metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
ZERO WASTE COMMITTEE

MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2026
1:00 pm
The meeting will be held electronically on the Zoom platform

Members of the public may register to attend electronically to watch and hear the meeting.

Please visit our website for registration and for information about attending the meeting.
The link to the June 11, 2026 Zero Waste Committee meeting page is
https://metrovancouver.org/boards/meeting/3428

AGENDA

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. June 11, 2026 Meeting Agenda
THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the revised agenda for its meeting scheduled for June 11, 2026 as circulated.

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. April 2, 2026 Meeting Minutes *pg. 4*
THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held April 2, 2026 as circulated.

C. DELEGATIONS

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. 2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report *pg. 10*
Report dated May 27, 2026 from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary
The 2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report (Biennial Report) is a progress report on the implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* (2011 solid waste management plan), as required by the Province. This report contains the 2023-2024 implementation status of initiatives in the plan and 2024 annual summary of recycling and solid waste statistics.

Following consideration by the Zero Waste Committee, the Biennial Report will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

As reported to the Zero Waste Committee at its February 5, 2026, meeting, the Metro Vancouver region achieved a 65 per cent diversion rate in 2024, consisting of 62 per cent recycled materials and 3 per cent recovered materials. Since approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver's per capita disposal rate has decreased from 0.57 tonnes per capita in 2011 to 0.43 tonnes per capita in 2024: a decrease of 24 per cent.

With the Board's endorsement of the draft updated solid waste management plan on April 24, 2026, and the upcoming submission of the draft plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks, this is expected to be the last biennial report for 2011 solid waste management plan. The updated solid waste management plan expands on performance monitoring with both primary and secondary metrics that will assist in tracking progress towards the goals in the updated plan.

Recommendation
THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 2026, titled "2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report".

2. 2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study *pg. 14*
Report dated May 27, 2026 from Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services.

Executive Summary
Metro Vancouver's waste composition program includes a series of annual studies to learn about the types and quantities of waste disposed in the region. A full-scale waste composition study, which examines residential and commercial/institutional waste, was conducted at regional facilities over several weeks. The 2025 results indicate the following:

- Compostable organics, paper, and plastic remain the most common materials in residential and commercial/institutional garbage.
- Despite an overall downward trend since 2021, organics, such as yard and food waste, have increased in 2025.
- Plastics have shown a consistent upward trend since 2022. This trend is consistent with the increased use of plastics packaging for food and other products.
- Paper has shown a slight increase since 2023, mainly due to higher amounts of food-soiled paper, non-recyclable paper, and cardboard.
- Many actions in the updated solid waste management plan target these materials: organics (particularly in the multi-family and commercial/institutional sector), plastics and scaling up reuse opportunities to reduce reliance on paper packaging.
- Metro Vancouver's findings are mostly consistent with those of other organizations, which demonstrate the effectiveness of bans targeting the sale and use of single-use items. Plastic checkout bags, foam cups and foam takeout containers are decreasing, whereas items that are not banned such as plastic and paper cups and takeout containers have increased.

- Trends for straws and utensils are not clear due to high numbers of straws and utensils in a small number of samples from the commercial/institutional sector. For items with low overall proportions in the waste stream such as single use items, sample data from a small number of loads can have significant impacts of overall calculated concentrations.

Recommendation
THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 2026, titled "2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study".

3. Manager's Report *pg. 30*
Report dated May 27, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services.

Recommendation
THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 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 June 11, 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

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

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

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair, Sarah Kirby-Yung, Vancouver
Vice Chair, Craig Hodge, Coquitlam
Anmore, Paul Weverink
Burnaby, Pietro Calendino
Langley City, Rosemary Wallace
Langley Township, Steve Ferguson
North Vancouver District, Lisa Muri (departed at 2:34 pm)
Port Coquitlam, Steve Darling
Richmond, Michael Wolfe
Surrey, Doug Elford
Vancouver, Lenny Zhou (arrived at 1:04 pm)

OTHERS PRESENT:
Celena Benndorf, Principal, Canada Consulting
Veronika Bylicki, Co-founder, CityHive
Peter Fassbender, President, Fassbender Consulting Ltd.
Komal Fatima, Member, Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel
Andrea Reimer, Chair, Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel
Ryan Williams, Founder and President, TWI Surveys

STAFF PRESENT:
Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services
Christine Zhao, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services
Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services
Alison Schatz, Senior Communications Specialist, Corporate Communications

A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. April 2, 2026 Meeting Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Zero Waste Committee amend the revised agenda for its meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026 by adding the following delegation:

- C1 – Delegation – Russ Black, President of Wastech Services Inc.

CARRIED

It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the revised agenda for its meeting scheduled for April 2, 2026 as amended.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

1. March 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Zero Waste Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held March 5, 2026 as circulated.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS

1. Russ Black, Wastech Services Inc.

Subject: Comments on Strengthening the Solid Waste Management Plan

Russ Black, President, Wastech Services Inc., gave a presentation titled "Suggestions for Improving the 2026 SWMP," providing comments on the Solid Waste Management Plan and analysis from the perspectives of embodied carbon, extended producer responsibility, sunk system costs, economies of scale, and cost comparisons for the Committee's consideration.

1:04 pm Director Zhou joined the meeting.

D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

No items presented.

E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation

Report dated March 31, 2026 from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, introducing an overview presentation for the following three items on the agenda.

Terry Fulton gave a presentation titled "Draft Solid Waste Management Plan," providing an overview of the Plan timeline and process, engagement statistics, revisions to the initial draft Plan including the targets and focus areas, and next steps.

1:38 pm Director Ferguson left the meeting.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the GVS&DD Board receive for information the report dated March 31, 2026 titled "Draft Solid Waste Management Plan – Presentation".

CARRIED

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

Report dated March 23, 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 initial draft solid waste management plan, including draft targets, metrics, strategies/actions, and other components.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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".

CARRIED

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

Report dated March 16, 2026 from Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services, introducing the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel (the "Engagement Panel") and providing a summary of the Panel's reflections on engagement related to the solid waste management plan update.

Chair Kirby-Yung introduced the work of the Engagement Panel and its members. Andrea Reimer, Chair, Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel, introduced herself and four members in attendance and reviewed the key findings of the Engagement Panel's report.

1:43 pm Director Ferguson rejoined the meeting.

It was MOVED and SECONDED

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".

CARRIED

4. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Report dated March 31, 2026 from Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, presenting the draft solid waste management plan to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board and seeking Board direction to invite feedback on the draft in advance of submitting it to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
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.

CARRIED
(Councilors Darling and Wolfe voted against)

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

Report dated March 24, 2026 from Chris Allan, Director, Solid Waste Operations, Solid Waste Services, and George Kavouras, Director, Procurement, Procurement and Real Estate Services, seeking GVS&DD Board approval of 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.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
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.

CARRIED

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

Report dated March 26, 2026 from Allen Jensen, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, recommending changes to the Tipping Fee Bylaw and seeking GVS&DD Board adoption of *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Amendment Bylaw No. 400, 2026*.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
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*.

CARRIED

7. 2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update

Report dated February 9, 2026 from Alison Schatz, Senior Communications Specialist, Corporate Communications, providing an update to 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.

2:34 pm Director Muri left the meeting.

Alison Schatz gave a presentation titled "2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update," providing an overview of four Solid Waste campaigns for 2026 and updates to member jurisdictions.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
That the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated February 9, 2026, titled "2026 Behaviour Change Campaign Update".

CARRIED

8. Manager's Report

Report dated March 20, 2026 from Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, providing an update on the National Zero Waste Council and confirming no anticipated operational impact on Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities arising from British Columbia's adoption of daylight saving time.

It was MOVED and SECONDED
THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated March 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 April 2, 2026.

CARRIED

(Time: 2:38 pm)

Christine Zhao,
Legislative Services Coordinator

Sarah Kirby-Yung,
Chair

84449798

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

To: Zero Waste Committee

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

Date: May 27, 2026 Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Subject: **2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 2026, titled "2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report (Biennial Report) is a progress report on the implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* (2011 solid waste management plan), as required by the Province. This report contains the 2023-2024 implementation status of initiatives in the plan and 2024 annual summary of recycling and solid waste statistics. Following consideration by the Zero Waste Committee, the Biennial Report will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

As reported to the Zero Waste Committee at its February 5, 2026, meeting, the Metro Vancouver region achieved a 65 per cent diversion rate in 2024, consisting of 62 per cent recycled materials and 3 per cent recovered materials. Since approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver's per capita disposal rate has decreased from 0.57 tonnes per capita in 2011 to 0.43 tonnes per capita in 2024: a decrease of 24 per cent.

With the Board's endorsement of the draft updated solid waste management plan on April 24, 2026, and the upcoming submission of the draft plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks, this is expected to be the last biennial report for 2011 solid waste management plan. The updated solid waste management plan expands on performance monitoring with both primary and secondary metrics that will assist in tracking progress towards the goals in the updated plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Zero Waste Committee with the draft 2024 Biennial Report on progress of the implementation of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management plan*.

BACKGROUND

Under the provincial *Environmental Management Act*, regional districts must prepare solid waste management plans outlining the facilities, regulations, programs, and other initiatives that will be used to reduce, reuse, recycle, and dispose of municipal solid waste. Metro Vancouver's current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* was approved by the Minister of Environment on July 22, 2011. A condition of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* approval was that Metro Vancouver must provide a progress report on the implementation of the plan to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy every two years.

2024 INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN BIENNIAL REPORT

The biennial report typically includes a summary of strategies, performance measures and progress on the detailed actions in the plan, and supplements a separate annual summary of recycling and solid waste management statistics.

With the Board's endorsement of the draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan on April 24, 2026, and its upcoming submission to the Minister of Environment and Parks, this is expected to be the final biennial report prepared under the 2011 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan. However, if provincial approval of the updated plan is not obtained, an additional biennial report will be required based on the 2011 plan.

