

1.0 RETHINK

1.1. Advocate for circular economy policies

- **ID004** Work with other municipalities and regions across Canada to develop and advocate for implementation of priority circular economy regulations.
- **ID003** Advocate for regulatory approaches that prevent waste through implementation of low carbon, circular design and business models.
- **ID090** Advocate that federal and provincial governments develop regulatory programs to improve reporting and implementation of circular food systems.
- **ID005** Advocate that federal and provincial governments develop regulatory programs to improve reporting and implementation of circular built environment solutions.
- **ID001** Advocate that federal and provincial governments phase in regulations for the prohibition of the import, export manufacture, and distribution of non-essential, non-recyclable products and packaging.

1.2. Support the transition to a more circular regional economy through waste prevention

- **ID016** Identify and encourage scale up of low waste local food production such as vertical farms, gleaning, food remanufacturing, and industrial symbiosis opportunities.
- **ID014** Work collaboratively with economic development agencies to implement circular business solutions that support waste prevention innovation and support a prosperous region.
- **ID079** Improve circular economy education in schools through field trips, hands-on learning, and other innovative school education programs.
- **ID015** Advocate for incentives and programs for circular built environment solutions such as design for disassembly, buildings as material banks, and incorporation of used building materials for new construction.
- **ID011** Explore collaborations with entities such as chambers of commerce to equip small and medium-sized enterprises with practical guidance to successfully transition to a circular economy.
- **ID012** Bring together cross-sector ideas and facilitate discussions to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention.
- **ID074** Work with trade schools, industry associations, practitioners, and senior government to identify and implement solutions to fill skills training gaps required to scale a circular food system.

- ID031 Host events with different sectors to understand the current and potential future abilities to provide circular products and services.
- ID042 Work with trade schools, industry associations, practitioners and senior government to identify and implement solutions to fill skills training gaps required to scale rethink approaches to a low waste built environment, such as design for disassembly.
- ID088 Develop circular certification programs for business.
- ID009 Integrate additional waste prevention policies and programs within Metro Vancouver's operations.
- ID010 Share regional learnings in rethinking and preventing waste in Metro Vancouver's operation and delivery of solid waste management and planning.
- ID013 Assess education programs and collaborate with post-secondary institutions and professional development programs across various sectors to enhance circular economy training offered.
- ID041 Identify and work with industry event organizers to include circular built environment success stories, communication, and learning sessions that promote waste prevention in their industry communications and learning sessions.

1.3. Build on and foster an inclusive and collaborative circular economy

- ID021 Work on collaborative research projects to further advance waste reduction and a circular economy, and share the findings broadly.
- ID017 Collaborate with external groups to identify and implement new circular economy initiatives in the community.
- ID098 Develop collaborative programs that integrate Indigenous practices into urban sustainability initiatives, such as community composting gardens or permaculture projects.
- ID023 Continue working with textile waste reduction organizations to develop tools for the fashion industry to design low waste, circular clothing.
- ID029 Lead a working group to support member jurisdictions on the development and implementation of circular procurement policies and practices.
- ID160 Develop, test and share low carbon circular built environment procurement approaches, tools and templates.
- ID022 Collaborate with governments, industry, and technology partners 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.
- ID026 Collaborate with regional economic development agencies and others to educate business on the benefits of circular business models, invite industry to share their ideas on how to accelerate adoption of circular business models and update existing circular economy resources.

- ID018 Continue to learn from circular economy and waste prevention leaders.
- ID027 Investigate how to maximize low barrier employment opportunities in roles that support a circular economy.
- ID099 Continue and build on existing industry collaborations such as national scale organizations to reduce plastics and other priority waste streams.
- ID019 Continue to facilitate sharing with member jurisdictions through regularly scheduled advisory committee meetings. Through these committees, host workshops and learning sessions with member jurisdiction staff on priority topics.

1.4. Collect and enhance data to track progress toward a circular economy

- ID093 Research and pilot ways to measure success of collaborations.
- ID091 Develop methods for estimating and reporting environmental benefits for waste prevention actions, such as reduction of GHG emissions (including embodied carbon), water use, and life-cycle impacts.
- ID092 Continue to develop and improve region wide key performance indicators to track progress on circular economy through rethinking and reducing waste.
- ID097 Work towards reporting by material type on all levels of the waste hierarchy starting with organics, wood, and textiles.
- ID095 Explore new technology that could help with data collection.
- ID094 Strengthen waste composition data to improve actionable insights.
- ID096 Look at ways to include diversity, equity and inclusion data in solid waste data.

