

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan – Initial Draft

Feedback Received from Organizations and Public

Emails and Letters

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Zeenia Mizan

From: The Soup Teacher <angela@brighterbooks.com>
Sent: February 16, 2026 2:26 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Zero waste comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello there,

My name is Angela Jurgensen, and I teach science at NWSS (New Westminster).

I appreciate your plan of action, however — may I suggest a couple of things to push it even further?

We have been working on a project to test the waters of the Fraser in different locations. It is clear that as the Fraser runs through the cities, it becomes more and more polluted. We spoke with the Musqueam Nation, who confirmed not only a high e-Coli incidence in the river, but also toxic chemicals from our tires.

According to our testing, at the Quay location, the Fraser river has also a high level of nitrites and as much chlorine as a swimming pool, among other chemicals. We will be testing South Vancouver in a week, so this will probably look even more dire.

Taking this into consideration, it is important that we try not to add any more to the environmental load. This includes what is released in the atmosphere around the river basin.

For this reason, please consider closing the Burnaby burning facility as soon as possible, and find different ways to deal with the garbage. Currently this facility alone is responsible for a large percentage of all emissions from the whole province. Instead of putting more money to fix it, please create a commission and pay them to figure out a good way to deal with the remnants of our society. There are better ways to generate energy at this day and age.

It would be a wonderful, proactive and meaningful way to approach the goals set by the Province.

My other suggestion is, improve your goals. We must tighten the belt while there is still time. Some other Districts have stricter goals, and are working hard toward them. Please send a sign to the students that you care enough to make difficult decisions. Make smaller targets closer. For instance, 2030, 2035, 40, and then 50. Because for the kids and anyone paying attention, it is disheartening to see goals set in the Paris agreement not only ignored, but the country's emissions actually ramp up and increase.

Please bring back hope through action.

Warm regards,

Angela

From: Ann Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: February 12, 2026 8:15 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Updating Metro Van Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

I am a Vancouver resident. Please take the following into consideration in this update:

1. Use the **Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition** in the Solid Waste Management Plan. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour or more work on reduction.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, not burning of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.
3. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38 year old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
4. Invest in zero waste solutions instead such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling. Ensure the plan actions are beyond just testing, encouraging and piloting to be more active such as implement, enact, develop, etc. Actions should include:
 - Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
 - Reuse and Repair -making it easier so unusable items do not get thrown out.

- Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.
 - Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
 - Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags and mandatory source separation.
5. Measure and work to reduce the climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions on the planning and proposed actions.
 6. Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be implemented.
 7. Pledge to be transparent – report waste performance clearly so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.
 8. Spend money wisely and invest in the future- choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: February 18, 2026 11:30 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Please reconsider the solid waste management plan 2026

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Please reconsider the solid waste management plan. A Zero Waste approach means less garbage, less pollution, and a system that is healthier and more affordable for everyone.

1. Use the Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition in the Solid Waste Management Plan. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour or more work on reduction.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, not burning of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.
3. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38 year old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
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 - Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
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 - Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. - Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.
 - Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
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7. Pledge to be transparent – report waste performance clearly so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.
8. Spend money wisely and invest in the future- choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

Thank you
Bei C

Zeenia Mizan

From: Belinda Li [REDACTED]
Sent: February 12, 2026 8:48 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Concerns about Metro Vancouver's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Board and Staff,

I am a resident of the City of Vancouver. I have been following the update of the Solid Waste Management Plan and was thoroughly disappointed to read the Draft that was released a few weeks ago. Having been involved in the engagement in the earlier phases of the process, I had some hope that this SWMP would improve our progress towards Zero Waste, not go backwards.

We all know that the highest tiers of the Zero Waste Hierarchy are to redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, and recycle (including composting). I did not see any clear commitments to these tiers except for some weak language to encourage these actions. Metro Vancouver has advertised itself as a leader in Zero Waste and it is time to walk the talk. The targets are not good enough. How is Metro Vancouver a leader when Capital Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo are doing better? Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion. And diversion does not include burning of material!

Metro Vancouver needs to actually enforce existing bylaws to prevent so many materials from going to landfill or incineration. That doesn't just help with moving us towards a goal of Zero Waste, but saves us so much money by prolonging the lifespan of our disposal infrastructure. As a taxpayer, I don't want to be wasting my money on upgrading an old incinerator that spews toxic pollution when all those billion of dollars could have gone towards preventing things from going into the garbage in the first place. Put funding and staff into real solutions for Zero Waste, like infrastructure for local reuse, repair, recycling, and composting. Imagine all the things we can do with that money that is currently earmarked for the incinerator. Metro Vancouver could be a world leader in Zero Waste. That's what we asked for in the engagement sessions, but it seems like our voices were ignored.

I hope that you take this feedback seriously and substantially revise the SWMP so that we work towards true Zero Waste.

Sincerely,

Belinda Li



From: Catarina Moreno [REDACTED]
Sent: February 14, 2026 12:07 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Concerns about Metro Vancouver's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Here is my feedback:

1. Use the Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition in the Solid Waste Management Plan. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour or more work on reduction.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, not burning of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.
3. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38 year old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
4. Invest in zero waste solutions instead such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling. Ensure the plan actions are beyond just testing, encouraging and piloting to be more active such as implement, enact, develop, etc.
Actions should include:
 - Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
 - Reuse and Repair -making it easier so unusable items do not get thrown out.
 - Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.
 - Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
 - Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags and mandatory source separation.
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6. Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be implemented.
7. Pledge to be transparent – report waste performance clearly so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.
8. Spend money wisely and invest in the future- choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

Thanks,
Catarina

From: Christine Cunningham [REDACTED]
Sent: February 13, 2026 12:34 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Feedback on the Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver and the Public Technical Advisory Committee,

I live in Burnaby, BC so my feedback on solid waste management is based on what I see going on around me in my City. I believe that Burnaby focuses too much attention on recovery and residuals management and not enough attention on the basics - reduce, reuse and recycle.

I am a proponent of the Provincial government's hierarchy for solid waste management – that the first line of attack should be to reduce the amount and toxicity of the waste that enters the solid waste management program, followed by reuse, recycle and lastly, recovery and residuals management.

Things that I would like to see happen:

1. That high schools be outfitted with commercial kitchens. Currently in Burnaby, only 1/8 high schools have a commercial kitchen. If high schools and larger elementary schools had commercial kitchens, they could cook/prepare nutritious food on site and serve the food on china plates that can be reused indefinitely instead of bringing in food from outside sources in plastic containers. Also, school kitchens could serve the type and amount of food that each student actually wants to eat, thereby generating less food waste.
2. Everywhere I go in Burnaby, I see businesses that do not recycle. This is especially egregious in eateries and coffee shops. Starbucks, for example, purports to recycle by having containers with small holes in them for different kinds of recycling. However, people who work at Starbucks tell me the material all goes into one garbage bag and goes to the landfill. No recycling happening there. Starbucks is not alone. This is a widespread problem. I believe that the Province and cities need to educate businesses and provide tax incentives to businesses to get them to reduce, reuse and recycle. The more ways a business helps the environment, the bigger their tax break should be. Cities should also do random follow ups to make sure businesses continue to earn their tax breaks.
3. I notice when I shop at Safeway nowadays, they put a label on the packaged food that says if the product is very high in sugar and/or salt (see bran muffins, for example.) It deters me from buying those products. Since it is difficult to see if there is a recycling symbol on plastic packages while at the store when the food is in the package, I would like to see a label on packages to say if the package is recyclable or not so that I can avoid the non-recyclable packages. This goes for food outlets and delivery services too.
4. In Burnaby, we do not yet have curbside pick up for soft plastics. This should be happening. Currently, I take my soft plastics to Still Creek Eco Centre. However, I am told that the three companies that pick up soft plastics all do different things with it – one sends it to the dump, one sends it overseas and one turns it into pellets. I believe the only reasonable solution is pelletizing.

5. In Burnaby, food scraps are picked up at the end of my street in the early morning on Tuesdays. It is inconvenient for me (a retired senior) to get dressed and run up the street in all kinds of weather to deposit my food scraps in the bin before 8:00 a.m. I therefore take my food scraps to Still Creek Eco Centre where they put it with the grass clippings. I think more people would recycle their food scraps if it was more convenient to do so (ie. if they didn't have to do this first thing in the morning or drive to a central location).

So I think that cities could do a lot more to promote the primary goals of a circular economy to reduce, reuse and recycle.

I also wish to address Recovery and Residuals Management. I am very opposed to the current plan of continuing to burn solid waste at the Metro Vancouver incinerator. I oppose this plan because:

1. the Metro Vancouver incinerator emits a lot of greenhouse gases. I am advised that it is one of the top 25 GHG source emitters in the Province.
2. the incinerator emits toxins such as dioxins, cadmium, mercury, lead, acid gases and nitrogen oxide gases that are not being captured. It saddens me to think these are being emitted over the Fraser Foreshore ecological reserve, as well as being distributed more widely.
3. I believe the incinerator is an obstacle to reducing waste. It runs on waste. It therefore disincentivizes cities to reduce, reuse and recycle.
4. The incinerator is past its expected lifespan and it will take millions of dollars and energy to keep it going. I believe this to be a huge waste of taxpayers' money.
5. I do not think the burning of waste should be considered recycling. It is not. It generates GHGs, harms our atmosphere and generates toxic materials. There needs to be greater public transparency on this issue.

I believe it is tempting for politicians who are trying to get "quick and easy wins" on the environment front to look for one or two large projects that they think will make them look like they are effectively addressing climate change and the pollution of our environment. In considering the future of the incinerator, I hope that decision makers will look at the whole picture – that they will weigh the negatives of continued use of an incinerator vs. the benefits that can be obtained in terms of cheap thermal or steam energy as compared with solar energy with hydro-electric back up.

I would like to see more exploration of solar energy and a lot more politicians rolling up their sleeves on the important work of reducing, reusing and recycling. This work is not easy. It requires the Province and local governments to be innovative and collaborative with public institutions, businesses and ordinary citizens. Please lead us in a good direction. We are willing to do our part. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine Cunningham

[REDACTED]

From: Christopher Monaghan <cmonaghan@westvancouver.ca>
Sent: February 17, 2026 11:29 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Solid Waste Management Plan - Comment

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I wanted to flag on page 61 of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan the reference to Strategy 2.4 (under Risk Analysis). While the original 2010 plan has a Strategy 2.4 (*Target demolition, land clearing and construction (DLC) sector for increased reuse and recycling*) it appears this new plan does not, stopping at Strategy 2.3.

Thanks,

Chris

Christopher Monaghan, M.A., M.C.C., he/him
Climate Action Coordinator | District of West Vancouver
t: 604-921-3574 | westvancouver.ca



We acknowledge that we are on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the [Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw](#) (Squamish Nation), [səlilwətaʔ](#) (Tseil-Waututh Nation) & [xʷməθkʷəy̍əm](#) (Musqueam Nation). We recognize and respect them as nations in this territory, as well as their historic connection to the lands and waters around us since time immemorial. *Learn more about each of these Nations; click each name to visit their official website.*

From: David Sahlmüller [REDACTED]
Sent: February 12, 2026 8:09 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Feedback on Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am writing to share my feedback on Metro Vancouver's Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. Below are some suggestions to make this plan more aligned with Metro Vancouver's zero-waste vision:

- Adopt the [Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition](#). This clear peer-reviewed definition and waste hierarchy will support progressive action. In addition, prioritize waste reduction over recovery.
- Set ambitious 5 and 10 year targets that are aligned with the Capital Regional District and/or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation, reduction, and diversion (recycling and composting, NOT incineration).
- Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator, which is one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in BC and emits dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases, NOx, and other pollutants. Also, commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
- Invest in zero waste solutions like redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting, and recycling and ensure actions are implemented rather than just tested, encouraged, and piloted. Actions should include:
 - Waste Prevention: Eliminate unnecessary packaging and prevent food waste.
 - Reuse and Repair: Make it easier to reuse and repair existing items than buy new ones so usable items do not get thrown out.
 - Recycling and Composting: Enhance programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are properly captured. Introduce better waste management programs and services in apartment buildings, businesses, institutions, public places, and industry/construction locations.
 - Reduce Toxicity: Include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials and the emission of toxic pollutants.
 - Enforce and Enhance Existing Bans: Implement more inspections, a requirement for clean bags, and mandatory source separation.
- Measure and work to reduce the climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions with planning and proposed actions.
- Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be realistically implemented.
- Pledge to be transparent by clearly reporting waste performance so the public can see what is working. Do not call waste incineration "recycling" or "diversion," as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.
- Spend money wisely and invest in the future by choosing solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

Thank you for considering this feedback, and I hope you will implement these suggestions.

Best,
David

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David Sahlmueller (he/him), BSc



I gratefully acknowledge that I live, work, fight for climate action, and strive to make the world a better place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), selilwítulh (Tseil-Waututh), and skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations. As a settler in what we now call British Columbia, I am on an ongoing process of reconciliation through learning from and sharing the teachings of the original inhabitants of this land.

[Native-land.ca](https://www.native-land.ca)

[How to Acknowledge the Land](https://www.native-land.ca/how-to-acknowledge-the-land)

From: Courtemanche, Douglas <douglas.courtemanche@ubc.ca>
Sent: February 13, 2026 9:10 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan feedback

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear MetroVan,

Thank you for the opportunity to read and respond to the "Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan, January 2026". My comments are below:

Please consider using the Zero Waste Hierarchy 8.1 definitions.



Perhaps start with: "Refuse" at step 1. Things people don't buy don't become waste.

Perhaps insert: "Repair" between "Reuse" and "Recycle". This could include more emphasis on the "right to repair" and support for that in MetroVan as well as support for the Repair Cafes Program. This is mentioned later in the report.

As much as possible we should be eliminating waste "upstream". Waste management is not a policy or practice that happens in isolation of other decisions made by government, industry and individuals that either prevent or create waste.

Consider separating out construction material which can be reused/recycled from packaging which can be recycled and from "waste". Construction operators/sites should be mandated to sort all their garbage just like households. A lot of wood that is good for small projects gets thrown away.

Eliminate incineration. This is just a way of adding more CO2 and other toxic gases to the air and many of the products of burning organic material with plastic are toxic and cause cancer. We don't need these added to our already polluted environment. We also do not need heavy metals aerosolized and then precipitating in the airshed of waste incinerators.

In reality we need to reduce the absolute amount of waste, not just the per capita amount of waste. This will mean more ambitious targets which could be met by preventing waste from being generated in the first place. The Waste Management Team needs to be talking up to the MetroVan Board about absolute reductions in waste. This means changing regulations about packaging materials. We want a cleaner world not just a world that's less dirty per capita.

It would be nice to see some hard numbers for per capita and total waste by category on pages 7 and 8. Also, Figure 4 (page 16) should have the total amount not just the per capita amount. The waste is filling up the environment which is a fixed space. The total amount of waste is what matters. This data may be in the Appendixes which I did not review in detail but I think it is important enough to deserve a summary graph in the main report.

There is a lot of "Advocacy" for the steps in the "circular economy" but what are we actually going to do. One thing that's needed is at source sorting of waste into all the different types of materials that can be reused and recycled. Most people who have curb/lane pick up of garbage, recycling and compost don't sort their garbage and take what can go to the ZeroWaste depot to the depot. This means all this composite of theoretically repurposable material ends up mixed together and goes to the landfill. There needs to be better recognition and use of the ZeroWaste depot(s) and some incentive to use this service to reduce waste.

Incineration should not be in the plan. (page 9 "6. Dispose (waste to energy...)

Recovery of materials is not the same as generating energy (and pollution). Strategy 5.1 puts these two options together when really they are quite different. Some form of physical or chemical reprocessing to create new raw materials is quite different than incineration where heat is used to generate electricity but where emissions of GHG's and toxins also occurs. Same for 5.2. This is alluded to in "Table 6: Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options" (Environmental) (Social - potential impact on public health) (page 54)

Thus 6.1.2.2 "exploring options to further reduce emissions and increase environmental monitoring" of the Waste-to-Energy(-and-Emissions) facility is of critical importance. Waste management should have to abide by the precautionary principle and protective action should be the norm rather than waiting for proof of harm and then acting after the fact.

I don't see a "Table 3B: Proposed Regulations" to complement "Table 3: Existing Regulations". (page 41) What if all of the services were covered by taxes with free use of reuse, repair, repurpose, recycle, reprocess facilities by citizens who properly sort their waste? What if these facilities existed and were staffed by knowledgeable and helpful MetroVan employees such that funding for this quality of service which would help us all maintain a healthy environment with less waste became the normal form of our behaviour? This is alluded to in "Table 4: Regulatory Priorities" (row 6) (page 44) and "Table 5: Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities" priority #2 (page 49). It would be nice to see some specific ideas about how this could be done.

I find it interesting, sad and somewhat disturbing that there is only one small paragraph on "Risk Analysis" (page 61). Anything from the technosphere that ends up in the biosphere is a long-term health hazard to our children and all future generations. Many compounds/chemicals that have been tossed "away" are now known to cause birth defects, disrupt hormone systems and affect male fertility and pregnancy, cause chronic inflammatory/immune diseases, and cause cancer. These compounds bioaccumulate. This means that they concentrate up the food chain. We (humans) are near the top and thus susceptible victims of our own poisoning of the environment. This realization must underpin the overall approach to waste management, which, in reality, is what do we do with the toxic stuff from the technosphere (fossil fuels, petrochemicals, plastics, metals). The best answer is not to produce the waste in the first place.

The Committees listed in Table 8 (page 62) need members of the public and environmental scientist representatives as members, as well as industry and elected officials.

I hope my comments are helpful. I hope that you prioritize the health of people and the planet and set up a system that will force the necessary upstream changes and that people will have to pay for in a way that is socially just.

hay č x^w qə,

Doug

Douglas J Courtemanche, MD MS FRCSC
Division of Plastic Surgery
& with **Doctors for Planetary Health**
douglas.courtemanche@ubc.ca

Unceded x^wməθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl'ílwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh)
Territories (Vancouver)

The term engagement implies both a desire to find out more about an issue and an ethical obligation to act.
Candis Callison 2009

Zeenia Mizan

From: Eyal Lebel [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2026 12:07 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: response to solid waste plan draft

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
here is the response to the draft plan,
thank you.
Eyal Lebel, chair of zero waste committee of SPEC

 SPEC Zero waste committee respond the Metro Vancouver draft solid waste plan

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Dr. Eyal Lebel,
Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese medicine.

[REDACTED]
www.drlebeltcm.com
[REDACTED]

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SPEC Zero Waste committee response to the Metro Vancouver draft solid waste plan Feb 20, 2026

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation's (SPEC) Zero Waste Committee, is a group of citizens from the Vancouver and BC area. We have been informed and engaged with Metro Vancouver in general, and specifically with the solid waste plan update process.

This response document comes from a place of respect and appreciation for the work that Metro Vancouver organization is doing.

There are specific points that we would like to raise that could help bring this next 10 year plan to a more successful and robust place.

Waste reduction and diversion rate improvement in multi-family buildings:

- There is no clear indication of "how" and with "what tools" the plan is going to reach the targets
- There are no direct actions supporting multi-family buildings such as inspections or monitoring
- There is no clear allocated budget towards the targets in the plan

Diversion rates, in general:

- There are new targets, but no specific tools to get there
- There are no costs allocated to actions and systems in the plan

Waste reduction and diversion in ICI, and C&D

- Some targets but no new funding, or new regulations

Incineration

- There is extensive research showing that toxins are dispersed from incinerators
- Burning waste goes against the direction of better recycling and composting organic waste
- The western world is moving away from incineration

Food waste in our systems and society

- Not clear enough not strong enough targets and tools to reduce food waste

Waste reduction education and diversion enhancement

- No strong tools and budgets for enhancement of waste reduction

Overall, the plan talks about targets in 2040 and 2050, with no clear interim targets. The plan also does not provide a strong method for how the targets are going to be achieved. The plan lacks clear vision and new "tools", bylaws, and other ways to reach the goals it sets.

Thank you very much,
Eyal Lebel, chair of SPEC Zero Waste Committee

From: Fraserriver Foodclub <fraserriverfoodclub@gmail.com>
Sent: February 13, 2026 2:35 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Response to draft solid Waste Mgmt. Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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- 1) Reduce solid waste is the primary goal, include better education and increased penalties, year by year.
- 2) Recycle and compost. Eliminate burning and be transparent annually on status of progress.
- 3) Assertive reduction targets for the near future, based on those of the Capitol Regl. Dist. and Nanaimo.
- 4) Burnaby incinerator - reduce use immediately and aim towards decommission in near future.
- 5) Commit to a timeline and budget.
- 6) Align current plans with a long future vision of functioning with minimal solid waste and simpler systems..
- 7) Endorse and act to implement suggestions by zero waste BC

- Eliminate unnecessary packaging and prevent food waste.
- Reuse, repair, maintain and upgrade. In local tech hubs. Lobby to penalize manufacturers of short-life products.
- Recycle and compost - simple and consistent programs. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services. Lobby to maintain existing buildings if at all possible.
- Reduce toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
- Enforce and enhance existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags and mandatory source separation.

Zeenia Mizan

From: Gonzalo Wong Koo [REDACTED]
Sent: February 18, 2026 12:48 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Comments

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Hi Sue Maxwell,

Here are my comments for Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

- I think in the visions, goals, and scope section there needs to be a section that emphasis why zero waste is important in terms of the landfill running out space, and the economic implications if our waste needs to be send to other regions.

Thank you

Gonzalo

Zeenia Mizan

From: Harrison Brook <HBrook@retailcouncil.org>
Sent: February 20, 2026 12:14 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: Greg Wilson; Stephanie Liu; [REDACTED]
Subject: Retail Council of Canada Comments on Draft of Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan
Attachments: RCC Response to Initial Draft of Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Team,

Please find attached the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) response to the Initial Draft of Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan. Please feel free to reach out at if you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the content in the attached response.

Thank you,

Harrison

Harrison Brook (he/him)

Manager, Sustainability

RETAIL COUNCIL OF CANADA | CONSEIL CANADIEN DU COMMERCE DE DÉTAIL

1881 Yonge Street, Suite 800, Toronto, ON M4S 3C4

Mobile: 416 895 5869 Office: 416 467 3761

RetailCouncil.org | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Upcoming Events

[Retail Secure Conference](#) | March 11-12, 2026

[RCC STORE26](#) | June 2-3, 2026

February 20, 2026

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III
4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6

By email to: zerowaste@metrovancover.org

Dear Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Team,

Subject: Response to Initial Draft of Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

Retail is Canada's largest private sector employer. Over 319,000 (January 2026) residents of British Columbia work directly in the retail industry. Retail impacts hundreds of thousands of related jobs in wholesale, transportation, information technology, legal and accounting professions. The sector annually generates \$17 billion (2024 data) in wages and employee benefits for British Columbians. Core retail sales (excluding vehicles and gasoline) in B.C. were \$73 billion in 2024. The Retail Council of Canada (RCC) is a not-for-profit industry-funded association that represents small, medium and large retail businesses in every community across the country. As the Voice of Retail™, we proudly represent British Columbia storefronts in all retail formats, including department, grocery, pharmacy, convenience, specialty, discount and independent retailers, as well as online merchants and quick-service restaurants.

The Retail Council of Canada (RCC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on Metro Vancouver's Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. RCC encourages Metro Vancouver to pursue harmonized actions at the highest jurisdictional level possible to achieve the best environmental outcomes at the lowest cost. Retailers are open to the use of landfill disposal bans to drive diversion, but such measures should remain outcome-based and avoid prescribing how businesses must comply. Businesses must be provided with the operational flexibility to determine the most appropriate and cost-effective compliance pathway.

RCC and our members support reducing waste generation, increasing diversion, and advancing circular economy outcomes. Achieving the Plan's diversion and recycling targets will require coordinated action across multiple actors and will require detailed consultations with the impacted parties.

Retailers and quick service restaurants (QSRs) are directly impacted by changes to collection systems, disposal bans, infrastructure requirements, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs. As such, we encourage Metro Vancouver to ensure that proposed strategies are harmonized with or identical to existing provincial and federal frameworks and implemented in a manner that reflects jurisdictional roles, operational feasibility, and the financial implications to businesses and consumers.

RCC supports improving material flow data and reporting. RCC cautions that any proposed actions to collect additional data be carefully designed to avoid duplicative obligations for businesses already subject to federal and provincial reporting requirements. Introducing additional material flow data and

reporting requirements risks creating fragmented compliance obligations for multi-site operators and increasing administrative burden without corresponding improvements in recovery outcomes.

RCC recommends that Metro Vancouver engage stakeholders and review the data that is currently being reported. RCC also recommends that Metro Vancouver collaborate with the entities where this data is reported, including producer responsibility organizations (PROs) and provincial and federal government to share data, making use of existing data that businesses are already reporting including provincial EPR programs and federal reporting initiatives such as the Federal Plastic Registry. This will help ensure that there is no duplication of reporting requirements which create red tape and place administrative burdens on businesses.

The draft Plan highlights a review and potential expansion of materials covered by landfill bans. While landfill bans contribute to increased diversion, they also have significant cost and operational implications for retailers such as changes to facilities to accommodate changes and modifications to waste collection contracts.

Retail is open to the use of landfill bans to increase diversion. Where materials are banned from landfills, RCC recommends that such bans remain outcome-based and not be prescriptive. Businesses must be permitted to determine the most appropriate operational approach to managing these materials. The implementation of new landfill bans must include adequate lead time to allow businesses to adjust operations, secure necessary services and infrastructure, and ensure these measures deliver improved environmental outcomes while minimizing financial impacts to businesses and consumers.

Several proposed actions with the Plan are aimed at increasing reuse and recycling, including promoting design for recyclability and advocating for increasing the use of recycled content. With today's integrated global supply chains, many of the products and packaging sold in Canada are designed and manufactured internationally. Retailers do not have the ability to make changes required to support increased reuse, repairability, or incorporate recycled content. These changes rely on product design or material composition changes that cannot be met by downstream actors, such as retailers.

RCC recommends that initiatives aimed at increasing reuse, repair, recyclability and recycled content be internationally harmonized with Canada's major trading partners. Aligning design related objectives internationally will help ensure that products sold into the Canadian market can meet reuse and recycling outcomes without creating fragmented design expectations that cannot be operationalized within today's global supply chains or resulting in significant cost increases to both businesses and Canadian consumers.

The draft Plan indicates Metro Vancouver's intent to advocate for reusable food service ware requirements. Integrating reusable systems into retail and food service operations would require operational changes including staff training, process adjustments and space for washing and storage, and will introduce significant health and safety concerns. The success of these systems will depend on consumer acceptance and participation. Where consumers treat reusable items as single use, there is a risk of increased material use and operational burdens which will undermine the intended improved environmental outcomes.

RCC recommends that any requirements related to reusable food service ware be harmonized at the national level to ensure consistency across jurisdictions and alignment with how food service packaging systems are designed, supplied and managed. In the absence of national coordination, initiatives related to reusable food service ware should remain voluntary, as regional mandatory requirements risk creating fragmented compliance obligations for multi-site operators and may conflict with ongoing provincial EPR modernization efforts for packaging and paper products.

RCC is concerned about the Plan's identified priority to advocate for the expansion of provincial EPR programs to additional product categories such as textiles and furniture.

- Textiles are a category with a strong second-hand reuse market, which is a preferable outcome in the waste management hierarchy as identified in the Canada-wide action plan for EPR. Obligating these products under EPR would negatively impact these reuse markets and the businesses that support them. Currently there are no other Canadian jurisdictions that have obligated clothing and textiles as there is significant lack of infrastructure to effectively sort, process and recover materials from this category. Clothing and textile recycling systems are in their initial stages in Europe, and RCC understands that there have been significant challenges in their rollout. A lack of end-markets means that collected textiles are primarily being diverted to landfills or shipped to developing countries.
- Furniture, as with clothing and textiles, is a product category with a strong second-hand reuse market. EPR obligations for these products would have negative impacts on the secondary reuse market and the businesses that support it. These products are bulky, costly to manage and the infrastructure does not exist to effectively recover the materials. If furniture is obligated under EPR it would result in high EHF, creating affordability concerns for consumers.

A premature expansion into these product categories is unlikely to result in improved environmental outcomes and will result in increased costs for consumers while also harming existing secondary reuse market sellers.

RCC recommends Metro Vancouver work with other jurisdictions to review the infrastructure and technology available for the appropriate end-of-life management of these items. EPR expansion into these categories should not be pursued until such a time that they can be well managed for a reasonable consumer cost and with an improved environmental outcome.

RCC notes Metro Vancouver's intent to collaborate with industrial, commercial and institutional (ICI) sectors on waste reduction initiatives, including efforts to reduce food loss. In addressing food loss, there are significant employee and public health and safety concerns that must be addressed. Participation in food waste diversion programs will require significant behaviour changes and will be influenced by physical and operational constraints that may not be within the direct control of retail tenants such as shared waste rooms in commercial buildings, health and safety requirements related to organics storage and variability in available collection infrastructure across municipalities. There may also be requirements to change some federal and provincial health and food regulations which directly impact food waste.

RCC wants to ensure that measures to reduce food waste consider and address health and safety concerns. RCC also recommends that any measures, voluntary or otherwise, developed from this Plan include appropriate infrastructure investment and implementation timelines to support participation, enable behaviour changes and minimize unintended financial impacts to businesses and consumers.

Many retailers are already participating in reuse, refill and repair pilots in jurisdictions across the country; and these efforts are continuously expanding. However, these pilots and any current participation in reuse, refill and repair programs are voluntary. The creation of unaligned or overly prescriptive regional reuse requirements will stem innovation and risks creating a complex patchwork of unaligned requirements across jurisdictions, which add costs, administrative burdens and regulatory complexity for businesses with operations in multiple jurisdictions.

RCC recommends that Metro Vancouver support innovation through voluntary programs that are harmonized and aligned with provincial and federal efforts. This will help ensure harmonized opportunities for scalable solutions and support innovation and funding for reuse, refill and repairs initiatives across jurisdictions, which will help reduce barriers to adoption and enable widespread participation by multi-site operators.

Conclusion

RCC encourages Metro Vancouver to implement the proposed measures in a manner that is harmonized with existing provincial EPR frameworks and federal reporting initiatives, to avoid duplicative or fragmented regulatory requirements for businesses. Consideration should be given to the global supply chains and to the feasibility and financial implications of proposed measures to both businesses and consumers, as well as the respective jurisdictional roles of municipal, provincial and federal governments in managing product design, producer responsibility and packaging recovery systems.

A coordinated and harmonized approach across jurisdictions will be essential to achieving the Plan's diversion objectives while minimizing unintended operational and economic impacts. RCC looks forward to continued engagement as the Plan is refined and implemented.

RCC again thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on Metro Vancouver's Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Yours truly,



Harrison Brook
Manager, Sustainability
Retail Council of Canada

Copy: Greg Wilson, Retail Council of Canada

To:

Metro Vancouver Board of Directors
c/o Office of the Chair
Metro Vancouver

Cc:

British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Parks
Environmental Protection Division

Date:

February 17, 2026

Subject:

Request for Evidentiary Basis for Continued Inclusion of Burnaby Waste-to-Energy Facility – Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Dear Metro Vancouver Board Members;

I am writing to request the evidentiary basis for the continued inclusion of the Burnaby Waste-to-Energy Facility as a necessary component of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Plan establishes performance targets through 2050, including increased diversion and waste reduction objectives. Continued operation of this aging combustion facility through 2050 is therefore implicitly assumed to support achievement of those goals. Given the facility's age, emissions profile, capital reinvestment obligations, regulatory exposure, and operational limitations, that assumption requires clear and compelling substantiation.

This is not a minor operational decision. It is a multi-decade capital commitment involving aging combustion infrastructure, a material point source emitter of greenhouse gases, and significant long-term financial exposure. For a decision of this magnitude and duration, a higher evidentiary threshold is appropriate.

Unless it can be demonstrated that continued operation through 2050 is necessary to achieve the Plan's stated goals, and that it does so without creating disproportionate financial, environmental, regulatory, enforcement, and climate risk, its inclusion in the Plan requires clear and documented justification.

The following areas require substantiation.

Asset Integrity and Long-Term Reliability

Continued operation through 2050 presumes that the facility can function reliably throughout that period. Given that the facility has been in operation since 1988, long-term planning should be grounded in updated engineering assessments and documented service life evaluations.

If operation is expected to continue through 2050, those assessments would reasonably inform that decision.

To substantiate continued reliance on the facility as a long-term asset, provide the following documentation:

- The original design life and any life extension assessments
- The most recent independent engineering or asset integrity review
- A capital replacement forecast for major systems through 2050
- Historical availability, outage, and major maintenance records sufficient to assess long-term reliability trends

If updated service life and reliability assessments are not in place, then the assumption that the facility can operate dependably through 2050 lacks an evidentiary foundation.

Emissions Performance and Public Health Risk

Combustion of mixed municipal solid waste inherently produces dioxins, furans, and other combustion-related pollutants. The identification of dioxin-containing ash in the surrounding environment reinforces the need for transparent and independently verifiable emissions oversight.

Regardless of final point source attribution, the presence of elevated dioxins in proximity to a major combustion facility warrants thorough and independent investigation. The source of these toxins should be identified promptly and transparently to ensure that any potential ongoing exposure risks are properly addressed and mitigated. The duty to protect public health does not depend solely on confirmed causation, but on responsible management of foreseeable risk associated with facility operations.

Continued operation through 2050 therefore presumes that emissions performance, deposition pathways, and exposure risks have been fully examined in light of these findings and that appropriate investigative and corrective actions were taken.

To substantiate that presumption, provide the following documentation:

- Emissions monitoring data for dioxins, furans, and particulate matter for the period immediately preceding and following identification of dioxin-containing ash
- Documentation of any expanded testing or monitoring initiated in response to the ash findings
- Any deviation reports or operational anomalies recorded during that timeframe
- Details of any independent third-party investigation commissioned to determine source and deposition pathway

If a comprehensive and independently verifiable investigation was not conducted in response to the ash findings, then the adequacy of emissions oversight remains in question.

Lifecycle Financial Exposure and Regulatory Resilience

Operating a combustion facility through 2050 represents a significant financial and regulatory commitment. Continued reliance presumes that emissions control systems can meet current and evolving regulatory requirements over that timeframe.

The facility operates under an Operational Certificate issued by the Province of British Columbia. Any amendments, exemption requests, or limit adjustments under that certificate, including those related to acid gas emissions or other stack emission parameters, are directly relevant to assessing long-term regulatory resilience.

If modifications to emission limits or compliance timelines have been sought, those considerations would be relevant to assessing long-term regulatory resilience.

To evaluate whether long-term regulatory and financial exposure has been appropriately assessed, provide the following documentation:

- Copies of any Operational Certificate amendments, exemption requests, or limit adjustments related to stack emissions
 - The technical and financial basis for such requests
 - Lifecycle cost forecasts through 2050, including projected capital upgrades and emissions control reinvestments
 - Scenario analysis reflecting potential tightening of emission limits and associated capital or operational implications

If continued operation through 2050 depends on regulatory flexibility or periodic limit adjustments, then those implications should be transparently incorporated into the Plan.

Strategic Necessity and Alignment with Plan Objectives

The Plan suggests that continued ownership reduces reliance on external disposal capacity. While ownership may provide operational control, control alone does not establish necessity.

The relevant question is whether continued operation of the facility through 2050 is demonstrably required to achieve the Plan's stated waste reduction and diversion objectives.

Ownership of aging combustion infrastructure carries concentrated capital reinvestment obligations, emissions liability, regulatory sensitivity, and throughput dependence. A waste reduction strategy premised on declining residual volumes requires careful evaluation of long-term capital rigidity relative to more flexible residual management pathways.

To substantiate strategic necessity, provide the following documentation:

- Analysis demonstrating that continued operation through 2050 is required to achieve the Plan's stated objectives under projected waste reduction scenarios
- Comparative analysis of continued facility operation relative to available landfill disposal pathways and other flexible residual management options
- Scenario modeling showing projected residual volumes with and without the facility under varying reduction performance assumptions
- Clarification on how continued ownership reduces overall system risk relative to flexible disposal capacity arrangements

If analysis demonstrating necessity relative to alternative residual management pathways has not been conducted or documented, then the basis for presuming that this asset must remain within the Plan remains unsubstantiated

Enforcement Capability and Disposal Ban Alignment

The Plan includes commitments to strengthen disposal ban enforcement and improve diversion performance. Effective enforcement requires meaningful inspection and investigative oversight.

At the facility, loads are inspected visually at tipping and through video monitoring. Once discharged into the combustion pit, materials cannot be segregated for further inspection.

If enforcement is to be strengthened through 2050, infrastructure capability must align with that objective.

To assess alignment between enforcement goals and facility design, provide the following documentation:

- Disposal ban enforcement protocols at the facility
- Data on loads rejected or investigated annually
- Clarification on the facility's ability to isolate and physically inspect suspect loads prior to combustion
- Protocols for identifying and managing hazardous or prohibited materials

If infrastructure design limits meaningful inspection and follow-up investigation, then there is a structural constraint that may undermine enforcement objectives.

Climate Alignment and Net Zero Commitments

The Burnaby Waste-to-Energy Facility is a material point source emitter of greenhouse gases. Combustion of mixed waste includes fossil-derived materials, resulting in direct fossil carbon emissions.

Continued operation through 2050 presumes alignment with regional climate commitments and net zero objectives.

To evaluate whether that alignment has been demonstrated, provide the following documentation:

- Current and projected greenhouse gas emissions through 2050
- Analysis of fossil carbon content in the waste stream
- Modeling demonstrating alignment with regional net zero commitments
- Any mitigation or offset strategies incorporated into long-term planning

If climate alignment analysis has not been conducted for a facility of this scale and duration, then its compatibility with regional climate commitments through 2050 remains unverified.

Conclusion

The continued inclusion of the Burnaby Waste-to-Energy Facility within the Solid Waste Management Plan rests on the presumption that it is necessary to achieve the Plan's stated objectives through 2050 and that it does so without exposing the region to disproportionate financial, environmental, regulatory, enforcement, and climate risk.

For a capital asset of this magnitude and duration, that presumption must be demonstrably supported. If that substantiation cannot be provided, continued inclusion of the facility in the Solid Waste Management Plan would lack sufficient evidentiary support.

The categories of documentation identified above represent the types of substantiation that would reasonably support continued inclusion of the facility through 2050. I request that the evidentiary basis addressing these considerations be clearly documented in the materials accompanying the draft Plan as it proceeds through Committee and Board consideration, and that this correspondence be included in the public record as part of that review.

Sincerely,

Jamie Kaminski
Jamie Kaminski

Good morning, Paul and team,

BIS has received the email below with the attachments related to the Solid Waste Management Plan update. It was asked that we include the submission to the Board and the Zero Waste Committee.

Please advise how we should proceed with this request. Thank you!

Kind regards,

Christine Zhao
Legislative Services Coordinator
Board & Information Services



From: Jamie Kaminski <jamie@happystan.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 10:04 AM
To: Board and Information Services - Secretariat <BIS-Secretariat@metrovancover.org>
Cc: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>
Subject: Submission of Proposed Framework and Companion Note – On Behalf of Signatories

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Good afternoon,

Please distribute the attached submission to the Metro Vancouver Board and the Zero Waste Committee and include it in the official record of the Solid Waste Management Plan update.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and individuals, please find attached the Proposed Framework for Metro Vancouver's next Solid Waste Management Plan and the accompanying Companion Note.

The Framework reflects input from industry and sector participants engaged in the SWMP process. The Companion Note provides clarifications and documents additional considerations raised during review, without revising the core text.

This is a consolidated submission supported by the signatories listed in the document. I am transmitting it on their behalf.

Kindly confirm receipt and distribution to the Zero Waste Committee.

Sincerely,
Jamie Kaminski
On behalf of the signatories

Introduction

Date: February 17, 2026

Over the past decade, Metro Vancouver has **sought to position itself among leading organizations within the Zero Waste landscape**, including through the establishment of a Zero Waste Committee, the founding and public funding of the National Zero Waste Council, and ongoing investment in annual Zero Waste conferences and related initiatives. These efforts reflect an intent to advance waste reduction, material recovery, and reduced reliance on disposal across the region.

As Metro Vancouver develops its next Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), there is an opportunity to ensure that this Zero Waste positioning is reflected more clearly and consistently in how the regional waste system is designed, measured, funded, and enforced in practice. Experience under the current plan period indicates that progress toward Zero Waste outcomes depends not only on stated goals, but on clear targets, transparent accounting, effective enforcement, and infrastructure planning that supports declining waste volumes over time.

This document presents a proposed framework intended to support that alignment. It builds on principles Metro Vancouver has already endorsed and focuses on actions that fall within Metro Vancouver's existing SWMP authority.

The framework emphasizes:

- Sector-specific targets that drive upstream behaviour and accountability
- Clear measurement and accounting rules that reflect real system performance
- Stronger disposal bans and inspection practices
- Targeted investment in waste reduction and reuse
- Infrastructure planning aligned with long-term waste reduction

This framework is offered as a constructive, technically grounded contribution from industry and sector participants, as well as other organizations and stakeholders with expertise in Zero Waste policy, waste system design, and materials management. While it does not represent the position of any advisory committee or organization in its entirety, it reflects informed perspectives from parties who consider the effectiveness and credibility of Metro Vancouver's SWMP to be of regional and broader significance.

Proposed Framework for Metro Vancouver's Next Solid Waste Management Plan

This framework outlines the core elements that must be included in the next SWMP to align Metro Vancouver's stated Zero Waste commitments with how the system is designed, funded, measured, and enforced in practice. It focuses on actions Metro Vancouver can control or directly enable through bylaws, pricing signals, service requirements, enforcement, and targeted investment.

1. Clear Targets That Measure Real Zero Waste Outcomes

What the Plan Should Do

The Plan must include clear, measurable targets aligned with the Zero Waste Hierarchy:

- **Sector Specific:** Each sector (Residential, IC&I, C&D) must have its own diversion targets and not one aggregate target for the region.
- **Waste reduction:** Reduce per-capita municipal solid waste generation by 15 percent by 2036, relative to a 2023 baseline, with interim targets.
- **Zero Waste performance:** Zero Waste targets under this Plan are achieved through waste reduction, reuse, and diversion, with diversion limited to source-separated recycling and composting only.
- **Disposal reduction:** Reduce per-capita disposal by at least 50 percent by 2036.

Rationale: Sector-specific targets are essential to drive upstream behaviour change and accountability. Different sectors generate different waste streams and respond to different policy tools, and aggregated regional targets mask these differences. Clear reduction and disposal targets ensure the system is designed to prevent waste at the source and align service design, enforcement, and investment with long-term Zero Waste outcomes.

2. Measurement, Metrics, and Accounting Framework (Foundational to the Entire Plan)

This section establishes the accounting rules that apply across the SWMP. These rules ensure reported performance reflects real Zero Waste outcomes rather than downstream correction.

2.1 Separate Reporting of Waste Streams

The Plan requires that the following waste streams are measured, tracked, and reported separately:

- Residential Solid Waste
- Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I)
- Construction and Demolition (C&D)

C&D waste must never be aggregated with residential or IC&I diversion rates.

Rationale: C&D waste has structurally high diversion rates due to heavy materials such as concrete and metals. Aggregation inflates diversion and masks underperformance in residential and commercial systems. In addition, the amount of waste from the C&D sector varies much more than other sectors based on economic activity.

2.2 What Counts Toward Diversion

Diversion is intentionally defined narrowly.

Counts toward diversion:

- Source-separated third-party reuse
- **Source-separated recycling**, defined as:
The reprocessing of source-separated materials into new products, materials, or substances for their original or similar purpose, in a manner that displaces the use of virgin materials. Recycling does not include processes that convert materials into fuels, energy, or products used primarily for energy recovery or disposal
- Source-separated composting or anaerobic digestion

Does not count toward diversion:

- Recycling or composting of materials recovered from mixed waste
- Post-residual sorting
- Stabilization of organics after disposal
- Metals Recovered from Incineration Ash

- Incineration ash incorporated into concrete or other materials
- Combustion or fuel substitution (eg: refuse derived fuel, chemical processing of plastics to fuel)

Rationale: Diversion metrics must reward proper system design, service access, and compliance, not downstream recovery of materials that should never have entered disposal. Allowing downstream salvage or combustion to count as success undermines reduction, reuse and upstream recycling. These targets ensure Zero Waste performance reflects upstream system outcomes.

2.3 Treatment of Recovery

Recovery must be reported as disposal because it occurs only after materials have failed to be captured through source-separation.

Recovery includes post-residual sorting, recovery of metals from ash, and stabilization of organics after disposal.

Under this Plan:

- Recovery is maximized to reduce environmental harm.
- Recovery is tracked as a diagnostic indicator.
- Recovery is reported as disposal for performance measurement.

Objective: Reduce the amount of recoverable material entering disposal, not recovery effort.

2.4 Energy Recovery and Combustion-Based Pathways

All combustion-based management of waste is classified and reported as disposal, regardless of where combustion occurs or how fuel is prepared. This includes waste-to-energy, energy-from-waste, refuse-derived fuel (RDF), and fuel substitution. These pathways do not count toward diversion or Zero Waste targets, and must never be counted as material recovery.

2.5 Stabilization of Organics

Biological stabilization of organics is supported as a pollution control measure where source-separation fails.

However:

- Stabilization alone does not count toward diversion.
- Only source-separated organics processed through legitimate composting or anaerobic digestion pathways count toward diversion.

3. Waste Reduction (Metro Vancouver-Controlled Priorities)

Waste reduction delivers the greatest environmental and financial benefits and relies on tools that Metro Vancouver can directly control through regulation, service requirements, enforcement, and targeted investment.

The Priority actions within Metro Vancouver’s control are described in detail below:

3.1 Enforcement-led reduction using disposal bans as a true front-end control

Use disposal bans to prevent recoverable materials from entering the disposal system, not to justify downstream correction.

- Mandate use of clear bags.
- Increase inspections and consequences (linked to Section 6).
- Require repeat offenders to submit a compliance plan with specific corrective actions and timelines.
- Use inspection data to target high-impact generators and sectors for follow-up.

3.2 Multi-family reduction program at scale

Multi-family is a large, controllable opportunity where service gaps and inconsistent standards drive disposal.

- Require organics and recycling service for multi-family with minimum service standards and clear timelines.
- Require building-level performance measures (set-out rates, contamination, and disposal per unit).

- Fund building supports that directly reduce disposal: signage packages, caretaker training, and initial on-site audits.

3.3 Food waste prevention and redistribution enablement

Prevention is of higher value than processing. Metro Vancouver can enable prevention through targeted partnerships and standards.

- Expand support for food waste prevention and redistribution partnerships (best before handling, safe donation logistics).
- Require large generators with high organics volumes to implement prevention practices before relying on organics processing.
- Report prevention results as avoided tones and avoided disposal costs.

3.4 Public events and venues: minimum prevention and reuse standards

Large events are visible, controllable, and can set regional norms.

- Require reuse service plans for major permitted events (cups, dishware, and service ware).
- Require organizer reporting on waste generation, separation performance, and contamination.
- Use a simple compliance ladder: education, conditions on permits, then penalties for repeat failures.

3.5 Economic signals that reward prevention and penalize repeated disposal of banned materials

Metro Vancouver can realign incentives through disposal pricing and generator accountability.

- Use disposal surcharges for loads with banned materials or non-inspectable bagging patterns, consistent with inspection protocols.
- Align tipping fee structures to reward clean source-separation and penalize mixed disposal.
- Use generator-facing charges where applicable to shift costs toward preventable material in the garbage stream.

3.6 Track and report avoided waste

Reduction must be visible. The Plan must track avoided waste as a core performance indicator.

- Report per-capita generation, in addition to per-capita disposal.
- Report avoided tonnes tied to specific programs (multi-family supports, event standards, food prevention).
- Publish annual results by sector (Residential and IC&I) so underperformance cannot be masked by C&D.

How to Shift Funding Toward Reduction

Metro Vancouver should establish an Upstream Investment Envelope inside Solid Waste Services and report it transparently.

- Create a dedicated annual envelope for reduction and reuse programs with a minimum share of the Solid Waste Services budget, increasing over time.
- Fund the envelope through a mix of reallocation from downstream programs, generator levy revenues, and avoided disposal costs as performance improves.
- Tie funding to measurable deliverables: enforcement activity, compliance improvements, avoided tonnes, and sector-specific performance.

Rationale: This approach avoids overpromising, while establishing a clear financial discipline that matches long-term reduction goals.

4. Reuse and Repair (Core System Components)

Reuse and repair reduce waste generation by keeping products and materials in use at their highest value before they become waste. Unlike recycling, which manages materials after discard, reuse prevents waste at the source and requires intentional system design, regional coordination, and stable support to function at scale. The following actions identify priority areas where Metro Vancouver can strengthen reuse outcomes through targeted investment and enabling policies.

4.1 Regional reuse infrastructure program (hubs and collection channels)

Metro Vancouver should support a network of reuse hubs focused on high-volume categories that drive disposal.

- Bulky goods and furniture capture (reduce bulky disposal and illegal dumping).

- Textiles and household goods capture with clear sorting standards.
- Building materials capture in coordination with municipalities and private operators.

Metro Vancouver can enable this through siting support, partnership agreements, and targeted grants tied to tonnage captured and verified reuse outcomes.

4.2 Repair and refurbishment network scaling

Repair extends product life and reduces waste generation.

- Expand repair events and permanent repair capacity through small grants, space access, and promotion.
- Support refurbishment pathways for electronics and durable goods through partnerships and standards for safe handling.
- Advocating for repair and refurbishment as a key part of provincial and federal regulations.

4.3 Deconstruction and building material reuse enablement

Metro Vancouver can support municipal deconstruction policies by enabling markets and pathways.

- Work with municipalities to standardize salvage expectations where feasible.
- Support aggregation and resale channels so salvaged materials have reliable markets.
- Licensing all C&D material service providers and tracking all material flows from C&D to ensure accountability.
- Track outcomes separately from C&D diversion to avoid inflating Residential or IC&I results.

4.4 Reuse-first procurement leadership and standards

Metro Vancouver should lead by example and normalize repairable and reusable products.

- Adopt internal procurement standards favoring refurbished and repairable products where feasible.
- Incorporate the reuse of materials into Metro Vancouver procurement, with a focus on C&D materials.
- Encourage member municipalities to adopt similar standards and share templates.

4.5 Measurement: track reuse separately

Reuse should be reported as a distinct performance line item, not blended into recycling or diversion totals.

- Track verified reuse tonnage and participation indicators.
- Report reuse separately by sector and program area.
- Use reuse metrics to support funding decisions and program scaling.

How to Shift Funding Toward Reuse

Metro Vancouver should allocate a stable share of upstream funding to reuse and repair as long-term cost control.

- Use the Upstream Investment Envelope to provide predictable multi-year funding for reuse hubs and repair networks.
- Fund only outcomes that are verifiable (items reused, tonnes captured, participation, and reduced bulky disposal).
- Prioritize initiatives that reduce disposal volumes and contamination pressures on recycling and organics systems.

5. Universal Access to Recycling and Organics Services

The Plan must require recycling and organics service for:

- Multi-family residential buildings
- Commercial, institutional, and industrial properties

The plan should also provide support for these changes such as signage, information and technical assistance. Minimum service standards and clear compliance timelines are required to support disposal bans and Zero Waste targets.

6. Strengthened Disposal Bans and Inspection Quality (A Core Zero Waste Delivery Mechanism)

6.1 The Core Problem

Disposal bans rely on inspections, yet current practices cannot meaningfully inspect opaque or non-transparent bags. Bagged waste routinely passes without review, creating a systemic enforcement loophole that undermines both effectiveness and fairness.

6.2 Required Changes

The Plan must close the bagging loophole and raise inspection quality through:

- **Inspectability as a condition of disposal:** require loads to be reasonably inspectable using transparent bag requirements, bag limits, or loose loading requirements where appropriate, and treat non-inspectable loads as presumptively non-compliant.
- **Standardized inspection protocols:** random bag opening using approved safety procedures, designated inspection areas, and clear thresholds for rejection, surcharge, or follow-up.
- **Clear responsibility:** generators ensure compliance and inspectability, haulers flag problematic loads, and disposal facilities enforce outcomes.
- **Strategic use of data:** track inspection outcomes by sector and material type, report publicly, and use results to target enforcement and service gaps.

Rationale: Improving inspection quality is one of the highest-impact, lowest-cost actions available to make disposal bans effective and fair. It also prevents non-compliance from being treated as a planning assumption for disposal capacity.

7. Disposal and Infrastructure Alignment

The SWMP must align infrastructure planning with waste reduction by:

- Committing to the phase-out of the Burnaby incinerator within the planning horizon.
- Avoiding new “must-run” disposal capacity.
- Using flexible landfill capacity for true residuals, so the region pays for what it needs as disposal declines.

Rationale: A Zero Waste system cannot be built around infrastructure that depends on a steady supply of waste. As waste reduction goals are progressively achieved, must-run disposal

infrastructure creates financial and operational pressure to maintain throughput, weakening the system's ability to fully realize upstream Zero Waste outcomes.

Summary Rules Applied Throughout the Plan

- Zero Waste targets are achieved through waste reduction, reuse, and diversion, with diversion limited to: source-separated 3rd party reuse, recycling, and composting only.
- Waste streams are reported separately (Residential, IC&I, C&D). C&D is not aggregated into Residential or IC&I diversion.
- Material recovery is maximized but reported as disposal.
- Combustion-based pathways, including RDF and energy-from-waste, are disposed of (and phased out).
- Disposal bans require inspection systems that allow meaningful review of bagged waste and remove the automatic free pass for opaque bags.
- Upstream investment is formalized through an Upstream Investment Envelope with transparent reporting and measurable deliverables.

Signatories

The undersigned organizations and individuals **support the recommendations and framework outlined in this submission** and endorse its use as a basis for strengthening Metro Vancouver's SWMP.

Signatories agree that the core elements of this framework are necessary to deliver credible Zero Waste outcomes, including:

- Clear and transparent measurement and reporting
- Stronger enforcement of disposal bans
- Meaningful investment in waste reduction and reuse
- Alignment of infrastructure planning with long-term waste reduction goals

While implementation details may continue to evolve through the SWMP process, the undersigned **support the overall structure, direction, and key policy positions** set out in this document and encourage Metro Vancouver to incorporate them into the final Plan.

This submission reflects the considered views of industry and sector participants engaged in the SWMP process. It does not represent a consensus position of any single advisory committee,

but it does represent **substantive, informed support** for a more upstream-focused, enforceable, and accountable Zero Waste system.

Organizations:

HSR Zero Waste

Jamie Kaminski - President - MV PTAC Member & IAC Member

Zero Waste BC

Sue Maxwell - Founder - MV PTAC Member

Zero Waste Canada

Alastair MacCallum - Board Member

Dreamstill Technologies

Mars Moreira - Co-Founder

Doctors for Planetary Health - West Coast

Douglas J Courtemanche, MD MS FRCSC

Urban Jacks

Aaron Laslo - CEO

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment BC (CAPE BC)

Rhiannon Fox - *Regional Coordinator, Western Canada*

Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment National (CAPE National)

Jane E. McArthur, PhD, - Toxics Program Director

Wescan Disposal Ltd

Patrick Mac Neil - General Manager - MV IAC Member

MakeWay Charitable Society - Binnars' Project

Sean Miles - Director

Zero Waste 4 Zero Burning

Linda Gasser, Co-founder

Tilt Relations Inc.

Cassidy v. Ros - Owner / Principal

Better Table

Ben Liegey - Owner Operator

Individuals:

Doug Schel - Member of Metro Vancouver PTAC

William Selton - Member of Metro Vancouver PTAC

Ulwiana Mehta-Malhotra - Member of Metro Vancouver PTAC

Jennifer Henry - Member of Metro Vancouver PTAC

Companion Note to the Proposed Framework for Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

Clarifications and Additional Considerations Raised During Review

Date: February 17, 2026

Purpose of this Companion Note

This Companion Note is provided to support review and endorsement of the Proposed Framework for Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan (the Framework). It does not replace or revise the Framework. Instead, it (1) clarifies intent in areas where reviewers requested additional precision, and (2) documents additional considerations that were raised during review but were not incorporated into the Framework at this stage in order to maintain stability for sign-on.

1. Clarifications (to support consistent interpretation)

1.1 Recovery activities are supported as safeguards, but are treated differently in performance metrics

Several reviewers requested clarity on the Framework's treatment of recovery activities such as pre-landfill sorting, metals recovery from residual streams, and stabilization as a harm-reduction measure.

The Framework supports these activities as operational safeguards that reduce harm and minimize residual disposal volumes. However, the Framework recommends that downstream recovery be reported as disposal for performance tracking purposes, because diversion and Zero Waste performance metrics are intended to measure upstream system effectiveness (reduction, reuse, and source separation).

Examples of supported safeguards include:

- Pre-landfill sorting to capture remaining recyclables and organics where feasible
- Metals recovery from residual streams (including ash) to reduce long-term environmental liability
- Stabilization as a harm-reduction measure where beneficial outcomes can be achieved

1.2 "Recovery" refers to materials recovery, not energy recovery

Where the Framework uses the term "recovery," it is referring to the recovery of materials for recycling, composting, or stabilization as a safeguard. Energy recovery pathways, including refuse-derived fuel and fuel substitution, are treated as disposal outcomes in the Framework and are not considered diversion.

1.3 Metals recovery from incineration ash is not an endorsement of incineration

The Framework's position that metals should be recovered from residual streams (including ash) is a pollution prevention and resource conservation measure. It is not an endorsement of incineration. Metals recovery is supported because it reduces long-term environmental liability and avoids burying recoverable materials, regardless of the upstream disposal pathway.

1.4 Multi-Family service standards are minimum expectations, not a municipal override

The Framework recommends regional minimum service standards and performance expectations for multi-family buildings because inconsistent service and enforcement contributes materially to disposal. These recommendations are intended to support municipalities and improve system consistency, not to replace municipal authority. Implementation approaches can remain locally flexible.

1.5 Prevention measurement is harder than tonnage, but still essential

The Framework recognizes that prevention outcomes are not always measured through tonnage alone. The intent is to track prevention through a mix of indicators (for example, participation, material redistributed, and estimated avoided disposal), reported transparently as prevention outcomes rather than diversion.

2. Additional considerations raised during review (not incorporated at this stage)

The following considerations were raised by reviewers as potentially valuable additions. They are documented here for completeness, but were not incorporated into the Framework at this stage in order to preserve stability for sign-on and avoid reopening core text.

2.1 Environmental and human health protections (toxics reduction across processing and disposal systems)

Several reviewers requested stronger explicit language connecting the Solid Waste Management Plan to reducing toxic exposures, environmental contamination, and public health risk. While the Framework focuses on system design, targets, measurement, and infrastructure alignment, reviewers emphasized the importance of strengthening actions and reporting that reduce toxic inputs and harmful emissions across the full waste system, including processing and disposal.

Examples of considerations raised include:

- Stronger product stewardship and toxics reduction policies to prevent harmful materials entering the waste stream
- Enhanced environmental monitoring and public reporting for disposal and processing sites
- Clearer linkage between disposal decisions and long-term environmental and health liability management

2.2 Higher-order building material preservation (above deconstruction)

Some reviewers requested clearer emphasis that preservation, restoration, relocation, and adaptive reuse sit above deconstruction within the hierarchy for the built environment. Deconstruction should be treated as a downstream salvage tool when higher-order preservation outcomes are not feasible.

Examples of higher-order outcomes raised include:

- Building preservation and continued use
- Adaptive reuse and renovation
- Building relocation or house moving where feasible

2.3 Broader circular economy measures (potential implementation options)

Additional upstream circular economy measures may be considered during implementation planning, including procurement standards, repair incentives, reuse market development, and packaging reduction measures. These items were raised as potentially valuable, but were not expanded in detail in the Framework to maintain focus on core system controls.

2.4 Requests for additional operational detail

Several reviewers requested deeper operational detail, including program design, funding models, and timelines. The Framework is intentionally not an implementation plan. These details are expected to evolve through future program design and operational planning once the Plan's targets, measurement rules, and infrastructure direction are set.

Closing

This Companion Note is intended to improve clarity for reviewers and decision-makers and to ensure that important considerations raised during review are documented. It does not revise the Framework, but supports consistent interpretation and identifies potential areas for future implementation work.

From: Jule Asterisk [REDACTED]
Sent: February 18, 2026 11:50 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca; Sandra Willier
Subject: Feedback on the Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan

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WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Metro Vancouver,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on your Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. We are writing to you all the way from Slave Lake, Alberta due to our experience with incinerators. While the Swan Hills Hazardous Waste Treatment Centre's incinerators work with hazardous wastes, we have deep experience with incinerator outcomes, and have researched waste incinerators around the world.

Incinerators always have 'allowable emissions', alongside 'unplanned releases' and 'fugitive emissions'. Taken in concert, these emissions regularly exceed the stated allowable emissions for incinerators, whether solid waste or hazardous waste incinerators. When it comes to solid waste, incinerators emit dangerous chemicals such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, NOx, and SOx, along with acid gases on an ongoing basis. Cumulative effects may occur in an urban environment, along with increased greenhouse gases. Incinerators are dangerous and dirty and have proven solutions such as zero waste goals, recycling, composting, and the Circular Economy.

As we move further and further towards true Extended Producer Responsibility, design for recyclability becomes more realistic as a solution to ever increasing solid waste. It's very important to utilize the Zero Waste hierarchy and definitions in your solid waste plan. Producers and manufacturers use this, and so should planners.

In your deliberations, please consider setting ambitious targets as your neighbours in Nanaimo have done, for example. We are borrowing this planet and time from our children, grandchildren, and future generations, and must keep their needs in mind. Waste reduction is possible! Recycling is growing, and our single use plastic ban in Canada has been upheld. Looking to the future means keeping all of these things top of mind when planning in the present day.

Enhancing recycling and composting programs keep our resources in circulation. The Circular Economy is an achievable goal when municipalities work together with producers and manufacturers to support these crucial programs. In your Solid Waste Management Plan, please include timelines and budgets for the upscaling of recycling and composting to make sure that the important resources contained in solid waste (plastics, paper products, glass, metals, organic materials) become embedded in the Circular Economy and not lost to landfill or incineration. Please also include regular reporting so that the citizens of Metro Vancouver can see the incredible progress that is being realized through your commitment to the Circular Economy.

Incineration of resources does not count towards 'energy recovery' when there are deadly toxic chemicals emitted while burning solid waste that will impact your region throughout time. We need global Source

Reduction of dangerous chemicals: in terms of their production, utilization, and in their waste management as well.

