



WHERE DOES OUR GARBAGE GO?

WHAT IS GARBAGE?

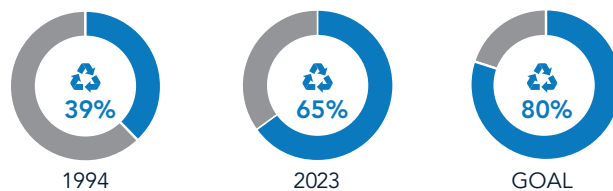
Garbage, often referred to as waste, trash, or rubbish, can be defined as something that no longer has a use or purpose, and needs to be disposed of. Many items still have value after their primary use and should only be considered garbage if they cannot be recycled, reused or repurposed.

WHERE DOES GARBAGE COME FROM?

The choices we make every day have local and global impacts, and garbage is no exception. The amount of garbage we produce, and how we dispose of it, is up to us. The materials we use are made from the Earth's resources. By rethinking how we purchase, use, and dispose of these materials, we can reduce the amount of garbage we produce and make smarter use of the world's resources.

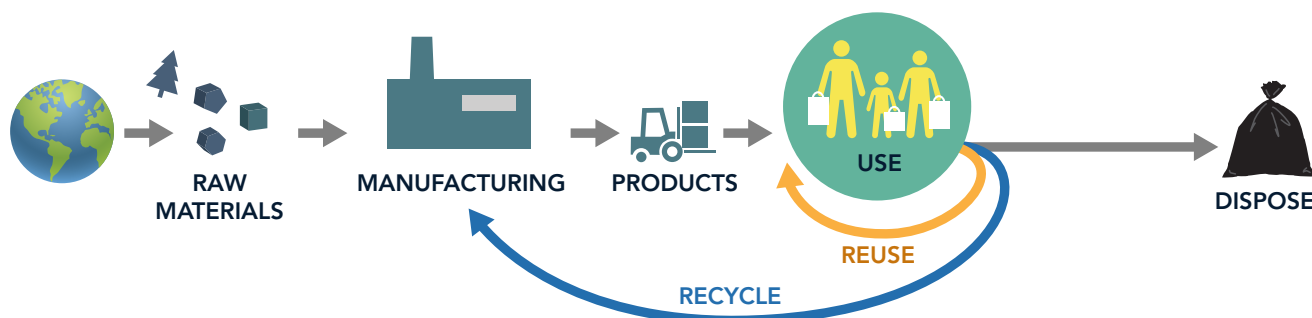
WHAT IS METRO VANCOUVER'S ROLE IN MANAGING OUR GARBAGE?

Metro Vancouver is responsible for waste reduction, recycling planning, and managing the garbage that we do create.



Since 1994, we've seen a total decrease of 239 kgs of waste generation per capita per year, and our collective recycling rate has increased from 39% in 1994 to 65% in 2023.

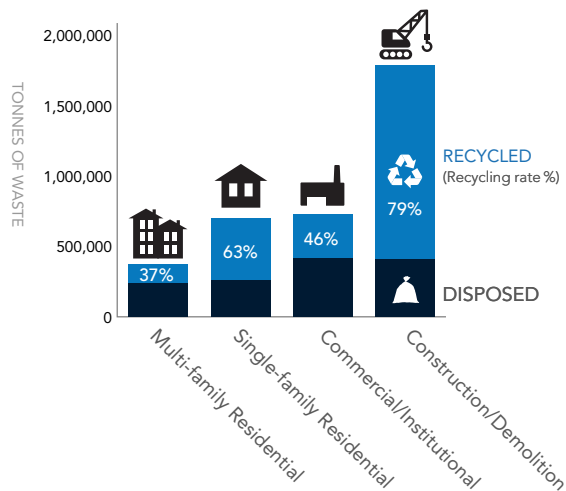
That's great progress! But there's still lots of work to be done to reach our goal of 80%.



RECYCLING, TRANSFER, AND DISPOSAL

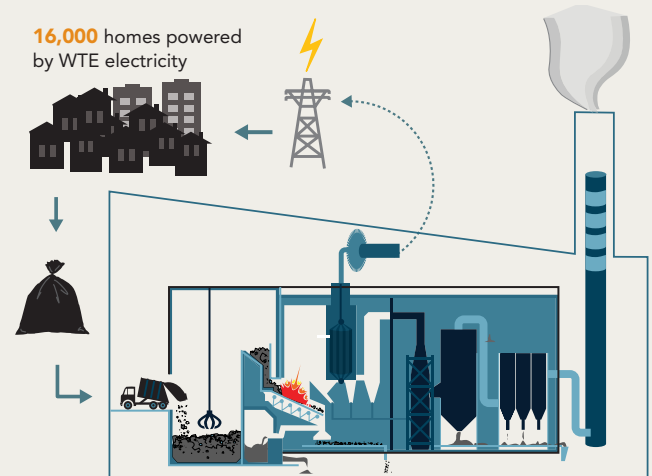
WHERE DOES GARBAGE IN METRO VANCOUVER COME FROM?

Metro Vancouver is responsible for disposing of the garbage generated by residents and businesses in the region. Waste generation is typically broken out into these key sectors:



HOW IS ENERGY RECOVERED FROM GARBAGE?

The graphic below shows how energy is recovered from the Waste-to-Energy ('WTE') Facility.



About **1/4** of Metro Vancouver garbage goes to a WTE facility where it is converted into electricity.

On average, each of us produces 500 kgs of waste annually.