2.0 REDUCE

2.1. Collaborate with businesses and institutions to reduce waste at the source

- ID020 Host workshops with specialty sectors such as healthcare to co-develop waste reduction solutions.
- ID100 Develop education tools for businesses to help them reduce waste, motivate customers to participate, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.
- ID161 Host workshops aimed at sharing and implementing approaches to reduce commercial/institutional disposal such as business license requirements or other regulatory approaches.
- ID102 Develop methods to estimate the waste reduction impacts of everyday actions and communicate back to businesses how they are doing.
- ID002 Continue working collaboratively with national plastics waste reduction organizations, businesses, non-profits and member jurisdictions to reduce plastic waste and identify additional hard to recycle plastics for elimination.

- **ID101** Increase in person education where business and others can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.
- **ID024** Connect with member jurisdictions and the clothing sector to develop solutions for clothing waste reduction that can be implemented at the regional level.
- **ID162** Host workshops and meetings aimed at sharing and implementing updates to definitions and provisions in zoning and development bylaws which better clarify and facilitate the possible locations for waste reduction and recycling businesses.
- **ID028** Work with different sectors such as the promotional products industry to develop and promote procurement tools and templates for Metro Vancouver and other organizations to buy more sustainable goods.
- **ID040** Co-host events such as "builders' breakfasts" with the construction industry, housing and development sectors, and member jurisdictions to help build awareness, share success stories and workshop solutions to reducing waste in the built environment sector.
- **ID043** Update and maintain the Metro Vancouver Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Toolkit starting with updated case studies that follow a case study template developed collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions.
- **ID062** Report on challenges and opportunities to reduce construction waste in the Metro Vancouver region.

2.2. Support residents adopting waste prevention habits

- **ID081** Increase in-person education where residents can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.
- **ID080** Develop methods to estimate the waste reduction impacts of everyday actions and communicate back to residents how they are doing. Celebrate high performers.
- **ID104** Expand education tools to help residents of multi-family buildings to reduce waste, increase participation, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.

2.3. Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives

- **ID075** Advocate for the federal and provincial governments to provide funding and incentive programs for businesses to scale up food reuse, food recovery, gleaning on farms and food remanufacturing.
- **ID072** Work with business, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste by improving food purchasing, storage, and preparation methods.
- **ID073** Share learnings through industry focused web resources for the hospitality and entertainment sectors.
- **ID052** Incentivize the commercial and institutional sectors to reduce food waste.

2.4. Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's disposal ban

program

- ID107 Explore options to enhance disposal ban inspection efficacy such as the use of clear bags or innovative technology solutions
- ID106 Create incentives for waste and recycling collectors to work with their customers to adopt additional recycling services and reduce waste.
- ID105 Review and expand Metro Vancouver disposal ban program to include new items such as textiles.

3.0 REUSE

3.1. Support consistent approaches to reuse

- ID032 Develop consistent tools and reporting requirements to improve administrative efficiency of house relocation and deconstruction bylaws for contractors and municipalities.
- ID034 Advocate for the adoption of consistent reuse regulations once they are proven successful at the community level.
- ID063 Update the regionally harmonized approach for single-use item reduction bylaws to include reuse requirements.

3.2. Increase reuse of used building materials

- ID039 Encourage the development of an in-region facility for triaging building materials to their best and highest use.
- ID045 Advocate that provincial and federal governments develop an incentive program to increase the use of used building materials in new projects.
- ID046 Work collaboratively with industry, municipalities and the federal and provincial government to better understand storage and land use requirements for the construction and demolition sector and find innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction and building material resale.
- ID038 Explore options for implementing an online marketplace for construction and demolition materials.
- ID037 Foster further development of secondhand building material markets.
- ID035 Work collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions to increase reuse in the construction and demolition sector.
- ID036 Encourage residents to incorporate more used building materials into their home renovation projects.

3.3. Foster the broad adoption of reuse, refill, and repair

- ID066 Consider spatial mapping of repair and other ways to better quantify reuse and repair in the region. Prioritize open data approaches so that data can be universally accessed.
- ID047 Advocate that the federal and provincial government develop funding programs to support the expansion and development of reuse and repair infrastructure such as “thing borrowing” at public libraries, refill at retail, packaging reuse systems, furniture reuse, and a community reuse options database.
- ID083 Work collaboratively with food recovery and reuse organizations and non-profits to develop a where to reuse/refill/repair data set.
- ID167 Work with industry associations, practitioners and senior government to identify and fill skills training gaps required to scale reuse, refill and repair.
- ID164 Share best practices for incorporating reuse, refill, and repair programs into communities.
- ID025 Encourage brands to take back garments from consumers for reuse and repair.