As Chief Seattle said: "What we do to the web of life, we do to ourselves". We are glad to see that you are reevaluating the incineration of valuable resources, which should be kept in circulation for the benefit of our children, grandchildren, and future generations. The future is not disposable.

in friendship,

Jule Asterisk,
Project Manager,

[The Society of High Prairie Regional Environmental Action Committee](#)

From: Karen Crosby [REDACTED]
Sent: February 16, 2026 2:15 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Feedback

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Hello,

Thank you for creating an Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. I support the 7 principles of your draft plan. In addition, I have the following feedback:

1. Please commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This is a 38 year old facility that will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired soon. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 BC sources of climate pollution (it's a carbon bomb!) and a big releaser of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx which are carried on the wind into my city of New Westminister. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, not burning of material). Targets should be set for short terms, like five years (2032) and ten years (2037), and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.
3. Pledge to be transparent – report waste performance clearly so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.
4. Work to implement the following actions: -Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste. Support organizations that are working to rescue food so it is not wasted.
5.
 - Reuse and Repair -making it easier so unusable items do not get thrown out.
 - Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Our New Westminister Secondary School's waste separation is so contaminated that all of the waste is thrown in the garbage. Provide education and/or penalties to solve this problem.
 - Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
 - Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags and mandatory source separation.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Take care,
Karen

--

Karen Crosby (she/her)

February 19, 2026

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard
Burnaby, B.C. V5H 0C6
zerowaste@metrovancouver.org

RE: Metro Vancouver's DRAFT Solid Waste Management Plan

Dear Metro Vancouver:

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on Metro Vancouver's initial draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), dated January 22, 2026. We have reviewed this draft SWMP and are submitting the following comments.

1. Phasing Out the Incinerator

- Given the sensitivity of the shared Lower Fraser Valley Airshed, we are very disappointed that the SWMP does not include a long-term plan to eventually phase out the operations of their current incinerator. This is particularly disappointing given the age of the facility, which by 2050 will be more than double the usual operational lifespan for garbage incinerators built in the 1980s and 1990s.
- While the draft SWMP does mention the FVRD's concerns for air quality, these concerns are largely dismissed by claiming the emissions from the garbage incinerator represent only a small percentage of regional totals. The SWMP fails to acknowledge that any reduction in cumulative and chronic exposure to air pollution is beneficial and fails to recognize the specific concerns from the Fraser Valley where pollutants accumulate, concentrate, and persist. The FVRD continues to be one of the fastest growing regions in the Province, expecting an almost 50% increase in population by 2050. This growth will place additional pressures on the airshed and will result in a larger number of residents being exposed to pollution from the unnecessary burning of municipal solid waste. A healthy airshed is important for this growing population, and phasing out the incinerator will assist in this regard.
- The FVRD remains opposed to any incineration or thermal processing of municipal solid waste within the airshed. We strongly encourage Metro Vancouver to phase out the use of their current incinerator and to commit to no new incinerator or incineration capacity within the airshed.
- If incineration of municipal solid waste continues, ongoing public health studies need to be conducted that look at cumulative and chronic exposure, epidemiological data, and biomonitoring to determine accumulation in soil, biota, and food. To enhance the credibility and transparency of this monitoring, it should be led by an independent third-party or health authority, as opposed to a consultant reporting directly to Metro Vancouver, and results be publicly accessible.

2. Emission Control Upgrades Needed

- While we remain concerned with all air pollutants from the incinerator that have the potential to travel to the Fraser Valley, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions are of particular concern. SO₂ is associated with its own significant health impacts, but one of the most harmful functions of SO₂ is that it reacts with moisture in the atmosphere to form sulfate aerosols, which contributes to the levels of fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) within the airshed. Metro Vancouver staff have asserted that direct PM_{2.5} emissions from the facility remain below their emission limits, but this fails to account for the formation of this secondary PM_{2.5} that is created as a result of precursor pollutants such as SO₂ from the incinerator. The FVRD has experienced over 85 air quality advisories for PM_{2.5} since 2015 and reductions are needed throughout the airshed.
- Metro Vancouver's Operational Certificate includes a discharge limit for SO₂ of 50 mg/m³. Other comparable facilities have even lower discharge limits (e.g., 35 mg/m³ for the Durham York Energy Centre in Ontario). In recognition that Metro Vancouver needed to install critical emission control upgrades to meet the new limit however, the Province provided an "interim" discharge limit of 200 mg/m³. This interim discharge limit first expired in 2022, was then extended until 2025, and most recently, extended again until 2028. Despite it being a decade since the Operational Certificate was issued, the emission upgrades have still not been provided and SO₂ emissions from the facility remain elevated, often in excess of 70 mg/m³ – well above the original discharge limit of 50 mg/m³.
- We are pleased to see that \$100M has been identified in the SWMP's five-year financial plan for "Acid Gas Reduction" at the incinerator. These upgrades would reduce the emissions of harmful pollutants such as SO₂. We are disappointed however that Metro Vancouver continues to be non-committal to these important upgrades stating that they may not be required and implying they would only be added if mandated by the Province. The FVRD does not support continued use of the incinerator, but if Metro Vancouver insists on operating this facility, they need to at least commit to provide the upgrades already promised that will reduce SO₂ emissions. The upgrades should be provided as soon as possible, regardless of being legally required or not.

3. No Additional Incineration Capacity

- While the draft SWMP states "Metro Vancouver has no plans to actively pursue additional capacity", it does not preclude this as an option. In fact, the SWMP goes on to include a list of technical criteria for evaluating future disposal options "if" additional capacity, through either landfilling or incineration, is required in the future. We are greatly disappointed that Metro Vancouver has not provided a firm commitment to not pursue new incineration within the planning horizon of the SWMP. We are also disappointed that the technical criteria does not include siting considerations that would exclude any new garbage incineration within a sensitive location such as the Lower Fraser Valley airshed. We suggest that the technical criteria be amended to include this provision. The FVRD remains strongly opposed to any additional and current disposal capacity through incineration or thermal processing within our shared airshed.

- Greater transparency is required to alleviate the FVRD's concerns about Metro Vancouver's future disposal intentions. The draft SWMP recognizes the Vancouver Landfill is expected to be closed in 2050 but also maintains that the Vancouver Landfill and the incinerator are the region's two primary disposal options through the duration of the SWMP. It seems clear that a new landfill will be needed at the conclusion of the SWMP, unless Metro Vancouver has other undisclosed disposal intentions. Given the 10–15-year planning horizon generally needed for a new landfill, we would have expected this discussion to have been included within the timeframe of this SWMP, along with the necessary stakeholder and public input and debate. Since it is not discussed, the FVRD remains concerned that new incineration may be pursued as a default in the future.

4. Diversion Efforts and Clarification

- The draft SWMP maintains the use of incineration or landfilling “only as a last resort” after all efforts to reuse or recycle have been exhausted. We fully recognize the challenges in plastic recycling due to contamination, composite materials, and limited recycling infrastructure, and understand that as a result, significant amounts of plastics are incinerated even though the material may have the potential to be recycled. Greater clarity is encouraged in the SWMP to describe Metro Vancouver's intentions to divert more plastic from disposal so it does not require disposal. The FVRD remains concerned that the ongoing use of the garbage incinerator acts as a disincentive that prevents investments in diversion because high energy material such as plastic continues to be needed to fuel the incinerator.
- Greater transparency in the SWMP is also suggested for how material is defined as diverted. The SWMP defines disposal as anything sent to “landfill or mass burn waste-to-energy” and diversion as everything else, including “material used to create alternatives to fossil fuels”. As the incinerator is being used as part of a district energy system, which could be interpreted as an alternative to fossil fuel, clarification of this is required.
- Any municipal solid waste, including construction and demolition waste or recyclable material such as vehicle tires, sent for thermal processing, whether through incineration, pyrolysis, gasification, or just being burned at a cement kiln, should not be considered diversion. Confirmation of this should be provided within the SWMP.

5. Impacts to the Fraser Valley

- The draft SWMP does not clearly outline how proposed actions by Metro Vancouver may impact adjacent regional districts. As a result, we remain unable to submit specific comments on potential or proposed impacts on our region. Any proposed changes in policies, bylaws, or programs that may affect the FVRD, our member municipalities, or our businesses, should be disclosed to allow for informed comments back on these matters. Additional changes in the SWMP that adds new requirements, costs, or revenue losses for private businesses in the Fraser Valley involved in the solid waste industry should be made transparent and have meaningful consultation conducted.

6. Illegal Dumping

- Rural and agricultural lands within the FVRD have become significant targets for illegal dumping. While Strategy 6.6 in the draft SWMP recognizes that “litter and illegal dumping impact the environment and wildlife and result in significant costs for member jurisdictions to collect and dispose of these materials”, the plan does not appear to examine whether rising disposal costs or other actions proposed may increase illegal dumping outside the regional district. Further analysis of the potential impacts of these policies on adjacent jurisdictions, including mitigative efforts that will be taken to reduce impacts, is needed. If illegal dumping out of region is partially due to a lack of processing capacity for construction waste or organics within Metro Vancouver, we expect the SWMP to outline policies that will increase this processing capacity.

7. Greater Reuse of Wood Waste

- Metro Vancouver’s initial draft SWMP proposes to process “clean dimensional lumber not currently reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity or technical constraints” into biofuel. Turning biomass into biofuels via thermal processes such as gasification or pyrolysis produces harmful pollution such as particulate matter and nitrogen oxides. The sensitive Lower Fraser Valley airshed already has elevated levels of these pollutants and additional pollution needs to be avoided, whether from the initial conversion process or the subsequent combustion process. Reuse of salvageable materials should be preferred over energy recovery. If material is not being reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity, what policies are being proposed by Metro Vancouver to enhance processing capacity?
- Greater reuse or recycling of construction and demolition waste throughout the Lower Mainland is needed and represents an area of opportunity for potential inter-regional collaboration. Development of a thermal processing system that would convert waste into biofuel would not only jeopardize investments that would allow for greater reuse or recycling of this material, it would result in additional air pollution and would eliminate potential opportunities for FVRD collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We look forward to reviewing a revised Solid Waste Management Plan that addresses these comments and anticipate continued engagement on Metro Vancouver’s Solid Waste Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Lance Lilley
Manager of Environmental Services

From: Linda Gasser [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2026 6:42 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Metro Vancouver SWMP comments

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February 20, 2026.

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: My Comments on Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

1. Use the **Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition** in the Solid Waste Management Plan. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for "recovery" in favour of more work on reduction.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, **not burning** of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan. Evaluate results and report publicly.
3. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38 year old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Living in Durham Region, Ontario, where Canada's "newest" incinerator-the Durham York Energy Centre (DYEC) has operated since 2016, there have been exceedances including for dioxins and furans. *We know* that comprehensive monitoring/testing is not done frequently enough at the DYEC, nor at Burnaby. At the very least, continuous monitoring should be expanded to include all parameters/pollutants where the technology exists, with continuous sampling for dioxins and furans, so that MV and the community know the levels of pollution imposed on the community. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets.

4. The waste burner is also one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste as it requires contracted supply. At the DYEC, GHGs far exceed the estimates in the environmental assessment and Durham staff acknowledge in their 2025 Annual Climate report, GHGs will increase as more plastics/non biogenic are burned. See Page 9, Sec. 3.2 b) Report 2025 INFO 63 at: <https://pub-durhamregion.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=7535> *"Increase in DYEC-related GHGs due in part to a greater share of nonbiogenic waste materials compared to prior year (e.g. plastics and nonrecyclable products that are not biodegradable)"*;
5. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
6. Invest in zero waste solutions instead such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling. Ensure the plan actions are beyond just testing, encouraging and piloting to be more active such as implement, enact, develop, etc. Actions should include:
 - Reuse and Repair -making it easier so unusable items do not get thrown out.
 - Recycling and Composting -enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.
 - Reducing toxicity -include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials as well as the emission of toxic pollution
 - Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clear bags and mandatory source separation.
 - Lead by example: MV facilities and operations should adopt/employ zero waste principles where feasible and commit to continuous improvement.
 - Waste prevention and avoidance, such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
7. Measure and work to reduce the climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions on the planning and proposed actions.
8. Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be implemented.
9. Pledge to be transparent – report waste performance clearly and frequently so the public can see what is working. Do not call burning of waste recycling or

recovery or diversion as burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal.

10. Spend scarce public money wisely and invest in the community's future-choose solutions that reduce/avoid waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems. You owe it to your residents to do better now and should move to kill off your expensive and polluting incinerator.

Linda Gasser

N L1N 2X7

VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-21

February 20, 2026

Paul Henderson
General Manager, Solid Waste Services
Metro Vancouver (Regional District)
Metrotower III, 4515 Central Blvd
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

Sent via email: paul.henderson@metrovancover.org

Dear Mr. Henderson:

**RE: Reducing Business-Generated Organic Waste to Meet Vancouver's Climate
Emergency Action Plan Targets**

On February 4, 2026, Vancouver City Council approved a referral directing that the motion entitled "Reducing Business-Generated Organic Waste to Meet Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets" be forwarded to Metro Vancouver for consideration during the development and finalization of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

This letter formally transmits Council's referral and communicates Council's interest in collaboration on organic waste reduction and management. Council has directed City of Vancouver staff to engage with Metro Vancouver on opportunities for coordination consistent with the intent of the motion.

For ease of reference, the full text of the motion referred by Council is attached as Appendix A.

We have copied City of Vancouver's Director of Solid Waste Management, Jonathan McDermott, to ensure they are aware that the referral has been transmitted and to allow them to follow up directly with Metro staff as appropriate.

Yours truly,



Katrina Leckovic
City Clerk

tel: 604.873.7998 / 604.673.8319

cc: Jonathan McDermott, Director of Solid Waste Management

APPENDIX A

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

3. Reducing Business-Generated Organic Waste to Meet Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan Targets

Submitted by Councillors Orr and Fry

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has declared a climate emergency and adopted the Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP), which commits the City to reducing community wide greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions before 2050;
2. Methane emissions from organic waste can represent up to 60% of landfill emissions, with methane having a significantly higher global warming potential than carbon dioxide over the near term, and scientists calling it the best way to reduce short term climate change, making organic waste reduction and diversion a critical climate action for this decade;
3. The CEAP identifies waste reduction, methane mitigation, and a shift toward a circular economy as key strategies for achieving near term emissions reductions before 2030;
4. Large commercial generators of organic waste, including grocery stores, wholesalers, distributors, and food processors, produce a substantial share of the organic material entering the waste stream, much of which continues to be disposed of in landfill bound garbage;
5. Despite existing organics bans and diversion requirements, compliance across the commercial sector remains inconsistent, and organic waste continues to be directed to landfill due to operational, financial, and logistical barriers faced by businesses;
6. Reducing organic waste at the source and improving diversion to the highest possible end uses, including recovery, reuse, and low emissions processing, is among the most cost effective, immediately available, and high climate impact actions to reduce methane emissions from the waste sector;
7. Food recovery organizations operating in Vancouver currently support the diversion of edible surplus food from disposal, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions reductions by preventing organic material from entering landfill, while also supporting broader circular economy outcomes;

8. Exploring the role of food recovery partners as part of a wider organic waste reduction strategy can help the City better understand how prevention, recovery, and diversion can work together to meet CEAP waste sector targets;
9. Strengthening policies and programs to address commercial organic waste aligns with the Vancouver Plan, Zero Waste 2040, the CEAP waste sector actions, and the City's commitment to advancing a circular economy and climate resilience.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct City staff, within existing resources and based on prior work, to report back by Q4 2026 with a high-level summary of feasible options to reduce organic waste from high-volume commercial producers being directed to landfill, with a focus on greenhouse gas reductions aligned with the Climate Emergency Action Plan.
- B. THAT the report back identify key areas for consideration, using section 2.1 of the 'Achieving an equitable circular food economy in Vancouver' report as a reference and in coordination with regional partners, including waste prevention and diversion approaches, compliance with existing organics bans, relevant standards and definitions, data and emissions tracking, and applicable best practices from peer jurisdictions.
- C. THAT staff outline how collaboration with food recovery partners, where relevant, could complement upstream waste prevention, without positioning food recovery as a solution to food insecurity, and identify existing non-municipal funding, partnership, or advocacy opportunities that support food waste reduction services.
- D. THAT Council affirm that efforts to reduce commercial food waste should prioritize prevention, accountability, and emissions reductions, and direct staff to reflect these principles within the City's role and available resources in future policy alignment or partnership work.

* * * * *

Zeenia Mizan

From: Lucas Harris <lharris@recyclebc.ca>
Sent: February 20, 2026 10:50 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Recycle BC Comments on Metro Van's Solid Waste Management Plan Initial Draft
Attachments: 2020-02-20 Metro-Van_SWMP_draft_RecycleBC_feedback.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello,

Attached, please find comments from Recycle BC on Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan Initial Draft.

Thank you,

LUCAS HARRIS
Director, Program Development
Recycle BC and SK Recycles
M 250-516-6974
RecycleBC.ca
SKRecycles.ca



This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited and are requested to immediately notify Recycle BC at info@recyclebc.ca or SK Recycles at info@skrecycles.ca. The information supplied by electronic media is provided for convenience only.



February 20, 2026

Metro Vancouver
Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard,
Burnaby, BC
V5H 0C6

Re: Feedback on the Solid Waste Management Plan Initial Draft

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste team,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Metro Vancouver's Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

Recycle BC appreciates the strong alignment between the draft Plan's vision and our shared objectives of increasing recycling, advancing circular economy principles, and improving environmental outcomes across the region. We support the emphasis on waste prevention, collaboration, and performance measurement, and we value our ongoing partnership with Metro Vancouver and its member municipalities.

We offer the following comments to clarify roles and highlight existing initiatives that support the Plan's objectives.

Waste Prevention and Packaging Reduction

The draft Plan appropriately emphasizes waste prevention alongside recycling and diversion. Recycle BC supports upstream efforts to design packaging that is compatible with recycling systems and contributes to waste reduction goals.

Producers participating in Recycle BC are engaged nationally in advancing harmonized recycling program design with a consistent reporting material list across provincial jurisdictions. In addition, Recycle BC is actively participating in collaboration with other packaging and paper producer responsibility organizations to develop national ecodesign and recyclability guidelines for producers to support greater recyclability of packaging and paper products. These initiatives are focused on improving packaging design and recyclability and ensuring that materials placed on the market are compatible with recycling infrastructure.

Packaging design and reduction outcomes are primarily driven by producers operating within national and global markets. While Recycle BC works with producers to improve recyclability and material compatibility, the extended producer responsibility (EPR) levers available to Recycle BC can only directly impact packaging in the BC marketplace, which represents only a portion of the overall national supply.



EPR Scope and Expansion (Section 3.2.1)

We recognize Metro Vancouver’s advocacy for the expansion of EPR programs to additional products and sectors. Expansion of EPR in principle supports diversion objectives. However, under the current Recycling Regulation and Recycle BC’s approved Program Plan, the residential packaging and paper product (PPP) program is designed to serve households. It does not include collection from industrial, commercial, or institutional (ICI) sources. Any changes to product scope or generator eligibility would require provincial regulatory direction and appropriate consultation to ensure operational feasibility, equity, and system sustainability. The Recycle BC program is funded by producers to manage residential PPP; expanding to ICI sources without corresponding regulatory amendments and funding mechanisms would compromise the integrity and fairness of the program design.

Material Expansion – Soft Plastics and Foam (Section 3.2.2)

Recycle BC continues to implement the collection of additional materials through a phased and evidence-based approach. With respect to flexible plastics, our curbside and multi-family collection agreements with collection partners in the region currently allow for the introduction of flexible plastics collection from homes; for curbside and multi-family direct service communities, we are actively working toward flexible plastics implementation in the coming years. Implementation timing reflects operational readiness and feasibility and contamination management considerations.

Since 2024, flexible plastics collection from homes has been introduced in the direct service areas of West Vancouver, Maple Ridge and most recently, City of Vancouver apartments and condominiums. Flexible plastics collection will also soon be introduced in Chilliwack, demonstrating how flexible plastics can be implemented in a municipally led system under the current program framework.

Regarding foam packaging, producer fees for foam are currently the highest of any material category within the program. These fee signals act as a market-based incentive for producers to reduce or transition away from materials that are more challenging and costly to manage at end of life.

Financial Incentives and Municipal Participation (Section 3.2.6.2)

Recycle BC operates under an approved Program Plan as required by the Recycling Regulation. This Plan includes a structured approach, including a regular cost study, to providing collection incentives to local government and depot partners that reflects service delivery requirements and cost accountability.

We provide collection partners with an adequate and transparent incentive structure designed to ensure effective service delivery while maintaining fairness and financial sustainability across



the province. Any changes to incentive structures must be considered within the context of the approved Program Plan and provincial oversight.

Expansion to Small Businesses (Section 3.2.6.3)

Recycle BC's PPP program is designed to serve residential generators, as defined in the Recycling Regulation. We have established an efficient and accessible network of depots and collection services that meets regulatory requirements for residential access throughout Metro Vancouver and the province, which is funded by producers of residentially supplied PPP.

Expansion of residential-only packaging drop-off services to small businesses would extend beyond the current regulatory framework and would require provincial direction and careful assessment of operational and equity implications. The Recycle BC program is funded by producers to manage residential packaging and paper; permitting ICI materials to enter the system without corresponding regulatory authority and funding mechanisms would undermine cost accountability and the integrity of the program design.

Operational Collaboration and Service Consistency (Section 4.4.1)

Recycle BC supports efforts to improve clarity and consistency in recycling services. In Metro Vancouver, we provide comprehensive residential service coverage through a combination of private and local government collection partnerships and a robust network of depots. We provide curbside service in 20 communities and multi-family service in 15 communities and operate 42 depots across the region. This network delivers high levels of access and service reliability across the region. We remain open to continued collaboration where it supports improved public understanding and system performance within existing program parameters.

Signage and Public Education (Section 4.5.1 and 4.6.3)

Recycle BC agrees that clear and consistent signage and education are critical to improving recycling outcomes. We maintain standardized and customizable communication materials, signage resources, and a well-developed public education program that supports contamination reduction and proper sorting. We welcome collaboration with Metro Vancouver to align messaging and signage standards where appropriate, building on existing tools and resources and avoiding duplication.

Multi-Family and Equity-Focused Initiatives

All local governments and First Nations operating curbside collection programs under the Recycle BC Program are eligible to operate a multi-family collection program in the same service area through a partnership between the local government or First Nation and Recycle BC. Private companies are eligible to operate multi-family collection programs as a collection contractor to Recycle BC in service areas identified by Recycle BC, including in areas where



Recycle BC is actively recruiting new multi-family collectors. This program supports improved recycling access in multi-unit residential buildings and contributes to equitable service delivery across communities. We remain committed to working with partners to ensure residents in all residential multi-family housing types have access to effective recycling services.

Recycle BC values the opportunity to continue collaborating with Metro Vancouver in advancing shared waste reduction and recycling objectives. We look forward to ongoing dialogue as the Solid Waste Management Plan progresses and remain committed to supporting strong environmental outcomes within the framework of the Recycling Regulation and our approved program plan.

Sincerely,

Sam Baker
Executive Director
Recycle BC

From: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>
Sent: January 29, 2026 12:54 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: Stephanie Liu
Subject: Re: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Stephanie and Brooke,

I had some notes on the Regional Food System Strategy (which I tidied up using Chat GPT), but I wasn't able to add them to the survey form. Here are some thoughts. Funding remains a huge concern for food recovery organizations.

Food Forward aligns well with many of the priorities outlined in the Draft Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan, particularly around reducing food waste in the commercial and institutional sectors, supporting a shift toward a circular food system, improving data and measurement, and strengthening regional coordination. The focus on sector engagement, practical tools, education, and bringing food system partners together reflects a thoughtful systems approach and recognizes the links between food waste reduction, food recovery, and food insecurity.

The strategy also does a good job recognizing the important role nonprofit organizations and community groups play in rescuing and redistributing surplus food, especially during times of disruption and emergency response. The proposed actions to convene regional Food Alliances, improve data sharing, and better integrate food recovery into regional planning are positive steps toward greater collaboration and efficiency.

That said, a major gap in the strategy is the lack of clear, sustainable funding mechanisms for food recovery operations. While Food Forward highlights the importance of food recovery and circular economy efforts, it tends to frame food recovery mainly as a coordination and data challenge, without fully addressing the real costs of running large-scale recovery systems.

The Vancouver Food Recovery Network — made up of Vancouver Food Runners, CityReach Care Society, Quest Nonprofit Grocery Market, and Food Stash — collectively rescues and redistributes about 5 million pounds of surplus food each year, creating meaningful food security and climate benefits. Despite this impact, less than 5% of the network's combined funding comes from government sources, with most support coming from grants, donations, and volunteers. At the same time, food recovery organizations carry the operational costs of collecting and redistributing surplus food, with no financial support from donating businesses and minimal support from government.

Food Forward would be stronger if it clearly recognized food recovery as essential regional infrastructure — similar to other waste diversion and climate action systems — and explored long-term funding approaches to support ongoing operations and growth. This could include operating funding, diversion incentives tied to greenhouse gas reductions, service agreements within waste management systems, and links to climate and circular economy funding.

Without stable, long-term funding in place, many of the strategy's goals around food waste reduction, circularity, emergency preparedness, and food insecurity will be difficult to achieve at the scale needed across the region.

Michelle Reining, MSc, MA (she/her)
Executive Director
Vancouver Food Runners
236-479-0478



[Volunteer](#) | [Donate](#) | [Website](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Program Video](#)

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From: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>
Cc: Stephanie Liu <Stephanie.Liu@metrovancover.org>
Subject: Re: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

Thanks Brooke!

Here are some thoughts on the Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan. We were looking more at the food waste & recovery sections. Recognizing that this is a bit of a "wish list" (what we added is highlighted) and might be beyond Metro Van's scope and budget. Just for MV's consideration!

I also need to do the survey for the Regional Food System Strategy. It's on my list for tomorrow.

STRATEGY 2.3

Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives for the commercial and institutional sectors. Food production requires significant resources — land, water, and energy — and often involves long-distance transportation before reaching local stores, restaurants, and businesses. Yet, much of this food is still wasted. Through the actions below, Metro Vancouver will support residents and businesses to reduce the amount of food that is wasted. This will help reduce waste locally and decrease the global environmental impacts associated with food loss from food production.

2.3.

2.3.1. Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste by improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods.

2.3.2. Share learnings through resources with a particular focus on the hospitality and entertainment sectors.

2.3.3. Develop and provide standardized food waste measurement tools, guidance, and technical support for commercial and institutional food sectors to support food waste prevention and continuous improvement.

2.3.4. Implement incentive-based pilot programs to support food waste prevention practices and infrastructure in commercial and institutional settings, such as grants, reduced tipping fees for pilot participants, and recognition programs for high-performing waste reducers.

2.3.5. Expand any sector-specific food waste prevention resources and engagement to major institutional food sectors, including post-secondary institutions, healthcare facilities, large-scale catering operations, and food distributors.

STRATEGY 3.6

Scale efforts to recover food

Some businesses and organizations in the region produce surplus food, while others need donations as one way to support those who are experiencing food insecurity. Surplus food can also be turned into food products for human and animal consumption. Developing efficient ways to connect those with surplus food to those that need food can reduce waste and help address food insecurity. Metro Vancouver will strengthen and expand the regional food recovery network to help ensure food is put to its highest best use.

3.6.

3.6.1. Maintain and scale a regional food recovery network.

3.6.1.1. Further map out food recovery assets/food waste solutions for each stage of the food supply chain, including a focus on clarifying what foods can be donated to people and animals.

3.6.1.2. Work toward developing a complete set of food recovery data for the region and consider incentives to encourage reporting.

3.6.1.3. Continue to share results of food recovery network initiatives across Metro Vancouver to foster cross-department collaboration on food security and waste reduction.

3.6.1.4. Integrate food recovery organizations into regional waste diversion planning and coordination processes to support long-term scaling, system efficiency, and increased diversion outcomes.

3.6.1.5. Support and pilot regional logistics coordination, infrastructure, and rapid redistribution systems to improve the efficiency and reach of surplus food recovery across the region.

3.6.1.6. Conduct feasibility studies and planning assessments for regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure that support processing, storage, and redistribution of surplus food.

3.6.2. 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 regional food recovery data.

3.6.3. Strengthen regional edible food recovery data collection and reporting by standardizing metrics across food recovery organizations and integrating results into Metro Vancouver’s waste diversion performance monitoring.

Michelle Reining, MSc, MA (she/her)
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From: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 9:13 AM

To: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>

Cc: Stephanie Liu <Stephanie.Liu@metrovancover.org>

Subject: RE: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

Hi Michelle,

No worries if you can't make the 11th, it is a busy time of year for us all!

That would be great if you could email zerowaste@metrovancover.org with your teams feedback on the initial draft and it will be considered as we work towards submitting a revised draft plan to the GVS&DD Board for approval before we submit to the Ministry.

Thanks so much, we always appreciate your input!

Brooke Atkinson

Senior Engagement Specialist, Community Engagement

Solid Waste Services

t. 604.451.6073



From: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 8:51 AM

To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>

Subject: Re: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

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Michelle

Michelle Reining, MSc, MA (she/her)
Executive Director
Vancouver Food Runners
236-479-0478



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From: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 8:32 AM

Subject: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

Hi all,

Just a reminder that as a participating organization in the Collaborative Engagement program to support the solid waste management plan update, there is an opportunity to present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the engagement process.

Please see information below about registration.

Thanks!

From: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>
Sent: January 28, 2026 12:22 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: Stephanie Liu
Subject: Re: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

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2.3.4. Implement incentive-based pilot programs to support food waste prevention practices and infrastructure in commercial and institutional settings, such as grants, reduced tipping fees for pilot participants, and recognition programs for high-performing waste reducers.

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3.6.3. Strengthen regional edible food recovery data collection and reporting by standardizing metrics across food recovery organizations and integrating results into Metro Vancouver's waste diversion performance monitoring.

Michelle Reining, MSc, MA (she/her)
Executive Director
Vancouver Food Runners
236-479-0478



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From: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>

Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 9:13 AM

To: Michelle Reining <Michelle@vancouverfoodrunners.com>

Cc: Stephanie Liu <Stephanie.Liu@metrovancover.org>

Subject: RE: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

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Thanks so much, we always appreciate your input!

Brooke Atkinson

Senior Engagement Specialist, Community Engagement

Solid Waste Services

t. 604.451.6073



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Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 8:51 AM

To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update <zerowaste@metrovancover.org>

Subject: Re: Reminder: Opportunity to Present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel on the Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis Engagement

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Please see information below about registration.

Thanks!

Brooke Atkinson
Senior Engagement Specialist, Community Engagement
Solid Waste Services
t. 604.451.6073



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: February 20, 2026 5:28 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Feedback on Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a Director of Zero Waste BC. Having reviewed the plan, please find my comments and feedback below:

Policy Input: Moving Beyond Waste Management to Waste Prevention

Metro Vancouver’s Solid Waste Management Plan remains largely focused on managing materials after they are generated. To meaningfully reduce waste — particularly plastic packaging — policy must shift upstream toward production, design, and consumption.

Recycling alone will not address rising packaging volumes. Globally, only an estimated 9% of plastic is recycled. Even if recycling rates improved dramatically, continued growth in plastic production would offset those gains. Waste reduction requires structural policy changes that alter economic incentives, material design, and system infrastructure.

The region has spent decades refining recycling and disposal systems. While diversion rates have improved, overall material throughput — especially disposable packaging — continues to rise. Reuse systems have declined, system costs have increased, and infrastructure has become more complex. Incremental adjustments will not deliver Zero Waste outcomes.

A structural shift is required: from managing waste to reducing material production and dependency on disposables.

1. Establish Mandatory Reuse and Packaging Reduction Targets

Voluntary measures have not reduced packaging growth. Clear, binding targets are necessary to drive investment and behavioural change.

The region should:

- Set phased targets for reusable packaging in priority sectors (food service, grocery, beverage).
- Require reusable service ware for dine-in and large public events.
- Establish packaging intensity reduction targets (e.g., weight per unit sold).
- Advocate provincially and federally for binding packaging reduction legislation.

Targets drive infrastructure investment. Without targets, reuse will not scale.

2. Strengthen Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Current EPR programs largely fund recycling rather than prevention. They must be redesigned to incentivize waste reduction at the design stage.

Metro Vancouver should advocate for reforms that:

- Impose higher fees on non-reusable and non-recyclable packaging.
- Provide financial incentives for reusable and refill systems.
- Penalize multi-layer and composite plastics.
- Require minimum recycled content.
- Expand EPR to textiles, mattresses, and additional packaging sectors.

Packaging design should become more expensive when it generates waste.

3. Invest in Reuse as Core Infrastructure

Reuse must become foundational infrastructure, not a peripheral initiative.

The region should prioritize:

- Centralized washing and redistribution hubs for reusable containers.
- Standardized reusable packaging pools.
- Building-material reuse centres.
- Repair infrastructure and workforce training.
- Dedicated reuse space at all recycling and waste centres.

Reuse must be more convenient and cost-effective than disposable systems.

4. Implement Disposal as a Declining Backstop

Disposal infrastructure must not anchor the system.

The Burnaby Waste-to-Energy facility should be treated as a temporary, declining backstop — not a long-term waste strategy.

If it continues operating:

- Cap throughput and reduce annually in line with upstream waste reduction.
- Classify WtE clearly as disposal with energy recovery.
- Apply best-available emissions controls with real-time public reporting.
- Publish a comprehensive ash and toxics management plan.
- Commit to no new incineration capacity.

Disposal infrastructure must shrink as reduction and reuse expand.

5. Incorporate Consumption-Based Emissions Accounting

Material production accounts for the majority of lifecycle emissions. Waste policy must align with climate policy.

The Plan should include:

- Consumption-based emissions tracking.
- Material carbon footprint reporting.
- Reduction strategies for high-impact materials (construction materials, plastics, textiles, food waste).

Without measuring material footprint, policy will underestimate climate impact.

6. Strengthen Enforcement and Source Separation

Policy credibility depends on enforcement.

To support reduction and reuse:

- Expand mandatory source separation.
- Enhance disposal ban enforcement and inspections.
- Implement clean-bag policies where appropriate.
- Increase commercial packaging audits.

Rules without enforcement will not drive change.

Guiding Principle: Zero Waste Must Not Become a Tax Grab or Administrative Burden

Waste policy must change systems — not generate revenue or create unnecessary complexity.

Public trust depends on fairness, simplicity, and transparency.

Revenue Neutral Where Possible

- New fees should be transparent and tied directly to waste reduction infrastructure.
- Revenue must be reinvested in reuse, repair, and reduction systems.
- Public reporting should clearly show how funds are used.

The goal is behaviour change — not revenue generation.

Protect Small Businesses

Small businesses should not carry disproportionate financial or administrative burdens.

Policy should:

- Phase requirements in gradually.
- Provide standardized tools and templates.
- Offer shared infrastructure (e.g., pooled reusable systems).
- Exempt micro-enterprises where appropriate.
- Focus compliance costs upstream on producers and large packaging generators.

Responsibility should sit primarily with manufacturers, importers, and brand owners — not independent retailers.

Keep It Simple and Executable

Complicated systems reduce compliance and increase resistance.

Policies must be:

- Clear and standardized across the region.
- Easy to understand and enforce.
- Based on measurable, verifiable metrics.
- Designed to minimize paperwork for small operators.

If a system requires complex reporting from thousands of small businesses, it is poorly designed.

Avoid Cost Shifting to Consumers

Waste reduction policy should not disproportionately increase household costs.

Design principles should include:

- Incentives for durable and reusable systems.
- Bulk and refill options that lower long-term costs.
- Fee structures that target excessive packaging at the production level.
- Gradual implementation to prevent price shocks.

Zero Waste should reduce long-term costs by lowering material throughput — not increase daily living expenses.

Focus Regulation Upstream

The most effective and least burdensome approach is to regulate:

- Producers
- Importers
- Large distributors
- Packaging designers

Not individual consumers.

Consumers can only choose from what the market offers.

The Risk of Incrementalism

Small adjustments — additional pilots, marginal fee increases, minor program refinements — create the appearance of progress without materially reducing waste generation.

This approach:

- Delays difficult decisions.
- Protects legacy infrastructure.

- Maintains high system costs.
- Places growing pressure on residents and small businesses.
- Fails to address production growth.

A Zero Waste strategy requires decisive policy direction and structural redesign.

The Opportunity

Metro Vancouver has the institutional capacity, technical expertise, and public support to move beyond incrementalism.

By prioritizing upstream reduction, scaling reuse infrastructure, strengthening producer accountability, and setting clear interim targets, the region can transition from managing waste to preventing it.

The choice is not between action and inaction — it is between systemic redesign and continued plateau.

A true Zero Waste strategy must prioritize reduction and reuse first, with disposal as a shrinking backstop.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

Munu

From: Metro Vancouver - Solid Waste
Sent: February 12, 2026 1:25 PM
To: 'Olga Schwartzkopf'
Subject: RE: Outstanding Questions on updated solid waste plan

Hi Olga,

Our team has responded to your questions – please see below for their responses in **red**. If you have more to say about the engagement for the solid waste management plan update or would like to give additional feedback on the initial draft plan, please feel free to reach out through email or request a phone call with one of our staff.

Thanks for your interest in the solid waste management plan update process.

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste team

1, The Vancouver Landfill - I assume that is the one at Burns Bog.

Correct.

When does that contract expire? With whom is the contract?

The Vancouver Landfill operates according to an agreement between Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Delta. The agreement expires in approximately 2050.

Is it Delta or the entities who are in control of the decisions being made with respect to Burns Bog?

The Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area is co-managed by Metro Vancouver and the City of Delta. Delta, Metro Vancouver, and the provincial and federal government are working together to carry out a 100-year vision for Burns Bog that will preserve and restore the bog ecosystem.

Is the plan to go "Higher or Wider"?

The Vancouver Landfill will continue to operate within the previously agreed upon footprint and height.

Are we approaching capacity in terms of weight on that site?

The agreement expires the earlier of 2050 or filling to capacity based on the historically agreement height and footprint. There is no specific maximum total tonnage specified in the agreement.

Is the methane removal and use for energy still an active pursuit?

The Vancouver Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. They continue to collect landfill gas, a portion of which is utilized in renewable natural gas facilities.

I hope that public tours in the landfill are going to continue into the future for public education and promotion of engagement with citizens.

The City of Vancouver offers educational opportunities for schools and the general public. For more information, please contact the City of Vancouver.

2. Where and by what means is the solid waste moved from the cruise ships that come into the Port Authority sites? Including the freighters who also must have to dispose of waste? Is there any expense sharing with the

federal government or whoever is considered to be the owners of our ports? Same issues with BC Ferry Service including the Refit facility near the mouth of the Fraser River?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency requires that international marine waste (defined as waste from vessels not coming from U.S. ports) be disposed of at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Other marine waste can be disposed of at any of the regional solid waste facilities.

3. Medical waste - from local hospitals, marine vessels, clinics, research facilities, industrial medical, university laboratories, - is medical waste still being sent south of the border for incineration? Are there any plans to have a biological waste incinerator within our own borders? How is medical waste transported to any incinerator? Plastics are a large part of medical waste, especially in the treatment of cancers using chemotherapy - where does all that go? We have several cancer treatment facilities so this is not a small matter, especially when you see the statistics of the number of people receiving treatment these days, along with waiting lists.

Regular garbage from hospitals in the region is delivered to the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility. Biomedical waste is delivered to private facilities. Metro Vancouver is not working on any plans for disposal of biomedical or other similar waste.

4. The Bird Sanctuary on Westham Island - Bird Flu deaths - how or where were the dead birds buried or tracked for disposal and prevention of the spread of the virus. How long after burial is the soil examined for safety to grow and/or consume plants from those areas? I assume these areas exist within Metro or what used to be the GVRD. Health Canada and Ag Canada must look after the domesticated birds from private farms.

The Bird Sanctuary on Westham Island is not managed by Metro Vancouver. These questions would be better directed to the responsible agencies.

5. The category of Residuals - I assume that includes the flocculants, etc from the Seymour Freshwater Treatment Plant. Do you also count as residuals the waste from the sewage treatment plants? I know there is some application to farmland and sale at some garden centres and maybe some municipalities use it in the parks, in public gardens?

The definition of Residuals in the initial draft of the solid waste plan means the fraction of municipal solid waste that is left after prevention, reuse, and recycling and is destined for disposal. Metro Vancouver also manages residuals from the Seymour Capilano Filtration Plant (Drinking Water Treatment Residuals) and from the region's Wastewater Treatment Plants (biosolids). Drinking Water Treatment Residuals are beneficially used under the [Drinking Water Management Plan](#) and the beneficial use of biosolids is mandated under the [Liquid Waste Management Plan](#). For over 35 years, Metro Vancouver has safely and responsibly used biosolids across BC to restore land, create healthy soil and bring vegetation back to life. If you would like to learn more about how Metro Vancouver beneficially uses biosolids please visit www.nutrifor.ca. Liquid waste system residuals that cannot be beneficially used are disposed in accordance with the solid waste management plan.

6. I notice that Value Village and some Thrift stores are receiving materials that are of such poor quality that they are not worth selling or will not have any buyers, are they included in some of your tables as contributors for reuse, recycling or just waste/garbage?

Our solid waste statistics do not include information on the origin of materials for disposal, beyond whether they are residential, commercial, institutional, or construction and demolition. Material that is disposed of

would be counted in our overall garbage estimate. Textile reuse is not included in recycling statistics. We are working on ways to better estimate reuse, which would be considered a separate metric.

7. Incinerators - is there still a contract with the Burnaby Incinerator?

Metro Vancouver continues to own and manage the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Burnaby.

Are you building a new incinerator for energy production for multifamily housing?

these are separate entities, I assume. Is there more information about the differences of which waste categories will be incinerated in each facility? I assume there would be limitations on what you could burn in an energy recovery system for residential properties.

Metro Vancouver has no plans to build an additional Waste-to-Energy facility. Metro Vancouver is developing a district energy system to supply heat and hot water to up to 50,000 homes in Vancouver and Burnaby. This system will utilize energy from the existing Waste-to-Energy facility in Burnaby.

- [About Waste-to-Energy Facility | Metro Vancouver](#)
- [Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System | Metro Vancouver](#)

8. It would be worthwhile to check out how the City of Montreal deals with Building Demolition. I had attended federal workshops on disposal of demolition materials. They had the most solutions, along with rules, among all municipalities represented at the time.

Through the National Zero Waste Council, an initiative of Metro Vancouver, we work collaboratively with jurisdictions across Canada, including the City of Montreal, who is a leader in many circular economy initiatives.

From: Metro Vancouver - Solid Waste
Sent: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 10:24 AM
To: 'Olga Schwartzkopf' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Outstanding Questions on updated solid waste plan

Hi Olga,

Thank you for taking the time to review the draft plan and share your detailed, thoughtful questions and observations. We appreciate the care and experience that went into your comments.

We're working to gather the information needed to address each of your questions. A more detailed response is being prepared and will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your engagement and for contributing to solid waste management plan update process.

Sincerely,
Metro Vancouver Solid Waste team

From: Olga Schwartzkopf [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 27, 2026 1:12 PM

To: Metro Vancouver - Solid Waste <solidwasteoperations@metrovancouver.org>

Subject: Outstanding Questions on updated solid waste plan

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Committee or whoever answers questions related to the new plan:

I have reviewed the latest draft plan. It is impressive and comprehensive, very detailed especially the tables and graphs, etc. But some information is missing or not referenced. I am looking for updates on a number of issues which may or may not be embedded in those tables, graphs, etc. They are as follows:

- 1, The Vancouver Landfill - I assume that is the one at Burns Bog. When does that contract expire? With whom is the contract? Is it Delta or the entities who are in control of the decisions being made with respect to Burns Bog? Is the plan to go "Higher or Wider"? Are we approaching capacity in terms of weight on that site? Is the methane removal and use for energy still an active pursuit? I hope that public tours in the landfill are going to continue into the future for public education and promotion of engagement with citizens.
2. Where and by what means is the solid waste moved from the cruise ships that come into the Port Authority sites? Including the freighters who also must have to dispose of waste? Is there any expense sharing with the federal government or whoever is considered to be the owners of our ports? Same issues with BC Ferry Service including the Refit facility near the mouth of the Fraser River?
3. Medical waste - from local hospitals, marine vessels, clinics, research facilities, industrial medical, university laboratories, - is medical waste still being sent south of the border for incineration? Are there any plans to have a biological waste incinerator within our own borders? How is medical waste transported to any incinerator? Plastics are a large part of medical waste, especially in the treatment of cancers using chemotherapy - where does all that go? We have several cancer treatment facilities so this is not a small matter, especially when you see the statistics of the number of people receiving treatment these days, along with waiting lists.
4. The Bird Sanctuary on Westham Island - Bird Flu deaths - how or where were the dead birds buried or tracked for disposal and prevention of the spread of the virus. How long after burial is the soil examined for safety to grow and/or consume plants from those areas? I assume these areas exist within Metro or what used to be the GVRD. Health Canada and Ag Canada must look after the domesticated birds from private farms.
5. The category of Residuals - I assume that includes the flocculants, etc from the Seymour Freshwater Treatment Plant. Do you also count as residuals the waste from the sewage treatment plants? I know there is some application to farmland and sale at some garden centres and maybe some municipalities use it in the parks, in public gardens?
6. I notice that Value Village and some Thrift stores are receiving materials that are of such poor quality that they are not worth selling or will not have any buyers, are they included in some of your tables as contributors for reuse, recycling or just waste/garbage?
7. Incinerators - is there still a contract with the Burnaby Incinerator? Are you building a new incinerator for energy production for multifamily housing? these are separate entities, I assume. Is there more information about the differences of which waste categories will be incinerated in each facility? I assume there would be limitations on what you could burn in an energy recovery system for residential properties.

8. It would be worthwhile to check out how the City of Montreal deals with Building Demolition. I had attended federal workshops on disposal of demolition materials. They had the most solutions, along with rules, among all municipalities represented at the time.

On the positive side - I am glad to see that you are consulting or talking with the federal government departments, especially agriculture, -- what about connecting with NPRI (Env. Canada), NAESI (AG Canada), CCME (Env. Canada), IISD (Winnipeg office)? I would also recommend checking out the NASEM in Washington DC. They have comprehensive publications on all these issues, along with webinars that are open to the public.

That is all at the moment. I will have some more general comments to add before the 11 of Feb. But I needed an update on outstanding issues. I also need some more time to review the Draft Plan. I do not intend on making a personal presentation since I have serious mobility issues and it would be too difficult to attend such a presentation. But I thank you for the invitation and for widening the consultation pool.

Thank-you. I look forward to your response, at least I hope there will be one forthcoming.

Olga Schwartzkopf
Citizen of Coquitlam, BC.

Zeenia Mizan

From: Killen, Shanna <skillen@coquitlam.ca>
Sent: February 20, 2026 3:28 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: City of Coquitlam Feedback on Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan
Attachments: Metro Vancouver Draft Solid Waste Plan - City of Coquitlam Feedback .pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

Thank you for providing City of Coquitlam the opportunity to give feedback on Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan. Our overarching comments on the plan can be found in the attached document.

If you have any questions or issues accessing the document, please let me know.

Many thanks,
Shanna

Shanna Killen *MPP, She/Her*

Sustainability Programs Specialist

City of Coquitlam | Engineering & Public Works | Environment

3000 Guildford Way | Coquitlam, BC | V3B 7N2

C: 604.375.8171 | E: skillen@coquitlam.ca

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that the name Coquitlam was derived from the hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ (HUN-kuh-MEE-num) word kʷikʷəłəm (kwee-KWET-lum) meaning "Red Fish Up the River". The City is honoured to be located on the kʷikʷəłəm traditional and ancestral lands, including those parts that were historically shared with the q̓íçəy̓ (kat-zee), and other Coast Salish Peoples.

Metro Van Draft Solid Waste Plan – City of Coquitlam Feedback

Date: February 20, 2026

Overarching Comments on MV Solid Waste Management Strategy

- The plan clearly elevates waste prevention and “Rethink” to the top of the hierarchy, which aligns well with Coquitlam’s interest in reducing waste at the source rather than managing it downstream.
- The per-capita waste generation reduction target (20% by 2050) provides a clear regional signal that prevention—not just diversion—is a core objective.
- **Municipal implementation pathways could be made clearer.** While the plan outlines regional advocacy and collaboration, it is less explicit about how member jurisdictions like Coquitlam can translate these ambitions into local regulatory or programmatic actions (e.g., zoning, development approvals, procurement).
- Construction and demolition (C&D) waste prevention is a strategy Coquitlam wants to put more emphasis and build more public awareness around
 - Market readiness and municipal capacity vary, and the plan assumes a level of reuse and deconstruction infrastructure that is not evenly distributed across the region.
 - There is limited discussion of how municipalities can assess their existing building stock to identify reuse and deconstruction opportunities in a systematic way.
- The relationship between disposal access, affordability, and illegal dumping could be more explicit—particularly for bulky items, renovation waste, and materials not covered by EPR programs.
- The plan does not strongly differentiate between urban growth pressures and disposal needs in rapidly densifying municipalities.

High Level Feedback by Section

Primary Performance Metrics and Targets

- The regional targets for reducing per capita waste generation, increasing recycling and diversion, and reducing disposal are supported.
- As implementation progresses, additional clarity on how municipal actions contribute to regional targets would support alignment and accountability at the local level.

Secondary Performance Metrics and Targets

- The proposed secondary performance metrics will be valuable in providing greater context/detail when assessing progress toward the region’s goals.
- Question around availability and reliability of data required to support these metrics?
- Will the data sources, methodologies, and tracking approaches used to develop and report on secondary metrics be shared with member municipalities to support consistency, transparency, and local application?

Circular Economy

- The Plan provides a strong and comprehensive framework for advancing a circular economy, particularly in the built environment and food systems.

- More specifics of how member municipalities can leverage regional circular economy initiatives, pilots, and advocacy to advance local implementation would strengthen this section.

Waste Prevention and Advocacy

- Opportunities exist to more clearly connect regional advocacy efforts with municipal policy tools, such as land use planning, development approvals, and procurement practices, to support waste prevention outcomes locally.

Strategies and Actions – Built Environment (Construction and Demolition)

- Additional emphasis on building retention, relocation, and adaptive reuse as waste prevention strategies would strengthen alignment with circular economy objectives.
- The City encourages further regional support for municipal building stock assessments to identify opportunities for deconstruction, relocation, and material reuse.
- Clearer regional guidance and support for developing and scaling reuse and salvage markets would help ensure equitable access across municipalities.

Strategies and Actions – Food Systems

- Additional clarity on how municipalities can support food recovery and redistribution infrastructure, including through facilities, partnerships, and land use considerations, would strengthen local implementation.
- Continued emphasis on commercial, institutional, and City-led facilities and events as priority sectors is encouraged.

Reuse, Recycling, and Material Recovery

- The City supports continued efforts to improve consistency, accessibility, and market development for reuse and recycling programs across the region.
- Further clarity on municipal roles in piloting and scaling reuse initiatives would assist implementation.

Disposal and Residual Management

- The Plan appropriately positions disposal as a last resort while recognizing the need for reliable and cost-effective waste management.
- Stronger acknowledgment of the relationship between accessible disposal options and the prevention of illegal dumping and littering, particularly for bulky items and renovation waste, would strengthen this section.
- Consideration of the impacts of rapid growth and densification on disposal access at the municipal level is encouraged.

City Facilities, Operations, and Events

- The City supports the Plan's direction for governments to lead by example through waste reduction, reuse, and diversion at City facilities and City-led or City-hosted events.
- Additional regional guidance and tools to help municipalities standardize practices, measure outcomes, and share best practices would support consistent implementation.

Zeenia Mizan

From: Sue Maxwell -ZWBC <smaxwell@zerowastebc.ca>
Sent: February 20, 2026 8:38 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: Submission of petition as feedback on SWMP
Attachments: Feb 20 ZWBC Petition to Close the Incinerator.pdf

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,
Please find the petition attached to be included in the feedback on the draft SWMP.

Sincerely,
Sue Maxwell

Sue Maxwell
Chair, Zero Waste BC
smaxwell@zerowastebc.ca
604-734-4046
www.zerowastebc.ca



Zero Waste BC is a non-profit society that has been championing Zero Waste since 2008 with a mission to drive systemic change towards Zero Waste in BC.

I humbly acknowledge that the land on which I live, work and play is in the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish Nation) and Lil'wat7úl (Lil'wat Nation).



February 20, 2026

We, the undersigned 385 individuals and organizations, call on Metro Vancouver to phase out the incinerator by 2028 to protect public health, the environment and keep costs reasonable.

Jillian	A Bordin	V1N 3M1
Adedolapo	Abe	V3C 0E8
Sheila	Adams	V5K 3M8
Roland	Alcock	V9Z 0G1
Tracey	Ali	L1C 4X7
Florence	Ali	V5A 4B8
Saad Bin	Ali Reza	V5H3C5
Eva	Allan	V6R 1Y5
Doug	Anderson	L1N 5B1
Kristen	Andrews	V3L 2N9
Llana	Arreza	Vancouver
Virginia	Ayers	V3: 1T3
Ayse	B	V5R 6G7
Irina	B	V6K1L3
Barb	B	V7R 1R5
Jia	Bains	Port Moody
Mohamed	Bargoni	V5A 4H5
Cynthia	Barnes	Powell River
Savannah	Barratt	V8W0G2
Florencio	Bautista	V3N4X6
Mairy	Beam	V5N 1L7
Tigan	Becker	V3N4X6
Warren	Bell	V1E 4S2
Barbara	Berger	V9M2B8
Louis	Bertrand	L0B 1B0
Heather	Bessey	T5n 3v1
Njomez	Bisimi	V5A 3V3
Agnes	Black	V3L 1L2
Mieke	Boecker	V5B 3C9
Alex	Bone	V5A 3V3
jon	bordo	K9H 2Y3
mike	borie	L1X1P2
T	Borle	V5A 4B8
Mikayla	Boule	V5A 0G9
Nadia	Bouzaidi	V3N4P5
Lindsey	Braacx	V3M 4W4
Philip	Bradshaw	V7G2H7
David	Brekke	V5A 4B8
sharon	brickman	K0K3K0
Tyee	Bridge	V3L0J7
Satya	Brown	V5s 4w1
Kaia	Bryce	V7G 1K3
Jordan	Bultitude	V6G0E1

Susan	Burgess	V6N 2X8
Susan	Burns	V6S1J1
Karen	Cain	V0R 1X7
Dorothy	Caldwell	K0L1Y0
Andrea	Callingham	V5A 4B8
Pam	Callus	L1E 2L6
Nicholas	Campanella	Burnaby
Andrea	Careless	Vancouver
Jordyn	Carss	V6a0h2
Elinor Diane	Cartwright	K0L 1L0
Cindy	Cashin	V7A 3S9
Rashmi	Chadha	V6L 2K1
Tessy	Chalissery	V5J 3B1
Shuyang	Chen	Hamilton Richmond
Bei	Chin	V6M 1A5
Stephen	Chitty	Surrey
Andrew	Chobaniuk	V3M0L4
Glen	Chu	V5k2h4
Laurel	Circle	V9L 6G6
Gail	Cockburn	L1N 4N1
Carol	Cohen	V6K 2R3
Wendy	Colling	V5A 3V6
Alexis	Cooper	Vancouver, Canada
ROSEMARY	CORNELL	V5V1L7
Monique	Costa	V5A 4B8
Douglas	Courtemanche	V6S2J9
Margaret	Coutts	V6H 1M1
Natalie	Crews	v7I1v4
Gweneth	Crook	V7L 1V2
Karen	Crosby	V3M2E6
Jennifer	Cruz	V5G 2E3
Dan	Cuglietta	V5A 3V4
Guy	Dauncey	V9G 1E9
Laurie	Dawson	V5A 4B8
Joy	de Castro	V6B 8P6
Elaine	Decker	V5P 4X2
Jane	Devonshire	V9B1K3
Carolina	Diss dos Santos	V4M1K5
Sharon	Dodd	V7C 2C2
Anne	Doddridge	V1X 7Z2
Emma	Dolhai	V6h2t3
Sonia	Domarchuk-White	V5T 1T8
Tyler	Dugray	V5J5A5
Katherine	DuGray	V6P2X3
Elizabeth	Dunn	V5L 1B9
Deborrah	Dunne	V6K 1R6
Terry	Dyck	V1T 6R7

Donna	Dykeman	V6A 2C2	
Janet	Eliseef	V3N4X6	
Susan	Ellard	V1W 1M9	
Arlene	Elliott	V5C 1P5	
Hilary	Emberton	V0R 1N1	
Susan	Eyre	Sirdar	
Sarah	Fallavollita	V9A7P9	
Sandra	Fellner	V5L 1Y1	
Brian	Ferguson	V5A 4B8	
Patrick	Fergusson	V5L 2W6	
Maria	Fernandez	V3R6A1	
Jackie	Fink	V5A 3V3	
Phil	Finlayson	V5A 4B8	
Aliyah	Fisher	Mount pleasant	
beverly	ford	V4A 3S1	
Rhiannon	Fox	V5M1E7	
Susan	Fraser	V5A 3V5	
Dan	Fritschen		94087
Betty	Furey	V3M 6J6	
Jim	Furey	V3M 6J6	
Morgan	Game	V7E 2V6	
Chan	Gary	V5a3r6	
Linda	Gasser	L1N 2X7	
Tyler	Gee	V3J7L2	
steve	genge	V5E 3B7	
Dr. Ron	Gibson	V6M 1H7	
Nicole	Gladish	V5A 3V6	
Jay	Gladish	V5A 3V6	
Brenda	Glyn-Zares	V5A 3V5	
Maryam	Goharshadi	V7J 0E5	
Lori	Goldman	V2A 3S3	
Mary	Gradnitzer	V9A3N2	
Matthew	Graves	M4L 2M3	
Wanita	Grenier	Vancouver	
Anne	Grube	Chase	
Melanie	Gue	V5A 4B8	
Travis	Hackett	V3B 4A8	
Cora	Hallsworth	v8z5L2	
David	Ham	Lasqueti Is.	
Peter	Harco	V3X 3E7	
E.	Hart	V8A2E4	
Roslyn	Hart	Burnaby	
Grace	Harvey	V5A 3V3	
Edel	Hass	Surrey	
Nick	Hastie	V6G2N6	
Dianne	Hathaway	V3M 7A8	
Alice	Heale	Vancouver	

Matthieu	Heitz	V5T4B5
Jennifer	Henry	V4R 0G8
Devin	Hentschel	V3M0P2
Tony	Herunter	V7N 4B1
Carly	Hilbert	V6T 1Z4
John	Hill	V5T 0A2
Leslie	Hill	V5W4C1
Tiffany	Hilman	V5T 4G5
Cassie	Hinada	V5e4k5
Rob	Hollins	V3R4X8
Bill	Hopwood	V5L 2P9
chunti	huang	v3n4x7
Ada	Huang	Hamilton Richmond
Carla	Hunt	V8M2C8
Carla	Hunt	Saanichton
Oana	Hyatt	V6R2M7
Danilo	Ilic	V6B 8P5
kevan	indlekofer	v3n4x7
Roz	Isaac	V9B5P2
Anthony	Ittary	V5A 4B8
Ingrid	Jackson	V7G 2M6
Rob	Janousek	V5N 1J8
JoAnne	Jarvis	V9A 4P7
Nayeli	Jimenez	V6H 1J1
vern	jones	V2G3G7
Laura	Jones	V3M 3C6
Denise	Jones-Chu	V5K2H4
Ashley	Jordison	V3b0k7
Gabe	Jurado	V5A 4B8
Jamie	Kaminski	V3C 2S4
Lawrence	Kangula	Masindi - Uganda
Maggy	Kaplan	Vancouver
Michelle	Kaye	Port Moody
Andrew	Keirey	V5A 3V3
Leslie	Kemp	V5L 2P9
Renee	Kerluke	V5A 4B8
Helen	Kettle	V4K 2Y7
Onassis	Khayou	V5A 4B8
Maria	Kidney	V3L 1K1
Jane	Kilthei	V0R 1N1
Sarah	King	V5L 3W4
Aragorn	Klockars	V9R 7A1
Marlen	Kolbe	V6K 2M1
John	Kramer	V6p3b1
you chieh	kuo	v3n4x7
Xue	L.	V3N5E6
Allen	Lacroix	V3M 4Z8

Jill	Lacroix	V3M 4Z8
Sayan	Ladhani	V6K 1G2
Catherine	Lam	Richmond
Elizabeth	Laman	V5A 4B8
Helena	Lang	V7R 1C9
nick	lau	v3n4x7
Joming	Lau	V5V 4G8
Ruth	Lazarte	V3N4X6
Eyal	Lebel	V5Y 2A9
elizabeth	lee	a0k4s0
Joanne	Lee	V5A 3R6
Ingrid	Lee	V5A3R6
Emily	Lee	V3H4T9
Amy	Lee	V5B 1H7
Clint	Lee	V5B 1H7
JJ	Lee	V3H 4T9
Victoria	Lee	V5A 3R6
Diane	Lee	V5a3r7
Wrong	Lee	V3s 9g8
Byung	Lee	V3h 5k3
Mona	Lee	V3B0G3
Krystie	Lee	V5C 0E9
Steve	Lee	V3H 5K3
Arina	Lee Nuttall	V2X 0G5
Martha	Lescher	Cowichan Valley
Trevor	Leyenhorst	V3M 4W4
Belinda	Li	V5N1J8
Sam	Li	V3M 0C5
Susan	Li	V3M 0C5
Julia	Lissau	v1t 9e6
Kate	Lodge	V0N 1G2
Carson	Loveless	A0A 1E0
Bryan	Luu	V7C2L3
Johnny	Ma	V3N4X6
Katherine	Maas	V8V 2M9
James	Mackay	V6r1t5
Ryan	Mackie	V8Z5L2
Carol	MacKinnon	Vancouver
Debbie	Maloway	Cloverdale
Yvonne	Marcus	V6N2N9
Ian	Marcuse	V5N 1G9
Berte	Mart	V8Z 2H2
Brenda	Martens	V5W1A1
Sue	Maxwell	V8E 0G5
Alison	Mayer	V5A 4B8
Barbara	Mayfield	Cobble Hill
Joel	McCarthy	V5A 3V6