2024 Solid Waste Data Statistics

As reported to the Zero Waste Committee at its February 5, 2026, meeting, the Metro Vancouver region achieved a 65 per cent diversion rate in 2024, consisting of 62 per cent recycled materials and 3 per cent recovered materials. The diversion rate has been constant since 2022 despite challenging economic conditions and weakening market demand for some commodities such as wood. Since approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver's per capita disposal rate has decreased from 0.57 tonnes per capita in 2011 to 0.43 tonnes per capita in 2024, a decrease of 24 per cent. Minor corrections to the diversion and disposal tonnages have since been made, but they do not affect the reported diversion or disposal rates. These updates reflect revised waste-to-energy disposal figures and updated estimates for recycled construction and demolition materials based on updated information.

2023 and 2024 Highlights

The following initiatives undertaken since the previous biennial progress report have helped to further the goals of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* while reflecting the public's expectations of environmental stewardship, affordability, and accessibility.

Solid waste management plan update:

- **Advanced solid waste management plan update –** Engaged extensively with First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, advisory committees, the public, and other interested parties. Completed the vision and guiding principles phase of the solid waste management plan update and progressed to the idea generation phase.
- **Collaborative engagement** – Provided funding to 16 not-for-profit organizations to engage with their communities on the updated solid waste management plan through the Collaborative Engagement Program. Feedback was collected from approximately 650 individuals to help shape future strategies and actions for inclusion in the solid waste management plan. The program's success was featured at the 2024 IAP2 North American Conference.

Waste prevention and re-use:

- **Shared best practices in reuse** – The National Zero Waste Council's Reuse Working Group published six case studies showcasing successful reuse businesses and explaining how reuse models operate in practice.
- **Expanded reuse events** – Held 34 reuse events at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre in 2024, resulting in more than 27,000 kilograms of materials being reused rather than disposed.
- **Launched reuse pilot** – Began a 12-month reuse pilot at the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre in partnership with Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver. The program aims to educate the public and divert reusable items from the waste stream.
- **Promoted reuse through workplace outreach** – Contracted with Ocean Ambassadors Canada to raise awareness about single-use items and encourage reuse. The campaign delivered 26 workplace "lunch and learn" sessions and participated in 15 public events.

- **Hosted the 2023 Zero Waste Conference –** Held one of the best-attended and reviewed Zero Waste Conferences in 2023, with the theme "Climate Action through Circularity".
- **Supported home relocation** – Reduced building-related waste by providing space to store houses removed from development sites prior to their relocation. Each relocated house prevented 100 tonnes of waste disposal and significant greenhouse gas emissions.

Recycling and Waste Centres:

- **Upgraded recycling infrastructure** – Replaced an aging compactor at the North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre to improve reliability and operational efficiency.
- **Designed new recycling depots** – Completed preliminary designs for new recycling depot areas at the North Surrey and Langley recycling and waste centres. Once built, these facilities will provide free recycling drop-off ahead of the weigh scales.
- **Improved efficiency at solid waste facilities** – Installed DataBridge weigh scale software to streamline operations and enhance customer service across Metro Vancouver's solid waste sites.

Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System:

- **Progressed District Energy Project design** – Advanced to detailed design for a new district energy system that, at full build-out, will supply heat and hot water to approximately 50,000 homes using energy recovered from waste.

Future Reporting Updates

To track progress toward meeting the goals of the updated draft solid waste management plan, a set of primary and secondary metrics will be used to assess progress against targets and identify emerging trends to help guide ongoing implementation and continuous improvement.

Primary metrics include waste generation, diversion, disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions. Some improvements are being considered for future reporting, such as displaying data in a dashboard format and exploring the possibility of having third-party verification on values reported by unlicensed facilities to improve data quality.

The solid waste management plan update uses a suite of metrics to track progress and trends over time, recognizing that quantitative data is limited in some areas, such as reuse and waste prevention initiatives. Secondary metrics will 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. Some of the secondary metrics include:

- Rethink: Track progress toward a circular economy through indicators such as circular jobs, advocacy efforts, and adoption of circular procurement policies.
- Reduce: Measure waste prevention outcomes, including the number of single-use items generated, food waste quantities, and reusable systems for dine-in settings.
- Reuse: Monitor reuse performance through measurable tonnage of reused materials, repair activity, building relocation or deconstruction, and food rescue programs.
- Recycle: Assess recycling system performance using material-specific recycling rates, participation in organics programs, and organics contamination levels.
- Recover: Track the ratio of recycling as a portion of diversion.
- Dispose: Monitor residual impacts through energy generation from disposal facilities and associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Metro Vancouver will work on establishing baseline metrics for the updated plan for the 2025 annual report. Future reporting will also include annual updates on plan progress and information on expenditures and their effectiveness. Adjustments may be made to metrics to ensure they continue to provide actionable information, as well as respond to emerging issues.

ALTERNATIVES
This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

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

CONCLUSION
The 2024 Biennial Report is a progress report on the implementation of the *2011 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, as required by the province. The report includes statistics on the region's waste diversion and disposal performance, along with descriptions of the status of the individual initiatives outlined in the plan. Looking ahead to the next progress report, the updated solid waste management plan will strengthen performance tracking framework through a suite of primary and secondary metrics. These will show progress against targets and identify emerging trends to help guide ongoing implementation and continuous improvement. Continued reporting with a focus on transparency and accessibility will help ensure long-term progress toward regional waste and climate objectives.

REFERENCES
1. Metro Vancouver. (2025). Metro Vancouver: Draft 2024 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan Biennial Report.

85240655

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

fTo: Zero Waste Committee

From: Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services

Date: May 27, 2026 Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Subject: **2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 2026, titled "2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study".

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Metro Vancouver's waste composition program includes a series of annual studies to learn about the types and quantities of waste disposed in the region. A full-scale waste composition study, which examines residential and commercial/institutional waste, was conducted at regional facilities over several weeks. The 2025 results indicate the following:

- Compostable organics, paper, and plastic remain the most common materials in residential and commercial/institutional garbage.
- Despite an overall downward trend since 2021, organics, such as yard and food waste, have increased in 2025.
- Plastics have shown a consistent upward trend since 2022. This trend is consistent with the increased use of plastics packaging for food and other products.
- Paper has shown a slight increase since 2023, mainly due to higher amounts of food-soiled paper, non-recyclable paper, and cardboard.
- Many actions in the updated solid waste management plan target these materials: organics (particularly in the multi-family and commercial/institutional sector), plastics and scaling up reuse opportunities to reduce reliance on paper packaging.
- Metro Vancouver's findings are mostly consistent with those of other organizations, which demonstrate the effectiveness of bans targeting the sale and use of single-use items. Plastic checkout bags, foam cups and foam takeout containers are decreasing, whereas items that are not banned such as plastic and paper cups and takeout containers have increased.
- Trends for straws and utensils are not clear due to high numbers of straws and utensils in a small number of samples from the commercial/institutional sector. For items with low overall proportions in the waste stream such as single use items, sample data from a small number of loads can have significant impacts of overall calculated concentrations.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update the Zero Waste Committee on the results of the 2025 full-scale waste composition study.

BACKGROUND

Metro Vancouver follows a comprehensive waste composition program that includes full-scale and sector specific studies. Analyzing the composition of garbage provides valuable estimates of the types and quantities of material disposed in the region and data to enable monitoring of the updated solid waste management plan.

2025 WASTE COMPOSITION PROGRAM

Two waste composition studies were conducted in 2025: a full-scale study of waste (which samples residential and commercial/institutional sources) received at regional disposal facilities, and a sector-specific study of the construction and demolition sector. The construction and demolition waste composition study will be presented to the Zero Waste Committee at a future meeting.

Full Scale Waste Composition Study Overall Results

Field work for the full-scale study took place in November 2025 at the North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, Waste-to-Energy Facility, and Vancouver South Transfer Station. Field work involved obtaining approximately 100 samples of 100 kg each from incoming waste loads and sorting those samples into 177 material categories. Each category was then weighed, and aggregated weights were combined to provide an estimate of composition for the region.

Notable observations include:

- The top three components of residential and commercial/institutional garbage remain compostable organics, paper, and plastic. Many actions in the updated solid waste management plan target these materials, focusing on improvements in sectors which generate proportionally more than others, such as the multi-family sector.
- Although organics have generally followed a downward trend since 2021, compostable organics have increased slightly from 70 kg/capita (22 per cent) in 2024 to 82 kg/capita (25 per cent) in 2025, reflecting higher yard waste and avoidable food waste, despite a decrease in unavoidable food waste. More data is required to confirm the trends in compostable organics. The updated solid waste management plan includes reducing the disposal of valuable food and increasing participation in organics programs as focus areas.
- Since 2022, plastics have shown a consistent upward trend, increasing from 52 kg/capita (17 per cent) in 2022 to 67 kg/capita (20 per cent) in 2025, primarily composed of flexible plastics, synthetic textiles and rigid packaging. This trend is consistent with the increased use of plastics packaging for food and other products in retail. Collaborating with other organizations to reduce unnecessary and hard-to-recycle plastic is a focus area of the updated plan.
- The paper category increased to 21 per cent in 2025, up from 14 per cent in 2023 and 17 per cent in 2024, mainly due to higher amounts of food-soiled paper, cardboard and non-recyclable paper. Examples of non-recyclable paper include quick-serve wrappers, plastic-lined paper and plastic-bubble lined envelopes. Scaling up reuse opportunities is focus of the updated plan and will help reduce reliance on paper.

Table 1: Regional Waste Disposal by Material (kg/capita)[1,2]					
Material	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Paper	60	59	47	53	70
Plastic	62	52	57	61	67
Compostable Plastic	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
Compostable Organics	87	84	73	70	82
Non-Compostable Organics	27	46	50	48	31
Metals	10	10	16	10	10
Glass	6	11	8	11	7
Building Material	14	18	21	14	13
Electronic Waste	3	5	9	4	5
Household Hazardous	6	2	6	6	4
Household Hygiene	29	23	17	26	34
Bulky Objects	2	1	9	6	3
Fines	5	3	3	5	2
Total	**312**	**315**	**318**	**315**	**328**

[1] Per capita tonnage for waste composition studies are typically based on the last reported year of data available at the time of publishing.

[2] Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding, whole numbers were used to calculate totals.

Table 2: Regional Waste Disposal by Material (%)[1]					
	2021	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Paper	19%	19%	14%	17%	21%
Plastic	20%	17%	18%	19%	20%
Compostable Plastic	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Compostable Organics	28%	27%	23%	22%	25%
Non-Compostable Organics	9%	15%	15%	15%	9%
Metals	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%
Glass	2%	4%	3%	4%	2%
Building Material	5%	6%	7%	4%	4%
Electronic Waste	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Household Hazardous	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Household Hygiene	9%	7%	6%	8%	10%
Bulky Objects	1%	0%	3%	2%	1%
Fines	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Total	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

[1] Numbers may not add up to totals due to rounding, whole numbers were used to calculate totals.

Single-Use Items Overall Results

The calculation methodology for single-use items has been updated to more accurately reflect the contribution of individual sectors to overall single-use item quantities. This has not significantly affected previously individual material reported trends but improves data accuracy. Ongoing refinements will help continue to strengthen data quality over time.

Table 3: Estimated Single-Use Items (SUI) Per Capita

SUI	2018	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Retail Bags[1]	100	61	107	95	50	82	73
Cups	102	35	88	141	88	117	157
Containers	70	50	74	125	85	106	105
Straws	40	37	51	31	40	48	118
Utensils	130	47	155	125	74	230	152
Total	443	231	476	518	337	583	605

[1] Retail bags consist of checkout bags.

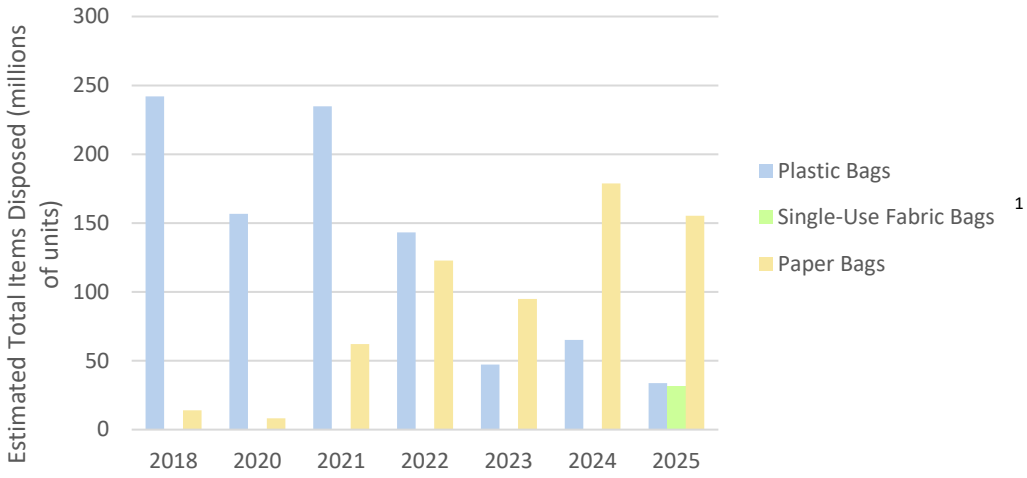
In 2024, single-use items represented 3.0 per cent of the waste stream by weight, and in 2025 it increased to 3.3 per cent. Through collection of 2025 data, it can be more confidently concluded that:

- Single-use item generation continues to increase following the COVID-19 pandemic, with 2023 data appearing to be an outlier.
- The commercial sector was the primary driver of increases in single-use items in 2024 and 2025. In 2024 and 2025, some samples collected from businesses that generate large volumes of single-use items contributed to a higher number of single use item counts.
- Given the relatively small weight of single-use items, minor inconsistencies in data collection can disproportionately influence the reported quantities. This is especially notable for small items such as straws and utensils. Continuous annual data collection is critical to ensuring accurate trend analysis for single-use items.

The following breakdown of single-use items will focus on retail bags, given their relevance to tracking the effectiveness of the provincial-wide *Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation*, along with the top two material categories contributing to the increase in single-use items from 2024 to 2025: straws and cups.

Retail Bags

The number of retail bags (i.e. checkout bags) in 2025 decreased compared to the per capita disposal rates found during previous studies and have generally declined since 2021. The decrease in plastic bags is partially offset by increases in the amount of paper bags and single-use fabric bags found in the waste stream. Single-use fabric bags are a new category added in 2025 and were not previously tracked as single-use items. Currently, there is very limited data on trends in single-use fabric bags.



[1] Single-use fabric bags were introduced as a new category in 2025, 2025 was the first year tracking this method.

Figure 1. Estimated Retail Bags Disposed (millions of units)

Straws

The number of paper straws has increased between 2022 and 2025 and plastic straws appear to have increased since 2024 (figure 2). Upon further analysis, as per figure 3, two samples were identified with high counts of straws, each containing approximately 120 items. Combined, these samples account for 28.6% of the total sampled straw count in the commercial/institutional sector. Rather than excluding these data points, the revised 2024 methodology recognizes that such outliers may reflect genuine waste generation patterns within the commercial/institutional sector. A similar spike was observed in 2024 for utensils, reinforcing this variability. These results highlight that waste from the commercial/institutional sector can be highly variable, and that relatively small differences in sampling can disproportionately influence reported quantities. Further data collection in future years will be help to better assess trends.

Additionally in the field, staff observed that there were many plastic straws that were suspected to be compostable plastic straws, though the exact material of the straw is difficult to determine in the field.

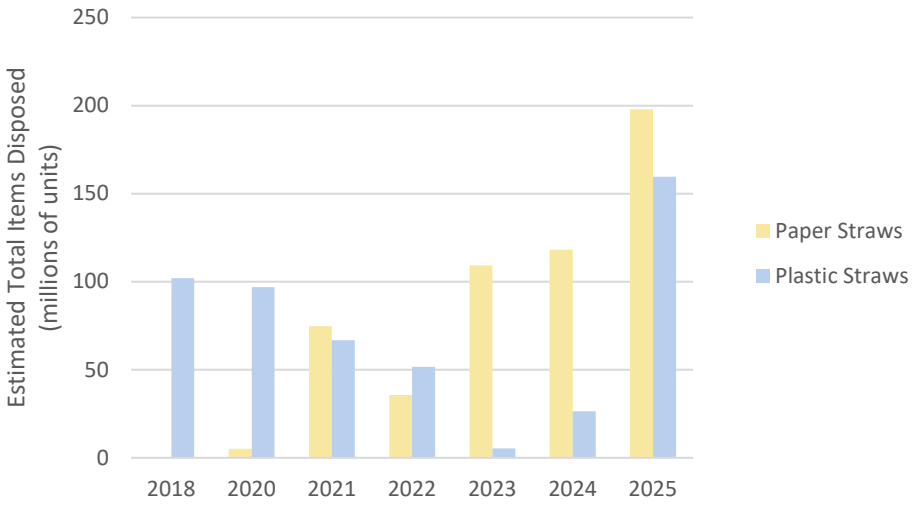


Figure 2. Estimated Straws Disposed (millions of units)

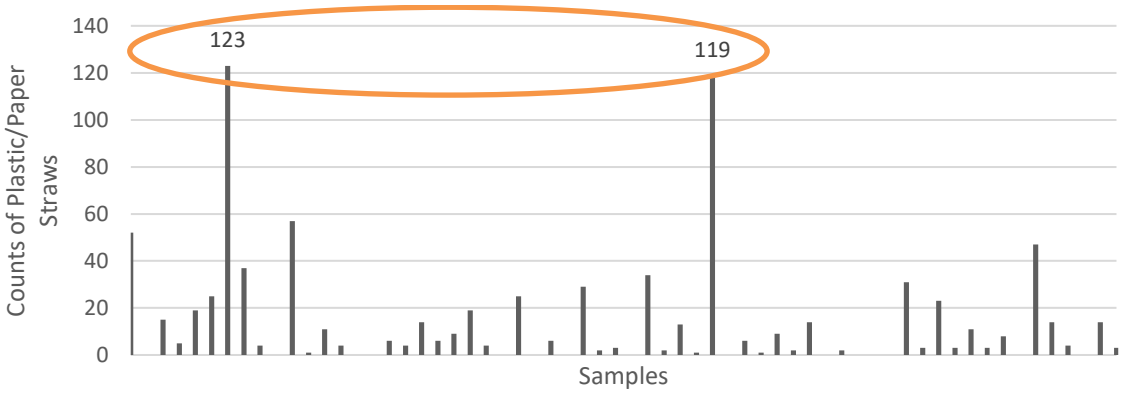


Figure 3. Sample Counts of Plastic and Paper Straws in the Commercial/Institutional Sector

Cups

The number of cups in the waste stream increased in 2025 compared to 2024. Plastic cups are generally used for cold beverages, whereas paper (plastic-lined) cups are more commonly used for hot beverages. Although this study focuses on waste composition in the garbage stream, a similar trend is observed in shoreline litter data. Ocean Wise reports that unregulated single-use items such as coffee cups and lids have increased significantly in shoreline clean up data, rising from approximately one item per person in the late 2010s to roughly two items per person in recent years — an increase of 70 to 100 per cent. (Ocean Wise, 2026)

As per figure 4, the number of foam cups disposed has clearly declined since 2018. Several communities in Metro Vancouver banned expanded foam containers in advance the province-wide restrictions on food service ware made of foam which came into effect July 15, 2024. The data demonstrates its effectiveness in reducing the use of foam cups.