3.4. Work with event organizers, businesses and institutions to increase reuse

- ID055 Evaluate the feasibility of a regional-scale reusable food service ware system.
- ID056 Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres across the region.
- ID084 Incentivize the commercial and institutional sector to implement refill/reuse systems.
- ID053 Co-develop measures to improve the reuse experience for consumers with national plastics waste reduction organizations and retailers.
- ID165 Develop a regional approach to events prioritizing surplus food redistribution, reusable food service ware, and litter reduction.
- ID050 Work with event organizers, event venues, schools, and universities to implement reusable food service ware, bags reuse programs, and food recovery.
- ID054 Evaluate the feasibility of a 'reuse mall' model.
- ID051 Support libraries to send surplus books for reuse and recycling through education.

3.5. Increase access to reuse, refill and repair

- ID060 Explore the feasibility of a small business grant program to support the transition to reuse, refill, and waste reduction.
- ID065 Research and trial additional ways to scale reuse and repair.

- ID059 Support community-based waste reduction and reuse programs for schools, non-profit organizations, and community groups.
- ID166 Support increasing the size, number and frequency of repair and reuse events around the region.
- ID058 Facilitate more community-based solutions like buy-nothing groups and shared fridges.
- ID086 Work with multi-family buildings to increase donation collection options for reusable streams such as clothing and books.
- ID061 Foster the development of a network that connects independently operated, non-profit and community based reuse and repair initiatives.

3.6. Scale efforts to recover food

- ID067 Maintain and scale the regional food recovery network.
- ID068 Continue to share results of food recovery initiatives across Metro Vancouver and look at ways to foster cross-department collaboration on food security.
- ID069 Further map out food recovery assets/food waste solutions per stage of the food supply chain, including a focus on clarifying what foods can be donated to people and animals.
- ID087 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 food recovery data for the region.
- ID071 Work toward getting a complete set of food recovery data for the region, and consider incentives to encourage reporting.

3.7. Encourage and celebrate residents and businesses that prioritize reuse and refill practices

- ID078 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.
- ID076 Provide education for residents on affordable actions they can take to prevent waste through everyday activities.
- ID077 Promote bring your own cups and bags and other reusable items, including fun new elements and co-developed messaging that resonates with residents with a diversity of cultures and values.
- ID089 Develop and implement an annual recognition program to celebrate businesses in the region for reuse, refill, and repair programs and initiatives.

4.0 RECYCLE

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

- ID112 Enhance partnerships with the provincial government, industry, academia, and community groups to research and develop solutions to overcome barriers to reuse and recycling and opportunities to incorporate recycled content into new products.
- ID113 Work with national plastics waste reduction organizations and others to understand and address barriers to increased recycled content in plastic products and packaging.
- ID109 Research and advocate for improvements to the recyclability of plastic-lined paper products such as coffee cups.
- ID111 Support recycling markets by purchasing recycled products including compost.
- ID110 Continue to work with engineering design and construction organizations to update concrete and asphalt specifications to include recycled content and educate engineers and road builders on how to successfully increase recycled content.

4.2. Enhance EPR programs

- ID116 Identify and advocate for additional materials to be added to extended producer responsibility programs such as non-residential packaging without readily available markets, and challenging materials such as mattresses.
- ID118 Advocate for full funding of producer responsibility programs and the expansion of residential-only programs to small businesses.
- ID119 Advocate for accelerated deployment of direct collection of an expanded suite of materials including film plastic and foam.
- ID121 Advocate for expanded recycling drop-off options for materials such as household hazardous waste, considering mobile options to improve convenience and accessibility.
- ID120 Advocate for consistency in extended producer responsibility programs, labelling requirements, and enforcement of greenwashing regulations to reduce “what goes where” confusion.
- ID064 Encourage collection programs which reduce barriers for recycling large items.
- ID117 Continue to participate in BC product steward engagements and provide feedback on potential improvements to existing programs and the development of new programs.

4.3. Encourage the development of new recycling infrastructure

- ID044 Advocate for federal and provincial government funding programs to scale recycling infrastructure and innovation for challenging materials such as food for

remanufacturing, anaerobic digestion feedstock, wood waste, carpet, and plastic-lined paper products.

- ID122 Identify gaps in organics collections programs and work collaboratively to implement or improve existing collection and processing programs.
- ID123 Explore opportunities to facilitate the siting of private sector recycling activities.
- ID124 Convene recycling industry and member jurisdictions to get their perspective on how to continue to maintain and increase recycling infrastructure that services the region.