Emily	McGill	V7P3B1
Leslie	McGregor	N5V 4R4
Elspeth	McGregor	V8X 3L8
Margaret	McGregor	V5S3Y7
ian	McIntyre	v3n4x7
Kim	McKay	V5A 4B8
Wendy	mcLean	V0K 2J0
Desmond	Mcmahon	V5c2y1
Kate	McMahon	Burnaby
Michael	McNaught	V6N3C5
Janet	McNeill	M4E1H7
Nikki	Mertens	V4r0e4
Sean	Miles	V5L2B5
Jennie	Milligan	Vancouver
LYN	Mogren	V6G1M4
Paul	Moniz de Su	V5A 3V5
Linda	Moore	V7M 2L9
Daniel	Morasse	V3M 3H1
Mars	Moreira	V6J2H8
Catarina	Moreno	Vancouver
Sandy	Morgan	V3L 5V8
ZOE	MORIN	V7W 1M3
MADELEINE		
Paolo	Muir	V6H1J1
mazvita	munopo	Burnaby
Sayemin	Naheen	V5M1N9
Cecilio	Narra	Burnaby
Patricia	Negron	V4A 9V9
Christiane	Newcombe	V5C1J8
Robyn	Newton	V7L 3Y7
Daniel	Newton	V5T0G5
Leslie	Ngo	V2Y 3A2
Justin	Noble	V7P 2X4
Annika	Noringseth	Surrey
D	Nowak	V5K 1M4
TJ	Nyhan	North Vancouver
J	Paddon	V7R2P4
James	Pangilinan	V5W 1T9
Janet	Parkins	V1B 2X9
Benjamin	Patton	V7J2Z2
David	Pedersen	V8M 1W6
Karl	Perrin	V5A4Y1
Mary	Peters	V9R1E3
Robert	Petrusa	V3M3B2
Jo	Phillips	V9Z 0K5
Mari	Piggott	Vancouver
Beatriz	Pimentel	V5T 4J5

Mimi	Pollard	V1L 3L3
Glen	Porter	V5A 4B8
Katya	Potapova	V5V 3R1
Sheila	Pratt	V4R2R3
Katrina	Prescott	V6G2H9
amira	prichard	port moody
Steve	Puffer	V5A 3V5
Lily	Quan	Nanaimo
Amy	Quinn	K0K2G0
Libby	Racansky	L1E 2M1
John	Radebold	96143
Amanda	Rajala	V3J7J8
Srujan	Reddy	V3N4X6
Kate	Reekie	Ottawa
Anwen	Rees	V5L 3E8
Nichol	Reichardt	V7M1E1
Jose	Reyerros	V6g1x
Karin	Roberts	V3M 4B1
Jean	Robertson	V7L 1C7
John	Robertson	V5A 4B8
Dina	Robertson	V7P2B2
Dedeker	Rondeau	V5N1J7
mike	rosengarten	v3m 1v6
Margaret	Ross	V3L 4A9
Mark	Rowlands	V6G2Z1
Elisabeth	SahlmueLLer	Burnaby, B.C.
David	SahlmueLLer	V5A4Y8
Juan	Salcedo	V7R 3B4
Heather	Sanford	V5A 4B8
Doug	Schell	V9P 9B4
Arlene	Schimmelpfennig	V5R2J4
Andrea	Schnarr	V5V 1X1
Jill	Schroder	Vancouver
Sarah	Schwieger	V5V 2W9
Leigh	Selden	V9J 1S8
Robert	Selles	V6B0A7
Catherine	Sevcik	V5W 1S2
Caroline	Shannon	V0H1E0
Lorraine	Sharpsteen	V5Z 3L2
Ted	Sheldon	Victoria
Stephanie	Shulhan	V7C 0C8
Tamara	Shulman	Vancouver
Tara	Shushtarian	V5A 4H5
Farhad	Shushtarian	V5A 4H5
Shirin	Shushtarian	V5A 4H5
Javad	Shushtarian	V5A 4H5
Virgilio	Sintos	V3N4X6

Kyla	Skaalid	V2X9H1
terry	slack	v6n2h9
Violet	Smatlan	Vancouver
Susan	Smythe	V3L5R3
Helen	Spiegelman	V5N 3R7
Emily	Sproule	V5N 1J9
Laura	Stannard	V5Z 2B3
Hayden	Stewart	Burnaby
Ashley	Stoltz	V5A0B9
Susan	Stout	V7G 1V2
Robert	Stowe	V6K 1J7
Hayaat	Stuart-Khafaji	Vancouver
Miranda	T.	V3N5E6
Chenlu	Tang	Edmonds
Taryn	Taylir	Vancouver
Riod	Tblas	V5A 4B8
Max	Thompson	V6L 2Z2
Sally	Thurlow	L1N 9Z7
Tenzen	Tion	V3N4X6
Simon	Tooley	V5A 4B8
Elise	Tremblay	Vancouver
Juan	Trevino	V6G 1L3
Nora	Tseng	V3L 1J8
Carter	Tsui	V3J 6N7
Amy	Umpleby	95959
Mark	Valencia	V4M 2G6
lisa	valladares	v3n4x7
Amanda	Vantol	V5N 2A7
Cecilia	Vargas	V5S 0K6
Aubrie	Verleur	V3g 2z3
Maria Isabel	Villa	V3N4X6
John	Vissers	Abbotsford
Brian	Voth	V0N 2G0
Douglas	W MacDonald	V5L 3E4
Susan	Walp	V1C 2V9
D	Walton	Burnaby
bing	wang	v3n 4x7
ES	Warwick	V8T 3S5
Ellen	Watters	Burnaby
Amy	Weeks	v5x 1b3
Alexandra	Welch	V5g 1b6
Jane	Welton	V8Z 7H3
Elizabeth	White	V8K 1K3
Ron	Wilson	V0R 1T0
Robert	Winston	Surrey
Erin	Wong	V5N 4Y4
Lilly	Woodbury	V0R 2Z0

Elizabeth	Wright	maple ridge
Teri	Young	Cowichan Bay
Mark	Zhu	Edmonds station area
justin	zuk	V5E 4E9

Organizations

Zero Waste BC

Zero Waste Vancouver

Doctors for Planetary Health West Coast

Global Enlightening Enterprise Incorporated

Burnaby For Our Kids

Midwestern Region Centre for Democracy and Human Rights MICOD

Chase Environmental Action Society

New Westminster Climate Action Hub

West Coast Climate Action Network

Zero Waste Canada

From: Trevor Leyenhorst [REDACTED]
Sent: February 16, 2026 12:45 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Feedback | Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Leaders, seize this opportunity to change!

Our climate is suffering. Since this plan is only reviewed every decade—and this round is long overdue—these changes are critical:

1. Use the *Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition** in the plan. A peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy drives progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour of more work on reduction.
2. Set ambitious targets to match those of the Capital Regional District or Regional District of Nanaimo. Targets should be for waste generation reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting, NOT burning of material). Targets should be set for five years (2032) and ten years (2037) and not only in the future beyond the time frame of the plan.
3. Phase out the Burnaby incinerator, one of the top 25 point sources of GHGs in the province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste.
4. Invest in zero waste solutions: Redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, compost and recycle. Include:
 - Waste prevention, like preventing food waste and unnecessary packaging.
 - Reuse and Repair, so unusable items don't get thrown out.
 - Recycle and Compost in multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction.
 - Reduce toxicity.
 - Enforce and enhance existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags, and mandatory source separation.
5. Measure and work to reduce the climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions on the planning and proposed actions.
6. Establish and commit to a timeline for the actions and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be implemented.
7. Be transparent: Report waste performance clearly so the public can see what works. Burning waste creates pollution and ash and should be treated as disposal (NOT "recycling" or "diversion").
8. Spend wisely and invest in the future: Choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.

Thank you for taking every step to protect our province for now and for the future!

***Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition:** The Conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse, and recovery of all products, packaging, and materials without burning them and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

Trevor Leyenhorst (and my 3 children that are counting on YOU)



Zeenia Mizan

From: Zach Segal <zsegal@boma.bc.ca>
Sent: February 20, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Subject: BOMA BC - Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Plan
Attachments: BOMA BC Response Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Plan.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

WARNING: *This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hi there,

Please see BOMA BC's feedback regarding Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan.

Thanks so much,

Zach Segal

Zach Segal
Director of Government Relations

BOMA BC
Building Owners & Managers Association of BC

604.684.3916 ext. 225
zsegal@boma.bc.ca
[2200-555 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 4N6](https://www.boma.bc.ca)
www.boma.bc.ca



February 20th, 2026

Paul Henderson, General Manager
Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver

BOMA BC Response to Metro Vancouver - Draft Solid Waste Management Plan (2026)

Dear Paul:

BOMA BC supports Metro Vancouver's objectives to reduce landfill disposal, increase recycling, and improve organics diversion across the region.

The commercial real estate industry advances waste diversion through recycling and organics programs, tenant engagement, and performance benchmarking embedded in BOMA BEST standards.

BOMA BEST-certified buildings incorporate waste auditing, diversion tracking, and continuous improvement practices, demonstrating our industry's leadership, and the proactive and voluntary approach to addressing this issue. For example, 36% of BOMA BEST office buildings obtain capture rates of 80-100%. Capture rates, assessed via waste audit, provide an accurate way of measuring the efficacy of a building's waste diversion program by calculating successful diversion from landfills.

However, several elements of the draft Plan have operational implications for commercial properties:

- Increased focus on commercial organics participation and performance
- Expanded data collection, tracking, and reporting expectations
- Potential tightening of disposal enforcement through haulers and facilities

While the Plan does not directly regulate individual buildings, implementation through municipal bylaws, disposal enforcement, and hauler practices would effectively transmit new requirements to property owners. This may require new infrastructure, reconfiguration of waste rooms or loading areas, additional administrative oversight, and higher hauling costs associated with contamination or rejected loads.

Added operational costs are ultimately borne by small businesses and commercial tenants. In precarious economic times, it is critical that we use education, awareness, and industry programs such as BOMA BEST to improve waste practices, rather than added costs or burdens. BOMA BC encourages Metro Vancouver to ensure any implementation remains phased and flexible, with recognition of the physical and operational constraints of existing buildings.

Education and awareness particularly focused on tenant behaviour and contamination reduction will be critical to achieving sustained improvements in diversion rates. Experience across BOMA BEST-certified properties demonstrates that engagement and practical tools are the most effective.



We welcome collaboration to ensure regional waste reduction goals are achieved to support environmental objectives while maintaining economic competitiveness for commercial real estate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Stathonikos".

Damian Stathonikos
President
Building Owners and Managers Association of BC

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: February 17, 2026 6:16 PM
To: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Cc: info@zerowastebc.ca
Subject: Comments on MV's January 2026 draft SWMP
Attachments: MV SWMP - comments Feb17-26.docx; Metro Van Solid Waste Management Plan - draft January 2026.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

WARNING: This email originated from outside of our organization. Do not click any links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Attached are my comments on Metro Vancouver's (MV's) January 2026 draft Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP), in MSWord, as well as a copy of the draft plan (in PDF) with associated comments throughout.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Wishing MV the best of success in moving the draft SWMP forward to the satisfaction of its constituents and key supporters.

Best regards,

Ted Sheldon [REDACTED]

retired-British Columbia provincial government (Victoria):

- Senior Policy Advisor, Corporate Policy, Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks (MELP)
- Senior Community Climate Action Advisor, Climate Action Secretariat (CAS)
- Senior Clean Energy Advisor, Electricity and Alternative Energy Division (EAED)

CRD RoundTable on the Environment (EcoStar Climate Change Award-2004)

Federation of Canadian Municipalities Partners for Climate Protection (Queen's Royal Diamond Jubilee Medal-2013)

BC Community Energy Association (Lifetime Achievement Award-2018)

Present University of Victoria Alumnus Activities – Masters in Industrial Ecology (IE) Advisory Committee

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

February 17, 2026

To: Metro Vancouver

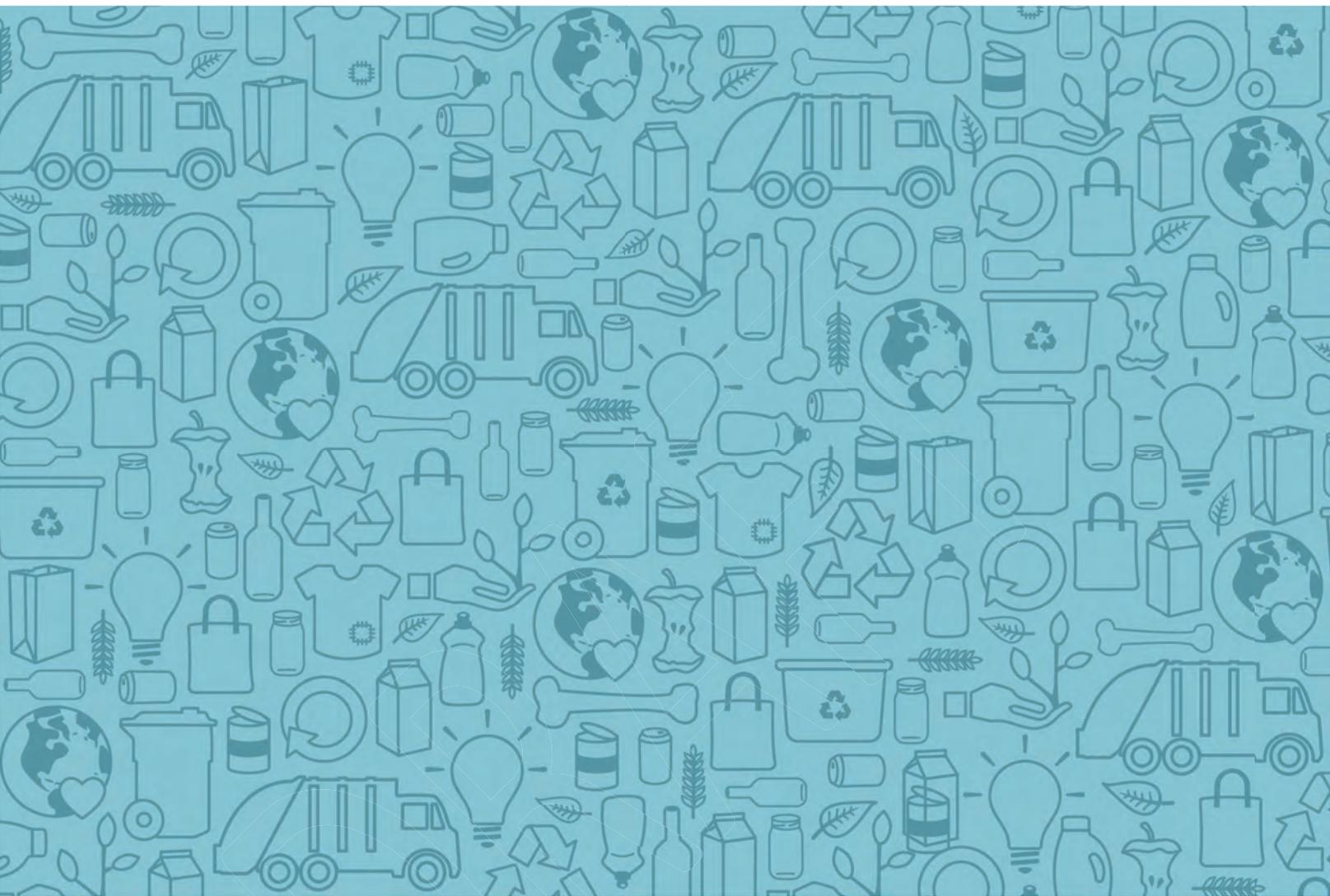
Re: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan

The following represents comments from my review of your draft Metro Vancouver (MV) Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). I have also attached the draft itself with comments that both reaffirm a number of the comments below, as well as provide a small number of suggested edits. A number of the following support, if not directly articulate, key concerns already raised by Zero Waste BC:

1. Use the [Zero Waste Hierarchy and definition](#) in the Solid Waste Management Plan. A clear peer-reviewed definition and hierarchy will drive progressive action. Eliminate the goals for recovery in favour of more work on reduction. Relatedly, it would be incumbent on MV to explain, where required, why those SWMP hierarchy exceptions differ from the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy.
 2. Work with other MV departments, other levels of government and companies by working higher up the waste hierarchy to rethink and reduce waste by:
 - highlighting the planning and proposed actions to reduce the Region's climate footprint of materials by including consumption-based emissions (including embodied carbon) and where key opportunities exist to continue to build the circular economy, and
 - using the SWMP to recognize and/or link to other plans and policies of the MV and those member municipalities that are making progressive efforts on the circular economy and embodied carbon front (such as MV's collaborative efforts with the City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and City of Richmond).
 3. Set ambitious targets to match or exceed the aspirations of other progressive regions, such as the Capital Regional District and the Regional District of Nanaimo. Regarding target-setting and reporting frequency, these targets should be set for successive five-year terms (2032, 2037) within the accountability timeframe of the plan, and not simply to 2050. Similarly, these reports need to be kept straightforward and fully transparent to the public. Regarding the choice of indicators:
 - Report in both per capita and absolute metrics, at least when aggregated.
 - Guard against an over-supply of secondary indicators (aka 'indicatoritis') that, in themselves, can divert attention to core metrics.
 - If 'proxy' indicators do not serve their ap'proxi'mate roles, resist using.
- NOTE - MV (with a larger population and economies of scale capabilities) and other regions of the Province should encourage the provincial government to be more aggressive on its waste reduction aspirations (while still acknowledging some of the challenges of more rural communities). Also, targets should be on waste generation

reduction and diversion (meaning recycling and composting), not burning of material (creating pollution and ash).

4. Commit to phasing out the Burnaby incinerator. This 38-year-old facility is aging and will require significant capital upgrades and maintenance if it is not retired as most incinerators close at 25-30 years. Over \$400 million of capital costs have been forecast in Metro Vancouver budgets. In addition to the financial outlays to undertake necessary retrofits (where those monies could be directed higher up the waste hierarchy, the incinerator is one of the top 25-point sources of GHGs in the whole province and a key emitter of other pollutants such as dioxins, mercury, cadmium, lead, acid gases and NOx. It is neither cleaner than landfills nor cheaper and is a roadblock to reducing waste. Firmly commit to not building or using any new incineration or thermal treatment facilities.
5. Invest in zero waste solutions such as redesign, reduce, repair, reuse, composting and recycling, and work to be more action-oriented (e.g., 'implement, enact, develop') versus the present emphasis on 'testing, encouraging and piloting'. Actions should include:
 - Waste prevention such as cutting unnecessary packaging and preventing food waste.
 - Reuse and Repair - making it easier so presently unusable items do not get thrown out.
 - Recycling and Composting - enhancing programs to be simple and consistent to ensure clean materials are captured properly. Multifamily, business, institutions, industry and construction locations need to have better programs and services.
 - Reducing toxicity - include actions to decrease the use of toxic materials, let alone to reduce the emission of toxic pollution.
 - Enforcing and enhancing existing bans with more inspections, a requirement for clean bags and mandatory source separation.
6. Single use plastics – “Metro Vancouver’s targets are based on a 30% reduction in single-use items by 2050.” While the 30% reduction may appear reasonable by 2050, this issue will likely take greater and greater prominence with all levels of government and circular economy organizations, a much greater aspiration to 2050 would seem reasonable. This is underscored by: the emerging science on micro-plastics; the relative importance of the issue as emphasized in Strategy 1.1; and, since 'Plastics' is one of the top five priority sectors being focused on in Strategy 1.3.3. And, again, interim targets of sufficient aspiration would help to further focus efforts towards greater achievement.
7. Establish and commit to a timeline with strategically-selected quantifiable actions, and the associated budget to ensure the plan can be fully implemented to achieve the final agreed-to targets.
8. Invest in the future - choose solutions that reduce waste without locking the region into expensive disposal systems.



4

Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

January 22, 2026

ABOUT METRO VANCOUVER

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, and provides affordable housing. The organization is a regional federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. It is made up of four separate legal entities, each governed by a Board of Directors made up of elected officials from the member jurisdictions.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations: ḱícəy̓ (Katzie), ḱʷɑ:ńłəń (Kwantlen), kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Semiahmo, Sḱwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh).

JURISDICTIONS IN THE REGION

Jurisdictions in the Region

GVS&DD Members		
Village of Anmore	City of Pitt Meadows	Village of Belcarra
City of Burnaby	City of Port Coquitlam	Bowen Island Municipality
City of Coquitlam	City of Port Moody	Village of Lions Bay
City of Delta	City of Richmond	scəwəθən məsteyəx ^w (Tsawwassen First Nation)
Electoral Area A*	City of Surrey	
City of Langley	City of Vancouver	
Township of Langley	District of West Vancouver	
City of Maple Ridge	City of White Rock	
City of New Westminster		
City of North Vancouver		
District of North Vancouver		

*The Director representing Electoral Area A on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District is a member of the GVS&DD Board.

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METRO VANCOUVER'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

² Solid waste management is the term used to describe ¹ how products, packaging, construction and demolition materials, food scraps, yard and garden trimmings, and other materials from residential, commercial, and institutional sources are managed when they're no longer needed for their original purpose. It ³ includes the decisions we make when preventing and reducing garbage, using recycling and green building ⁴ and the services provided by companies, governments, and non-profits to collect, transport, and process these materials.

This plan will ⁵ guide solid ⁶ waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while ⁷ addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. The plan identifies how our region can continue to prevent and reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work toward a circular economy. Together as a region, we need to think about how we purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver to better manage our solid waste.

Vision and Guiding Principles

A vision statement and guiding principles for the solid waste management plan have been established, with input from First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

Vision: A thriving region where nothing is wasted and resources are valued.

Summary of Comments on Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Page: 5

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:21:21 AM

 Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:21:01 AM

 Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:23:39 AM

 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:24:30 AM
what about other aspects of the waste hierarchy - e.g., reusing, repurposing?

 Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:22:59 AM
First things first - reverse the order of these two clauses in this sentence.

 Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:25:06 AM

 Number: 6 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:26:36 AM
Choice of terms 'guide' (over 10 years) and 'address' (over 20-25 years)?

 Number: 7 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:25:11 AM

Guiding Principles

- 1 A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region.
- 2 A solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges.
- 3 Accountability from residents, businesses, and governments to prevent waste.
- 4 Environmental stewardship and climate action.
- 5 Inclusive solid waste services and programs.
- 6 Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation.
- 7 Transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling.



These guiding principles are specific to the Metro Vancouver region, and complement the set of guiding principles provided by the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks in A [Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning](#).

Goals and Hierarchy

The goals of the solid waste management plan describe the long-term aims to be achieved by the plan. The goals link closely to Metro Vancouver's waste management hierarchy, which builds on the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy to outline priorities for solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region. The highest priorities are at the top of the hierarchy, and are associated with actions that preserve resources, prevent waste, and help transition to a circular economy. Specific terms used within the goals and hierarchy are defined in the glossary, and more context for each goal is provided in the Strategies and Actions section of the plan.

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:31:19 AM
Accountability "to and from" residents, etc.....

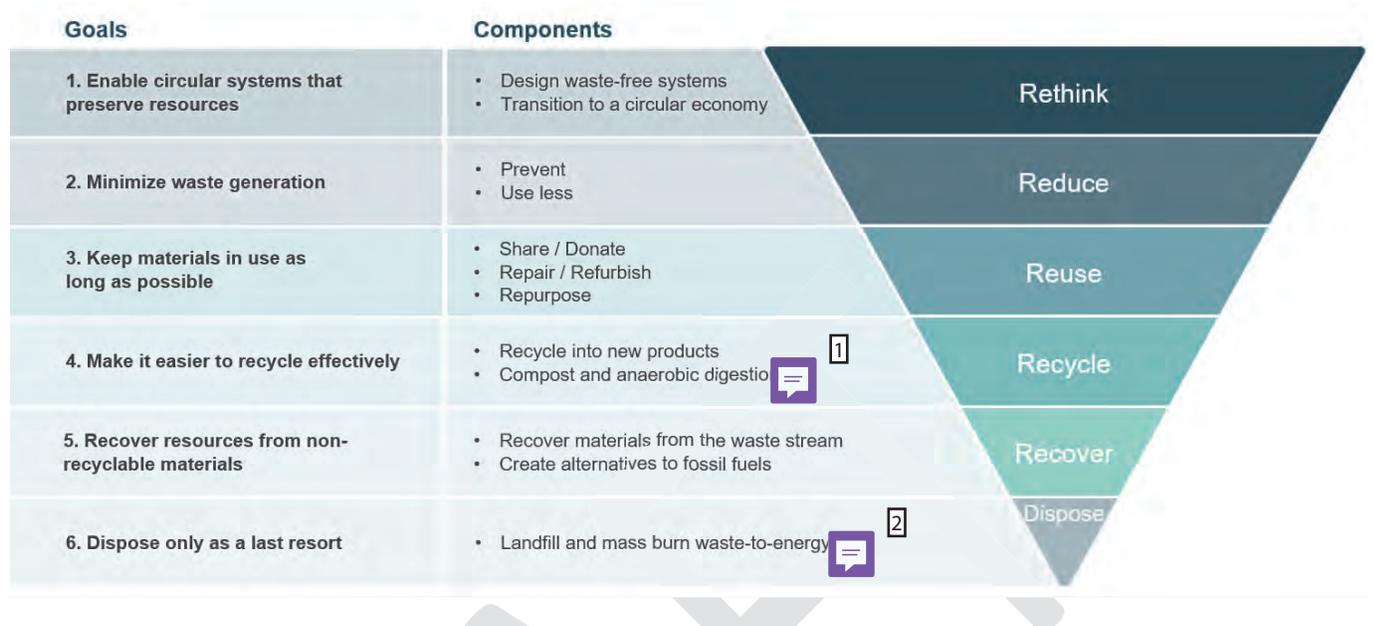


Figure 1: Goals and Hierarchy

Primary Performance Metrics and Targets

Performance metrics for this plan are categorized into primary and secondary metrics. The targets described in this plan correspond to the primary metrics of waste generation, diversion and recycling, disposal, and greenhouse gas emissions. The performance targets set by this plan were developed using existing baseline data and represent progress across all levels of the hierarchy.

To measure progress toward the goals of transitioning to a circular economy where resources are preserved, minimizing waste generation, and keeping materials in use as long as possible, this Plan establishes ³ target to reduce per capita waste generation in the region by 20% from 2025 levels (less than 1 tonne/capita) by 2050, calculated on a rolling 5 year average. This waste generation target reflects Metro Vancouver’s commitment to rethinking consumption and preventing waste.

To align with the goals of making it easier to recycle effectively and recover resources from non-recyclable materials, waste must, as much as possible, be diverted away from landfill disposal and mass burn waste-to-energy into programs aimed at recycling materials back into new materials, ⁴ before recovering materials as fuel. The second target of the updated plan is to achieve a 75% recycling rate and 80% diversion rate by 2050. The difference between the two can be described as follows:

⁵ Recycling rate refers to the tonnes of source separated material recycled into new products, including compost, as a proportion of the total tonnes of all material recycled, recovered and disposed.

⁶ Diversion includes all of the material recycled plus any material used to create alternatives to fossil fuels, and any material recovered from the waste stream used for any purpose. The diversion rate refers to

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:28:46 AM

 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:28:43 AM
Would not anaerobic digestion be better under "5"?

 Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 11:38:21 AM

 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:26:35 AM
What is the latest (over the last 10-15 years) on WtE? Aren't most European countries shutting them down now?

 Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-17 11:31:40 AM
20% by 2025 is in the past now. What has been the reduction % by 2025? Also, additional targets prior to 2050 prompt more pragmatic shorter-term efforts (i.e., 2030, 2035, 2040).

 Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-17 11:32:07 AM
If the Burnaby incinerator should be closed, statements such as this are unnecessary.

 Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:47:35 AM

 Number: 6 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:47:55 AM

the tonnes of material diverted as a portion of the total tonnes of material recycled, recovered and disposed.

¹To reflect the goal of disposal only as a last resort, this plan sets a target for the Metro Vancouver region to reduce the waste disposal rate to less than 210 kg per capita: a 50% reduction from 2025 levels by 2050, exceeding the provincial benchmark. As of Spring 2026, the provincial target for disposal rate is 350 kg per capita. ²

³As of 2024, the overall regional diversion rate was 65%. The overall 80% diversion target implies the following approximate diversion rates by sector.

Single Family Residential: 77% (64% achieved in 2024)

Multi-Family Residential: 73% (36% achieved in 2024)

Commercial-Institutional: 73% (47% achieved in 2024)

Construction and Demolition: 92% (81% achieved in 2024)

The per sector rates are calculated based on the estimated ⁴practically recyclable or recoverable materials remaining in each of the sector waste streams considering the initiatives included in the solid waste management plan.

Metro Vancouver also aspires to achieve overall carbon neutrality by 2050, as aligned with the Climate 2050 Roadmap which considers Scope 1 and 2 emissions, ⁵not embodied carbon.

The four targets, including interim targets for 2040, are summarized in the following figure, using 2025 data as a baseline.

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:49:16 AM

 Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:37:46 AM

Are not other BC jurisdictions more 'progressive' in the targets - such as Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and the Capital Regional District (CRD). The relative population and capability of actions based on economies of scale alone might suggest the need for MV to lead the way! Also, obviously, the provincial government needs a more aggressive target, notwithstanding the more rural communities who don't have the ability to be as aggressive as larger urban communities.

 Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:50:11 AM

 Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:52:32 AM

 Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 11:55:23 AM

To what extent should Metro Vancouver's SWMP recognize efforts with other departments/levels of government and companies to reduce embodied emissions over time (see efforts by MV, City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver and City of Richmond on the topic).

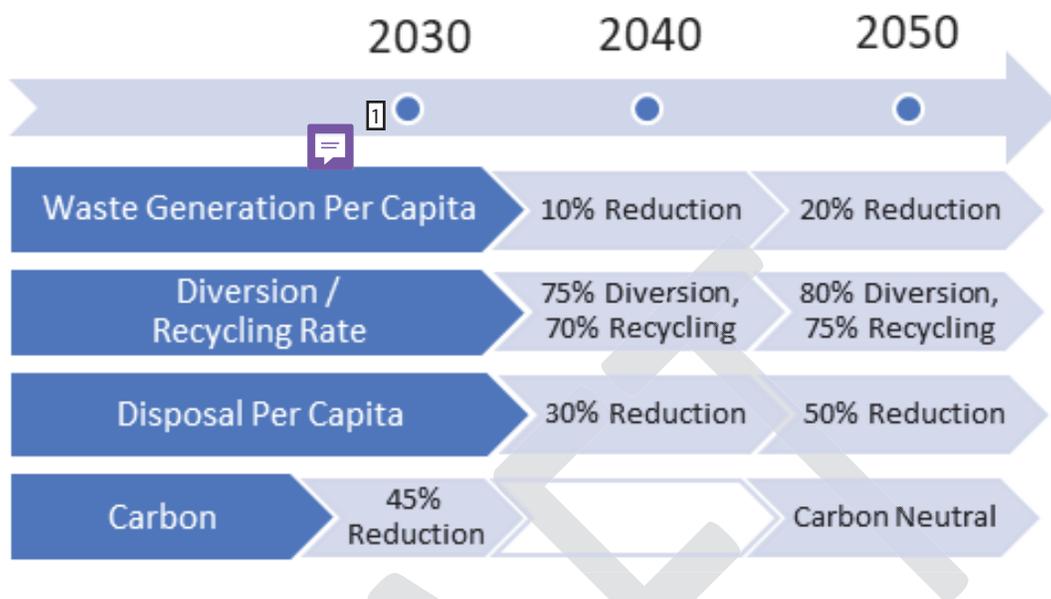


Figure 2: Targets

Following approval of the solid waste management plan, interim 10-year targets will be identified based on a linear interpolation to the 2040 targets. Progress in achieving those targets will be reported to the Ministry of Environment and Parks and publicly annually.

³ Targets for waste generation and disposal are both on a per capita basis. For reference, total waste generation and disposal will also be tracked and reported annually.

Secondary Performance Metrics

Secondary metrics will provide quantitative or qualitative indicators to support progress measurement in specific areas. To enhance performance monitoring, this solid waste management plan adopts a suite of metrics that provide insight into progress and emerging trends over time. Tracking progress can be challenging where quantitative data is limited such as estimating reuse or assessing performance from waste prevention initiatives (rethink, reduce, and reuse). ⁴ A suite of secondary metrics provide multiple measures of performance to assist with reviewing plan progress overall.