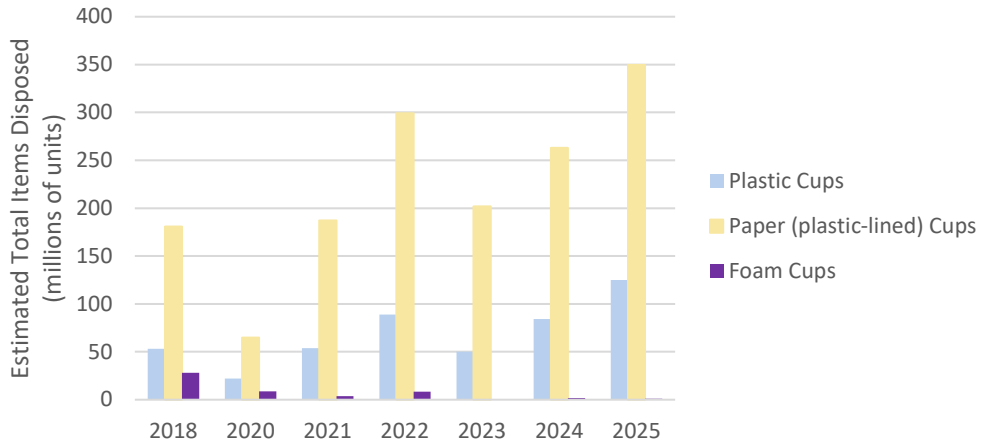


Figure 4. Estimated Cups Disposed (millions of units)

Single-Use Item Regulatory Measures

Metro Vancouver does not have jurisdiction over the sale or distribution of single-use items. To support consistency across the region, Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions have historically advocated for harmonized regulations.

In 2023, the Government of British Columbia introduced a phased provincial regulation to reduce single-use and plastic waste (Table 3). This regulation complements municipal bylaws, which may be stricter and include local enforcement and education. For items not covered by the provincial regulation, municipalities may seek ministerial approval if the municipality does not have the governing authority.

Table 4. Summary of B.C. Provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation	
Effective Date	**Items and Requirements**
Dec 20, 2023	• Single-use plastic utensils banned • Food service accessories (e.g., non-plastic utensils, straws, napkins, condiment sachets, garnishes, drink cup lids/sleeves) can only be provided upon customer request
Jan 15, 2024	• Single-use plastic shopping bags banned (including compostable ones) • Minimum fees required for recycled paper bags and reusable shopping bags • To-go food service ware made from certain plastics (including polystyrene foam and compostable plastics) banned • Other food packaging (e.g., chip bags, egg cartons, instant noodle cups) must be free of biodegradable plastics, oxo-degradable plastics, PVC, PVDC, and polystyrene foam
July 1, 2028	• PVC film wrap banned
July 1, 2030	• Polystyrene foam meat trays banned

As part of Canada's goal to achieve zero plastic waste by 2030, the federal government is implementing a lifecycle-based strategy to manage plastics. This includes the Federal Plastics Registry, which requires manufacturers, importers, and producers to annually report the types and quantities of plastics they place on the Canadian market.

Single-Use Item Trends and Regulations

The table below summarizes trends observed since 2018 alongside applicable regulations. While regulated items like plastic bags, foam cups, and foam takeout containers have declined, items such as plastic and paper (plastic-lined) cups and takeout containers have increased. Notably, current regulations do not prohibit plastic and paper (plastic-lined) cups and plastic takeout containers outright but instead restrict their use of hard-to-recycle plastics (e.g., biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics, oxo-degradable plastics, PVC, and PVDC). Trends for straws and utensils remain inconclusive as data indicates that straw and utensil counts are heavily influenced by high concentration samples and therefore results are difficult to interpret.

When comparing trends for foam, coffee cups and lids, and plastic bags from the 2025 full-scale waste composition study with the Ocean Wise "Dirty Dozen," which tracks the twelve most commonly found items along shorelines, the results are generally consistent with shoreline litter data with the notable exception of straws. (Ocean Wise, 2026)

Table 5. Single-Use Item Trends since 2018 and BC Regulations			
Single-Use Item Category	**Material**	**Trend since 2018**	**B.C. Provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation***
Retail Bags (Checkout bags)	Plastic	Decreasing	Banned since December 2023
	Paper	Increasing	Minimum fees required for recycled paper bags since January 2024 (fee exemption for food delivery and drive through)
Cups	Foam	Decreasing	Food service ware made from polystyrene foam banned since January 2024
	Plastic	Increasing	Most plastic cups are not regulated, with the exception of to-go food service ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics** are banned since January 2024.
	Paper (plastic-lined)	Increasing	Not regulated
Takeout Containers	Foam	Decreasing	Food service ware made from polystyrene foam banned since January 2024
	Plastic	Elevated since 2021	Most plastic takeout containers are not regulated, with the exception of to-go food service ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics** are banned since January 2024.
	Paper	Inconclusive	Not regulated
Straws	Plastic	Inconclusive	Straws by-request only under BC regulations. Under federal regulations, straws that are made of plastic, including those made partly of plastic and those made with compostable, biodegradable were prohibited from being provided to customers.
	Paper		Can only be provided upon customer request
Utensils	Plastic	Inconclusive	Banned since December 2023
	Wood		Can only be provided upon customer request

*Straws are prohibited under federal regulations

**Hard-to-recycle plastics include: biodegradable plastics, compostable plastics, oxo-degradable plastics, polystyrene foam, polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC)

ALTERNATIVES

This is an information report. No alternatives are presented.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The waste composition program is ongoing and is included in the solid waste services annual operating budget.

CONCLUSION

In 2025, Metro Vancouver's waste composition program consisted of two studies: a construction and demolition waste composition study and full-scale waste composition study. The 2025 full-scale study results suggest that compostable organics, paper, and plastic remain the top three components of residential and commercial/institutional garbage. Organics have generally followed a downward trend since 2021 but showed a slight increase in 2025, consisting of higher volumes of yard waste and avoidable food waste. Plastics have continued to consistently rise from 2022 to 2025, which consisted of flexible plastics, synthetic textiles and rigid packaging, while paper has also shown a slight increase since 2023, largely due to higher amounts of food-soiled and non-recyclable paper and cardboard. Organics and plastics are focus areas of the updated plan and scaling up reuse opportunities is also a focus area that will help reduce reliance on paper. Banned single-use items such as plastic checkout bags and foam products have declined, while items that are not banned like plastic and paper cups and takeout containers have increased. Trends for straws and utensils remain unclear because their counts are highly sensitive to variable, high-concentration samples. The construction and demolition waste composition study will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee later in the year.

The waste composition studies are used to track progress, help identify meaningful actions and programs, and to provide data for solid waste management plan monitoring.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Presentation: 2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study.

REFERENCES

1. Tetra Tech. (2025). Metro Vancouver 2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study. Metro Vancouver: https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/reports-resources
2. Ocean Wise. (2026, May). 2025 Shoreline Cleanup Impact Report. Retrieved from https://static.ocean.org/oceanorg/2026/04/Impact-Report-2025.pdf

85241311

Collecting a sample at North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre

2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study

RESULTS

Kelly Du, P.Eng.
Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services

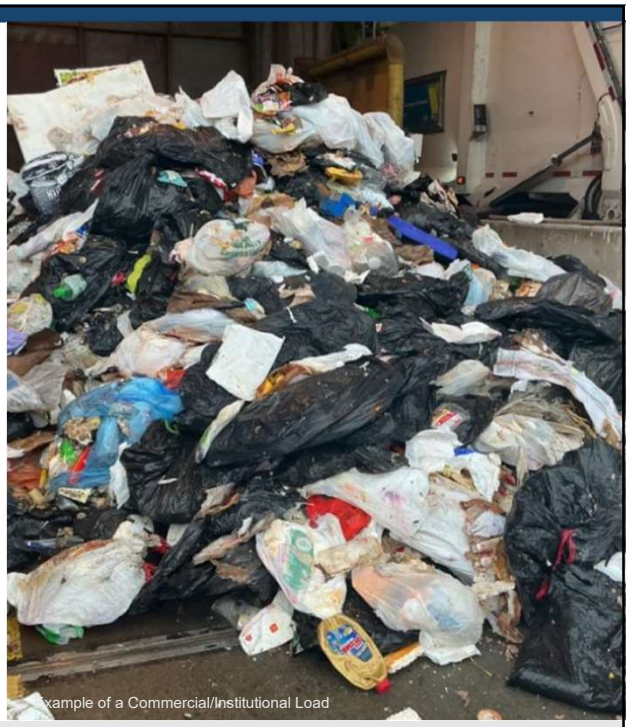
Zero Waste Committee Meeting – June 11, 2026

metrovancouver

1

WHY DO WE DO WASTE COMPOSITION STUDIES?

- Gauge progress of recycling campaigns and initiatives
- Identify materials to target for future programs
- Learn more about specific sectors
- **Baseline for solid waste management plan update**



Example of a Commercial/Institutional Load

2

WASTE COMPOSITION STUDIES

- Full Scale*
- Multi-Family
- Commercial/ Institutional
- Construction/ Demolition*

