovery through the production of electricity or heat.

Worm bins are containers used in vermicomposting in which worms live and are used to break down food scraps and other organic matter.

Yard trimmings includes **municipal solid waste** that comprises vegetative matter resulting from gardening, landscaping or land clearing

Zero waste as both a philosophy and a goal, aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate municipal solid waste

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Item 54
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
SOLID WASTE SERVICES
2026 — 2030 FINANCIAL PLAN
2026 BUDGET

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	% CHANGE	2027 PLAN	% CHANGE	2028 PLAN	% CHANGE	2029 PLAN	% CHANGE	2030 PLAN	% CHANGE
REVENUES											
Solid Waste Tipping Fees	\$148,874,301	\$160,039,613	7.5%	\$172,609,790	7.9%	\$180,406,743	4.5%	\$195,533,526	8.4%	\$204,605,382	4.6%
Energy Sales	6,250,000	6,250,000		6,250,000		6,000,000		6,000,000		6,060,000	
Other External Revenues	4,928,890	3,614,141		6,571,114		9,525,103		9,956,322		9,864,813	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%
EXPENDITURES											
Operating Programs:											
Solid Waste Operations											
Allocated Quality Control	\$ 25,407	\$ 26,274		\$ 26,752		\$ 28,940		\$ 28,098		\$ 29,216	
Ashcroft Ranch	616,197	-		-		-		-		-	
Engineers in Training	123,306	130,788		135,225		138,156		141,142		144,205	
Landfills	44,458,053	43,979,138		43,510,599		39,077,120		41,168,681		41,974,607	
Recycling and Waste Centre	53,831,557	59,376,424		61,990,346		65,782,042		67,917,393		69,714,518	
Waste to Energy Facility	28,523,685	33,334,956		37,909,430		38,127,313		41,644,844		43,189,540	
	<u>127,578,205</u>	<u>136,847,580</u>	7.3%	<u>143,572,352</u>	4.9%	<u>143,153,571</u>	(0.3%)	<u>150,900,158</u>	5.4%	<u>155,052,086</u>	2.8%
Solid Waste Planning											
Policy and Facility Development	609,217	616,462		636,684		650,077		663,730		677,687	
Zero Waste Implementation	2,956,614	2,796,643		2,773,676		2,836,540		2,900,630		2,965,817	
Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives	-	745,254		1,214,548		746,986		1,237,652		770,551	
Community Engagement	1,364,396	1,366,358		1,297,990		1,305,098		1,360,327		1,365,871	
	<u>4,930,227</u>	<u>5,524,717</u>	12.1%	<u>5,922,898</u>	7.2%	<u>5,538,701</u>	(6.5%)	<u>6,162,339</u>	11.3%	<u>5,779,926</u>	(6.2%)
Administration and Department Support	756,095	778,512	3.0%	805,059	3.4%	822,777	2.2%	840,841	2.2%	859,305	2.2%
Environmental Regulation and Enforcement	1,616,473	1,679,330	3.9%	1,724,461	2.7%	1,758,251	2.0%	1,796,541	2.2%	1,827,863	1.7%
Allocation of Centralized Support Costs	5,828,516	5,666,647	(2.8%)	6,924,633	22.2%	7,117,539	2.8%	6,957,975	(2.2%)	6,959,443	0.0%
Total Operating Programs	<u>140,709,516</u>	<u>150,496,786</u>	7.0%	<u>158,949,403</u>	5.6%	<u>158,390,839</u>	(0.4%)	<u>166,657,854</u>	5.2%	<u>170,478,623</u>	2.3%
Allocation of Project Delivery Cost	397,060	360,015	(9.3%)	349,668	(2.9%)	356,880	2.1%	362,811	1.7%	367,801	1.4%
Debt Service	17,138,153	18,431,056	7.5%	25,029,164	35.8%	33,687,060	34.6%	41,662,467	23.7%	49,311,167	18.4%
Contribution to Reserve	1,808,462	615,897	(65.9%)	1,102,669	79.0%	3,497,067	217.1%	2,806,716	(19.7%)	372,604	(86.7%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%

Item 5A
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
CAPITAL PORTFOLIO
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

	APPROVED CAPITAL BUDGET	2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2027 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2028 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2029 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2030 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2026 TO 2030 TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES									
Landfills									
Coquitlam Landfill Maintenance	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000	Multiple	Maintenance
Total Landfills	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000		
Recycling and Waste Centres									
Langley Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	\$ 20,500,000	\$ 8,250,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre Upgrades	1,500,000	750,000	650,000	-	-	-	1,400,000	Construction	Upgrade
North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	44,100,000	2,500,000	9,750,000	6,000,000	-	-	18,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Recycling and Waste Centre Maintenance	11,500,000	1,000,000	4,500,000	3,500,000	500,000	500,000	10,000,000	Construction	Maintenance
Solid Waste Facility Land Purchase	-	-	-	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	80,000,000	Design	Resilience
Total Recycling and Waste Centres	\$ 77,600,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 18,900,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 125,900,000		
Waste To Energy Facility									
Acid Gas Reduction	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000,000	Design	Upgrade
Biosolids Processing	24,250,000	5,000,000	7,000,000	6,400,000	1,200,000	-	19,600,000	Construction	Resilience
Waste-to-Energy Facility Maintenance	72,150,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	34,250,000	Construction	Maintenance
Waste to Energy Facility District Energy	84,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	25,000,000	28,600,000	98,600,000	Multiple	Resilience
Total Waste To Energy Facility	\$ 185,850,000	\$ 21,850,000	\$ 88,850,000	\$ 73,250,000	\$ 33,050,000	\$ 35,450,000	\$ 252,450,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 287,500,000	\$ 40,950,000	\$ 111,250,000	\$ 87,490,000	\$ 73,800,000	\$ 76,200,000	\$ 389,690,000		

ZWA 2026-2042 Area	Key Initiatives Item E4	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<u>1. Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention</u>	<u>Advocate for circular programs and policies</u>										
	<u>Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular food systems</u>										
	<u>Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular built environment solutions</u>										
	<u>Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular products and services</u>										
<u>2. Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond</u>	<u>Expand reuse at recycling and waste centres</u>										
	<u>Increase reuse at events</u>										
	<u>Engage with food and hospitality businesses to expand reuse</u>										
	<u>Advocate for reuse requirements encompassing the region</u>										
<u>3. Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses and institutions</u>	<u>Advance hauler incentive program</u>										
	<u>Assess regulatory options to increase source separation</u>										
	<u>Provide tailored education and tools</u>										
	<u>Update space and access requirements</u>										
<u>4. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics</u>	<u>Enhance and expand the regional food recovery network</u>										
	<u>Improve data on food waste</u>										
	<u>Develop additional local organics processing capacity</u>										
<u>5. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials</u>	<u>Enable house relocation and deconstruction programs</u>										
	<u>Expand local reuse markets</u>										
	<u>Recover energy from building materials not currently recyclable</u>										
<u>6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycling plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics</u>	<u>Promote elimination of unnecessary plastics</u>										
	<u>Advocate for faster implementation of more consistent and broader residential collection programs</u>										

APPENDIX D – DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

BACKGROUND:

- A. As part of preparing and updating a solid waste management plan under the Environmental Management Act, the Ministry of Environment and Parks recommends that Metro Vancouver should establish a dispute resolution procedure.
- B. Section C.1.1 of the Ministry of Environment's "A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning" (2016) (the "Guide") describes the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure as follows:

32. Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure

- (1) The GVS&DD should establish its own dispute resolution procedure for dealing with disputes arising during implementation of the plan.
- (2) The procedure should be limited to disputes involving
 - (a) an administrative decision made by the regional district in the issuance of a license,
 - (b) interpretation of a statement or provision in the plan, or
 - (c) any other matter not related to a proposed change to the actual wording of the plan or an operational certificate

NOW THEREFORE the Board hereby adopts this Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure in satisfaction of Section 32 of the Guide:

PART A - DISPUTES INVOLVING AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION MADE BY THE GVS&DD IN THE ISSUANCE OF A SOLID WASTE FACILITY LICENCE

1. This Part A of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes relating to an administrative decision made by the Solid Waste Manager or the Deputy Solid Waste manager, as such terms are defined in GVS&DD Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, as amended or replaced from time to time ("Bylaw 181"), in connection with the issuance, amendment, suspension, refusal or cancellation of a licence pursuant to Bylaw 181 (a "Decision").
2. Pursuant to Bylaw 181 any person who considers himself or herself aggrieved by a Decision (a "Disputing Party") may dispute the Decision by delivering a written notice to the Solid Waste Manager within 21 days after the disputed Decision is made.

In the Written Notice, the Disputing Party may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation with GVS&DD.

3. If the Disputing Party does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the Disputing Party may proceed with the appeal process specified in Bylaw 181. If the Disputing Party indicates that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process:

- a. The Commissioner will, as permitted under Bylaw 181, extend the time for commencing the appeal under Bylaw 181 until such time as the non-binding mediation has concluded; and
 - b. The parties will proceed to non-binding mediation in accordance with the process specified in section 6 below.
4. The following process applies to non-binding mediation under this Part A:
- a. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Disputing Party will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Disputing Party) two weeks prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Disputing Party, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation;
 - d. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives. The Commissioner will not participate in the mediation meeting; and
 - e. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
5. If the Disputing Party and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through mediation, the Disputing Party may either:
- a. Terminate the dispute; or
 - b. Proceed with the appeal in accordance with the process specified in Bylaw 181.

PART B - DISPUTES INVOLVING INTERPRETATION OF A STATEMENT OR PROVISION IN THE PLAN OR ANY OTHER MATTER NOT RELATED TO A PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ACTUAL WORDING OF THE PLAN

6. This Part B of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes involving interpretation of a statement or provision in the solid waste management plan or disputes of any matter connected to the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) other than proposed changes to the wording of the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#).
7. Any person who disputes the GVS&DD's interpretation of a statement or provision in the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) or who disputes any matter connected to the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) other than proposed changes to the wording of the [Solid Waste Management Plan](#) (a "Complainant") may commence a dispute under this Part B.
8. A dispute under this Part B is commenced when the Complainant delivers written notice ("Part B Written Notice") to GVS&DD's Commissioner indicating that the Complainant wishes to resolve a dispute, and summarizing the nature of the dispute.
In the Part B Written Notice, the Complainant may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process with GVS&DD.
9. If the Complainant does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the dispute will proceed in accordance with the process specified in section 15 ~~below~~.

If the Complainant indicates in the part B Written Notice that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process the following process applies:

- a. The Complainant and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Complainant will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) two weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) one week prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Complainant, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation; d. The Complainant and GVS&DD may bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives; and
 - e. The Complainant and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
10. If the Complainant and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation, the Complainant may:
- a. Terminate the dispute; or
 - b. Proceed with the dispute resolution process specified in section 15 below.
11. The process for dispute resolution under this Part B is as follows:
- The Complainant will submit a non-refundable payment of \$2,000 to the GVS&DD to cover a portion of the GVS&DD's costs of this dispute resolution process;
- b. GVS&DD will appoint 3 members of its Board to form an ad hoc dispute resolution select committee ("Committee");
 - a. Changes in the membership of the Committee may only be made prior to the presentation of oral submissions to the Committee and such changes can only be made by the Board;
 - c. Committee members will be remunerated in accordance with the provisions of *Metro Vancouver Regional District Remuneration Bylaw No. 1425, 2025 as amended or replaced from time to time as if they were attending a Board meeting;*
 - e. The Committee may set its own procedures for considering the dispute, which procedure will include the hearing of the dispute on a date set by the Committee. In addition, the Committee may:
 - i. ask questions of the Complainant and the GVSⅅ
 - ii. determine that the dispute resolution hearing will be closed to the public;
 - iii. adjourn to consider its decision;
 - iv. provide its decision at the conclusion of the hearing, or may specify a future date on which it will deliver its oral decision; and
 - v. determine any other matter that the Committee considers necessary.
 - f. The Complainant and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to participate in the dispute resolution hearing. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives;
 - g. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the Committee. The Complainant will provide its brief to the Committee (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the dispute resolution hearing and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) two weeks prior to the hearing; and
 - h. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each have a maximum of 45 minutes to make oral

submissions to the Committee.

DRAFT

Office of the Chair
Tel. 604-432-6215 or via Email
CAOAdministration@metrovancouver.org

File: PE-13-01

«Political_Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name» and Council
«Member_Jurisdiction»
«Municipal_Address»
«City», BC «Postal_Code»
VIA EMAIL: «Email_Address»

Dear «Political_Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name» and Council:

Metro Vancouver's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Metro Vancouver is updating its 2011 *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, a long-term strategic plan that guides our region's policies, priorities, targets, and collective actions over the next decade and beyond. Metro Vancouver intends to submit the current draft of the updated solid waste management plan for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. In advance of this submission, Metro Vancouver is inviting feedback on the current draft of the plan, which is available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 1). Please share your feedback by **July XX, 2026**.

Background and Timeline

Regional districts are required by the province to develop, and submit for approval, plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials. Building on the strengths of the current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, approved by the province in 2011, Metro Vancouver has developed a draft updated solid waste management plan that identifies opportunities to accelerate waste reduction and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a circular economy.

Work to update the solid waste management plan initiated in 2021 and has culminated in the current draft plan that Metro Vancouver intends to submit for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. This draft is available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 1). The current draft plan includes a vision statement, guiding principles, goals, waste hierarchy, and a series of strategies and actions. In addition, strategic approaches for residual waste, regulatory options, and recycling and waste centres outline criteria for future decision making in those areas.

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Metro Vancouver is committed to actively engaging with governments — including First Nations and member jurisdictions — the waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities of interest, and Metro Vancouver residents to guide updates to the plan. An [Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel](#) supports the development and implementation of the engagement program, and two advisory committees have provided ongoing advice and input across all project phases.



Member Jurisdiction Feedback

On April 24, 2026, the GVS&DD Board adopted the following resolution:

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) direct staff to invite feedback on the draft updated solid waste management plan (the “Solid Waste Management Plan”, Attachment 1) from First Nations, interested parties and the public;*
- b) request that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair invite feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts; and*
- c) authorize the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval the Solid Waste Management Plan materially in the form attached in Attachment 1 to this report, along with feedback received through (a) and (b).*

As a Metro Vancouver member jurisdiction, «Member_Jurisdiction» has been invited to provide input during all phases of the plan’s development. At this time, we invite member jurisdictions to inform Metro Vancouver of any feedback on the draft of the solid waste management plan that Metro Vancouver intends to submit for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. Note that feedback will be provided to the Ministry of Environment and Parks concurrently with the plan, and may also be published on the Metro Vancouver website and in reports.

The draft plan is available on the [Metro Vancouver website](#) (visit metrovancouver.org and search swmp).

Please share any feedback by **July XX, 2026**.

Suggested opportunities available to provide comments include:

- Submitting written feedback to zerowaste@metrovancouver.org
- Presentation to the «Member_Jurisdiction» council
- Meeting with Metro Vancouver staff
- Meeting with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel

If you have any questions about Metro Vancouver's draft solid waste management plan, require additional information, or wish to schedule a meeting or presentation, please contact Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, by email at paul.henderson@metrovancover.org.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

Sarah Kirby-Yung
Chair, Zero Waste Committee
Metro Vancouver

MH/SKY/PH/si

Reference 1: Metro Vancouver. (2026) Draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan PDF. <[Weblink](#)>

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Office of the Chair
Tel. 604-432-6215 or via Email
CAOAdministration@metrovancouver.org

File: PE-13-01

«Political_Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name»
«Regional_District»
«Address»
«City», BC «Postal_Code»
VIA EMAIL: «Email_Address»

Dear «Political_Title» «First_Name» «Last_Name» and Board of Directors:

Metro Vancouver's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Metro Vancouver is updating its 2011 *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, a long-term strategic plan that guides our region's policies, priorities, targets, and collective actions over the next decade and beyond. Metro Vancouver intends to submit the current draft of the updated solid waste management plan for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. In advance of this submission, Metro Vancouver is inviting feedback on the current draft of the plan, which is available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 1). Please share your feedback by **July XX, 2026**.

Background and Timeline

Regional districts are required by the province to develop, and submit for approval, plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials. Building on the strengths of the current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, approved by the province in 2011, Metro Vancouver has developed a draft updated solid waste management plan that identifies opportunities to accelerate waste reduction and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a circular economy.

Work to update the solid waste management plan initiated in 2021 and has culminated in the current draft plan that Metro Vancouver intends to submit for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. This draft is available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 1). The current draft plan includes a vision statement, guiding principles, goals, waste hierarchy, and a series of strategies and actions. In addition, strategic approaches for residual waste, regulatory options, and recycling and waste centres outline criteria for future decision making in those areas.

Metro Vancouver is committed to actively engaging with governments — including First Nations, member jurisdictions, and regional districts — the waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities of interest, and Metro Vancouver residents to guide updates to the plan. An [Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel](#) supports the development and implementation of

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the engagement program, and two advisory committees have provided ongoing advice and input across all project phases.



Regional District Feedback

On April 24, 2026, the GVS&DD Board adopted the following resolution:

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) direct staff to invite feedback on the draft updated solid waste management plan (the "Solid Waste Management Plan", Attachment 1) from First Nations, interested parties and the public;*
- b) request that the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair invite feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts; and*
- c) authorize the Board Chair and the Zero Waste Committee Chair to submit to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval the Solid Waste Management Plan materially in the form attached in Attachment 1 to this report, along with feedback received through (a) and (b).*

As a Metro Vancouver neighbouring regional district, «Regional_District» has been invited to provide input during all phases of the plan's development. At this time, we invite regional districts to inform Metro Vancouver of any feedback on the draft of the solid waste management plan that Metro Vancouver intends to submit for approval to the Ministry of Environment and Parks. Note that feedback will be provided to the Ministry of Environment and Parks concurrently with the plan, and may also be published on the Metro Vancouver website and in reports.

The draft plan is available on the [Metro Vancouver website](#) (visit metrovancouver.org and search swmp).

Please share any feedback by **July XX, 2026**.

Suggested opportunities available to provide comments include:

- Submitting written feedback to zerowaste@metrovancover.org
- Presentation to the «Regional_District» Board
- Meeting with Metro Vancouver staff
- Meeting with the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel

If you have any questions about Metro Vancouver's draft solid waste management plan, require additional information, or wish to schedule a meeting or presentation, please contact Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, by email at paul.henderson@metrovancover.org.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

Sarah Kirby-Yung
Chair, Zero Waste Committee
Metro Vancouver

MH/SKY/PH/sl

Reference 1: Metro Vancouver. (2026) Draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan PDF. [<weblink>](#)

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DRAFT

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Chris Allan, Director, Solid Waste Operations, Solid Waste Services
George Kavouras, Director, Procurement, Procurement & Real Estate Services

Date: March 24, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc.**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) approve the award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres, in the amount of up to \$80,577,000 (exclusive of taxes) to Arrow Transportation System Inc., for a term of 5 1/2 years, subject to final review by the Commissioner; and
 - b) authorize the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate to execute the required documentation once the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate is satisfied that the award should proceed.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arrow's proposal ranked highest overall, with the highest technical score, and demonstrated best value overall for Metro Vancouver.

The current contracts for managing organics at the North Shore, Maple Ridge, and Langley recycling and waste centres expire at the end of June 2026. Materials managed include yard trimmings, clean wood, municipally collected organics (combined yard trimmings and food scraps), and commercially collected organics (food scraps from multi-family and commercial/institutional sources).

RFP No. 25-580 was issued on December 23, 2025, and advertised publicly and the procurement was executed in accordance with the terms and conditions of Metro Vancouver's Procurement Policy. The RFP No. 25-580 evaluation team have considered the two proposals received, and on that basis recommend that the GVS&DD award RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc. ("Arrow").

The cost for services under this contract will be funded through tipping fees set through GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024.

Staff will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen organics management across the region. Initiatives under consideration include managing additional organics at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre and identifying new opportunities to support the development of additional local organics processing capacity.

PURPOSE

Pursuant to the GVS&DD Officers and Delegation Bylaw No. 284, 2014 (Bylaw) and Board Policy No. FN-031, procurement contracts which exceed a value of \$10 million require the approval of the GVS&DD Board.

Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc.

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Page 2 of 4

BACKGROUND

Metro Vancouver manages organics received at its recycling and waste centres through contracts for receipt, transportation, and processing. Organics services at the North Shore, Langley, and Maple Ridge recycling and waste centres are currently delivered under three contracts that expire at the end of June 2026. In late 2025, Metro Vancouver initiated a procurement process to consolidate these services under a single contract including transportation and processing of organics received at the three facilities, as well as the operation of the organics depot at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre.

All Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres accept yard trimmings and clean wood along with small quantities of mixed organics. The North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre also accepts municipally collected organics (yard trimmings and food scraps) from the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, Bowen Island, and Lions Bay with other municipalities able to drop off municipally collected organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre if they choose.

Since the closure of a private organics receiving facility in 2022, commercial organics (food scraps collected from multi-family and commercial/institutional generators) have been received at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre. Commercial organics now make up 40 per cent of all the organic material received at the site and have significantly higher plastic contamination than either yard trimmings or municipal organics.

PROCUREMENT SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver received two proposals. Both proposals were in compliance with the submission requirements. The compliant proposals were evaluated against technical requirements (70 per cent weighting) and commercial requirements (30 per cent weighting). Technical requirements were evaluated by Solid Waste Services and commercial requirements were evaluated by Procurement.

RFP No. 25-580 Submissions

Proponents	Annual Pricing (excluding taxes)
Arrow Transportation Systems Inc.	\$10,750,673
BN Dulay Trux	\$10,120,100

The above pricing is based on unit and fixed rates proposed by the proponents and annual quantities provided by Metro Vancouver for various materials or services included in the RFP for evaluation purposes based on a single year operation.