The secondary metrics reflect the actions and strategies within the plan and will be reported alongside the primary metrics and targets. The following table summarizes the secondary metrics that will be reported. Metrics will be reassessed ⁵ periodically based on the availability and reliability of supporting data.

-
-  Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:41:28 AM
What is the 'baseline year' for the reduction, diversion, recycling percentages shown? Show the baseline on Figure 2.
-
-  Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 12:01:20 PM
".....and to the public annually."
-
-  Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-17 11:42:44 AM
What is the reasoning to not include, or prioritize 'absolute waste generation and disposal targets'? Land use densification and business/commercial economies of scale practices should, if coordinated and incentivized accordingly, reduce both per capita and absolute metrics.
-
-  Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 12:07:59 PM
This is indeed reasonable and consistent for secondary metrics in general.
-
-  Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 12:09:04 PM
Sense of 'frequency' of such measurements?

Table 1: Secondary Metrics ¹

Goals Categories	Secondary Metrics
1. Rethink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ²Number of circular jobs • number of circular initiatives supported/introduced • summary of advocacy efforts • number of member jurisdictions with circular procurement policies
2. Reduce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of single-use items in garbage • amount of preventable food waste in garbage plus a summary of available information on food loss • percentage of region covered by reusables for dine-in regulations
3. Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tonnes measurable reuse • number items repaired at repair events • ³Number of buildings relocated or deconstructed • percentage of region by population covered by deconstruction or home relocation requirements • tonnes food rescued
4. Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recycling rate by sector (single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, ⁴construction and demolition) • recycling rate by material category • trends in availability of and participation in organics recycling programs • organics contamination rates
5. Recover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ratio of recycling as a portion of diversion
6. Dispose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • energy generated (waste-to-energy and Landfill) • greenhouse gas emissions from disposal facilities

OVERVIEW

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling, and ⁵operating a series of solid waste facilities located around the region. This work is guided by a commitment to environmental stewardship, and affordable and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents and innovative businesses and non-profits across the region, and the programs and services provided by member jurisdictions. Through contractors, Metro Vancouver operates a series of recycling and waste centres

-
-  Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-17 11:46:21 AM
Secondary indicators - How do these compare with other BC (e.g., RDN, CRD – to the extent these comparisons can be done, it would make it easier for regional comparisons, and better for higher levels of government) and other comparable jurisdictions internationally? Guard against 'indicatoritis'. If 'proxy' indicators do not meet their ap'proxi'mate roles, don't use.
-
-  Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-13 12:32:27 PM
Will be interesting to see this roughly defined.
-
-  Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-13 12:37:49 PM
Could differentiate residential from business/commercial/industrial
-
-  Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-13 12:40:05 PM
Why is construction and demolition considered a 'sector', and what about 'new' versus 'retrofitting'?
-
-  Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 12:41:52 PM
so if "for planning for", then "for operating".

where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage, and operates a waste-to-energy facility located in Burnaby. Metro Vancouver works closely with the City of Vancouver who owns and operates the Vancouver South Transfer Station and Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver leads educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage waste prevention, reduction, reuse and repair, and recycling.

Metro Vancouver's Strategic Priorities

Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation in providing sustainable regional services that contribute to a livable and resilient region, and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations. Strategic priorities for Metro Vancouver include:

- Financial Sustainability and Regional Affordability
- Climate Action
- Resilient Services and Infrastructure
- Reconciliation

These strategic priorities guide all of Metro Vancouver's work, including solid waste management. These over-arching strategic priorities, together with the solid waste management plan's guiding principles, guide the implementation of the solid waste management plan.

Governance, Roles and Responsibilities

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including governments, First Nations, the private sector, non-profit organizations and the public.

First Nations

First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air. This extends to working with all orders of government to advance improvements to solid waste management which can help to protect the health of the environment, and achieve environmental, cultural, spiritual, and economic goals for their communities.

Federal Government

Environment and Climate Change Canada is responsible for protection of the environment through legislation such as the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. Many other functions of the federal government can influence solid waste management in Metro Vancouver, including policies and national strategies related to food loss and waste through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, solid waste infrastructure and innovation funding through Infrastructure Canada and Sustainable Development

Technology Canada. Statistics Canada supports solid waste data collection and reporting, allowing for comparison of certain key performance indicators across the country.

Provincial Government

British Columbia sets the provincial framework for waste management through legislation such as the *Environmental Management Act*. The Ministry of Environment and Parks approves solid waste management plans for regional districts in BC. The provincial government is responsible for setting the requirements for extended producer responsibility programs through the *BC Recycling Regulation*. Product stewardship programs are a cornerstone of the provincial regulatory framework to promote recycling.

Regional Districts

Regional districts including Metro Vancouver are responsible for developing and implementing solid waste management plans. Provincial guidance for the development of those plans is contained in *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*. Metro Vancouver carries out this responsibility through the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD), with the authority of the GVS&DD described in the *GVS&DD Act*. Policy and funding decisions with respect to Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan development and implementation are made by the GVS&DD Board, a board of directors composed of representatives of the member jurisdictions of the region.

Member Jurisdictions

Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions collect garbage and organics from residents and some businesses, either directly or through service agreements with service providers in the region, and provide education and outreach in support of these services. Member jurisdictions provide street cleaning, abandoned waste and public realm litter and recycling collection services to protect the environment and public. Some member jurisdictions also own and operate recycling depots or organics facilities in the region. Member jurisdictions have regulatory authority to enact and enforce specific bylaws at the property level and for the public realm, that directly influence requirements for recycling and garbage collection, and for controlling littering.

Waste and Recycling Industry

The waste and recycling industry in Metro Vancouver includes waste, recycling, and organics haulers as well as facility operators and material processors. The industry provides services to all sectors and is involved at every stage of waste management including education, collection and transportation, sorting, and processing of materials. Collaboration with industry is essential to the system's success, its investment and innovation have contributed to the success of waste management and diversion goals in the region.

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 12:52:26 PM
And since the BC Ministry of Environment aggregates solid waste data from regions across BC, this should be included here.....and (or used to) report this data per regional district and (directly or extrapolated) to member municipalities through Community Energy and Emissions Inventories (CEEs).

 Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Sticky Note Date: 2026-02-13 12:54:03 PM
"processing" includes disposing?

 Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 12:54:35 PM

Producer Responsibility Organizations

Producer responsibility organizations are non-profit organizations that producers engage with to carry out their responsibilities to recycle materials listed in the BC Recycling Regulation. One example, RecycleBC, is responsible for the collection and recycling of residential packaging and paper products in the province. As such, residential recycling collection in Metro Vancouver is typically provided directly by Recycle BC, or member jurisdictions under contract with Recycle BC.

Businesses and Institutions

Businesses and institutions in Metro Vancouver generate waste, and many also have influence on how products and packaging are designed, manufactured, distributed and used. Some businesses provide waste reduction or circular economy related goods or services, such as zero waste stores or thrift stores, repair shops, and rental businesses. The region also has several established reuse businesses, and the network continues to grow and evolve. Metro Vancouver businesses that are helping transform our linear economy into a circular one are collaborating with others in their supply chain, strengthening our local economy, demonstrating innovation, building resiliency, and role modeling behavior shifts.

Environmental Non-Profit Organizations

Environmental non-profit organizations also play an integral role in the management of solid waste in Metro Vancouver, specifically with respect to waste reduction, reuse, repair and recycling. Some organizations facilitate donation and redistribution of specific materials like textiles or rescued food, while others work on amplifying the voices of underrepresented and equity-denied communities, so their priorities are considered around accessibility, affordability and availability of services. Others mobilize volunteers to contribute to waste reduction, the circular economy, and a clean public realm, often through programs supported by Metro Vancouver and its members.

Residents

Residents make decisions with respect to the purchase of products and services that contribute to the amount of waste in the region. Residents participate in waste reduction, reuse and repair initiatives, and organics and recycling programs, and are critical in minimizing the amount of contamination in these programs. Residents also have a critical role in ensuring materials that are harmful to the environment and public health are not disposed of in the garbage.

Neighbouring Regional Districts

Materials may flow between regional districts for recycling or disposal. Metro Vancouver works collaboratively with adjacent regional districts to discuss consistency in solid waste management to work toward shared priorities on waste reduction and recycling.

Working Collaboratively with First Nations

Metro Vancouver recognizes and respects the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in Canada, as recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The governments of Canada and British Columbia have enacted legislation to contribute to the implementation of UNDRIP.

In its preamble, UNDRIP states that “respect for Indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment.”¹

As part of our continued reconciliation efforts, Metro Vancouver is committed to meaningful engagement, dialogue, and collaboration with First Nations on our plans, programs, and projects, as outlined in Metro Vancouver’s [Board Strategic Plan, 2022-2026](#). We also continue to build and strengthen respectful and reciprocal relationships with First Nations, guided by the principles of UNDRIP “as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect.”²

The provincial *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* provides guidance on developing and renewing solid waste management plans. The guide notes that a First Nations engagement strategy should outline an approach for sharing information and inviting participation in the preparation or review of a solid waste management plan.

The First Nations engagement strategy supporting Metro Vancouver’s solid waste management plan update outlines a collaborative government-to-government engagement approach with First Nations identified as having interests within the Metro Vancouver region³ as well as a community engagement approach inviting further dialogue with Indigenous peoples⁴.

Metro Vancouver expresses deep appreciation to the First Nations who contributed their time, insights, and expertise throughout the engagement process to update the solid waste management plan. The conversations and knowledge shared have provided understandings that extend well beyond this plan and will continue to guide Metro Vancouver’s work in the years ahead. The solid waste management plan seeks to honour the Board’s commitment to reconciliation. The strategies and actions in the plan reflect key themes heard during engagement with First Nations. These themes include:

- Improving access to solid waste programs and services for First Nations communities

¹ UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 11

² UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 24

³ Metro Vancouver engages with First Nations whose consultative area overlaps with a project location. A Consultation Area is an area in which a First Nation claims their Aboriginal Rights. There are 34 First Nations with interests in the Metro Vancouver Regional District. First Nations’ Consultation Areas can be found using the “Consultative Areas Database,” a Provincial mapping tool available to the public.

⁴

 Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 12:59:01 PM

 Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 1:02:03 PM

- Increasing education and awareness on how to reduce waste and recycle
- Highlighting economic opportunities where possible and considering affordability of services
- Continuing to share solid waste and recycling data to promote transparency and confidence in the solid waste system
- Focusing on environmental stewardship
- Encouraging innovation and collaboration
- Supporting the expansion of the Extended Producer Responsibility programs
- Maintaining high air quality standards and goals for emissions reductions monitoring
- Committing to meaningful engagement with First Nations on projects and plans that may affect their rights and interests
- Recognizing First Nations have an important role in stewardship of the region's land, water, and air
- Seeking to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and actively involve First Nations in regional solid waste management

These and other themes discussed with First Nations have been embedded in the vision statement, guiding principles, and strategies and actions of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver recognizes that all First Nations are unique, and we seek to work with each First Nation to determine how best to move forward together. Metro Vancouver looks forward to working in collaboration with First Nations to achieve the goals of the solid waste management plan.

Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver and the City of Vancouver operate a network of solid waste facilities across the region that offer recycling and reuse drop-off and waste disposal services, as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Regional Solid Waste System



Additional solid waste facilities operating in the region include municipal recycling depots and private solid waste facilities (recycling, compost, disposal, construction and demolition transfer stations, and material recovery facilities plus facilities exempted from licensing such as concrete processing facilities).

The primary purposes of Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities are to receive a range of recyclables and reusables from residents and businesses delivering those materials in small hand-unloaded vehicles and to receive primarily residential, commercial, institutional and residential garbage.

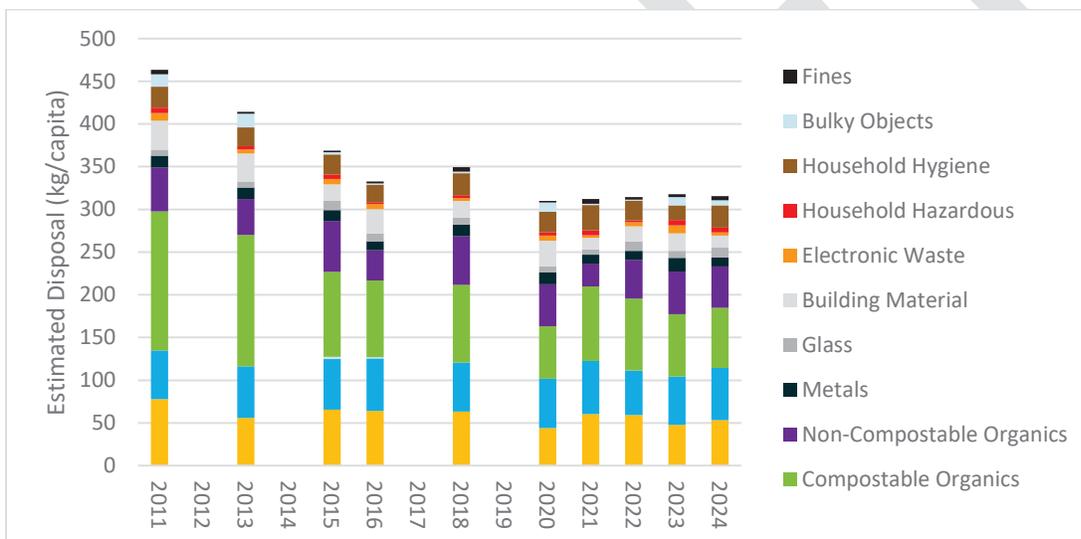
Metro Vancouver is committed to encouraging private sector solutions to increase waste reduction and recycling in the region. Expansion of recycling and reuse drop-off services are expected to be primarily for the purpose of expanding services for customers delivering loads in small vehicles. Metro Vancouver may consider further expansion of services in some circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Instances when private sector solutions may not be sufficient or adequate due to market disruptions, gaps, or failures, particularly in relation to services provided to member jurisdictions,

- Changes to extended producer responsibility regulations that may impact the ability of the private sector to provide sufficient or adequate service,
- Supply chain impacts, including temporary disruptions to facility access or use due to extreme weather,
- Opportunities for cost savings by ¹collocating services at recycling and waste centres or other Metro Vancouver facilities, or
- Pilot studies evaluating the feasibility of collecting and processing recyclable materials which currently do not have a viable market.

Composition of Regional Waste Disposed Over Time

Figure 4: Waste Composition Over Time



As part of the process to update the solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver reviewed progress since the previous 2011 *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* was implemented, including trends in waste composition (Figure 4), disposal, and recycling and waste generation data, to identify topic areas representing key issues and opportunities. 2025 will serve as the baseline year from which to assess future progress.

Circular Economy

The concept of a circular economy is embedded in this solid waste management plan and particularly as part of Goal 1: Enable Circular Systems. Strategies and actions under this goal aim to rethink solid waste management to shift toward a system in line with the plan's vision: a thriving region where resources are valued and nothing is wasted.

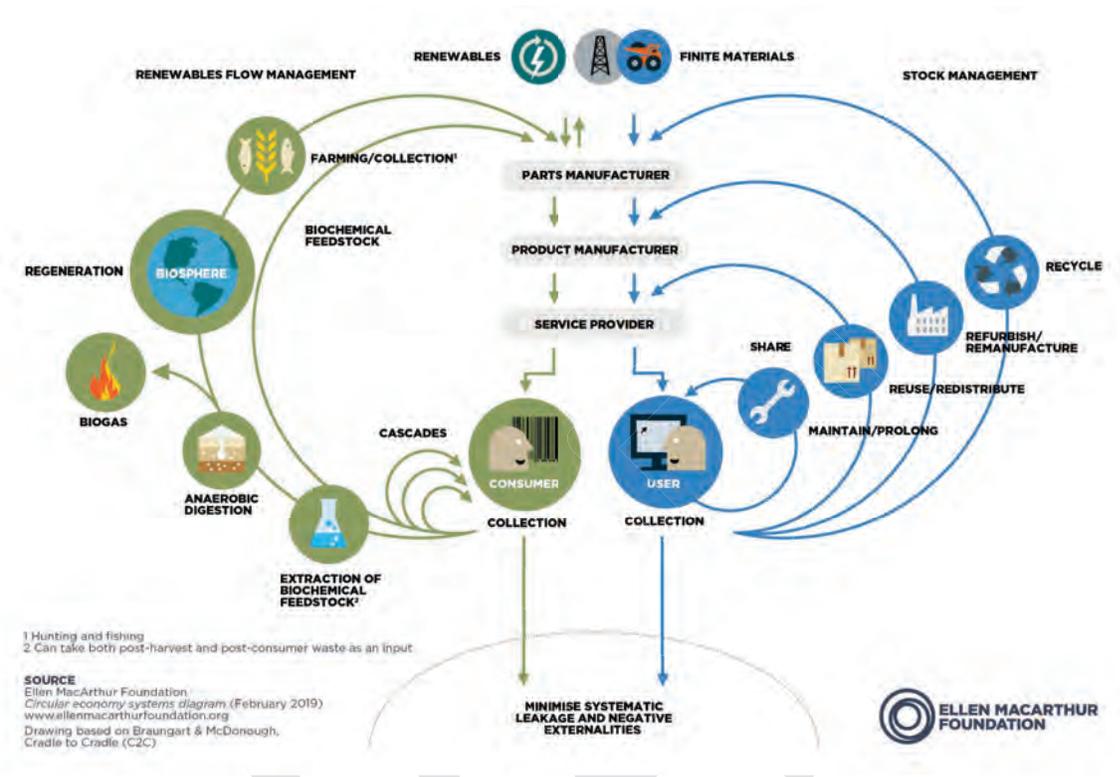
A circular economy is an alternative to the linear economy (make, use, dispose) and is restorative and regenerative by intention and design. Transitioning toward a circular economy means designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use, and regenerating natural systems.

The concept of a circular economy has gained momentum since the first Ellen MacArthur Foundation publication in 2012 which presented the circular economy as an opportunity for significant sustainable economic growth, creating jobs, increasing resilience, and fostering innovation while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Moving toward a circular economy is a crucial step to addressing the impacts of climate change and has the potential to significantly reduce global emissions related to the products we create and consume.⁵ It launched the Ellen MacArthur Butterfly, which presented strategies for technical and biological cycles (Figure 5). It presented three guiding principles:

1. **Eliminating waste and pollution:** developing effective systems that minimize the volume of waste that ends in landfills and negative externalities
2. **Circulating products and materials at their highest value:** enhancing the usefulness of products, components and materials, and keeping them circulating in the economy.
3. **Regenerating Nature:** preserving natural capital and promoting the effective use of finite resources and balancing the use of renewable resources.

⁵ *Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change* (2019).

Figure 5: The Ellen MacArthur Butterfly Diagram



Waste Prevention and Advocacy

Waste prevention consists of actions that prevent or reduce waste from being created in the first place. Recycling is not waste prevention. While recycling is important, it is an activity that occurs after a product or material is used or consumed. The linear economy has created a system where decisions made in the early stages of a product’s lifecycle (e.g. during the design, manufacturing and packaging stages) are disconnected from the cost and challenges of managing those materials at end-of-life.

A focused effort to prevent the creation of waste will mean fewer natural resources are extracted and less energy is used in the production, distribution, and consumption of products. It also means that less spending, public or private, will be needed for recycling and disposal programs. Waste prevention provides many opportunities to create jobs and grow a low-carbon economy while mitigating pollution including greenhouse gas emissions.

Waste prevention efforts require systemic change, which Metro Vancouver cannot achieve alone. Progress depends on collaboration across sectors and jurisdictions, including governments, national agencies, and organizations, along with strong, coordinated advocacy to provincial and federal governments, to advance waste prevention and accelerate the transition to a circular economy.

The National Zero Waste Council was developed following the approval of the 2011 solid waste management plan to support success in waste prevention. The work of the council emphasizes circularity as a solutions framework, and seeks cross-jurisdiction and cross-sector approaches to reducing waste through changes in design and behaviour. Finding solutions to waste prevention requires knowledge-building, knowledge-sharing, collaboration, advocacy, and implementing system changes at scales ranging from local to national and beyond.

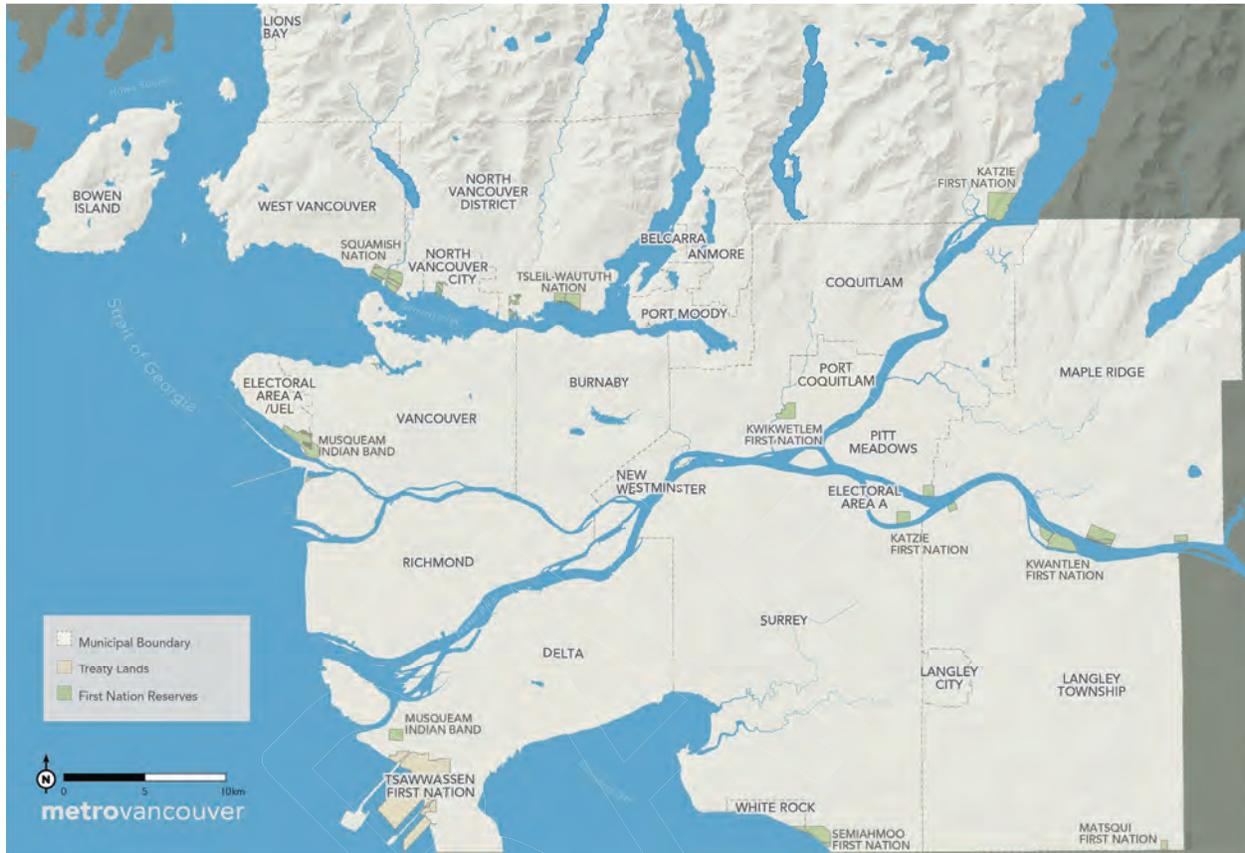
Scope of the Plan

The plan covers actions that Metro Vancouver, often in collaboration with its members or other organizations, can undertake to further advance waste prevention, reduce greenhouse gases, transition to a circular economy, and responsibly manage materials that are left over, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the plan goals. This includes strategies for advocacy efforts to rethink the system, outreach and education, implementation or expansion of programs and policies, and offering services at Metro Vancouver facilities. The plan contemplates strategic priorities for regulation and recycling and waste centre development, as well as technical criteria for assessing residual management options as a framework for future decision making in those areas.

Actions in the plan focus on municipal solid waste: discarded solid material that originates from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources. Waste from agricultural and industrial sources are out of scope for this plan; however, waste prevention efforts may extend to these sectors.

Geographically, the plan covers the extent of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, including Belcarra, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and scəwəθən məsteyəx^w (Tsawwassen First Nation), which are not a part of the GVS&DD. Figure 6 shows the boundaries of the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Figure 6: Metro Vancouver Regional District



Alignment and Linkages

Alignment with National Initiatives

Various aspects of Metro Vancouver’s solid waste management plan align with national initiatives. For example, under the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy 2022-2026, Environment and Climate Change Canada has outlined indicators and associated targets to achieve the goal (Goal 12): “Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles”. The following table identifies two related Environment and Climate Change Canada targets, and comments on how Metro Vancouver’s solid waste management plan will help meet those targets.

Table 2: Alignments and Linkages

Environment and Climate Change Canada Target	Metro Vancouver’s Solid Waste Management Plan
<p>¹ By 2030, the amount of single-use plastics that is entering the environment as pollution will be reduced by 5% and that are sent to landfill by 3%</p>	<p>The updated solid waste management plan outlines efforts to continue Metro Vancouver’s ongoing work to reduce single-use items, which is supported by a robust provincial regulatory framework and efforts by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver’s targets are ² based on a 30% reduction in single-use items by 2050.</p>
<p>Reduce the amount of waste Canadians send to disposal from a baseline of 699 kilograms per person in ³ 2014 to 490 kilograms per person by 2030 (a 30% reduction); and to 350 kilograms per person by 2040 (a 50% reduction)</p>	<p>Metro Vancouver’s per capita disposal target is 260 kg/person by 2040, below the federal target of 350 kg/person.</p>

Alignment with Provincial Initiatives

This plan was completed in accordance with the provincial document, *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and as required by the *Environmental Management Act*. One of Metro Vancouver’s targets is to reduce per capita disposal to 170 kg/person by 2050, which is less than ⁴ provincial target of 350 kg/person.

Metro Vancouver’s hierarchy aligns with the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, ⁵ with some exceptions:

- “Rethink” has been added as an additional tier above “Reduce” in response to feedback received on including a strong circular economy and waste prevention focus.
- “Recover” includes all material used as an alternative fuel, and does not include mass burn waste-to-energy, reflecting that mass burn waste-to-energy is defined as a disposal method to manage residual garbage, ⁶ similar to landfilling; and
- “Dispose” replaces “Residuals Management” and includes both landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy.

Metro Vancouver’s guiding principles complement the provincial principles in *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning*, and were developed based on the unique characteristics and conditions of the region.

Alignment with other Metro Vancouver plans

There is interdependence between the goals, strategies, and actions in this plan and those in other regional plans.

-
-  Number: 1 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-17 5:22:04 PM
Not a MV action, but given our international plastics conundrum, these targets appear 'very' modest. Fyi, the next Federal Sustainable Development Strategy is now out for comment. Does that document also address this issue nationally?
-
-  Number: 2 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-17 12:00:49 PM
30% appears relatively noble by 2050, but still conservative considering the parties getting involved and the relative immediacy/priority of the issue. Especially since reducing plastics is emphasized in Strategy 1.1.
-
-  Number: 3 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-17 11:52:14 AM
So, only a 3% reduction of single-use plastics by 2030, yet an overall 30% reduction of all waste sent to disposal by 2030?
-
-  Number: 4 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-13 1:26:50 PM
Then the Province needs to 'raise its game'!
-
-  Number: 5 Author: admin Subject: Comment on Text Date: 2026-02-13 1:33:15 PM
As Metro Vancouver represents a substantial portion of solid waste and its related practices (with exception to the Burnaby incinerator), it is unclear why these exceptions exist (except where it can be argued that the new enlightenment of one - e.g., rethink - is brought into play before the other is revisited). I'd be curious on the Province's take on the use of 'dispose' rather than 'residuals management' (notwithstanding the incinerator component).
-
-  Number: 6 Author: admin Subject: Highlight Date: 2026-02-13 1:28:52 PM
Though 'dissimilar' given landfills mostly affect water and soil, whereas incineration exposes the surrounding air and peoples to toxicity.

Board Strategic Plan (2022-2026) – provides a framework for regional decision-making, setting goals and priorities across service areas like utilities, planning, and environment, to guide staff, ensure sustainable growth, and foster a livable, resilient region for current and future generations¹

Clean Air Plan (2021) – The Clean Air Plan (2021) is Metro Vancouver’s plan for reducing air contaminant emissions and managing air quality this decade. The Clean Air Plan includes key actions to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions in this region, in pursuit of 2030 emissions targets. It also includes actions to reduce health harming air contaminants², as well as greenhouse gas emissions. Linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to shift to zero carbon district energy systems, accelerate the transition to lower embodied emissions in buildings, accelerate emission reductions from industrial facilities, and implement leading management practices to continually improve regional air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate 2050 (2019) – Climate 2050 is a long-term region-wide strategy to guide the region toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient future by 2050, with actions for all orders of government and other agencies. It focuses on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapting to climate impacts through specific roadmaps for areas like energy, transport, buildings, nature, and health, aiming for carbon neutrality and protecting ecosystems.

The *Climate 2050 Solid Waste Primer* was developed to provide a linkage between the Climate 2050 strategic framework and the solid waste management plan. It provides an overview of the sources of greenhouse gas emissions from disposal of solid waste generated in the Metro Vancouver region since 2010 and offers a summary of actions taken to date to reduce climate impacts and offset over 35 per cent of annual emissions related to solid waste disposal by 2050. Future actions to reduce and offset emissions from solid waste disposal are not included in the primer but instead are identified within this solid waste management plan with the goal of achieving carbon neutrality for solid waste disposal by 2050.

Metro 2050 (2022) – Metro 2050 is the region’s collective vision for how growth will be managed to support the creation of complete, connected, and resilient communities, while protecting important lands and supporting the efficient provision of urban infrastructure like transit and utilities. Linkages with the solid waste management plan include a strategy to advance land use, infrastructure, and human settlement patterns that reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, create carbon storage opportunities, and improve air quality.

Liquid Waste Management Plan (2026) – Metro Vancouver’s liquid waste management plan (provincial approval pending at the time of writing) includes community-specific solutions for Metro Vancouver and its member jurisdictions to manage wastewater and rainwater, and to address growing pressures in the region, while protecting public health and the environment. Key linkages with the solid waste management plan include strategies to diversify options for biosolids and implement proven resource recovery technologies.

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Hence, how is the incinerator reconciled/rationalized here?

Regional Food Systems Strategy (2025) – Metro Vancouver’s Regional Food Systems Strategy supports a collaborative approach to creating a sustainable, resilient, and healthy food system that contributes to the well-being of all residents, the economic prosperity of the region, and the conservation of our ecological legacy. The Regional Food System Strategy has key intersections with the solid waste management plan with respect to food waste prevention and food recovery 

STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS

The following strategies and actions are specific initiatives to be pursued to achieve the goals and targets of the solid waste management plan. They are organized according to the waste hierarchy, and reflect the themes and priorities heard from residents and businesses throughout the region.

Metro Vancouver’s member jurisdictions have an important role to play in accomplishing the goals of the solid waste management plan. While each member has unique goals and priorities reflecting their own community the strategies and actions include opportunities for Metro Vancouver and members to collaborate. Member jurisdiction actions presented in the solid waste management plan are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements.