4.4. Improve participation in green bin programs and alternatives for multi-family residents and businesses

- ID126 Identify and implement pilots and technology research that could advance and improve organics recycling in the commercial/institutional sector.
- ID125 Review provision of green bins for non-residential properties and work collaboratively to increase participation in non-residential organics programs.
- ID128 Determine what role, if any, compostable plastics can play in organics management systems.
- ID127 Continue to provide tools and tips to residents to reduce odours and “yuck factor” with green bins.

4.5. Make recycling easier and more effective by reducing confusion and improving convenience

- ID142 Facilitate development of digital tools that allow users to scan waste items and receive clear, multilingual instructions on options for reuse, repair, recycling, or disposal.
- ID131 Improve access to textile donation and recycling collection services.
- ID140 Support knowledge sharing of space and access requirements for multi-plex units (six units or less).
- ID133 Explore the development of a signage standard and customizable tool to help reduce confusion about what goes in each bin, based on the most common items collected.
- ID132 Recognize and reward those who recycle well so others are inspired to follow their example.
- ID135 Provide clear, consistent guidelines on what can and cannot be recycled.
- ID138 Review multi-family residential waste and recycling container space and access guidelines, including determining if the guidance needs to account for increased amounts of material or additional types of materials.
- ID134 Centralize information sources to make it consistent and easier for the public to find information and look for resources.

- ID136 Work with businesses and recycling depots across the region to work towards streamlining the types of materials accepted where practical.
- ID137 Study sorting and disposal habits in busy public spaces and test different interventions to reduce contamination and litter.

4.6. Target recycling education

- ID144 Develop educational resources for businesses, including large waste generators, small and medium sized enterprises, and ethnocultural businesses.
- ID146 Develop educational resources for people to reduce waste when they are hosting a large gathering.
- ID145 Explore collaborations with non-profits organizations to support better education and sorting in apartment buildings.
- ID147 Improve awareness and access to existing environmental advisors that provide regional waste reduction information services.
- ID148 Expand appeal of recycling messaging by working with artists and community influencers to develop messaging to inspire and motivate people to recycle.
- ID151 Gamify recycling and reduction education.
- ID152 Collaborate on the development of how to recycle videos to improve community pride and accuracy of recycling.
- ID143 Work with producer responsibility organizations, industry groups and member jurisdictions to better educate residents on options for emerging and challenging materials.
- ID150 Research and target the most confusing items for residents that are often incorrectly sorted.
- ID129 Promote and educate residents on worm bins and backyard composting.
- ID154 Work with member jurisdictions and other recycling collectors to pilot technologies such as optical AI contamination detection systems to provide education on proper waste sorting requirements.
- ID149 Host industry specific dialogues to better understand and co-solve recycling and waste prevention challenges.
- ID103 Develop and deploy improved education for multi-family residents.
- ID153 Work on understanding recycling data and challenges in specific commercial sectors such as events, film, tourism, food service, and health care.

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

- ID157 Facilitate public tours of recycling facilities so that residents can see what happens to their materials.

- ID156 Increase transparency of which organizations are handling which materials.
- ID159 Show where waste goes and how it's processed to provide more transparency in the recycling system.
- ID158 Facilitate adding what happens to material in recycling option databases.

4.8. Prevent litter and illegal dumping through public space recycling initiatives

- ID175 Explore more community waste, recycling and reuse drop-off events.
- ID176 Support community clean-up initiatives.
- ID174 Enhance litter and illegal dumping data.
- ID178 Review approaches in other jurisdictions to reduce illegal dumping
- ID177 Research the impacts of improperly managed waste on wildlife.

5.0 RECOVER

5.1. Recover materials and energy from non-recyclable materials

- ID169 Collect dimensional lumber not suitable for reuse or recycling to process into fuel to replace fossil fuels in applications such as district energy and other decentralized heating and agricultural/industrial systems.
- ID172 Advocate for and explore the potential for piloting technologies that can convert construction and demolition wood waste into energy and fuel such as: electricity, aviation fuel or hydrogen, biomass/biocoal.
- ID168 Share information with respect to construction and demolition waste characteristics and quantities to support investigations into the potential to recover materials from non-recyclable construction and demolition waste.
- ID171 Continue to pursue processing of small load waste to recover non-recyclable wood and other materials.
- ID170 Encourage diversion of non-recyclable construction and demolition waste to recover recyclables and alternative fuels in facilities with advanced environmental protection systems such as cement plants.
- ID179 Continue to pursue the beneficial use of bottom ash from the Waste-to-Energy Facility in cement plants.