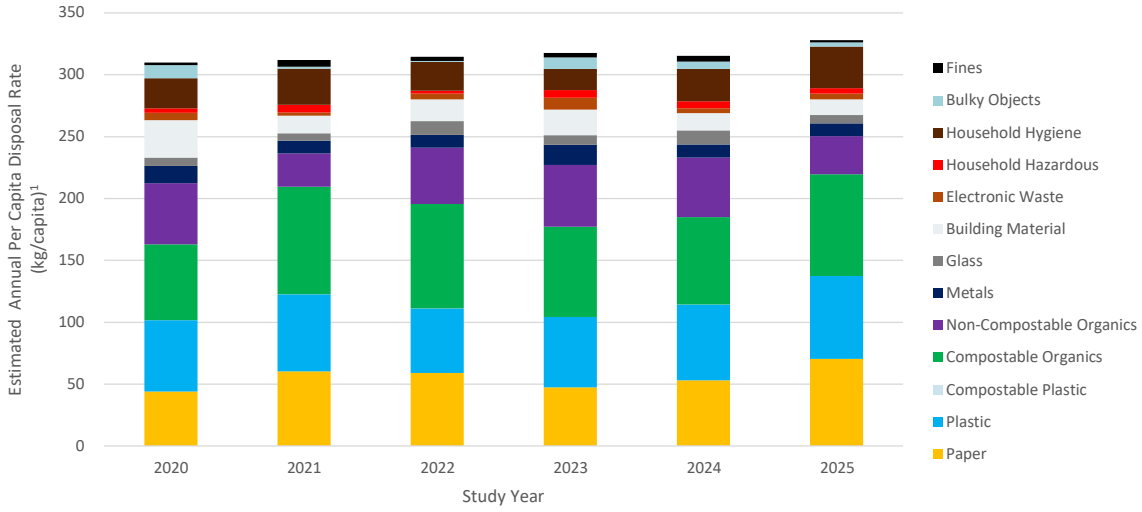
* Studies completed in 2025

metrovancouver 3

3

FULL-SCALE STUDY RESULTS

Residential, Commercial/Institutional and Small Load Waste



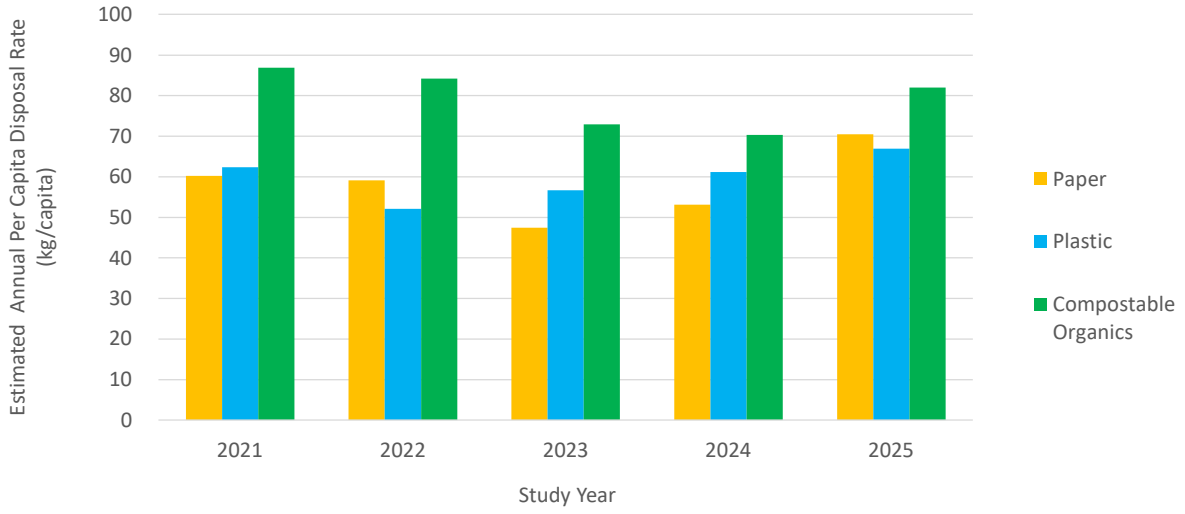
[1]Calculation based on preceding year's disposal tonnage and population data

metrovancouver 4

4

FULL-SCALE STUDY RESULTS

Compostable Organics, Paper, Plastic

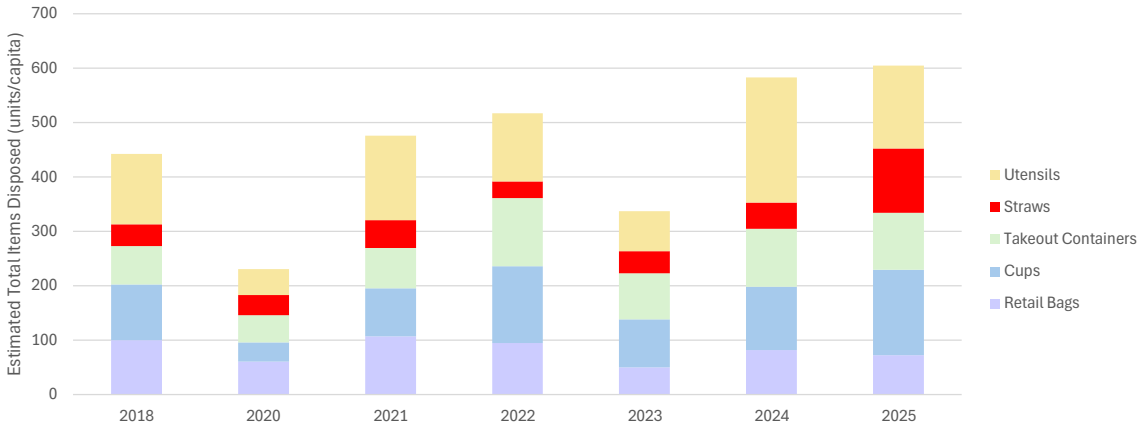


[1]Calculation based on preceding year's disposal tonnage and population data

5

SINGLE-USE DISPOSAL PER CAPITA

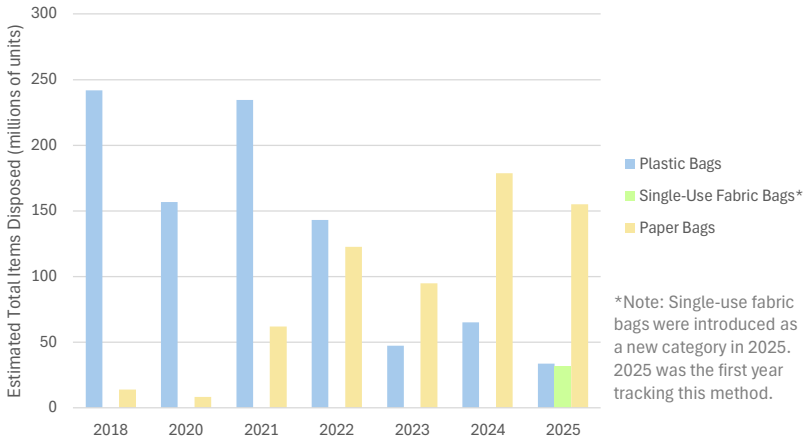
*3.3% of waste stream by weight



6

HISTORICAL RETAIL BAG COUNT COMPARISON

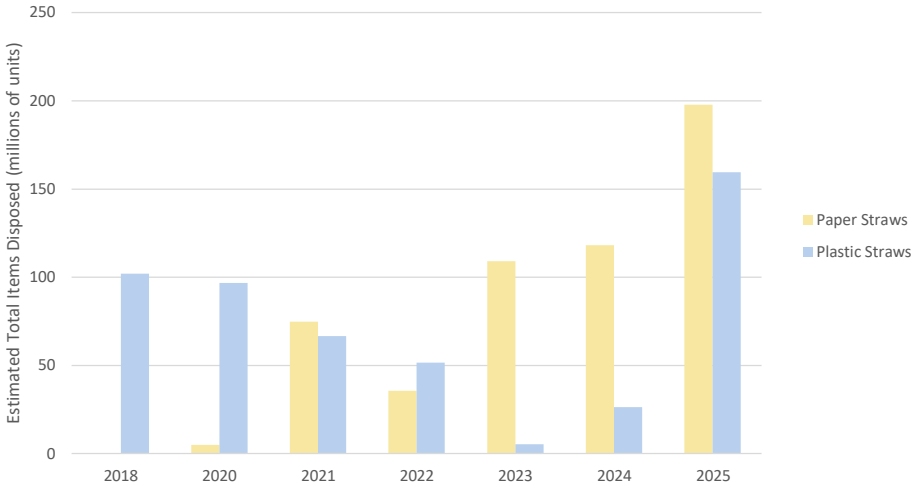
Estimated number of disposed retail bags (checkout bags)



7

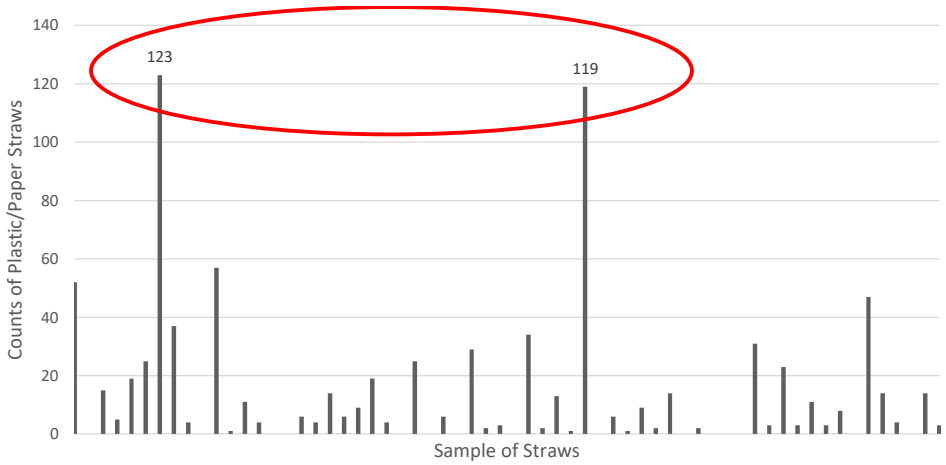
HISTORICAL STRAWS COUNT COMPARISON

Estimated number of disposed straws



8

2025 SAMPLE STRAW COUNTS

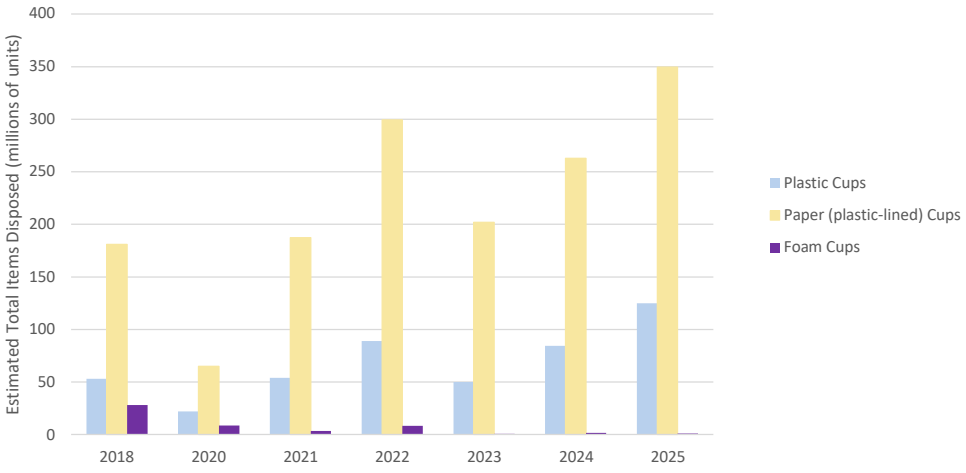


metrovancouver 9

9

HISTORICAL CUPS COUNT COMPARISON

Estimated number of disposed cups



metrovancouver 10

10

SINGLE-USE ITEMS – TRENDS AND REGULATIONS

Single-Use Item Category	Material	Trend since 2018	B.C. Provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation
Retail Bags (Checkout bags)	**Plastic**	**Decreasing**	**Banned** since December 2023
	Paper	Increasing	Minimum fees required for recycled paper bags since January 2024 (fee exemption for food delivery and drive through)
Cups	**Foam**	**Decreasing**	Food service ware made from polystyrene foam **banned** since January 2024
	Other Cups (Paper and Plastic)	Increasing	Not regulated with the exception of hard-to-recycle plastics
Takeout Containers	**Foam**	**Decreasing**	Food service ware made from polystyrene foam **banned** since January 2024
	Plastic/Paper	Elevated since 2021	Not regulated with the exception of hard-to-recycle plastics

metrovancouver 11

11

SINGLE-USE ITEMS – TRENDS AND REGULATIONS

Single-Use Item Category	Material	Trend since 2018	B.C. Provincial Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation
Straws	Plastic	Inconclusive	Straws by-request only under BC regulations. *Under federal regulations, straws fully or partially made of plastic or with compostable/biodegradable plastic were prohibited from being provided to customers.
	Paper		Can only be provided upon customer request
Utensils	Plastic	Inconclusive	Banned since December 2023
	Wood		Can only be provided upon customer request

*Data indicate that straw and utensil counts are heavily influenced by high concentration samples and therefore results are difficult to interpret

metrovancouver 12

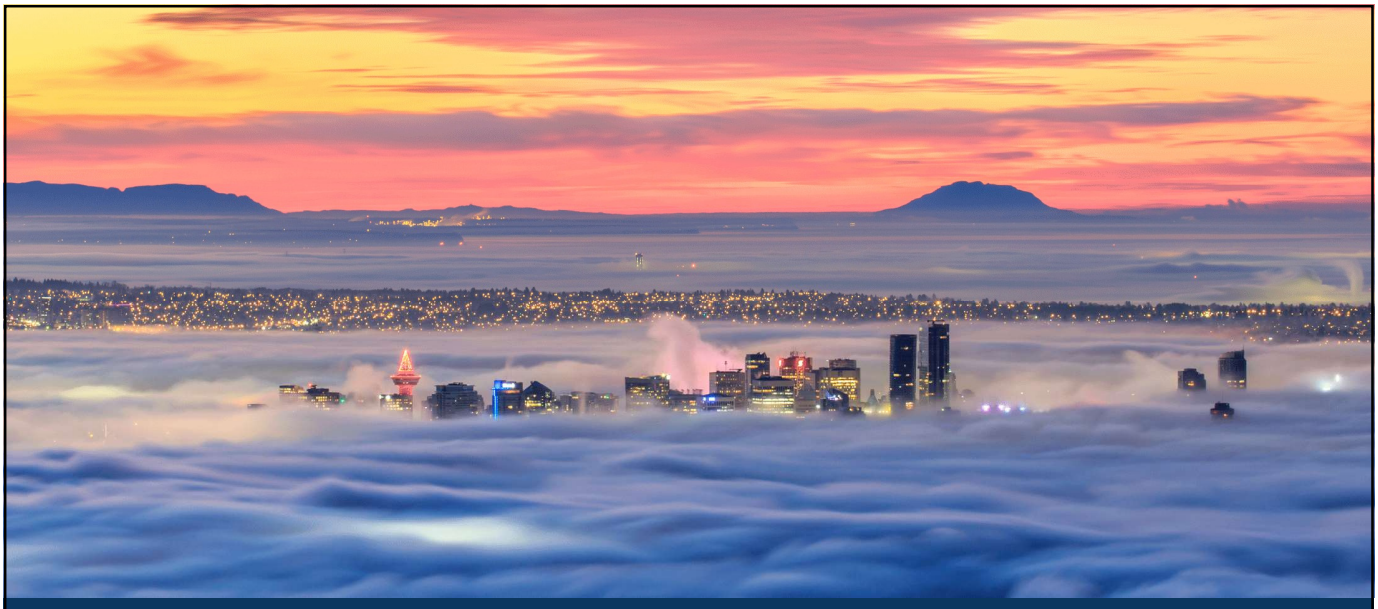
12

CONCLUSIONS

- Compostable organics, paper, and plastic remain the largest components of the waste stream
  - Organics have trended downwards since 2021 but increased slightly in 2025
  - Plastics have shown a consistent upward trend since 2022
  - Paper has a slight increase since 2023
  - Updated solid waste management plan targets these materials
- Single-use item generation continued to rise
  - Plastic checkout bags, foam takeout containers and foam cups are declining, while paper and plastic cups and plastic takeout containers are increasing
  - In general, banned items are decreasing while others are increasing
  - Trends for straws and utensils influenced by commercial/institutional sector and cannot be clearly determined at this time

metrovancouver 13

13



Questions?

metrovancouver

14

14

metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

To: Zero Waste Committee

From: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Date: May 27, 2026 Meeting Date: June 11, 2026

Subject: **Manager's Report**

RECOMMENDATION
THAT the Zero Waste Committee receive for information the report dated May 27, 2026, titled "Manager's Report".

---

1. 2025 Annual Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements
The report dated April 13, 2026, titled "2025 Annual Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements" (Reference 1), was considered by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) Board on April 24, 2026. The GVS&DD Board received the report for information and approved the Audited 2025 Consolidated Financial Statements for the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District.

2. District Energy Project: BC Utilities Commission Exemption: GVS&DD Exemption under Section 88(3) of the *Utilities Commission Act*
The Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions has approved Metro Vancouver's exemption request and the BC Utilities Commission has issued a final exemption order related to Metro Vancouver's thermal purchasing agreement with the City of Burnaby (Reference 2). This is a key regulatory step in support of the development of the district energy project. A similar exemption was issued for the River District agreement.

3. Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Endorsed by GVS&DD Board
On April 24, 2026, the GVS&DD Board endorsed the draft Solid Waste Management Plan. The draft plan reflects five years of engagement with diverse audiences and sectors. The plan defines goals, strategies, and actions towards a solid waste management system that continues to preserve resources, prevent waste, and keep materials in use as long as possible. It targets a 75 per cent diversion rate and 30 per cent reduction in disposal per capita by 2036. Plan focus areas include transitioning to a regional circular economy, supporting multi-family recycling, and reducing the disposal of food waste, building materials, and plastic.

The draft plan is being distributed to First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, and others. Any additional comments on the draft Solid Waste Management Plan received before August 1, 2026, will be provided to the Ministry of Environment and Parks when the plan is submitted for approval. The draft Solid Waste Management Plan has been posted on the project webpage (Reference 3).

4. Waste-to-Energy Facility Particulate Matter Emissions Study
A recent study concluded that particulate accumulation on a warehouse roof near the Waste-to-Energy Facility is not attributable to air emissions from the facility, and that metal and dioxin and furan concentrations in nearby environmental media are not significantly influenced by the facility's air emissions.

Metro Vancouver commissioned the study following concerns from the owner of a warehouse near the Waste-to-Energy Facility about material accumulating on the warehouse roof. The study aimed to examine the potential for deposition of particulate matter from the facility into the surrounding environment. The full report, *Analysis of the Potential Dispersion and Deposition Effects of Particulate Matter Emissions from the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility on the Surrounding Environment*, is available on the Metro Vancouver website (Reference 4), and was distributed to over 1,000 stakeholders and agencies.

Multiple lines of evidence were used to investigate the warehouse owner's concerns:

- Evaluation of the Waste-to-Energy Facility operations to determine potential sources of particulate emissions
- Modelling of predicted particulate and metal and dioxin and furan deposition rates
- Investigating metals and dioxins and furans concentrations, and particle size and morphology from 52 sample locations on rooftops, streets and soils both near to, and at other similarly industrially zoned neighbourhoods far from the Waste-to-Energy Facility

The study compared the size, morphology, and metal composition of particles in fly ash and stack testing filters from the Waste-to-Energy Facility with the samples collected from the warehouse roof and other sampled roofs, and found the characteristics did not match. The levels of metals, dioxins and furans were below industrial land-use standards in almost all samples collected from various locations near and distant from the facility.

Metro Vancouver is committed to excellent environmental performance for the Waste-to-Energy Facility, ensuring it is a safe and cost-effective solution for managing approximately a quarter of the region's garbage.