We recycle **65%** of this waste. That's great progress! But there's still lots of work to be done to reach our goal of **80%**.



Multiply this by the **over 3 million** residents of Metro Vancouver. That's a lot of waste!



METRO VANCOUVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WASTE REDUCTION, RECYCLING PLANNING, AND THE OPERATION OF A SERIES OF SOLID WASTE FACILITIES IN THE REGION.

METRO VANCOUVER SOLID WASTE SYSTEM MAP

WHERE DOES OUR WASTE GO?



Items are separated into bins (garbage, recyclables, organics: food scraps, yard trimmings).



Organics are taken to large processing facilities where they break down and can be eventually re-utilized as fertilizer.



Garbage is collected by municipal or private waste haulers, and taken to a recycling and waste centre for sorting and compacting.



This facility receives about 1/4 of the region's garbage. The garbage is incinerated which produces steam and electricity, a viable source of energy.



Recycling is taken to recycling facilities for processing (extracting raw materials to be reused in making new materials).



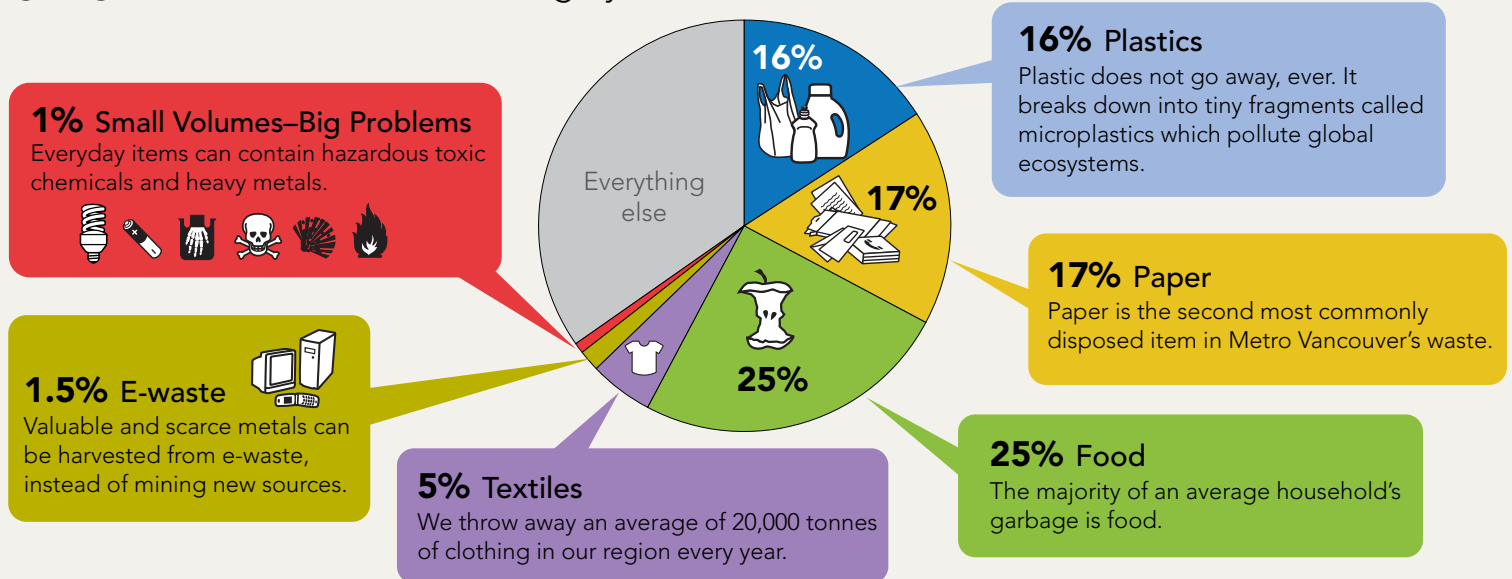
The remaining garbage is loaded into large trucks and hauled to a landfill site or the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

HOW CAN WE REDUCE GARBAGE IN METRO VANCOUVER?

SIX₂FIX

Are you looking to reduce waste?
Check out Six2Fix to see where you can make a difference!

Metro Vancouver sorts through *thousands of tonnes* of household garbage. Here's what we find in an average year...



Why do you think each of the Six2Fix items are still going into household garbage?

Why is it important to address the top Six2Fix?

REDUCING WASTE STARTS WITH THE CHOICES WE MAKE EVERY DAY

By refusing to buy items that we don't need, reusing items more than once, and recycling items that are no longer in use, we can all contribute towards a healthier planet.

Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities run a number of campaigns to help residents reduce waste. How can these resources help to address the Six2Fix?

REDUCING ORGANIC WASTE



LOVE FOOD HATE WASTE

Did you know that 63% of our food waste is avoidable? Find tips and ideas to reduce food waste. [Learn more](#)



FOOD SCRAPS RECYCLING

Tips for using the green bin. [Learn more](#)

WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING PROGRAMS



REPAIR AND RE-WEAR

Simple clothing care and repair tips so you can get that "I kept my clothes out of the landfill" feeling. [Learn more](#)



REDUCING WASTE IN THE HOLIDAYS

Tips for holiday waste reduction and high-quality, long-lasting gifts. [Learn more](#)



RECYCLING LOCATIONS SEARCH TOOL

Curious about what can be recycled and where? [Learn more](#)



Find tools to support teaching, learning, and leadership about local sustainability priorities at metrovanancouver.org/school-programs



metrovanancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION