

### **Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement**

**Event:** Metro Vancouver Conference Day – Solid Waste Management Plan: Municipal Priority Actions for a Resilient Region Workshop

**Date:** June 20, 2025

**Audience/Participants:** Member Jurisdiction Staff. Specifically: Members of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee and its Sub-Committees. 11 attendees total.

**Engagement type:** Workshop; in-person

*The following notes summarize the discussions related to a subset of draft member priority actions for the updated solid waste management plan. Six draft actions, and participants were asked to indicate the level of support for each, using the definitions below. Note the purpose of the activity was not to vote on what actions to include in the updated plan, but rather to identify focus areas for more in-depth discussion at the session.*

- **GREEN** – I support this action. Wording may or may not require minor tweaks, but no major changes required.
- **YELLOW** – I support this action in principle, but it requires modification.
- **RED** – I have concerns with this action. I’m unsure I can support it, or I know it wouldn’t be supported by my organization. Major revisions are required for it to be considered further.

#### **General feedback:**

- Consider presenting the municipal actions as “possible” or “potential”, or similar language to indicate members are not required or obligated to commit to these actions.

**Draft Action: Increase the use of public space for circular activities (e.g. R&D space for testing ideas, pop-up and temporary space, civic rental space)**

(4 red and 5 yellow)

- Require clarity on whether this action is for member jurisdictions or Metro Vancouver, particularly in creating and providing space for repair and reuse initiatives.
- Clarity about whether this means creating new spaces or using existing ones. Confusing as it is an action under “land use planning”.
- Support for using existing public spaces for short-term temporary repair and reuse initiatives, like pop-ups or single day events. Little support for members identifying or providing more permanent spaces or renting spaces out.
- Action could be separated into two distinct actions that includes:
  - Clarity on the creation of space versus using existing spaces
  - Delineating Metro Vancouver’s involvement vs. member jurisdiction involvement
- Action needs to consider the cost efficiency for member jurisdictions.

Suggestion that space for circular activities be provided regionally, where funding would come from all residents, similar to the recycling and waste centres.

**Draft Action: Facilitate waste reduction and recycling businesses including organics processing through land use planning (e.g. update zoning bylaws)**

(5 yellow and 5 green)

*Land use and zoning concerns*

- Municipalities need to have full control to determine zoning needs. Many competing pressures on zoning. Low support for this action being in the regional solid waste plan.
- When it comes to zoning for facilities, municipalities would need to consider other types of industry in addition to recycling and waste processing.
- Currently, recycling and waste processing facilities tend to be sited outside of residential areas. There are examples of other countries (e.g. in Europe) where facilities are within cities, which increases accessibility for residents.

*Suggested approach*

- Metro Vancouver could provide guidelines and standards related to land use planning to accommodate facilities.
- Focus more on encouraging local management of recycling of waste, rather than processing outside of the region.
- Need more public understanding of consumption habits, and where the items are ending up to help curb consumption.
- Metro Vancouver should continue to provide public education and advocacy through waste reduction campaigns to promote reducing waste in the region so less new facilities are needed for processing.

**Draft Action: Reduce commercial/institutional disposal through business licensing or other regulatory approaches (e.g. mandatory recycling plans and reporting, performance based incentives and fees)**

(6 green, 3 yellow, 2 red)

- Important to require recycling at all properties, but resistance to adding more regulation for businesses such as through business licensing requirements.
- Any incentive will cost local governments or businesses money; also requires regulation.
- Some confusion as to how this draft action differs from the one below.

**Draft Action: Require recycling at all property types such as residential, commercial, mixed-use, and schools, and for events and construction sites**

(11 green)

- Difficult to enforce.
- Perhaps putting increased pressure on existing recycling requirements is more practical for implementation.
- Suggest that this should be implemented at a regional level rather than municipal level.
- Suggestion that this is easy for municipalities to incorporate into their bylaws, but enforcement is the primary challenge.

**Draft Action: Update multi-family residential waste and recycling container space and access guidelines, including determining if the guidance needs to account for increased amounts of material and other types of materials**

(10 green, 1 red)

- Rephrase action to note this action is to update existing regional guidelines.
- Consider who is contributing to this plan action, and outline responsibility.
- Support for Metro Vancouver to update space guidelines, and members can make decisions on adopting/enforcing the guidelines in their communities.
- Confirmation that space guidelines are useful. Members who currently provide the information to developers have not received push-back on space requirements.
- Need to work together across the region to adopt these actions consistently.

**Draft Action: Harmonize waste and recycling collection for multiplex (3-6 units) residential properties**

(7 yellow, 4 green)

- Suggest regionally developed guidelines for multiplex (similar to the space guidelines).
- Metro Vancouver could develop high level guideline, and member jurisdictions could determine implementation in their community.
  - Guidelines set by Metro Vancouver could help decrease the amount of waste coming from each household and multiplex.
- Request for clarity that harmonization means consistent services provided across the region, rather than consistent service delivery models. Recognize that members differ in service delivery (e.g. manual or semi-automated collection single stream or multi stream recycling).
  - Suggestion: this action could include versions of harmonized approach (i.e. if you have this type of service, these could be options for the action).

- Most municipalities are still working through the complexity of multiplexes as it is a new concept.
- Considering longer term (e.g. 10 years), this action may need to be reworded to specify member actions within that timeline.
- This action could be embedded within other actions in the plan, rather than be its own action.