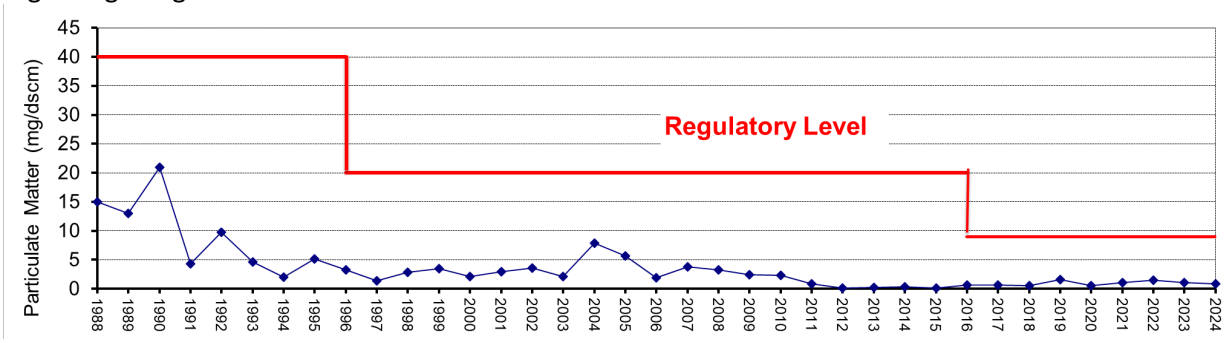


Figure 1: Waste-to-Energy Facility particulate emissions over time

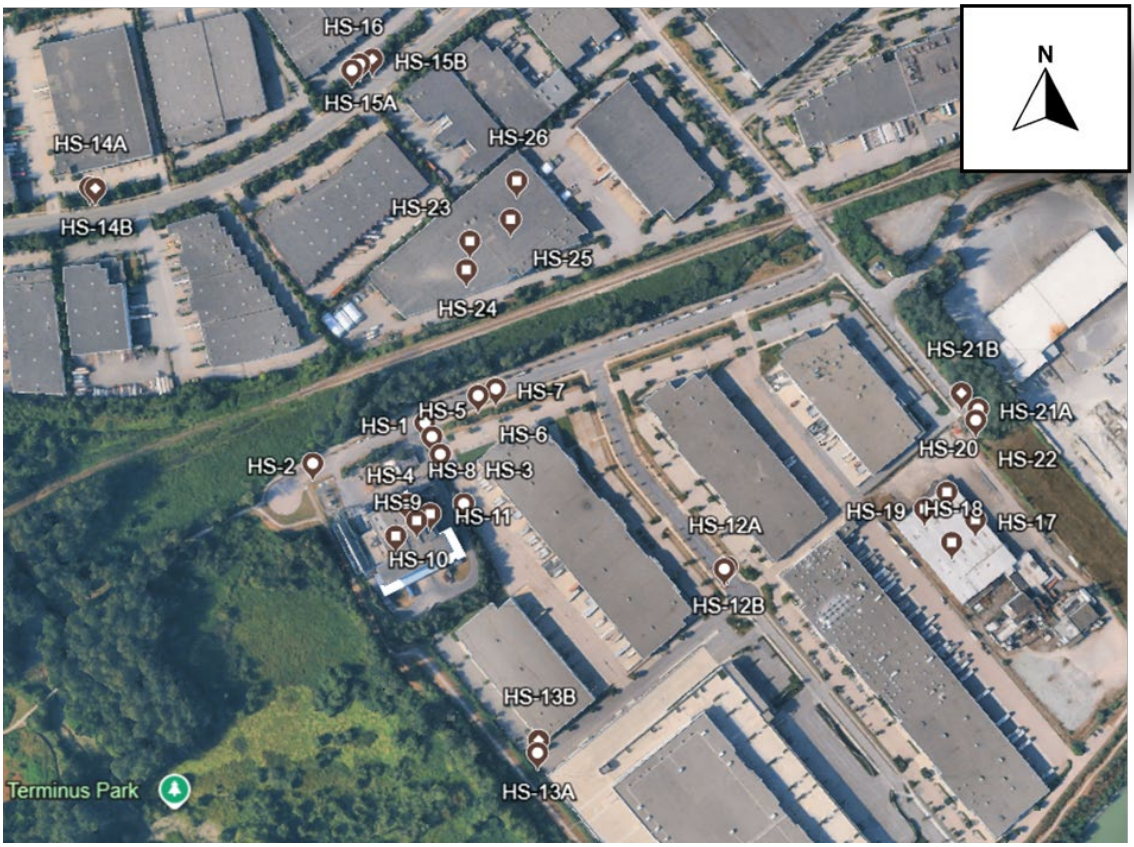


Figure 2: Sample locations in the vicinity of the Waste-to-Energy Facility

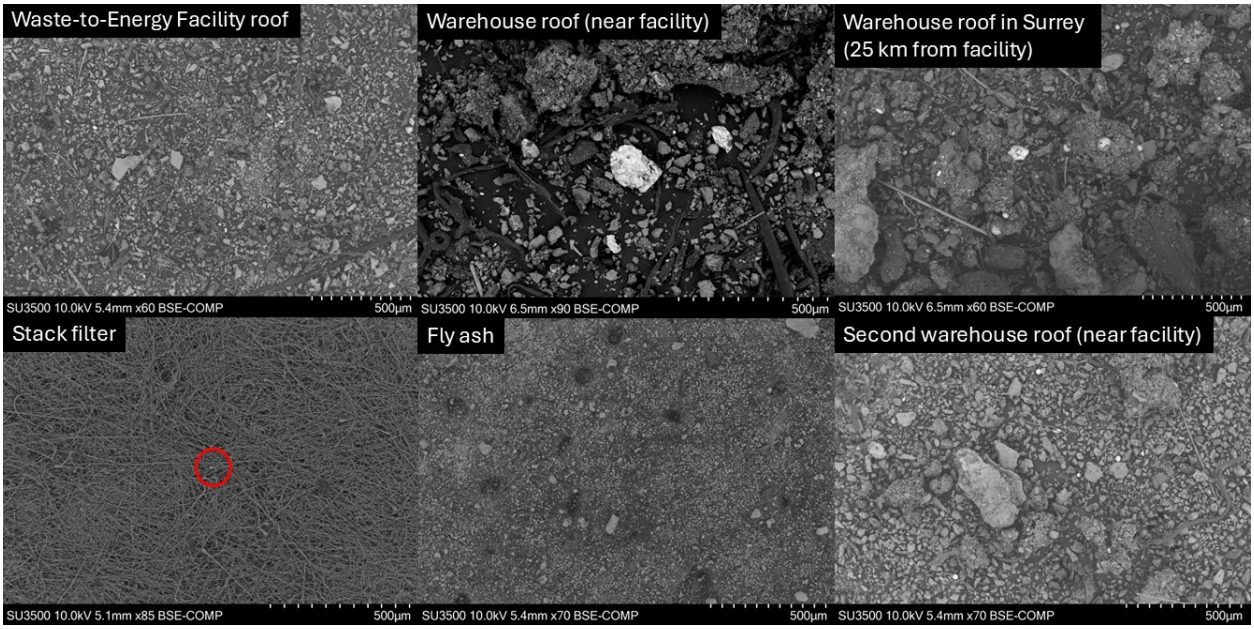


Figure 3: Comparison of the particle sizes between the stack filter, fly ash, and the rooftop samples. Red circle on stack filter image shows an air emission particulate

5. Master Municipal Construction Documents Association Updates

In 2025, Metro Vancouver completed a study examining the challenges and opportunities associated with concrete and asphalt recycling. The study highlights potential financial and environmental benefits such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, increased waste diversion, and decreased reliance on virgin aggregates. Results concluded that the region generates significant volumes of recycled aggregates;

these materials present substantial opportunities for expanded use across construction and infrastructure projects. The study is available on Metro Vancouver's website (Reference 5).

Since April 2024, staff have participated in the Master Municipal Construction Documents (MMCD) Civil Committee, which includes public and private sector stakeholders involved in road and transportation infrastructure design and construction. The purpose of the committee is to review and develop recommended updates to MMCD specifications related to recycled concrete and asphalt.

In April 2026, MMCD released supplemental specification updates supporting the use of recycled aggregate materials (including pit run gravel, pipe bedding and surround material, embankment backfill, and road subgrade) and removing the requirement for contract administrator approval. Metro Vancouver's expectation is that this change will support additional use of these recycled materials.

Member jurisdictions are encouraged to consider modernizing their policies, practices, bylaws, and supplemental specifications to better align with MMCD standards and to enable the use of recycled concrete and asphalt aggregates in construction projects.

6. Pane Glass Now Accepted at Langley Recycling and Waste Centre

On April 27, 2026, Metro Vancouver initiated a pilot recycling program at the Langley Recycling and Waste Centre to accept glass panes and sheets. This material is collected as part of garbage loads with residents directed to a separate area for glass recycling. Residents can drop off broken glass, glass in frames, frosted glass and multi-pane glass as part of the program. Metro Vancouver staff will continue to evaluate the success of the program over the next few months with the goal of expanding the program to all recycling and waste centres.

7. Repair Cafés 2026 Update

Metro Vancouver continues to collaborate with member jurisdictions to expand repair cafés in the region. There were 34 co-funded repair cafés held in 2025, successfully repairing over 1,900 items for residents.

In April 2026, Metro Vancouver signed new repair café contribution agreements with the District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver, in support of increasing the number of repair cafés in the region. Metro Vancouver also amended the agreement with the City of Coquitlam to increase the maximum annual number of repair cafés from four to 12. There are now seven member jurisdictions with repair café contribution agreements, including the City of Burnaby, Maple Ridge, Richmond, and Vancouver. Participation in the repair café contribution agreement is open to all member jurisdictions.

8. Updates: National Zero Waste Council

May 21 Reuse Webinar

On May 21, the National Zero Waste Council hosted a webinar on Scaling Reuse Systems in Canadian Cities and Towns, featuring guest speakers Marika Smith, City of Victoria; Carla Bitz, Town of Banff; and Erwin Pascual, City of Toronto. Guest speakers presented their experiences with developing and implementing reuse policies for foodware and for food and beverage packaging. Over 400 people from across Canada registered for the event, with representatives from government (federal, provincial, and local), business, and not-for-profits. A recording of the webinar will be posted on the National Zero Waste Council website, with all registrants receiving a follow-up email with the link to the recording.

The Opportunity of Food Waste: Law and Policy Solutions
On May 7 and 8, Reimagine Agriculture and the Universities of Ottawa, Dalhousie, and UQAM law departments, in collaboration with the National Zero Waste Council, hosted an invite-only forum on law and policy solutions to tackle food loss and waste. Attendees included senior government staff from Agriculture and Agri-foods Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada, along with Canadian local governments; law and policy researchers from around the globe; and not-for-profits involved in food recovery, and cross-sector data collection. Amongst the key recommendations emerging from the forum is the call for a national food loss and waste strategy that would support measuring and monitoring; data collection to report against nationally set food waste reduction targets; and changes to best before date labels. A summary report is being developed and will be shared widely once completed.

9. Zero Waste Committee 2026 Work Plan

The updated 2026 Work Plan (**Attachment 1**) shows the status of the Committee's key priorities for the year.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2026 Zero Waste Committee Work Plan.
2. Presentation: Particulate Matter Emissions Study - Waste-to-Energy Facility.