After a comprehensive and detailed evaluation of the compliant proposals, the evaluation team concluded that the proposal submitted by Arrow Transportation System Inc. ranked highest overall, had the highest technical score, and demonstrated best value overall for Metro Vancouver; more specifically; Arrow's proposal demonstrated extensive experience in managing organics, reflected a thorough understanding of all required services, operational constraints, and site-specific considerations, and included a well-developed and detailed methodology for delivering the work. Arrow also proposed the use of multiple fully permitted processing facilities with strong environmental performance records, which enhances system resiliency and ensures reliable, continuous service delivery.

**Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow
Transportation System Inc.**

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Page 3 of 4

Negotiations with Arrow were completed on March 24, 2026, and the terms of the contract were agreed to and finalized. During these discussions, Metro Vancouver explored opportunities to reduce costs, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$100,000 per year. In addition, the contract term was increased by six months — without any increase to unit rates — to align the contract expiry with the end of the calendar year on December 31, 2031. This provides price certainty for the full fiscal year at the conclusion of the contract. The maximum contract value over the 5 1/2 year term will be \$80,577,000. The contract will expire on December 31, 2031.

The total contract value is based on unit rates proposed by Arrow and estimated tonnages over the 5 1/2 year term including allowances for maintenance work, annual inflation adjustments, and waste flow fluctuations.

The RFP contemplates two optional two-year extensions up to a maximum 9 1/2 year total contract term and, if exercised, the extensions will be executed in accordance with the Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy (FN-031).

ALTERNATIVES

1. THAT the GVS&DD Board:
 - a) approve the award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres, in the amount of up to \$80,577,000 (exclusive of taxes) to Arrow Transportation System Inc., for a term of five and a half years, subject to final review by the Commissioner; and
 - b) authorize the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate to execute the required documentation once the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate is satisfied that the award should proceed.

2. THAT the GVS&DD Board receive the report dated March 24, 2026, titled, “Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow Transportation System Inc.” for information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Although Arrow’s proposed costs are slightly higher than those submitted by the other Proponent, their overall proposal is considerably stronger due to a significantly higher technical score.

The total annual cost for services under the new contract will increase by approximately 24 per cent compared to the annual costs under the current contracts. Anecdotally, cost increases can be attributed to more stringent environmental requirements, challenging market conditions for finished compost products, and the rising costs associated with managing contaminants in the incoming feedstock.

The addition of commercial organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre likely reduced the number of potential bidders given the increase in volume at the facility. Additionally, given that commercial organics have much higher plastic content than municipal organics, the number of processors that are willing to receive the material is less than municipal organics alone.

Finance has reviewed and confirmed that funding is available from Solid Waste Services Operating Budget.

**Award of RFP No. 25-580 for Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres to Arrow
Transportation System Inc.**

Zero Waste Committee Regular Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Page 4 of 4

A report being considered in parallel by the Zero Waste Committee and Board proposes changes to tipping fees under the GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024 (Tipping Fee Bylaw) to ensure continued funding of the services provided through this contract. Under the Tipping Fee Bylaw, the various types of organics are received at specific rates, the small quantities of food scraps received at all recycling and waste centres are received at the same rate per tonne as commercial organics.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Municipal Organics and Local Processing of Organics

Metro Vancouver has been managing municipal organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre, with the costs for this service primarily recovered through agreements with the three large North Shore municipalities. These agreements expire at the end of June 2026. Rates are also in the Tipping Fee Bylaw that apply to other municipalities using the service, currently Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and City of Burnaby to a limited extent. Beginning July 2026, the tipping fee for municipal organics will be established solely under the Tipping Fee Bylaw meaning that municipalities will be able to choose whether or not to use the drop-off service at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre or alternatively procure those services independently from Metro Vancouver.

Metro Vancouver is exploring opportunities to receive additional organics at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre. Operations and maintenance services contract recently awarded to Halton Recycling Ltd. (doing business as Emterra Environmental) includes provisional service to receive and load organics at United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre.

Metro Vancouver is also exploring options to support the development of new local organics processing capacity. Under the current and proposed contracts organics are primarily managed at remote processing facilities.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that GVS&DD Board approve the award of RFP No. 25-580 Organics Management for Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres, in the amount of up to \$80,577,000 (exclusive of taxes) to Arrow Transportation System Inc. and authorize the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate to execute the required documentation once the General Manager, Procurement and Real Estate is satisfied that the award should proceed.

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Allen Jensen, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services

Date: March 26, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026 - Amends Bylaw No. 379, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the GVS&DD Board:

- a) approve the following amendments to the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024* effective July 1, 2026:
 - i. increase garbage tipping fees by \$2 to \$162 per tonne for the 1.0 to 7.99 tonnes weight category and by \$2 to \$136 per tonne for loads greater than 8 tonnes;
 - ii. increase municipal organics by \$38 to \$155 per tonne;
 - iii. increase mixed organics by \$25 to \$175 per tonne; and
 - iv. increase yard trimmings and clean wood by \$15 to \$139 per tonne;
 - b) give first, second and third reading to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*; and
 - c) pass and finally adopt *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024 (Tipping Fee Bylaw) sets rates and requirements at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities.

This report recommends amendments to the Tipping Fee Bylaw effective July 1, 2026, including a \$2 per tonne increase to the garbage tipping fee for loads between 1.0 and 7.99 tonnes and loads greater than 8 tonnes, and increases to recycling fees for municipal organics, mixed organics (including multi-family and commercial/institutional organics), yard trimmings, and clean wood. The increases in garbage tipping fees are proposed to allocate some of the costs for multi-family and commercial/institutional organics to garbage tipping fees, thereby minimizing the difference in cost between organics recycling and disposal costs.

Municipal organics are delivered to the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre primarily by the five north shore municipalities. The increase in cost for municipal organics is significant but is required to align with processing costs. With rates for processing municipal organics set in the Tipping Fee Bylaw, municipalities have the option of securing organics processing independently of Metro Vancouver if they choose to.

PURPOSE

To recommend changes to the Tipping Fee Bylaw and seek GVS&DD Board adoption of *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*.

BACKGROUND

The Tipping Fee Bylaw sets levies, rates, charges, and disposal ban requirements at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities, under the authority of the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act*.

All Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres accept yard trimmings, clean wood, and small quantities of food waste (mixed organics). For many years, the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre has received municipally collected organics from the City of North Vancouver, the District of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, Bowen Island, and Lions Bay. The facility lay-out with a separate organics receiving area has facilitated the receipt of municipal organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre. Other municipalities have the option to drop off municipal organics at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre, and Metro Vancouver is exploring options to receive municipal organics at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre.

Historically, Metro Vancouver has contracted with the three large north shore municipalities to align with processing contract obligations.

In 2022 a private receiver of commercial organics (food scraps from multi-family and commercial/institutional buildings) stopped accepting organics. Given the limited private facilities receiving commercial organics, Metro Vancouver began receiving the material at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre. That material now represents approximately 40% of all organics dropped off at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre.

Proposed Tipping Fee Bylaw Updates

A companion report recommends award of a contract for the processing of organics from North Shore, Maple Ridge and Langley recycling and waste centres. To fund the cost of processing organics managed under that contract, updates to tipping fees for organics and commercially collected garbage are recommended as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Proposed Tipping Fees Increase for Municipal Solid Waste & Organics

Proposed Tipping Fees Increase for Municipal Solid Waste & Organics (\$/tonne)	2026 Jan 1	2026 July 1
Medium Vehicles (1-8t)	\$160	\$162
Large Vehicles (>8t)	\$134	\$136
Municipal Organics	\$117	\$155
Mixed Organics (including commercial organics)	\$150	\$175
Yard Trimmings	\$124	\$139
Clean Wood	\$124	\$139

Municipal Organics Management

Metro Vancouver currently has agreements with the three large north shore municipalities to process organics that expire at that same time as the current organics processing contract at the end of June 2026. Given the significant increase in price for municipal organics under the new contract, those agreements will not be renewed, but the north shore municipalities will be charged through the Tipping Fee Bylaw on the same basis as other users of organics drop-off services. With this approach, north shore municipalities have the option of securing organics management services independently of Metro Vancouver if they choose to.

Anecdotally, Metro Vancouver understands that the proposed \$155 per tonne municipal organics cost is similar to costs experienced by other municipalities, particularly when accounting for transportation costs for municipalities distant from processing facilities.

Commercial Organics Management

Under proposed changes to the Tipping Fee Bylaw, commercial organics receipt costs would increase from \$150 to \$175 per tonne. This increase aligns with unit processing costs for these organics but does not fully cover the costs of receipt and processing of the organics. If the full costs of processing these organics was incorporated into the tipping fee, the overall cost would exceed \$200 per tonne. To minimize the difference between the commercial organics processing costs and the cost of garbage disposal, it is proposed that some of the cost of managing the organics be shifted to commercial garbage costs. Multi-family and commercial/institutional generators produce both commercial garbage and organics. If the full cost of managing the commercial organics was included in the tipping fee for those materials, there would be a risk of organics being disposed of with garbage or potentially disposed of in the liquid waste system. Shifting some of the cost of managing these organics to garbage reduces the potential diversion of the organic material to disposal.

All proposed changes are shown in *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026* (Attachment 1). A blackline version of the proposed changes to the Tipping Fee Bylaw is included as Attachment 2.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the GVS&DD Board:
 - a) approve the following amendments to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024 effective July 1, 2026:
 - i. increase garbage tipping fees by \$2 to \$162 per tonne for the 1.0 to 7.99 tonnes weight category and by \$2 to \$136 per tonne for loads over 8 tonnes;
 - ii. increase municipal organics by \$38 to \$155 per tonne;
 - iii. increase mixed organics by \$25 to \$175 per tonne; and
 - iv. increase yard trimmings and clean wood by \$15 to \$139 per tonne;
 - b) give first, second and third reading to *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*; and
 - c) pass and finally adopt *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*.
2. That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated March 26, 2026, titled "GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026 - Amends Bylaw No. 379, 2024".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the Board approves Alternative 1, changes described in this report will take effect July 1, 2026, with notification to solid waste system users following approval of the bylaw. The Metro Vancouver solid waste function operates on a cost-recovery basis, changing the recycling fees for organics at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres will ensure users are paying the full cost of managing these materials.

If the Board does not approve the proposed changes to the garbage tipping fee and recycling fees for organics in the Tipping Fee Bylaw, the current 2026 fees will remain in place and changes proposed in this report would not be implemented, and costs associated with processing the organics under the new contract would not be fully funded.

CONCLUSION

Increased organics processing costs beginning July 1, 2026, require adjustments to garbage and organics recycling fees to maintain cost recovery. Staff recommend Alternative 1, that the Board amend the Tipping Fee Bylaw effective July 1, 2026 to increase the garbage tipping fee by \$2 to \$162 per tonne for the 1.0 to 7.99 tonne weight category and by \$2 to \$136 per tonne for loads over 8 tonnes, and recycling fees for municipal organics by \$38 to \$155 per tonne, mixed organics by \$25 to \$175 per tonne, and both yard trimmings and clean wood by \$15 to \$139 per tonne. The proposed effective date of July 1, 2026, would allow time for haulers to communicate with their customers prior to the change.

ATTACHMENTS

1. *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026.*
2. *Blackline Version Proposed Changes to Schedule "B", Fees and Surcharges in the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024.*

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**GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 400, 2026**

A bylaw to amend Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024

WHEREAS:

- A. The Board of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (“GVS&DD”) adopted “Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024”, as amended, a bylaw to establish, among other things, scales of charges for services rendered by the GVS&DD and for the use of any of the GVS&DD’s waste disposal facilities; and
- B. The Board of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District wishes to amend “Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024” as set out in this bylaw.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District enacts as follows:

Citation

1. The official citation of this bylaw is “Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026”.

Effective Date

2. This bylaw will come into effect on July 1, 2026.

Schedule

3. The following schedule is attached to and forms part of this bylaw:
- Schedule B, Fees and Surcharges.

Amendment of Bylaw

4. “Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024” is amended as follows:
- (a) Schedule B is replaced with Schedule B of this bylaw.

Read a first, second, and third time this _____ day of _____, _____.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, _____.

Mike Hurley, Chair

Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer

Schedule B FEES AND SURCHARGES

**Table 1 - Tipping Fees for Solid Waste
(including the Generator Levy and the Disposal Rate)**

	Net Weight	North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre	North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre	Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre	Langley Recycling and Waste Centre	Waste-to-Energy Facility
Municipal Garbage	All Loads	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne	\$148/metric tonne
All Solid Waste other than Municipal Garbage, Construction and Demolition Processing Residual Waste, and Special Handle Waste	0 to 0.99 metric tonnes	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹	\$182/metric tonne ¹
	1.0 to 7.99 metric tonnes	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²	\$162/metric tonne ²
	8.0 metric tonnes or more	\$136/metric tonne	\$136/metric tonne	\$136/metric tonne	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	\$136/metric tonne
Construction and Demolition Processing Residual Waste	All Loads	\$194/metric tonne	\$194/metric tonne	\$194/metric tonne	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	\$194/metric tonne
Minimum Tipping Fee for Solid Waste	Minimum Tipping Fee during Peak Hours	\$20/Load	\$20/Load	\$20/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load
	Minimum Tipping Fee outside of Peak Hours	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load
Special Handle Waste	All Loads	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	\$310/metric tonne \$50 minimum.

¹To a maximum of \$162 per Load.

²To a maximum of \$1,088 per Load.

Table 2 - Transaction Fee

Each Load of Solid Waste delivered to a Solid Waste Facility and each Load of Gypsum dropped off at a designated Recycling Area	\$5/Load
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Table 3 - Recycling Fees for Recyclable Material dropped off in designated Recycling Areas

	North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre	North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre	Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre	Langley Recycling and Waste Centre	Waste-to-Energy Facility
Municipal Organics	\$155/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.
Mixed Organics	\$175/metric tonne ¹	\$175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	\$175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	\$175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	\$175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	\$175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	Not accepted.
Yard Trimmings	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Clean Wood	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	\$139/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Gypsum – New: less than ½ metric tonne	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Gypsum – Used: less than ½ metric tonne	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Mattresses	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	Not accepted.

¹Minimum Recycling Fee of \$10 per Load.

²Maximum weight of 100 kilograms per Load.