Goal 1: Rethink

To meet the region’s ambitious waste reduction goals, systemic change is needed through a broad shift toward a circular economy that conserves resources by keeping them in use longer and eliminates unnecessary or problematic products and packaging that cannot be reused or recycled. Achieving this transformation will require new circular policies, designs, and business models. Metro Vancouver will act as a catalyst for this transition by implementing the following strategies:

STRATEGY 1.1

Advocate for  circular economy policies and programs

To enable a systems level shift from a linear to a circular economy, policy leadership from senior levels of government is essential. A consistent set of policies and programs will allow the business community to create innovative and circular waste prevention solutions. Priority areas for advocacy include food systems, the built environment, durable and repairable consumer goods, data collection, and reducing short-lived or unnecessary products and packaging –  especially plastics. Metro Vancouver will work to align with international efforts and join voices with local governments and business leaders across Canada to amplify the message that circular policies are urgently needed to transition away from the current take-make-dispose economy.

1.1.

1.1.1. Advocate for incentives and funding programs for key circular activities:

1.1.1.1. Circular built environment solutions such as design for disassembly, buildings as material banks, and incorporation of used building materials for new construction.

1.1.1.2. Low-waste local food production such as vertical farms, gleanings, food remanufacturing, and industrial symbiosis opportunities.

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Though it was mentioned above that 'agriculture' is not a component of the MV SWMP.

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- 1.1.1.3. Circular products and services.
- 1.1.2. Advocate for the phase-in of regulations that eliminate unnecessary, problematic, non-recyclable products and packaging.
- 1.1.3. Work with other municipalities and regions across Canada to develop and advocate for implementation of priority circular economy policies.
- 1.1.4. Advocate for policies and programs to improve:
 - 1.1.4.1. Circular built environment solutions
 - 1.1.4.2. Circular food systems
 - 1.1.4.3. Circular products and services

STRATEGY 1.2

Help lead the transition to a more circular regional economy¹ through waste prevention

To support the transition to a more circular regional economy, Metro Vancouver will draw on the circular innovation potential of regional businesses by connecting them with the resources and expertise they need to decouple their growth from waste, reduce their supply chain risk and carbon impacts, and keep valuable materials in circulation for longer.

1.2.

- 1.2.1. Lead by example by integrating additional waste prevention policy and programs within Metro Vancouver's corporate operations and share² learnings with other jurisdictions.
- 1.2.2. Work with economic development agencies to:
 - 1.2.2.1. Identify and implement circular business opportunities.
 - 1.2.2.2. Co-develop industry-supported standardized methods of tracking waste prevention performance.
 - 1.2.2.3. Develop a recognition program to celebrate businesses in the region leading the adoption of new circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.2.4. Increase low barrier employment opportunities that support a circular economy.
- 1.2.3. Increase circular economy curriculum and training
 - 1.2.3.1. Embed circular economy into professional development
 - 1.2.3.2. Improve circular economy education in schools through field trips, hands-on learning, and co-developed innovative approaches
- 1.2.4. Work with trade schools, industry associations, practice leaders, and senior government to identify and implement solutions to fill skills training gaps required to:
 - 1.2.4.1. Scale circular food systems.
 - 1.2.4.2. Rethink approaches to a circular built environment, such as design for disassembly.
 - 1.2.4.3. Equip small and medium-sized enterprises with practical guidance to operationalize circular economy practices.
 - 1.2.4.4. Improve access to circular products and services including reuse and repair

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share "learnings with and from other jurisdictions".

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

1.2.5. Work with members to develop, test and share consistent approaches for tracking progress on circular policies and programs.

1.2.6. Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services

STRATEGY 1.3

¹Collaborate to advance a circular economy

Moving away from a linear economy to one that is circular requires a shift in mindset and a commitment to ²systems level change. This transformation also requires leadership by, and collaboration between, government, business, and non-governmental organizations. Metro Vancouver will help facilitate this work ³through a national platform for shared learning, collaboration, and leadership.

1.3.

1.3.1. Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention

1.3.2. Collaborate with external groups to identify and implement new circular economy initiatives in the community

1.3.3. Work with national waste reduction and circular economy organizations to learn and share circular practices with a focus on the following priority sectors, and other sectors and materials as they emerge:

⁴1.3.3.1. Textiles

1.3.3.2. Procurement

1.3.3.3. Cities

1.3.3.4. The built environment

1.3.3.5. Plastics

1.3.4. Collaborate on research projects and pilots to further advance waste reduction and a circular economy, and share the findings broadly

1.3.4.1. Collaborate with governments and industry to develop ⁵digital tools that map how buildings are constructed and what materials they contain, enabling better tracking and forecasting of used ⁶building materials for reuse

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

1.3.5. Develop, test and share circular procurement approaches, tools and templates (ID030/ID160).

STRATEGY 1.4

Collect and share ⁷data to track progress toward a circular economy

⁸*Clear and consistent reporting frameworks and metrics are vital for advancing the circular economy. They provide data to measure and track progress, help inform decisions, and demonstrate the value of*

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circular business models. Metro Vancouver will work across sectors to help develop and share best practices and results to enable a shared understanding of circular economic progress.

1.4.

- 1.4.1. Work toward ¹ annual solid waste management reporting by material type on all levels of the waste hierarchy, starting with organics, wood, and textiles
 - 1.4.1.1. Explore feasibility of complementing this data with comprehensive materials flows for key sectors every 5-10 years to better track progress toward keeping materials in circulation for longer.
- 1.4.2. Continue to develop and improve ² key performance indicators to track progress on circular economy through rethinking and reducing waste.
- 1.4.3. Develop methods for ³ estimating and reporting environmental and economic benefits for waste prevention actions such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (potentially including embodied carbon), potential cost savings, affordability, and life-cycle impacts.
- 1.4.4. Explore new data collection technology.
- 1.4.5. ⁴ Strengthen waste composition data to improve actionable insights.
- 1.4.6. Research and pilot ways to measure success of collaborations.
- 1.4.7. Explore ways to measure ⁵ diversity, equity, and inclusion in solid waste data starting with current practices and gaps.

Goal 2: Reduce

STRATEGY 2.1

Collaborate with businesses and institutions to ⁶ reduce waste at the source

Businesses deliver products and services that meet the daily needs of Metro Vancouver residents.

⁷ *Starting with the construction, demolition, textiles, and hospitality sectors, Metro Vancouver will work with businesses and institutions to reduce waste generated in delivering these products and services.*

2.1.

- 2.1.1. Collaborate with member jurisdictions and the construction and demolition sector to develop solutions for waste reduction that can be implemented at the regional level:
 - 2.1.1.1. Co-host events with the construction and demolition industry, housing and development sectors, and member jurisdictions to help build awareness, share success stories and workshop solutions to reduce waste.
 - 2.1.1.2. ⁸ Update the Metro Vancouver Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Toolkit starting with refreshed case studies that follow a format developed collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions.
- 2.1.2. Research and summarize the challenges and opportunities related to reducing construction and demolition waste.
- 2.1.3. Connect with member jurisdictions and the ⁹ textiles sector to develop solutions for textile waste reduction.
- 2.1.4. Support reduction of waste from business with practical tools and education:

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- 2.1.4.1. Co-develop ¹education tools with business leaders and associations to help businesses reduce waste, motivate customers to participate, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.
- 2.1.4.2. Increase ²in-person education where businesses and others can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.
- 2.1.5. Host forums with ³large generators of waste to co-develop waste reduction solutions.
- 2.1.6. Work with high waste generation sectors to develop and promote circular procurement tools and templates.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 2.1.7. Develop, test and share approaches to further measures and ⁴reduce commercial and institutional waste.
- 2.1.8. Develop, test and share definitions and approaches for zoning and development bylaws to clarify ⁵siting requirements for waste reduction and recycling activities.

STRATEGY 2.2

Encourage residents to reduce and prevent waste

Many materials and products in British Columbia can be recycled, which has contributed to Metro Vancouver's high recycling rate. However, to achieve the waste reduction goals outlined in this plan, we need to go beyond recycling and ⁷focus on preventing waste before it is created. The everyday ⁶waste prevention habits of residents add up to make a big difference. Metro Vancouver will encourage residents to prevent waste by implementing the following actions:

2.2.

- 2.2.1. Increase in-person education where residents can talk directly with waste reduction educators.
- 2.2.2. ⁸Educate residents on affordable everyday waste prevention actions, measure and communicate the estimated impact, and celebrate high performers.
- 2.2.3. Expand education tools to help residents of multi-family buildings to reduce waste, increase participation, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.

STRATEGY 2.3

Prioritize ⁹food waste reduction initiatives for the ¹⁰commercial and institutional sectors

Food production requires significant resources — land, water, and energy — and often involves long-distance transportation before reaching local stores, restaurants, and businesses. Yet, much of this food is still wasted. Through the actions below, Metro Vancouver will support residents and businesses to reduce the amount of food that is wasted. This will help reduce waste locally and decrease the global environmental impacts associated with food loss from food production.

2.3.

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- 2.3.1. Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste by improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods.
- 2.3.2. Share learnings through resources with a particular focus on the hospitality and entertainment sectors.

Goal 3: Reuse

STRATEGY 3.1

Support consistent approaches to reuse

Consistent approaches to government reuse policies and programs can reduce confusion for residents, improve efficiency for businesses, and help enable widespread adoption. Metro Vancouver will play a convening role to develop, test, and share guidance around aligning programs and policies for reusable food service ware and salvaged building materials through the following actions:

3.1.

- 3.1.1. Advocate for the phase in of reusable food service ware requirements for non-residential sectors.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 3.1.2. Develop, test and share improved tools and approaches for house relocation and deconstruction programs and policies including data review.
- 3.1.3. Update the regionally harmonized approach to reducing single-use items and phasing in reuse measures.

STRATEGY 3.2

Enhance extended producer responsibility programs

Since the development of extended producer responsibility programs in British Columbia, Metro Vancouver has supported shifting recycling, reuse, and repair responsibilities to producers while advocating for continued expansion to include more sectors and material types. Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in discussions with the province, producer responsibility organizations, and member jurisdictions to build on the success of these programs. These actions focus on the role of extended producer responsibility programs in advancing recycling and their potential to facilitate the implementation of reuse and repair systems.

3.2.

- 3.2.1. Identify and advocate for additional products to be added to extended producer responsibility programs such as mattresses, textiles, household furniture, and packaging from sectors such as care homes and schools with similar materials to residential recycling programs.
- 3.2.2. Advocate for accelerated implementation of residential collection of an expanded suite of materials including soft plastics and foam.

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Would encouraging more localized food production (to reduce food waste exacerbated by long distance transport) not also be in the purview of MV's SWMP.....similar to MV's involvement in this document of rethinking waste before it even becomes part of the waste hierarchy?				
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Is this soft'ware' or does 'ware' have some other meaning?				
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- 3.2.3. Explore opportunities for expanded recycling drop-off options for products, including mobile options to improve convenience and accessibility.
- 3.2.4. Advocate for consistent extended producer responsibility programs across Canada.
- 3.2.5. Advocate for collection programs that reduce barriers for recycling large items.
- 3.2.6. Participate in extended producer responsibility program engagements and advocate for:
 - 3.2.6.1. Improvements to existing programs and the implementation of new programs.
 - 3.2.6.2. Increased financial incentives for local government to participate in collection of producer responsibility programs.
 - 3.2.6.3. Expansion of residential-only packaging drop-off programs to small businesses.
 - 3.2.6.4. The inclusion of reuse and repair in extended producer responsibility programs.

STRATEGY 3.3

Increase reuse of used building materials

To accommodate a growing region, more single-family homes are being removed to make way for higher density housing. As a result, construction and demolition waste - already a significant portion of the region's waste - is expected to continue to grow. Salvage and reuse of building materials can support affordability and reduce the strain on disposal capacity from increased densification of the housing stock. Building relocation, salvage, and reuse of building materials remains relatively uncommon. Metro Vancouver will work to increase these activities through the following actions:

3.3.

- 3.3.1. Advocate to increase the use of used building materials in new projects.
- 3.3.2. Foster further development of second-hand building material markets.
 - 3.3.2.1. Encourage the development of facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use
 - 3.3.2.2. Explore options for implementing an online marketplace for salvaged construction and demolition materials.
 - 3.3.2.3. Encourage residents to incorporate more used building materials into their home renovation projects.
- 3.3.3. Work collaboratively with industry and member jurisdictions to:
 - 3.3.3.1. Increase reuse in the construction and demolition sector.
 - 3.3.3.2. Research and explore innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building material resale.

STRATEGY 3.4

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

The public's ability to reduce waste often depends on the choices made by businesses, institutions, and event organizers — many of which increasingly rely on single-use products and packaging. In the hospitality and entertainment sectors, items such as disposable cups, containers, utensils, and food accessories are used briefly before being disposed or recycled. For electronics and appliances, repair can be costly or difficult to navigate. Metro Vancouver will work collaboratively with other levels of

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government, event organizers, businesses, and institutions to ¹expand reuse, repair, and refill options that are convenient, affordable, and easy for residents to participate in.

3.4.

3.4.1. Advocate for funding for the expansion and development of reuse and repair infrastructure such as ²borrowing of items and products at public libraries, refill at retail, packaging reuse systems, furniture reuse, and a community reuse options database.

3.4.2. Explore the feasibility of a ³business funding program to support the transition to reuse, refill, repair.

3.4.3. Collaborate with event organizers, event venues, and institutions to implement ⁴reusable food service ware, bag reuse programs, and food recovery.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

3.4.4. Develop, test and share best practices for waste reduction and recycling for public realm events, prioritizing surplus food redistribution, use of reusable food service ware, and litter reduction.

STRATEGY 3.5

Increase access to and foster the ⁵broad adoption of reuse, refill and repair. *Sharing and repairing are already happening in a grassroots capacity through community fridges, repair cafés, thrift and vintage stores, buy-nothing groups, and lending libraries. However, access and reliability of these options vary across the region. Metro Vancouver will work to ⁶expand these opportunities and make it easier for residents to access reliable reuse, refill, and repair options through the following actions:*

3.5.

3.5.1. Continue to ⁷scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres.

3.5.2. Work collaboratively with food recovery and product reuse organizations to develop a where to reuse, refill, repair ⁸data set that can be displayed in universally accessible maps.

3.5.3. Support multi-family buildings to increase donation collection options for reusable items such as clothing and books.

3.5.4. Research and trial additional ways to scale reuse and repair.

3.5.4.1. Support community-based waste reduction and reuse programs for ⁹schools, non-profits organizations and community groups

3.5.4.2. Expand and improve convenience of ¹⁰online and in-person second-hand marketplaces.

3.5.4.3. Facilitate expansion of community-based solutions like ¹¹community share fridges and buy-nothing groups.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

3.5.5. Facilitate opportunities to ¹²increase the size, number, and frequency of repair and reuse events such as community garage sales, repair cafes, and clothing swaps.

STRATEGY 3.6

Scale efforts to ¹³recover food

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Some businesses and organizations in the region produce surplus food, while others need donations as one way to support those who are experiencing food insecurity. Surplus food can also be turned into food products for human and animal consumption. Developing efficient ways to connect those with surplus food to those that need food can reduce waste and help address food insecurity. Metro Vancouver will strengthen and expand the regional food recovery network to help ensure food is put to its highest best use.

3.6.

3.6.1. Maintain and scale a regional food recovery network.

3.6.1.1. Further map out food recovery assets/food waste solutions for each stage of the food supply chain, including a focus on clarifying what foods can be donated to people and animals.

3.6.1.2. Work toward developing a complete set of food recovery data for the region and consider incentives to encourage reporting.

3.6.1.3. Continue to share results of food recovery network initiatives across Metro Vancouver to foster cross-department collaboration on food security and waste reduction.

3.6.2. 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 regional food recovery data.

STRATEGY 3.7

Celebrate residents and businesses that prioritize reuse and refill and encourage more residents to participate in these activities

Early adopters who prioritize reuse and refill can help normalize these practices for the general population. Metro Vancouver will support the shift toward reuse and refill by celebrating leaders in reuse and refill, and encouraging more residents to participate through the following actions:

3.7.

3.7.1. 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.

3.7.2. Promote the use of reusable items such as cups and bags, incorporating co-developed messaging that resonates with a diverse audience.

Goal 4: Recycle

Make it easier to recycle effectively

When products and materials are no longer suitable for reuse, recycling is the preferred option. The Metro Vancouver region has made significant progress in recycling, and separation of recyclables, including organics, is now common practice. Despite this success, recycling faces unique challenges through new and changing material types, shifting markets, contamination, and a decrease in public trust. Metro Vancouver aims to address these barriers through the strategies and actions below, making it easier for residents and businesses to recycle in a way that maximizes benefits while reducing contamination.

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 Number: 13	Author: admin	Subject: Highlight	Date: 2026-02-14 5:19:25 PM
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STRATEGY 4.1

¹Promote design for recyclability and the use of recycled content ²in products and packaging

Effective recycling depends on the presence of robust markets for recycled material, and those markets need both a steady supply of material that can reliably be recycled and strong demand for products and packaging containing recycled content. Although the marketing of recyclable commodities is traditionally managed by producer responsibility organizations or the private sector, Metro Vancouver and its members can help play a role through their own operations, as well as through strategic partnerships with organizations working to increase recycled content in consumer materials.

4.1.

4.1.1. Explore solutions to improve the recyclability of products and packaging, and incorporate recycled content.

4.1.1.1. Work with ³national plastics waste reduction organizations to understand barriers and advocate for increased recycled content in plastic products and packaging.

4.1.1.2. Research and advocate for ⁴improvements to the recyclability of multi-material products including coffee cups.

4.1.1.3. ⁵Enhance partnerships with the provincial government, industry, academia, and community groups to research, develop and share solutions.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.1.2. ⁷Work with engineering design and construction organizations to include ⁶recycled asphalt and concrete in roads, fill, and other applications.

4.1.3. Develop, test, and share ⁸educational materials, procurement tools and templates for recycled products including asphalt, concrete, and compost.

STRATEGY 4.2

Encourage the development of ⁹new recycling infrastructure

Recycling depends on facilities to sort materials into marketable commodities and to process those commodities into new products. As actions in this plan help to increase the amount and types of material recycled, Metro Vancouver must continue to work with its members and the private sector to help ensure that ¹⁰collection and processing capacity keeps pace. Ongoing conversations will ensure the region can accommodate the growing volume of recyclables.

4.2.

4.2.1. Convene recycling industry and member jurisdictions to explore ¹¹how to maintain and increase recycling infrastructure that services the region.

4.2.1.1. Explore opportunities to ¹²reduce barriers for siting of private sector recycling activities.

4.2.2. ¹³Estimate organics processing capacity requirements and work collaboratively to improve existing collection and processing programs.

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- 4.2.3. Advocate for ¹ funding programs to help scale recycling infrastructure and innovation for challenging materials such as food for remanufacturing, anaerobic digestion feedstock, wood waste, and plastic-lined paper products.

STRATEGY 4.3

Improve participation in ² green bin programs and alternatives for residents and businesses

Since Metro Vancouver's organic disposal ban came into effect in 2015, residents and businesses have made significant progress in diverting food scraps and yard waste from disposal. However, compostable organics remain the largest component of the waste stream and not all residents and businesses participate in green bin programs. Metro Vancouver will aim to ³ improve participation through the actions outlined under this strategy.

4.3.

- 4.3.1. Research technology options and support pilot programs to improve organics recycling in the ⁴ commercial and institutional sectors.
- 4.3.2. Work collaboratively to increase participation and reduce contamination in organics programs ⁵ focusing on sectors with the lowest participation rates and highest contamination rates.
- 4.3.3. Continue to ⁶ provide tools and tips to residents to reduce green bin related concerns such as odours and cleanliness.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.3.4. Promote and provide education on worm bins, home composting, proper use of green bins, and use of compost products.

STRATEGY 4.4

Make recycling easier by ⁷ improving convenience

To make recycling easier for residents and businesses, options for recycling should be widely available. Homes, recycling depots, and public spaces are three areas where Metro Vancouver and its members can help provide better, more convenient access to recycling services.

4.4.

- 4.4.1. Work with businesses, recycling depot operators, and producer responsibility organizations to ⁸ improve consistency of recycling collection.
- 4.4.2. ⁹ Improve access to textile donation and recycling collection services

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Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 4.4.3. Update, test, and share multi-family residential (including small scale multi-unit housing) waste and recycling container space and access technical specifications to support adequate space for expanded recycling
- 4.4.4. Advocate for, test, and share consistent approaches to improve public space waste reduction and recycling.

STRATEGY 4.5

Make recycling more effective by ¹ simplifying sorting

Recycling is most effective when the materials are placed in the correct receptacles since this reduces contamination and results in more efficient processing. Clear and consistent instructions, effective signage, and accessible information can help simplify recycling sorting to improve recycling outcomes.

4.5.

- 4.5.1. Explore the development of a ² signage standard and customizable signage creation tool in collaboration with producer responsibility organizations.
- 4.5.2. Explore the feasibility of ³ digital tools that allow users to scan waste items and receive clear, multilingual instructions on options for reuse, repair, recycling, or disposal.
- 4.5.3. ⁴ Centralize and improve awareness of recycling information and resources.

STRATEGY 4.6

Provide ⁵ tailored recycling education for the residential, commercial and institutional sectors

Metro Vancouver has one of the highest recycling rates in North America thanks to the efforts of residents and businesses. However, survey data indicates that some recyclers – especially in multi-family buildings, commercial and institutional settings – are unsure about how to handle certain packaging and products. Metro Vancouver aims to ⁶ improve recycling accuracy, consistency, and participation by providing tailored resources for different sectors and individual recyclers.

4.6.

- 4.6.1. Provide tailored education to businesses by:
 - 4.6.1.1. Developing ⁷ practical online resources for specific business types
 - 4.6.1.2. Working on ⁸ understanding recycling data and challenges in specific sectors including events, film, tourism, food service, and health care.
 - 4.6.1.3. Hosting industry specific dialogues to better understand and co-solve recycling and waste prevention challenges.
- 4.6.2. Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to support tailored education for multi-family.
- 4.6.3. Research and test technologies and share approaches to providing tailored public education on proper residential recyclables sorting.

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STRATEGY 4.7

¹ Increase transparency of what happens to materials from recycling and green bin programs

Transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling is a guiding principle for this plan, since ² transparency helps build confidence that materials are actually recycled. Metro Vancouver will work to provide more information about where materials end up and make it easier for residents and businesses to access this information.

4.7.

4.7.1. ³ Organize tours of recycling facilities so that residents can see what happens to their materials.

4.7.2. ⁴ Show where recycling goes and how it's processed to provide more transparency about the recycling system.

4.7.3. Add information about what happens to recyclable materials in ⁵ online recycling database/search tools.

STRATEGY 4.8

Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's ⁶ disposal ban program

At Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities, loads are inspected for materials banned from disposal such as recyclables. Surcharges apply if these banned materials are found. The disposal ban program helps encourage separation of recyclables by ⁷ creating a financial disincentive for disposing of banned material. By strengthening this program Metro Vancouver can keep more recyclable material out of the garbage.

4.8.

4.8.1. Explore options to ⁸ enhance disposal ban inspection efficacy such as innovative technology solutions.

4.8.2. ⁹ Create incentives for waste and recycling collectors to work with their customers to adopt additional recycling services and reduce waste.

4.8.3. ¹⁰ Review and expand materials included in Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program when viable markets exist.

4.8.4. Explore the potential to ¹¹ increase the number of disposal ban inspections at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities.

Goal 5: Recover

¹² Recover resources from materials not currently recycled

Not all materials are currently recycled into new products due to the nature of the source separation constraints, materials, technology, market, or capacity limitations. While Metro Vancouver will work on increasing reuse and recycling for these materials, there is an opportunity to recover some of their value in the meantime. This can be done ¹³ by recovering materials that would otherwise be disposed or by recovering energy through the creation of fossil fuel alternatives.

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STRATEGY 5.1

Recover materials and energy from materials collected at regional facilities¹ that are not currently recycled

Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver facilities receive source-separated loads of clean wood, which are banned from disposal, as well as mixed loads containing a high proportion of engineered wood products which currently lack robust recycling markets within or near the region. While Metro Vancouver works to increase the capacity to recycle these materials, opportunities currently exist within the region for² displacing fossil fuel use by utilizing energy recovered from these materials as an alternative. Opportunities also exist to recover bottom ash, a by-product of waste-to-energy disposal, to be used beneficially in cement production.

5.1.

- 5.1.1.⁴ Continue to collect clean dimensional lumber not currently reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity or technical constraints at existing facilities,⁵ to process into fuel to replace fossil fuels in district energy systems and other decentralized heating and agricultural/industrial systems.
- 5.1.2. Continue to pursue processing of small load waste to recover wood and other materials.
- 5.1.3. Continue to pursue the beneficial use of bottom ash from the⁷ Waste-to-Energy Facility in cement plants.

STRATEGY 5.2

⁸ Encourage recovery of materials and energy from construction and demolition materials that are not currently recycled

Licensed private facilities manage most of the construction and demolition material generated in the region. A significant portion of this material is wood or other products that are currently challenging to recycle. Through research and collaboration with the construction and demolition industry, Metro Vancouver aims to decrease the amount of material that would otherwise be disposed,⁹ by helping to develop markets for energy and material recovery where reuse or recycling is not currently viable.

5.2.

- 5.2.1. Share information on construction and demolition waste characteristics and quantities to support the potential to recover materials from construction and demolition waste that are currently reused or recycled.
- 5.2.2. Encourage recovery of recyclable materials and fuels from construction and demolition material currently not reused or recycled
- 5.2.3. Advocate for and explore the potential for¹⁰ piloting technologies to convert wood waste into energy and fuel while potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Goal 6: Dispose

¹¹ Dispose only as a last resort

Despite the region's success in reducing and recycling waste,¹² approximately one million tonnes of garbage requires disposal each year. The¹³ Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility serve the

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region as¹ most effective and environmentally responsible local disposal options for residential and commercial and institutional garbage, with² remote landfill disposal available to dispose of any garbage that cannot be managed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility.³ Other materials such as construction and demolition waste, liquid waste system residuals, and soil are an important consideration as optimizing the management of these materials helps to preserve disposal capacity for garbage.

STRATEGY 6.1

⁴ Continue to use Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility as primary disposal systems

⁵ *The cost of disposing garbage at the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility is roughly half the cost of remote disposal options. Continuing to use these facilities benefits the region economically and also allows Metro Vancouver to continue to maximize associated environmental benefits, such as energy recovery and utilization, while closely monitoring environmental performance and providing education for the public.*

6.1.

6.1.1. Vancouver Landfill

6.1.1.1. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to⁶ maximize landfill gas utilization and greenhouse gas emission offsets at the Vancouver Landfill through projects such as renewable natural gas development.

6.1.1.2. ⁷ Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to improve environmental performance at the Vancouver Landfill including minimizing discharge of clean surface water into the liquid waste system and maximizing landfill gas recovery.

6.1.1.3. Report annually on the⁸ remaining disposal capacity at the Vancouver Landfill and generate projections for the⁹ timing of eventual closure of the facility.

6.1.1.4. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to maximize opportunities for early use of the Western 40 Hectares at the Vancouver Landfill, an area of the landfill that is no longer being filled.

6.1.1.5. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to raise awareness about the role of the Vancouver Landfill and the¹⁰ importance of waste reduction and recycling over disposal through open houses, tours, and other public education

6.1.2. Waste-to-Energy

6.1.2.1. ¹¹ Maximize utilization of energy generated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility through projects such as district energy.

6.1.2.2. Continue to further¹² enhance environmental performance of the Waste-to-Energy Facility exploring options to further reduce emissions and increase environmental monitoring.

6.1.2.3. ¹³ Continue to ensure environmental performance data compared to regulatory requirements for the Waste-to-Energy Facility is publicly available.

6.1.2.4. Continue to¹⁴ provide and expand opportunities for education and public awareness on the Waste-to-Energy Facility and associated infrastructure such as interactive

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 Number: 3	Author: admin	Subject: Highlight	Date: 2026-02-14 5:37:55 PM
 Number: 4	Author: admin	Subject: Comment on Text Room to challenge WtE Facility in Burnaby based on international experiences with same.	Date: 2026-02-14 5:38:58 PM
 Number: 5	Author: admin	Subject: Highlight	Date: 2026-02-14 5:39:15 PM
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displays and tours, and the importance of waste reduction and recycling over disposal.

6.1.3. Optimized Use of Local Disposal Facilities

- 6.1.3.1. ¹ Explore opportunities to reduce reliance on remote private contingency disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

STRATEGY 6.2

Use ² suitable procurement processes for any contingency disposal requirements

Garbage received at recycling and waste centres that cannot be accommodated at the Waste-to-Energy Facility or Vancouver Landfill must be managed under contracts with remote disposal facilities. These contingency contracts are awarded through fair and transparent competitive procurement processes.

6.2.

- 6.2.1. Consider, among other factors, the following as part of the ³ procurement process(es) for contingency disposal: ⁴ cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, availability, and reliability.

STRATEGY 6.3

Explore additional long-term disposal capacity if required

According to Metro Vancouver's current waste generation projections, there is sufficient capacity to manage most garbage through the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility, with some contingency disposal currently required. If new long-term disposal capacity is required in the future, Metro Vancouver will research, review, and evaluate options. In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. ⁵ Mass burn waste-to-energy is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world with communities choosing between the two options based on local and national circumstances. Technical criteria have been developed to help guide decisions for selecting the most appropriate approach to managing residual waste, if new long-term capacity is required in the future.

6.3.

- 6.3.1. If additional long-term disposal capacity is required
 - 6.3.1.1. consider the ⁶ residuals management technical criteria outlined within the solid waste management plan to explore options for securing the required capacity
 - 6.3.1.2. ⁷ facilitate broad and inclusive regional engagement on options. Findings and recommendations will be reported publicly before any decision to proceed.

STRATEGY 6.4

⁸ Monitor disposal options for waste that requires specialized disposal

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Are not many countries closing WtE facilities now?			
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¹Some types of waste require specialized disposal. Licensed private facilities exist in the region for managing and disposing construction and demolition material, which is considered a component of municipal solid waste. ²Other materials, such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, and international waste, must be managed according to specific regulations and procedures. ³Soil disposal at the Vancouver Landfill consumes space that would otherwise be used for disposal of garbage. By monitoring these materials, Metro Vancouver minimizes operational impacts to regional facilities and ensures effective management of these materials.

6.4.

- 6.4.1. Engage with industry representatives to monitor disposal capacity and options for construction and demolition materials generated.
- 6.4.2. Work with adjacent regional districts to better understand the ⁴flow of mixed construction and demolition material between regions.
- 6.4.3. Work with the City of Vancouver to ensure convenient and appropriate disposal at Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver solid waste facilities for materials which require dedicated handling and/or disposal requirements such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, international waste, and materials generated outside of the region where appropriate.
- 6.4.4. Work with the City of Vancouver and health authorities to review disposal options for ⁵hospital garbage, the non-biomedical garbage generated from health care facilities.
- 6.4.5. Work with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta to pursue opportunities for ⁶beneficial use of soil within the Vancouver Landfill property so as not to displace garbage disposal capacity.

STRATEGY 6.5

⁷Complete closure activities at the former Coquitlam Landfill

Metro Vancouver owns the land previously used as the Coquitlam Landfill, which stopped receiving waste in 1983. A portion of the site is occupied by the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, a portion is leased to a private entity for operation of a golf course, and the remainder of the site, Lot 3, is currently being used for temporary uses such as house storage. Metro Vancouver is responsible for completing all closure and post-closure activities at the site under Ministry of Environment and Parks requirements.

6.5.