REFERENCES

1. "2025 Annual Financial Results and Audited Financial Statements", dated April 17, 2026. Retrieved from Item E3.1 https://metrovancouver.org/boards/GVSDD/SDD-2026-04-24-AGE.pdf

2. British Columbia Utilities Commission. (2026, April 7). *Order G-76-26: Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District exemption under section 88(3) of the Utilities Commission Act (final order).* https://docs.bcuc.com/Documents/Orders/2026/DOC_86758_G-76-26-GVSDD-Exemption-section-883UCA-Final.pdf

3. Metro Vancouver. (2026). *Solid Waste Management Plan Update.* https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/solid-waste-management-plan-update

4. HDR Corporation, for Metro Vancouver. (2026, April). *Analysis of the Potential Dispersion and Deposition Effects of Particulate Matter Emissions from the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility on the Surrounding Environment*. https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/metro-van-wtef-deposition-report-final.pdf

5. Metro Vancouver. (2025, August 12). *Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan: Concrete and asphalt recycling opportunities review (final report).* https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/mv-swmp-concrete-and-asphalt%20recycling-opportunities-review.pdf

84496799

Zero Waste Committee 2026 Work Plan

Report Date: May 27, 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 *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority* Policy	Complete
2nd Quarter	**Status**
2025 Waste Composition Program Results	In Progress
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 *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority* Policy	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 *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority* Policy	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 *Procurement and Asset Disposal Authority* Policy	Pending

Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility

Particulate Matter Emissions Study

WASTE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY

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

General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Zero Waste Committee meeting, June 11, 2026

https://orbit.gvrd.bc.ca/orbit/llisapi.dll/link/85574199

metrovancouver

1

PURPOSE

- Address concerns from a warehouse owner about particulate matter on the warehouse roof
- Assess potential for deposition of particulate matter from the Waste-to-Energy
- Evaluate whether facility air emissions contribute to metal, dioxin and furan concentrations in surrounding environment

2

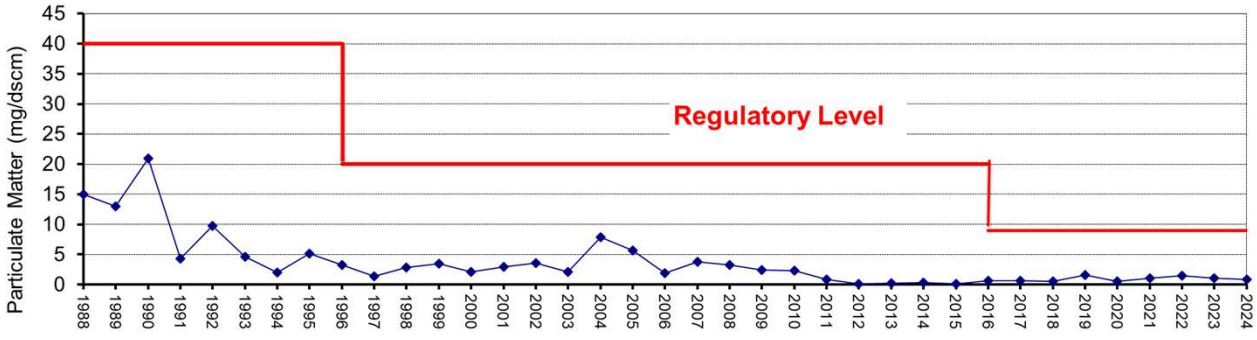
LINES OF EVIDENCE

- Review of facility operations to identify potential sources of particulate emissions
- Evaluation of stack emissions and modelling of potential deposition rates
- Environmental media sampling and analysis

3

PARTICULATE EMISSIONS OVER TIME

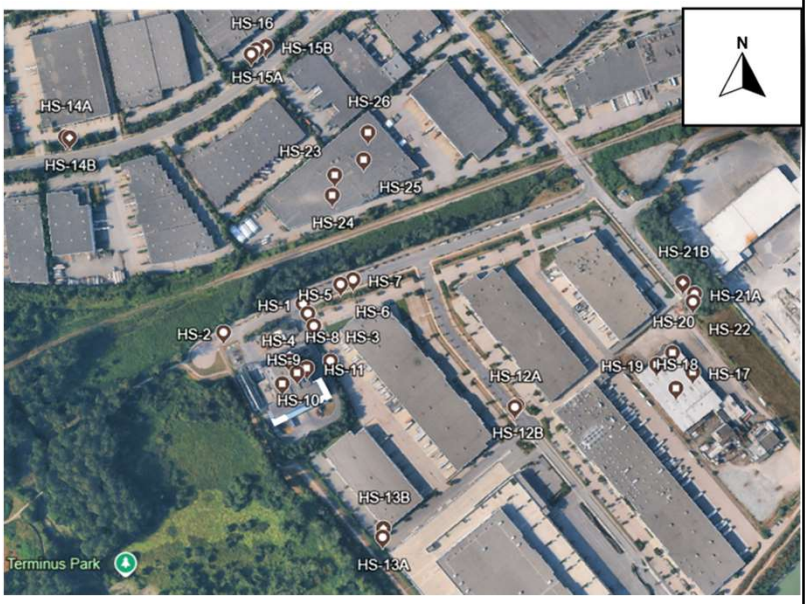
Stack test data shows that the Waste-to-Energy Facility operates consistently within allowable emission limits for particulate matter.



4

SAMPLE LOCATIONS

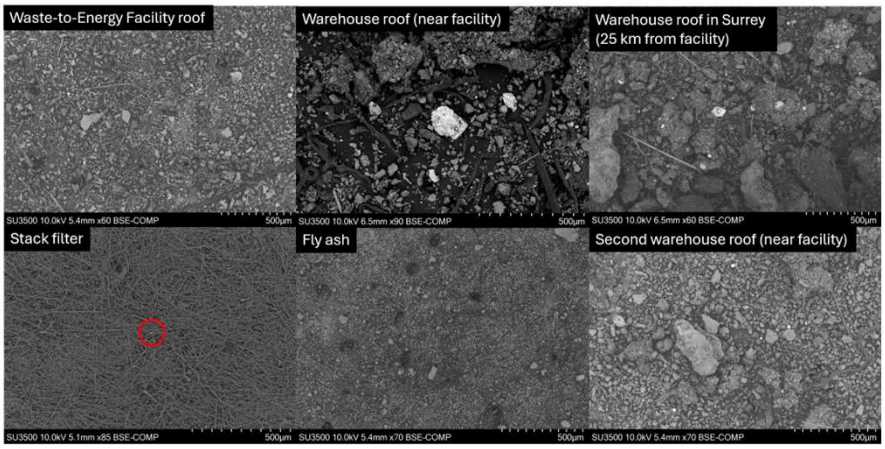
- 52 samples were collected for analysis
- From within 500 m of the facility to sites over 20 km away



5

COMPARISON OF PARTICLE SIZE AND SHAPE

- Compared particle size, morphology, and metal concentration
- Facility samples: fly ash and stack testing filters
- Samples collected from warehouse roof and other rooftops

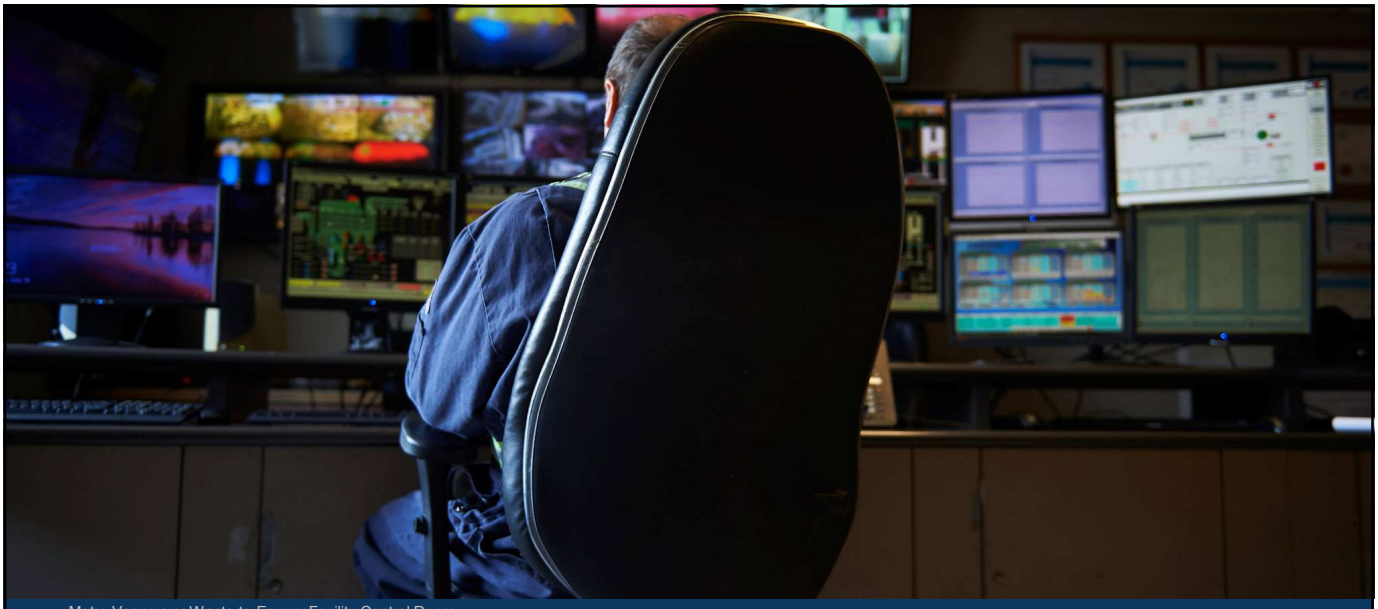


6

CONCLUSIONS

- No evidence that particulate matter on the warehouse roof originates from the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Metals and dioxins/furans on the warehouse roof and nearby areas are not significantly impacted by facility air emissions

7



Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility Control Room

Thank you

metrovancouver

8