Table 4 – Surcharges

Loads containing Banned Recyclable Materials other than Food Waste or Expanded Polystyrene Packaging that exceeds either 5% of the total weight of the Load or 5% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.9)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Contaminated Recyclable Paper that exceeds either 5% of the total weight of the Load or 5% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.10)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Expanded Polystyrene Packaging that exceeds either 20% of the total weight of the Load or 20% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.11)	100% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Food Waste that exceeds either 25% of the total weight of the Load or 25% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.12)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads of Municipal Organics containing more than 0.05% (by wet weight) of any other type of Solid Waste (section 7.13)	\$50 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Loads of Mixed Organics containing more than 0.5% (by wet weight) of any other type of Solid Waste (section 7.14)	\$50 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Loads containing any Hazardous and Operational Impact Materials or Product Stewardship Materials (section 7.15)	\$80 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Unsecured Loads (section 7.16)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee to a maximum of \$50.00

GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
BYLAW NO. 379, 2024
A Bylaw to Establish the Tipping Fee and
Solid Waste Disposal Regulation

WHEREAS:

- A. Pursuant to the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act* S.B.C. 1956 c. 59 (the “**Act**”) the objects of the GVS&DD include the disposal of all types of waste and the operation and administration of facilities for the disposal of all types of waste;
- B. Section 7A(5)(b) of the Act empowers the GVS&DD to establish the uses to which its waste disposal facilities may be put and by whom they may be used;
- C. Section 7A(5)(g) of the Act empowers the GVS&DD to establish scales of charges for services rendered by the GVS&DD and for the use of any of the GVS&DD's waste disposal facilities;
- D. In relation to the disposal of solid waste generated within its area, section 7B of the Act empowers the GVS&DD to set levies payable by generators of waste or by other persons who use the services of a Waste Hauler based on the quantity, volume, type or composition of waste generated; and
- E. The GVS&DD intends for the fees and levies imposed by this Bylaw to raise sufficient revenue from everyone who benefits from solid waste management in the region, to offset the costs incurred by the GVS&DD to provide solid waste management in the region, including the fixed costs of the region’s recycling and waste centre network and waste reduction and recycling planning activities.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District enacts as follows:

1.0 Citation

- 1.1 The official citation of this Bylaw is “Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379, 2024”.
- 1.2 This Bylaw may be cited as the “Tipping Fee Bylaw”.

2.0 Effective Date

- 2.1 This Bylaw will come into effect on July 1, ~~2024~~2026.

Schedule B

Replaced by Bylaw No. 393, 2025 – Effective January 1, 2026

FEEES AND SURCHARGES
Table 1 - Tipping Fees for Solid Waste
(including the Generator Levy and the Disposal Rate)

	Net Weight	North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre	North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre	Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre	Langley Recycling and Waste Centre	Waste-to-Energy Facility
Municipal Garbage	All Loads	\$148/metric tonne						
All Solid Waste other than Municipal Garbage, Construction and Demolition Processing Residual Waste, and Special Handle Waste	0 to 0.99 metric tonnes	\$182/metric tonne ¹						
	1.0 to 7.99 metric tonnes	\$160 162/metric tonne ²						
	8.0 metric tonnes or more	\$134 136/metric tonne	\$134 136/metric tonne	\$134 136/metric tonne	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	\$134 136/metric tonne
Construction and Demolition Processing Residual Waste	All Loads	\$194/metric tonne	\$194/metric tonne	\$194/metric tonne	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	Not accepted.	\$194/metric tonne
Minimum Tipping Fee for Solid Waste	Minimum Tipping Fee during Peak Hours	\$20/Load	\$20/Load	\$20/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load	\$10/Load
	Minimum Tipping Fee outside of Peak Hours	\$10/Load						
Special Handle Waste	All Loads	Not accepted.	\$310/metric tonne \$50 minimum.					

¹To a maximum of ~~\$160~~162 per Load.

²To a maximum of ~~\$1,072~~088 per Load.

Blackline Version Proposed Changes to Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation
 Bylaw No. 379, 2024 — Unofficial Consolidation

Table 2 - Transaction Fee

Each Load of Solid Waste delivered to a Solid Waste Facility and each Load of Gypsum dropped off at a designated Recycling Area	\$5/Load
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Table 3 - Recycling Fees for Recyclable Material dropped off in designated Recycling Areas

	North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre	North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre	Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre	Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre	Langley Recycling and Waste Centre	Waste-to-Energy Facility
Municipal Organics	\$ 117 155/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.	Not accepted.				
Mixed Organics	\$ 150 175/metric tonne ¹	\$ 150 175/metric tonne ^{1,2}	Not accepted.				
Yard Trimmings	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Clean Wood	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	\$ 124 139/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Gypsum – New: less than ½ metric tonne	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	\$158/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Gypsum – Used: less than ½ metric tonne	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	\$210/metric tonne ¹	Not accepted.
Mattresses	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	\$20 per Mattress	Not accepted.

¹Minimum Recycling Fee of \$10 per Load.

²Maximum weight of 100 kilograms per Load.

Table 4 – Surcharges

Loads containing Banned Recyclable Materials other than Food Waste or Expanded Polystyrene Packaging that exceeds either 5% of the total weight of the Load or 5% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.9)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Contaminated Recyclable Paper that exceeds either 5% of the total weight of the Load or 5% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.10)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Expanded Polystyrene Packaging that exceeds either 20% of the total weight of the Load or 20% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.11)	100% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads containing Food Waste that exceeds either 25% of the total weight of the Load or 25% of the total volume of the Load (section 7.12)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee
Loads of Municipal Organics containing more than 0.05% (by wet weight) of any other type of Solid Waste (section 7.13)	\$50 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Loads of Mixed Organics containing more than 0.5% (by wet weight) of any other type of Solid Waste (section 7.14)	\$50 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Loads containing any Hazardous and Operational Impact Materials or Product Stewardship Materials (section 7.15)	\$80 per Load plus any remediation or clean-up costs
Unsecured Loads (section 7.16)	50% of the applicable Tipping Fee to a maximum of \$50.00

ThTo: Zero Waste Committee
 From: Alison Schatz, Senior Communications Specialist, Corporate Communications
 Date: February 9, 2026 Meeting Date: April 2, 2026
 Subject: **2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 9, 2026, titled "2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update."

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Behaviour change campaigns are part of a suite of education, enforcement (policy), and engineering efforts by Metro Vancouver to reduce waste in the region. Four campaigns that support waste reduction and recycling goals will run in 2026 — these include "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage" (food scraps recycling, March to May), "Repair and Re-Wear" (textiles waste reduction, March to April), "Love Food Hate Waste Canada" (food waste prevention, summer TBC), and "What's Your Superhabit?" (single-use item reduction, summer TBC). As part of the 2025 Services and Cost Efficiencies Review, the holiday waste reduction campaign, "Create Memories, Not Garbage," was discontinued due to high competition for paid media space and consumer attention during the holidays, combined with challenges in measuring change in behaviour. The four campaigns for 2026 are planned to continue in 2027 with similar budget allocations.

PURPOSE

To update the Committee on behaviour change campaigns planned for 2026 that support waste reduction and recycling goals as outlined in the 2022–2026 Board Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

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

OVERVIEW

	Campaign Name and Topic	Timing	2026 Budget
	"Food Scraps Aren't Garbage" Food Scraps Recycling	March to May	\$183,000
	"Repair and Re-Wear" Textiles Waste Reduction	March to April	\$161,450

	Campaign Name and Topic	Timing	2026 Budget
	“Love Food Hate Waste Canada” Food Waste Prevention (Metro Vancouver is a partner in the national campaign)	Summer (TBC)	\$70,000
	“What’s Your Superhabit?” Single-Use Item Reduction	Summer (TBC)	\$210,100
		Total	\$624,550

As part of the 2025 Services and Cost Efficiencies Review, the Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget was moved from General Government to the GVS&DD. The budget for behaviour change campaigns was reduced from \$824,000 in 2025 to \$624,550 in 2026 to more closely align with the campaign budgets for Water Services and Liquid Waste Services. To maintain effectiveness across campaigns, one campaign was discontinued for 2026, rather than reducing the budget and reach across all campaigns. The holiday waste reduction campaign, “Create Memories, Not Garbage,” which had a budget of \$194,00 in 2025, was removed for two reasons. First, this campaign ran at a time of year when there was high competition for paid media space and consumer attention. Second, among all the solid waste campaigns, it was also the most difficult to measure any change in behaviour. The “Create Memories” message and resources will continue to be promoted through owned and social media, and will remain available to member jurisdictions.

CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOTS

Food Scraps Recycling Campaign — “Food Scraps Aren't Garbage”

Problem: 2024 waste composition data showed that compostable organics remain the largest component of multi-family waste (32%). When food scraps end up in the garbage, they take up valuable landfill space and produce greenhouse gas emissions.

2025 Performance: 45.1 million impressions, 2.1 million reach, nearly 5,000 social media engagements, and 12,700 visits to the website (Reference 3).

Impact: Campaign has helped increase green bin usage among residents from 79% after the Organics Disposal Ban was introduced in 2015 to 85% in 2024. The campaign has won behaviour change awards from the Social Marketing Association of North America, and is used internationally, including in the US EPA’s behaviour change toolkit.

2026 Campaign: The campaign will be in market from Monday, March 23 to Sunday, May 17 and will continue to use the googly-eyed food face characters. The target audience is once again people who live in apartments and condos, with a focus on younger adults who tend to use their green bin less consistently. A secondary objective in 2026 is to prevent contamination by keeping all plastic bags out of the green bin, even those labelled “biodegradable” or “compostable” (Reference 4).

Textiles Waste Reduction Campaign — “Repair and Re-Wear”

Problem: Textiles, including clothing and household fabrics, are one of the top four components of residential and commercial/institutional garbage, and make up four per cent of the region's garbage by weight, according to Metro Vancouver's 2024 waste composition study (Reference 1). Once in the garbage, textiles take up valuable landfill space, despite the fact that many items could be repaired, reused, or recycled.

2025 Performance: 22.4 million impressions, 3.7 million video views, and over 22,000 website visits. Compared to the previous year, the revamped campaign received a seven-fold increase in click throughs on Facebook/Instagram and website sessions more than doubled. (Reference 2)

Impact: A post-campaign survey will be conducted in 2026.

2026 Campaign: The 2026 campaign is planned for March 16 to April 26.

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

Problem: 63% of the food Canadians throw away could have been eaten. For the average Canadian household that amounts to 140 kilograms of wasted food per year — at a cost of more than \$1,300 per year.

2025 Performance: The national campaign is managed by Food Mesh, and Metro Vancouver promotes it regionally. The regional campaign had five million impressions, a reach of 880,000, 6,000 website visits, and nearly 10,000 social media engagements (Reference 7).

2026 Campaign: In 2026, Metro Vancouver will participate in Food Waste Action Week (March 9–13) and run a region wide campaign in August.

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

Problem: Single-use items have a lasting impact on our environment long after being used for a short period of time. In 2023, over a billion single-use items (bags, containers, cups, straws, utensils) were disposed in the Metro Vancouver region — equivalent to 358 items per person per year.

2025 Performance: 33.3 million total impressions, 3.1 million video views, and over 5,000 likes, comments, and shares on social media (Reference 5).

Impact: Post-campaign research in 2025 showed that 37 per cent of residents recall seeing the campaign, and 57 per cent of those say that they’ve reduced their use of single-use items as a result of the ads. The campaign has won behaviour change awards from the Social Marketing Association of North America. 2024 waste composition findings showed an increase in single-use items compared to 2023, and future studies will help confirm the trend. Findings from this study also suggest a shift from plastic single-use items toward paper or wood, particularly for retail bags and utensils (Reference 6).

2026 Campaign: The campaign will run again in 2026, using the same creative platform with refinements informed by learnings from 2024 waste composition study and 2025 post-campaign survey. Planning is in progress, and the timing may shift to later in the summer/fall.

2027 BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Campaign priorities are based on solid waste data and campaign performance. The four paid campaigns for 2026 are planned to continue in 2027 with similar budget allocations.

External Relations also develops and runs communications that support Solid Waste Services programs and goals on no-cost media placements, such as owned channels (website, newsletter), social media, and earned media. These communications aim to build trust and encourage waste reduction and recycling. Examples include promoting reuse days, encouraging the proper disposal of nitrous oxide cylinders, and promoting recycling and waste centres.

MEMBER JURISDICTION UPDATES

Campaign updated and materials are shared with members through the Regional Communications Advisory Group and the Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators Committee (RWRCC). Updates and results are shared with RWRCC and the REAC Solid Waste Subcommittee, in alignment with updates to the Zero Waste Committee.

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2026 solid waste behaviour change campaigns have a budget of \$624,550, supported under the 2026 Solid Waste Communications Program budget managed by the External Relations Department.

As part of the 2025 Services and Cost Efficiencies Review, the Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives budget was moved from General Government to the GVS&DD. The budget for solid waste behaviour change campaigns was reduced from \$824,000 in 2025 to \$624,550 in 2026. The holiday waste reduction campaign, "Create Memories, Not Garbage," which had a budget of \$194,00 in 2025, was discontinued for 2026.

CONCLUSION

Behaviour change campaigns contribute to waste reduction and recycling goals as outlined in the 2022–2026 Board Strategic Plan. Metro Vancouver's behaviour change campaigns are evidence-based and developed using the social marketing methodology. Campaign performance data will continue to be used to refine and improve campaigns, and their impact on the target behaviour is measured directly and reported whenever possible. Four campaigns that support Solid Waste Services will run in 2026, including "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage" (food scraps recycling, March to May), "Repair and Re-Wear" (textiles waste reduction; March to April), "Love Food Hate Waste Canada" (food waste prevention, summer TBC), and "What's Your Superhabit?" (single-use item reduction, summer TBC).

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation: 2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update.

REFERENCES

1. Du, K. (2025 June 23). *2024 Waste Composition Data* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2025, July 3]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2025-07-03-AGE.pdf#page=64>
2. Schatz, A. (2025, September 4). *2025 Textiles Waste Reduction Campaign Results* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2025, September 11]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2025-09-11-AGE.pdf#page=50>
3. Ritzman, S. and Drinkwater, A. (2025 may 22). *2025 Food Scraps Recycling Campaign "Food Scraps Aren't Garbage" Results* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2025, June 5]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2025-06-05-AGE.pdf#page=9>
4. Henderson, P. (2026, January 22). *Manager's Report* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2026, February 5]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2026-02-05-AGE.pdf#page=56>
5. Schatz, A. (2025, October 8). *2025 Single-Use Item Reduction "What's Your Superhabit?" Campaign Results* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2025, November 6]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2025-11-06-AGE.pdf#page=35>

6. Du, K. (2025 September 3). *Single-Use Item Waste Composition Results* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2025, September 11]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2025-09-11-AGE.pdf#page=60>
7. Henderson, P. (2026, January 5). *Manager's Report* [Staff report to Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee on 2026, January 15]. <https://metrovancover.org/boards/ZeroWaste/ZWA-2026-01-15-AGE.pdf#page=17>

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Food Scraps campaign materials in the SkyTrain station

2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update

Alison Schatz

Senior Communications Specialist, External Relations

Zero Waste Committee, April 2, 2026

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REGIONAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS

Behaviour change campaigns — along with education, policy, and enforcement — contribute to achieving the objectives identified in to 2022–2026 Board Strategic Plan

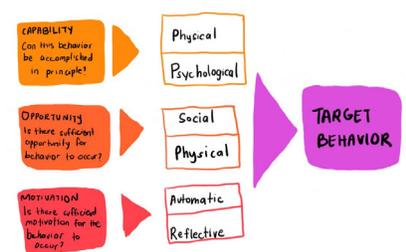
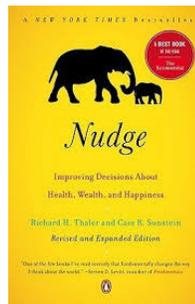
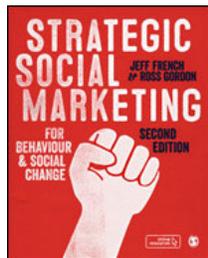
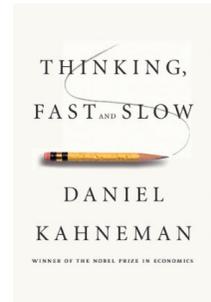
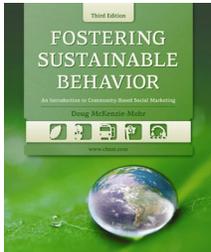
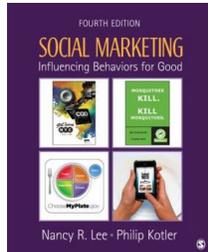
-  Liquid Waste: Prevent pollution from entering the wastewater system
-  Water: Sustainable use of water resources
-  **Solid Waste: Waste reduction and recycling**

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BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



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2026 OVERVIEW – SOLID WASTE CAMPAIGNS

Campaign Name and Topic	Timing	2026 Budget
 <p><u>Food Scraps Aren't Garbage</u> Food scraps recycling</p>	March to May	\$183,000
 <p><u>Repair and Re-wear</u> Textile waste reduction</p>	March to April	\$161,450
 <p><u>Love Food Hate Waste Canada</u> Food waste prevention</p>	Summer (TBC)	\$70,000
 <p><u>What's Your Superhabit?</u> Single-use item reduction</p>	Summer (TBC)	\$210,100

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FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING

“Food Scraps Aren’t Garbage”

Objective	Increase the diversion of organic waste into the green bin
2026 Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday, March 23 to Sunday, May 17 Googly-eyed food face characters Target audience is people who live in apartments and condos (focus on younger adults) Secondary objective in 2026 is to prevent contamination by keeping all plastic bags out of the green bin, even those labelled “biodegradable” or “compostable”
Website	metrovancover.org/foodscraps



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TEXTILES WASTE REDUCTION

“Repair and Re-Wear”

Objective	Reduce the amount of textiles disposed in the garbage by encouraging people to do small, easy repairs to their clothing
2026 Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 16 to April 26, 2026 Second year of the “Repair and Re-Wear” creative platform Post-campaign survey planned for 2026
Website	repairandrewear.ca



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FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

“Love Food Hate Waste Canada”

Objective Prevent food waste by helping people buy only what they need, store groceries correctly, and use everything up

- 2026 Campaign**
- National campaign is managed by Food Mesh, and Metro Vancouver promotes it regionally
 - Food Waste Action Week (March 9 – 13, 2026)
 - Region wide campaign in August TBC

Website lovefoodhatewaste.ca



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SINGLE-USE ITEM REDUCTION

“What’s Your Superhabit?”

Objective Reduce the use and disposal of single-use items in Metro Vancouver through voluntary reduction

- 2026 Campaign**
- Late summer TBC
 - Continue to use the “What’s Your Superhabit?” creative platform, with refinements

Website Superhabits.ca
[#WhatsYourSuperhabit](https://www.instagram.com/WhatsYourSuperhabit)



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MEMBER JURISDICTION UPDATES

- Updates to member staff
 - Regional Communications Advisory Group
 - Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators Committee
 - REAC Solid Waste Subcommittee
- Tailor materials for members as needed
- Staff are welcome to reach out any time
 - Alison.Schatz@metrovancover.org



[www.metrovancover.org/
services/solid-waste/
campaign-materials](http://www.metrovancover.org/services/solid-waste/campaign-materials)

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"What's Your Superhabit?" Campaign Transit Shelter Ad

Thank You

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To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: March 20, 2026

Meeting Date: April 2, 2026

Subject: **Manager's Report**

RECOMMENDATION

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

National Zero Waste Council Update

The National Zero Waste Council is an initiative of Metro Vancouver that advances waste prevention and circular economy through national cross-sector collaboration with leaders in business, government, and communities. The following provides an update on recent work of the National Zero Waste Council related to reuse, as well as ongoing work to review and streamline the council's governance and organizational structure.

The National Zero Waste Council's Reuse Working Group – comprised of leading business, government, and community practitioners – is focused on advancing policy understanding for reusable food and beverage packaging in Canada. Work in 2026 includes two webinars and a virtual workshop. The first webinar was co-hosted with PAC Global on March 24 and featured BC Place, Live Nation, and a publicly owned ice arena in Victoria. Over 150 people participated in the webinar and over 300 registrants will receive the recording for the session. Feedback for the session was very positive.

The second webinar will take place May 21 featuring the cities of Toronto, Victoria, and the town of Banff – all of which have reuse policies in place. A virtual workshop on June 23 will take learnings from the webinars and recent research to explore policy solutions – identifying priority sectors and jurisdictional leads for policy reform, outlining strategic settings for the scaling of reuse, and setting out policy change implications. A policy brief will be developed as a deliverable.

The National Zero Waste Council continues to review and streamline its governance and organizational structure. This includes considering updating the size and terms of the council's Executive (formerly Management Board), whose purpose is to provide strategic advice on waste prevention and circularity. The Executive includes cross-jurisdictional representation from government, business, and the community. Current members of the Executive will remain in place in 2026, as staff continue the process of developing proposed changes to bring forward for the GVS&DD Board's consideration.

Impact From Adoption of Daylight Savings Time

In response to a committee member's question raised at the March meeting regarding potential operational impacts of the permanent adoption of daylight savings time, staff have reviewed the Province's announcement and considered potential implications.

In March 2026, the Province announced it would adopt year-round daylight saving time. As of November 1, 2026, most of British Columbia will remain on a new year-round "Pacific Time" set at UTC-7, resulting in later daylight hours during winter months beginning in the 2026/27 season.

There is no anticipated operational impact on Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities arising from British Columbia's permanent adoption of daylight saving time. The Waste-to-Energy Facility currently operates continuously on a 24/7 basis, and the region's recycling and waste centres are already equipped with lighting to support safe and effective operations regardless of seasonal daylight changes. Should public behaviour shift over time — particularly during winter months — to favour later-day use of these facilities, Metro Vancouver can reassess and, if appropriate, update facility operating hours to ensure continued service accessibility and operational efficiency.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 Zero Waste Committee Work Plan.

82346291

Zero Waste Committee 2026 Work Plan

Report Date: March 20, 2026

Priorities

1st Quarter	Status
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	Complete
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	In Progress
2nd Quarter	Status
2025 Waste Composition Program Results	Pending
2025 Disposal Ban Program Results	Pending
2026 Textile Waste Reduction Campaign Update	Complete
2026 Single-Use Item Reduction Campaign Update	Pending
Contract Approvals as per the <i>Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority Policy</i>	Pending
3rd Quarter	Status
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
4th Quarter	Status
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