

Draft Summary of Ideas Staff Consider Unadvisable

The following table summarizes ideas provided in the first two phases of engagement that staff consider inadvisable. Staff have reviewed these ideas by theme and determined that they are inconsistent with Board direction, the plan's vision and guiding principles, or the goals and hierarchy of the plan. Many of these ideas have been discussed and responded to advisory committee meetings.

Theme	Ideas Received	Comments
Stop using landfills to dispose of waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to get rid of Landfills which produce huge amounts of methane and GHGs • No further expansion of the landfill – opinion that the public does not want that 	<p>In spite of the region's success in reducing waste, approximately 1,000,000 tonnes per year of garbage from residential, commercial and institutional sources require disposal. Landfills are an important component of the regional solid waste system providing approximately 75% of regional disposal capacity. Landfills account for more than 95% of residuals disposal in Canada.</p>

Close the Waste-to-Energy Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the long-term capability of Waste-to-Energy Facility and the rationale of expanding with District Energy • Decommission the incinerator, don't use cement kilns for plastic or other recyclables. • Review the true validity of using aging incinerator infrastructure with a new district heating system, it's costly and not sustainable. Explore other renewable energy sources for district heating and conduct full cost accounting for incinerator infrastructure compared to landfill as we continue to reduce waste and recover materials. • Close the incinerator, focus on waste reduction instead, use the land to host a reuse facility for C&D • Phase out incineration • Invest in zero waste actions with most of the savings from closing the incinerator (note concern was raised that the district energy system was locking Metro Vancouver into long term use of the incinerator and a question about the timing) 	<p>In spite of the region's success in reducing waste, approximately 1,000,000 tonnes per year of garbage from residential commercial and institutional sources require disposal. Waste-to-energy costs are consistent with local landfilling, and half of remote landfilling.</p> <p>Emissions from the Waste-to-Energy Facility are closely monitored and openly shared in real time online, in addition to being reported to regulators. All regulated emission parameter values are below regulatory emission limits, with most parameters less than 10% of limits.</p>
Increase Waste-to-Energy Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about increasing capacity as an alternative to landfilling • Consider more waste to energy. (In response to what waste reduction, recycling and garbage disposal topics are most important, now and into the future?) • Management of material within the region as opposed to transporting materials out of region for processing. This could include waste-to-energy expansion 	No work is underway to develop new waste-to-energy capacity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider more waste to energy. • Management of material within the region as opposed to transporting materials out of region for processing. This could include waste-to-energy expansion • Waste to energy—district energy system—Metro Vancouver can select rural areas to implement waste-to-energy facilities 	
Privatize regional solid waste system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest a hybrid version where private sector can accept waste, pay a discounted generator levy to acknowledge their investment in infrastructure, and must accept the same materials as Metro Vancouver sites • Adopt a system of off-site or out of region materials processing opportunities for industry - allow for industry to take materials out of region for processing and then back in for disposal • The private sector should be leading infrastructure development within a framework regulated by Metro Vancouver • Avoid public investment in infrastructure that can be replicated by private industry • Suggest Metro Vancouver put regional facilities up for auction and focus on regulating and compliance. Let private industry manage facilities and provide services. • Increase capacity and reduce or eliminate the need to ship waste out of the region by incentivizing development of new licensed private facilities • Suggest Metro Vancouver sell all facilities and allow the private sector to purchase the facilities. Metro Vancouver will regulate, the private sector will manage and operate. 	<p>Metro Vancouver provides convenient drop-off for small loads of recyclables, and disposal of garbage for all residents and businesses in the region. This system provides reliable and resilient waste and recycling services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region. It also allows Metro Vancouver to implement the disposal ban program at its facilities which encourages recycling rather than disposal of many recyclable materials. Recycling sorting and processing facilities, and most commercial recyclables collection and drop-off are managed by the private sector. An integrated system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a private utility to manage waste (e.g. BC Utilities Commission) 	
Replace source separation programs with single stream recycling collection and mixed-waste sorting programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize technologies (e.g., smart trashcans that can sort automatically) • Auto-sorting technology should be implemented—it is time-consuming for people to manually sort waste • AI-Powered Waste Sorting: Implement AI-based sorting facilities that reduce the burden on residents by automatically separating recyclable, compostable, and non-recyclable waste. • AI Sorting Facility: Build an AI-enabled centralized facility for waste sorting, reducing the onus on individuals and enhancing efficiency. • Smart Facilities: Establish AI-enabled sorting facilities to reduce individual sorting burdens and improve overall system efficiency. • Why can't the government make more smart trash cans that sorts the trash for you? • Consider collaboration on mixed solid waste recovery facility • Discuss a pilot of Mixed Waste Processing as in the region of Peel. Higher diversion rate when processing food waste and recycling together? • Make recycling easier for residents by switching to single-stream or employing better sorting technologies • People are not wanting to separate their recycling and spend the time, might be better to have a single bin for all recycling and then it's sorted later at a facility. 	Maximizing source separation ensures high quality recyclables and is consistent with federal, provincial and regional waste hierarchies.

<p>Don't send materials to cement kilns and other industries for recovery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enact a policy that does not support gasification, plasmification, pyrolysis, chemical recycling to fuel, cement kilns, and other destructive methods of handling waste. Ensure no Metro Vancouver waste goes to these facilities, and no funding support. • No incineration or cement kiln for burning garbage. Cement kiln purports to be a solution for waste, it's an issue of distortion and doesn't consider downstream effects re: air pollution, carbon cost of processing cement. The projected co-benefit of producing energy and destroying waste sounds good only at first. It doesn't factor the external costs, impact on climate change and reduction of air quality. We need renewables focus; e.g., using solar for electric systems as is being done in Europe for steel manufacturing. • Don't use cement kilns for plastics and other municipal solid waste that should be designed out, used as a commodity. • Phase out incineration of all materials including C&D. Work to recover materials instead. • No chemical recycling or other burning that drains in the circular economy that enables poor product design. • Don't burn materials, no thermal treatment offers a long-term solution. 	<p>Where a feasible alternative exists, Metro Vancouver aims to manage materials according to the highest applicable level of the waste hierarchy (e.g. recycling before recovery). Recovering energy and resources from non-recyclable materials is preferable to disposal according to Metro Vancouver's waste hierarchy, which is consistent with the provincial and federal hierarchies.</p>
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