- 6.5.1. Undertake closure activities within Coquitlam Landfill Lot 3 to minimize leachate production and landfill gas migration and prepare the area for end-use.
- 6.5.2. Continue to use Lot 3 to support waste reduction initiatives until final closure.

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STRATEGY 6.6

1 Prevent litter and illegal dumping

Litter and illegal dumping impact the environment and wildlife and result in significant costs for member jurisdictions to collect and dispose of these materials. Efforts to prevent litter and illegal dumping are already underway, but Metro Vancouver can 2 amplify these efforts through the actions listed under this strategy.

6.6.

- 6.6.1. Explore 3 increasing the number of community drop-off events to provide options for large or difficult to manage materials and prioritize diversion over disposal.
- 6.6.2. 4 Support community clean-up initiatives through reduced disposal fees.
- 6.6.3. Enhance litter and illegal dumping data.
- 6.6.4. 5 Review approaches in other jurisdictions to reduce illegal dumping and consider implementation of initiatives proven effective elsewhere.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

- 6.6.5. Develop, test, share and advocate for approaches to minimize litter from residential recycling containers.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies and actions of this plan will be implemented in alignment with the guiding principles, goals and targets. This plan is meant to be 6 a living document, meaning that as new priorities emerge and the relative priority of each strategy and action changes in the coming decade, Metro Vancouver will assess the relevancy of each action prior to implementation to verify each action continues to respond to emerging issues and opportunities in solid waste management.

Regulatory Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan 7 regulatory Strategic Approach outlines the types of regulatory initiatives, such as bylaws, that Metro Vancouver may consider over the lifespan of the solid waste management plan, including how potential Metro Vancouver regulations are assessed, engaged on, and implemented. Recognizing that future changes to regulation require dedicated engagement beyond the scope of this solid waste management plan update, the regulatory strategic approach aims to clarify Metro Vancouver's outlook with respect to any future regulatory actions that advance solid waste management plan goals and targets.

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Overview

The ¹Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) Board enacts bylaws to manage waste and protect public health and the environment. This authority is granted to the GVS&DD by the province under the ²*Environmental Management Act* S.B.C. 2003 c.53, and the ³*Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act* S.B.C. 1956 c.59, Section 7A and 7B.

The ⁴primary bylaws related to solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region are the following:

- (1) The *GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379, 2024*, as amended (Tipping Fee Bylaw), which ⁵sets garbage and recycling fees at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities, identifies recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal, specifies surcharges, and establishes the requirements of the generator levy;
- (2) The *GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996*, as amended (Bylaw 181), which specifies ⁶requirements for private solid waste facilities, including reporting, inspection, and enforcement provisions.
- (3) The *GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.378, 2024*, as amended (Notice of Bylaw Violation Bylaw), which allows the ⁷issuance of penalties up to \$500 per contravention of specified provisions of Bylaw 181 and the Tipping Fee Bylaw. It also establishes a process for ⁸dispute adjudication.

Existing Regulations

Table 3: Existing Regulations

Bylaw	Key Components
<i>GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379, 2024</i> , as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fees and surcharges • Recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal • Generator levy • Hauler records
<i>GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996</i> , as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility licensing • Powers of Solid Waste Manager and Officers • Fees
<i>GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.278, 2024</i> , as amended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bylaw violations and penalties • Dispute adjudication

Since approval of the Metro Vancouver’s 2011 solid waste management plan, the generator levy has been implemented and new bylaw enforcement tools have been added. The generator levy was added to the Tipping Fee Bylaw in 2017 (effective January 2018). It encourages the use of Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities where disposal bans for recyclable materials are in place. This levy also ensures that all garbage generators contribute to funding the cost of the regional solid waste

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system – a system that provides reliable and resilient services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses in the region. The generator levy is included in the garbage tipping fee charged at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities; however, if garbage is delivered to other facilities, haulers must pay the per-tonne generator levy directly to Metro Vancouver. ¹ The generator levy is a key contributor to Metro Vancouver’s continued success in advancing waste reduction and recycling.

Metro Vancouver’s Regulatory Role

At its solid waste facilities, Metro Vancouver provides convenient garbage drop-off for residents and businesses, determines the final disposal destination of that material, and provides both free and paid recycling opportunities primarily for materials delivered in small hand-unloaded vehicles. Recycling sorting and processing facilities are managed by the private sector in accordance with requirements set out in Bylaw 181. ² This system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.

Metro Vancouver’s regulatory authority does not currently include the ability to ³ enforce bylaws at the generator or property level. Generally, that ⁴ authority resides with municipalities. Also outside of Metro Vancouver’s regulatory authority are extended producer responsibility programs and regulations impacting the sale and distribution of specific products, eco fees or refundable deposit fees charged for some products, which may be implemented at the provincial or federal level. Metro Vancouver plans to advocate for continuous improvement of extended producer responsibility programs and regulations at the federal and provincial level that will help ⁵ rethink waste and transition to a circular economy, including design for recyclability, the right to repair, and waste prevention legislation.

Compliance and Enforcement

Metro Vancouver’s Environmental Regulation & Enforcement group is responsible for enforcing the provisions of Bylaw 181, including reviewing licence applications and ensuring compliance with licence terms and conditions. Officers appointed under Bylaw 181 have authority to issue notices of bylaw violation under the *GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.378, 2024*, as amended, which includes penalties of up to \$500 per contravention of specified provisions of the generator levy and Bylaw 181. Bylaw 181 also allows for penalties for each day an offence is committed under the Bylaw, as well as suspension or cancellation of a licence. All active solid waste licences are available on Metro Vancouver’s website, as well as Notices of Bylaw Violation issued to corporate entities since March 13, 2024, that have been paid, upheld, or are no longer in a dispute process. The appointment of enforcement officers is reported publicly.

Reporting and Continuous Improvement

Metro Vancouver publicly reports annually on the top surcharges under the Tipping Fee Bylaw. In addition, Metro Vancouver publishes information from the ⁶ Smart Waste Program to help understand the movement of waste around the region. This information is used to assess the effectiveness of the

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disposal ban and generator levy programs, respectively, and helps inform decisions on how these programs can continue to be improved.

DRAFT

Strategic Approach

Regulatory Priorities

Metro Vancouver’s regulatory priorities for the solid waste management plan align with the vision and guiding principles and can help to achieve the plan’s strategies and actions. These priorities and their linkage to the guiding principles are listed below, in alphabetical order. Priorities are numbered for reference in the subsequent table but the numbering does not indicate relative importance.

Table 4: ¹Regulatory Priorities

Regulatory Priority	Solid Waste Management Plan Guiding Principle
1. Improve data accuracy, transparency and availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to reporting requirements in regulations can help improve transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling
2. Increase reuse and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to increase reuse and recycling demonstrates Metro Vancouver’s commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action
3. Reduce barriers to participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing barriers to participation helps in delivering inclusive solid waste services and programs
4. Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The facility licensing system helps maintain accountability from residents, businesses and governments to prevent waste
5. Support effectiveness of the generator levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By ensuring all generators contribute to the fixed costs of the system, the generator levy supports a solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the ²region
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Similarly, the generator levy enables Metro Vancouver to maintain a solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges
6. Support innovation, particularly for reuse and repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embedding reuse and repair into regulations can spur innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation

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But, presumably, also incentivizes all waste generators to reduce waste down the waste hierarchy.

Example Future Regulatory Enhancements

The following table provides examples of regulations that Metro Vancouver could consider implementing in support of the priorities above. Potential future regulations are organized by what sector they would apply to. Some of these regulatory undertakings would require an amendment to provincial legislation.

Sector	Example Regulation
Generator	Mandatory source separation
Hauler	Hauler Licensing including mandatory source separation and separate management of streams
	Reduced disposal ban surcharges for collectors that meet minimum requirements
	Additional disposal ban categories and increased surcharges
Licensed Private Facilities	Updated reuse and recycling minimums in licences
	Expanded types of facilities that require a licence
	Incentives for innovation within licenses
	Administrative improvements to licensing bylaw including updating definitions

Considerations

For any proposed regulations during the implementation of the solid waste management plan, at a minimum the following will be considered:

- What is the ¹objective of the proposed regulation, and are there ²other options for achieving the same objective?
- Does GVS&DD currently have ³authority to implement the proposed regulation, and if not, what would be required to obtain that authority?
- What are the ⁴resource requirements for developing, administering, and enforcing the proposed regulation?
- ⁵Which sectors, businesses, or individuals would be subject to the proposed regulation, and what is the ⁶estimated impact of the proposed regulation on helping the region meet the solid waste management plan goals and targets?
- What are the expected ⁷operational consequences to the solid waste system overall?
- What are the expected ⁸financial implications resulting from the proposed regulation, such as tipping fee changes or other costs borne by residents, businesses, Metro Vancouver or member jurisdictions?
- At ⁹which level of government would this regulation be most effective? Does this ¹⁰conflict with any existing regulation at another level of government?

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- If amending an existing regulation, how does this amendment impact those currently regulated?
- Are there any unintended consequences of implementing the proposed regulation?

Engagement

Any new regulatory measures will be accompanied by a transparent and meaningful engagement process. Engagement will follow Metro Vancouver’s Public Engagement Board Policy and Public Engagement Guide. Metro Vancouver will also comply with any provincial requirements related to engagement.

Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver’s plans for continuous improvement of Metro Vancouver’s network of recycling and waste centres. This approach sets key priorities and associated considerations in line with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan.

The focus of this strategy is to inform future upgrades, replacements and additions to the Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre network. This network and the region rely on other public and private solid waste facilities that directly support the regional network, and in addition provide valuable services to public and private generators of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials.

Background

Metro Vancouver provides a range of recycling and waste drop-off services before and after the weigh scales at its recycling and waste centres, conveniently located to serve residents across the region. This regional network of recycling drop-off services supports and enhances the programs and services provided by other levels of government, member jurisdictions, producer responsibility programs, non-profits, and the private sector, all together forming one of the most successful and resilient recycling systems in North America. Approximately 88,000 tonnes of recyclable and reusable materials are collected at Metro Vancouver solid waste facilities including, for example, organics, mattresses, and extended producer responsibility materials such as packaging and paper.

Recycling depots located before the weigh scales at recycling and waste centres allow customers to drop off recyclable materials for free. Currently, recycling depots are in place at the North Shore, United Boulevard, Maple Ridge, and Central Surrey recycling and waste centres. The 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan identifies new recycling depots for the Langley and North Surrey recycling and waste centres. Recycling

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1 Depots provide convenient, accessible, and free drop-off of a wide range of recyclable materials including metal, paper, plastic, glass, and other producer responsibility materials such as electronics, batteries, paint and pesticides.

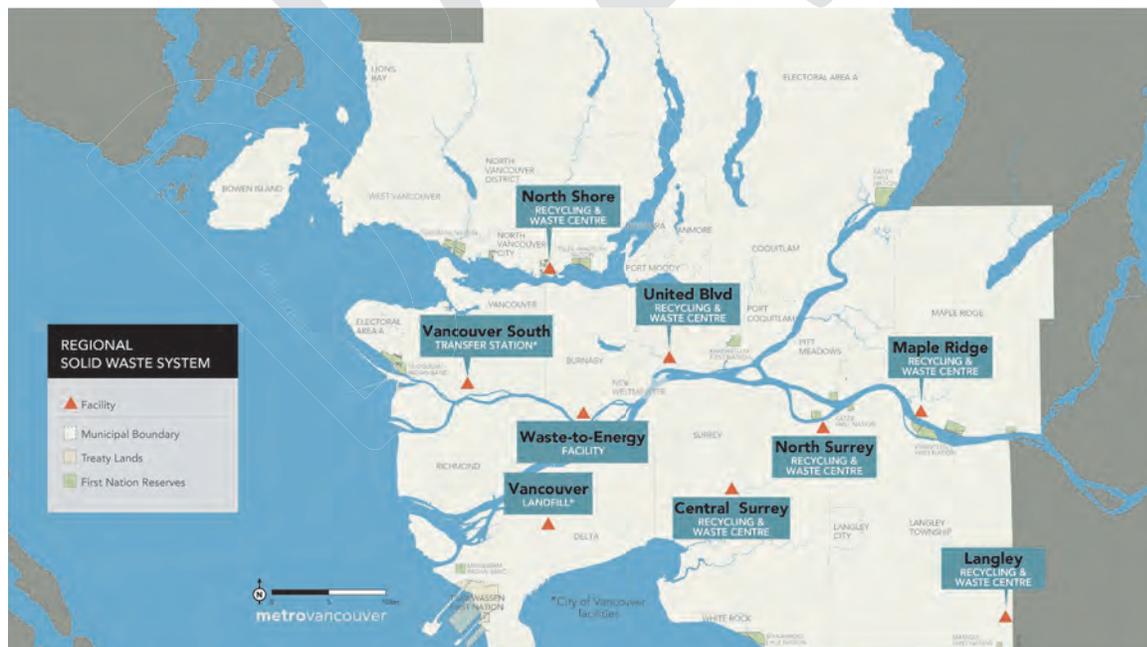
As recycling and waste centre infrastructure ages and service needs evolve, Metro Vancouver seeks to identify system upgrades or new developments to increase reuse and recycling and ensure system resilience while accommodating the region's growing population.

Metro Vancouver owns six recycling and waste centres in the region, which provide convenient drop-off of recyclables and garbage for residents, member jurisdictions, and businesses, and incorporate opportunities for reuse:

- Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre
- Langley Recycling and Waste Centre,
- Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre,
- North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre,
- North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, and
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre.

The facility locations are depicted below in Figure 7, which also includes the Metro Vancouver Waste-to-Energy Facility and City of Vancouver owned facilities (the Vancouver South Transfer Station including the Vancouver Zero Waste Centre, and the Vancouver Landfill):

Figure 7: Regional Solid Waste System



**Owned and operated by the City of Vancouver*



¹ Metro Vancouver uses the term "recycling and waste centres" to reflect the priority to maximize recycling drop-off services. ² Improvements to the system since 2014 include:

- 2014: Establishment of a recycling depot ahead of the weigh scales at the historic Coquitlam Transfer Station
- 2017: Redevelopment and integration of the previous municipal recycling depot into the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre
- 2021: Implementation of a recycling depot funding strategy to recognize the contribution of municipally operated depots to the regional system
- 2022: Opening of the United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre, including expanded opportunities for recycling before the scale
- 2022: Opening of the Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre, reducing overall system drive times;
- 2023: Initiation of design to upgrade the Langley and North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centres to add recycling depots ahead of the scales

³ Various recyclable and reusable materials have been added at recycling and waste centres of the years. Metro Vancouver will continue to add new materials at facilities, and ensure sufficient space is available at recycling and waste centres for this purpose.

Municipal Recycling Depots

⁴ Metro Vancouver provides funding to municipalities operating recycling depots, to recognize the contribution of municipal depots to the regional system. The funding is contingent on municipalities accepting a core suite of recyclable materials at the depots, and making the depots available to all residents in the region. Municipalities continue to independently manage and operate the depots.

Strategic Approach

Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Future continuous improvements and upgrades to facilities aim to ⁶ improve consistency of services at all recycling and waste centres, ⁷ maximize opportunities for reuse and recycling, ⁸ minimize drive times for residents, ⁹ increase accessibility, and ¹⁰ optimize the layout of any new facilities or facility upgrades according to best practices. ¹¹ Cost effective and affordable operations are a key focus in delivering the service. The following table outlines priorities for continuous improvement of the recycling and waste centre network, presented in alphabetical order. Collectively, the considerations under each priority reflect the seven guiding principles of the plan and help ensure that the evolution of the recycling and waste centre system is consistent with the direction and values of the updated solid waste management plan.

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Table 5: Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Priority	Considerations
<p>1 Best practices in facility design, construction, and operation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate best practices in facility design that maximize reuse and recycling, and improve convenience and safety for users such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recycling before the scale at all facilities ○ Flat tipping floors (instead of pits) for improved safety and flexibility ○ Sufficient on-site queuing space to mitigate back-ups of traffic onto public streets ○ Access considerations for cyclists and pedestrians ○ Containers designed to improve accessibility and safety during access ○ Flexibility to add additional materials and space to host temporary events or pilots ○ Traffic flow design that reduces the probability of accidents ○ Separating public and service/operating areas for improved safety. • Reduce 2 greenhouse gas emissions through low or zero carbon equipment and fuel • Consider greenhouse gas emission implications potentially including 3 embodied carbon when selecting construction materials and methods for the development and maintenance of facilities. • 4 Incorporate sustainability features, such as reused or recycled construction materials such as concrete, asphalt, and wood for construction where possible • Consider 5 resilience in facility design and construction, including use of robust, low maintenance building materials • Continue to align with regulations and published industry best practices such as the 6 BC Building Code and 7 Master Municipal Construction Documents • Design for worker and customer safety, accessibility, and inclusivity. • Consider incorporating new technologies to improve operational and customer efficiencies, and to maximize material diversion from disposal • Consider overall aesthetics of the design to improve user experience and reduce operational and environmental impacts such as noise, odour, and dust.
<p>8 Consistent and maximized reuse and recycling opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent services across locations • Continue to expand the types of materials accepted including planning for expanded extended producer responsibility programs • Maximize opportunities for reuse • Ensure clear and consistent communication of services available to increase participation, educate, and build confidence in the solid waste management system • Consider inclusivity in the development of each program

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include flex space at facilities to expand or trial new opportunities for reuse and recycling
1 New facilities developed in areas with expected future growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Account for population growth patterns when assessing new facility locations • Incorporate population growth estimates into drive time analyses • Assess facility accessibility for cyclists and transit users as the region continues to develop and transportation methods continue to diversify
2 Reasonable and consistent drive times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site future facilities close to areas that experience relatively high drive times, accounting for population density (see Figure 8) • Aim to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions through reduced drive times
3 Resilient and cost-effective service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider replacement or upgrades to aging and outdated facilities • Secure public land at market rates where possible • Design and operate facilities in such a way to minimize risk of disruptions due to extreme weather events, or other unexpected occurrences. • Continue to strive for best value solutions for operating facilities and providing convenient drop-off services that maximize service level and waste reduction potential • Ensure that extended producer responsibility programs' contributions are consistent with cost of managing materials

Drive Time Analysis

Metro Vancouver completed a study to evaluate the current regional solid waste system and analyze future system service and infrastructure needs and opportunities over the next 30 years. To evaluate the current recycling system, access to regional, municipal, and private depots were mapped to understand how the system meets service level standards.

The study reviewed tonnage and vehicle data to understand system capacities and developed a model to evaluate the impact to regional drive times, kilometres (kms) driven, and greenhouse gas emissions using a 2050 population and provide insight to potential future facility upgrades, replacements, or relocations to best achieve service level standards. An example of the model output in a heat map for small loads and baseline waste (current system) is shown in the below figure.

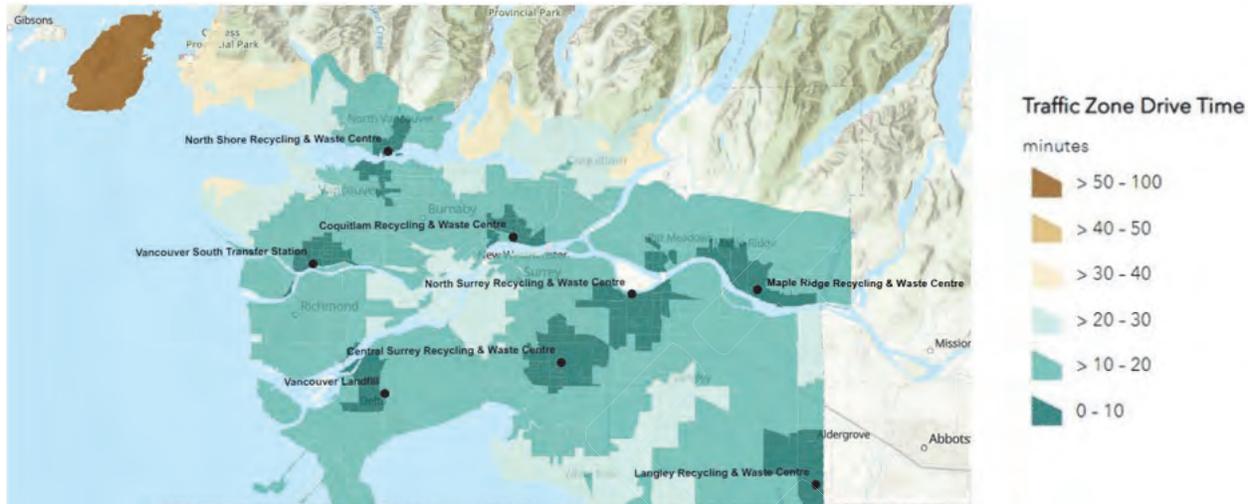
Drive time analysis will continue to be used in evaluating locations for future recycling and waste centre development.

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Figure 8: Comparative Drive Time Analysis



Residual Management Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan residual management strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver’s plans for continuing to manage residual solid waste (garbage) remaining after reduction and recycling, in a cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner. This approach describes the existing process for managing garbage in the region and sets out technical criteria for assessing future disposal capacity if required. As of 2025, Metro Vancouver has no plans to actively pursue additional capacity.

Background

Metro Vancouver manages the disposal of residential and commercial/ institutional garbage generated within the region. Despite the region’s success in reducing waste, approximately 1,000,000 tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. Existing disposal methods as of 2025 are as follows:

- Vancouver Landfill
- Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Private contingency disposal landfills

Vancouver Landfill

The Vancouver Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. The Landfill has been operating since 1966, and currently receives approximately 65% of the region's residential and

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commercial/institutional garbage. Under the Provincial Landfill Operational Certificate, the annual tonnage of garbage received at the Landfill is capped at 750,000 tonnes.

A 2026 agreement between Metro Vancouver, the City of Vancouver, and the City of Delta establishes the responsibilities of the three parties with respect to the Vancouver Landfill. Under the agreement, the Landfill will operate until as late as 2050.

The Landfill provides opportunities for drop-off of recyclable materials and beneficial use of materials such as construction and demolition material for road building. Landfill gas collected from the Landfill is recovered as renewable natural gas, and leachate is collected and discharged to the regional liquid waste system for treatment.

Waste-to-Energy Facility

Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility has operated in Burnaby since 1988 and currently handles about 240,000 tonnes of garbage per year — roughly a quarter of the region's garbage. It is a mass-burn facility that turns waste into electricity — approximately 180,000 MWh/year, (enough to power 16,000 homes) — and recovers about 5,000 tonnes of metal annually. Metro Vancouver sells the electricity to BC Hydro and the metals to a local recycler. Approximately 12,000 tonnes of fly ash and 45,000 tonnes of bottom ash are generated annually at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Fly ash is disposed out-of-region and bottom ash is disposed at the Vancouver Landfill. Metro Vancouver is exploring options for beneficial use of bottom ash.

Metro Vancouver is developing a district energy system to supply heat and hot water resulting from the operation of the Waste-to-Energy Facility, for up to 50,000 homes in Vancouver and Burnaby. This project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70,000 tonnes per year and aligns with Metro Vancouver's goals for a resilient region. The Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System project will triple the energy recovery of the Waste-to-Energy Facility by using some of the steam generated through the combustion of garbage to heat water and deliver it through an underground piping network to nearby neighbourhoods.

Contingency Disposal

Garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is sent to remote contingency disposal. Contingency disposal contracts with remote landfills are awarded following procurement processes based on overall best value which consider cost, greenhouse gas and other emissions, regulatory compliance, general environmental impact, availability, and reliability. Metro Vancouver seeks to minimize the amount of garbage sent for contingency disposal, as it is approximately twice the cost of in-region disposal.

Construction & Demolition Waste

Construction and demolition material is generated at construction sites across the region and is typically managed by private processing and disposal facilities. Residual construction and demolition material

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Present power for 16,000 homes, but will supply heat and hot water to 50,000 through new DES?			
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More efficient use of the energy, but what are the outstanding air, water and soil toxicity issues that still need to be addressed by the WtE facility itself?			
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that cannot feasibly be recycled is sent for disposal at a licensed private landfill within the region, or the Vancouver Landfill.

Strategic Approach

Future Disposal Capacity

¹ In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. ² Mass Burn Waste-to-Energy is the primary alternative to landfilling around the world with communities choosing either landfilling or mass burn waste-to-energy. Waste-to-energy technologies, other than the ³ mass burn and two-stage waste-to-energy technology, such as gasification and pyrolysis, have not been successfully implemented at a commercial scale to process residual waste. Commercial-scale mixed waste processing has also not been implemented successfully, with studies showing that current source-separated recycling programs are more cost effective and more likely to help the region meet recycling targets.

Metro Vancouver commissioned a report titled *Residuals Waste Management Options Review*⁶ which includes an overview of considerations of all potential residuals management options and technical criteria to consider for evaluating residual waste management options, ⁴ should additional long-term disposal capacity be required. Table 6 summarizes these criteria.

Table 6: Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options⁵

Criteria Category	Criteria for Evaluating Residual Waste Management Options
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall cost, including initial capital construction, operational, closure and post closure costs. • Opportunities and risks related to revenue generation through selling recovered materials or energy to markets. • Opportunities for efficient or reducing transport costs (e.g. backhauling) • Potential variability in waste volumes over time. • Opportunity cost in comparison to alternative investment options. • Financial risk from geopolitical or regulatory environment.

⁶ Stantec. (2025). *Residual Waste Management Options Review*.

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<p>Environmental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¹ Potential to emit pollutant emissions/discharges to air, land and water. • GHG emissions - direct and indirect contributions and offsets (avoided GHGs). • General environmental factors such as dust, odour, litter, noise, vectors etc. • Risk and mitigation potential from climate change and natural disasters. • Geotechnical considerations (e.g. slope failure, flooding risk). • Groundwater, surface water and ambient air quality protection and monitoring systems.
<p>Regulatory Compliance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or exceeds all current or anticipated environmental and waste management regulations. • Permitting and approval processes required for implementing the system.
<p>Resource Use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land requirements for facilities and operations. • Energy generation and use potential and proximity. • Opportunities for co-locating complimentary operations, such as public reuse and recycling depot services, processing of specific materials streams.
<p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impact on public health and safety. • Public perception, cultural considerations and community acceptance of the system. • Job creation during construction and operation.
<p>Technical Feasibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maturity, reliability and degree to which the system has been proven on a commercial scale.

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Particularly the Burnaby WtE facility.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compatibility with residual waste as the feedstock material and ability to adapt to changing waste streams. • Capacity and scalability to handle expected volumes of waste consistently and meet future needs. • Pre-processing requirements. • Percentage of the residual waste stream effectively processed by the system.
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Education and Outreach

Metro Vancouver’s ¹behaviour change campaigns are valuable tools for encouraging waste prevention habits and are expected to continue as a core component of Metro Vancouver’s approach. Many strategies in the plan have ²dedicated education and outreach components. Metro Vancouver will continue to:

- Share knowledge and collaborate with member jurisdictions to amplify the reach of education and outreach initiatives and support consistency
- Leverage expertise and lessons learned from others, including not-for-profits, institutions, and businesses
- Explore opportunities to increase the public’s familiarity with the waste management system by practicing accessible engagement and meeting people where they are at like in-person interactions, such as public events, tours, and conversations with experts
- Continue to use ³research to develop communications strategies that align with the strategies and actions in the solid waste management plan
- Continue to assess the effectiveness of waste reduction and recycling messaging among target audiences
- Strive to make resource, education, and engagement materials as inclusive and accessible as possible, considering the barriers faced by underrepresented and equity-denied groups, and opportunities to provide material in a way that works best with them
- Continue to use varied communications and outreach tactics that keep pace with evolving technology and trends
- Work with academia on opportunities to test evidence-based approaches to influence waste reduction and recycling behaviours

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Accessibility and Inclusion

Guiding Principle

¹Inclusive solid waste services and programs is a ²guiding principle of the updated solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver will consider accessibility and inclusivity in the implementation of all actions under this plan and will take into consideration the ideas provided when developing new programs, communications, and policies.

Commitment

Metro Vancouver's approach is guided by the ³Accessibility Plan (2023–2026), which emphasizes universal design, adaptability, and collaboration. These principles will be integrated into implementation of the plans strategies and actions to remove barriers and foster participation by people of all abilities.

The potential actions listed under each principle are illustrative examples intended to demonstrate possible approaches. Metro Vancouver will continue to explore and adapt programs and services based on community needs, feedback, and emerging best practices.

1. Accessible Infrastructure
 - Continue to provide clear visual indicators at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste facilities.
 - Ensure Metro Vancouver recycling and waste facilities are wheelchair accessible and meet universal design standards.
2. Inclusive Service and Program Delivery
 - Explore support options for individuals with mobility limitations.
 - Consider adding programs and services for underserved areas and residents facing barriers.
 - Identify and address gaps in accessibility across the region for reuse, recycling, and disposal service access.
3. Community Support and Engagement
 - Foster the development of ⁴volunteer networks to assist seniors, residents without a personal vehicle, and people with disabilities in recycling and waste reduction efforts.
 - Collaborate with ⁵community organizations to provide training and resources for inclusive waste practices.

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4. Education and Awareness

- Provide signage and resources designed to help reduce complexity for residents with disabilities or other barriers to communication.
- Offer training for staff on accessibility to aid in service and program development.

5. Continuous Improvement

- Conduct regular assessments to identify barriers and opportunities for improvement.
- Seek feedback from people with lived or professional experience in program and service design and evaluation.
- Commit to ongoing adaptation in alignment with the Accessibility Plan.

Financial Overview

Overview

Metro Vancouver is committed to reflecting the public's high expectation of environmental stewardship while keeping waste management resilient, affordable, and accessible. ¹A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region" is a guiding principle of the plan.

Metro Vancouver's solid waste management system is ²funded primarily by garbage and paid recyclables tipping fees, with additional funding from energy sales from the Waste-to-Energy Facility, and other external revenues such as recyclables material sales, extended producer responsibility revenues and disposal ban surcharges. This total revenue funds the Metro Vancouver Solid Waste system, including contracted operations of the solid waste facilities, debt servicing for capital expenditures, waste reduction and recycling planning and programs, and the net cost of environmental regulation & enforcement. Most of the actions within the plan are initiated and managed by Metro Vancouver working collaboratively with member jurisdictions, operations contractors, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

³The majority of residential and commercial garbage flows to recycling and waste centres prior to transfer to disposal sites including the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Any garbage that can't be managed at either the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote private contingency disposal landfills in central British Columbia and the United States. After accounting for proportional recycling and waste centre and transportation expenditures, ⁴the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility are comparable in cost per tonne. In contrast, contingency disposal is nearly double the cost, as shown in the table below.

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The Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill are finite resources with each facility having maximum annual disposal capacity, and for the Vancouver Landfill overall long-term capacity.¹ For near term future planning, the only practical alternative to the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill would be contingency disposal at remote private landfills. Therefore, closing either facility would lead to significant disposal cost increases.

Table 7: 2024 Disposal Costs

	Vancouver Landfill	Waste-to-Energy Facility	Contingency Disposal
Total Costs / Tonne	\$123.10	\$122.90	\$230.60

A new agreement between the City of Vancouver, the City of Delta, and GVS&DD was signed in 2026 and outlines the terms for continued operation of the Vancouver Landfill.² Under this agreement, the landfill³ continue to operate until approximately 2050 without increasing the previously agreed height and area of the Landfill. Without the new agreement, the landfill was expected to close as early as 2030. Extending the life of the landfill results in more than \$300 million in avoided future tipping fees for residents and businesses.

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Solid Waste Planning and Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiatives

The strategies and actions in this updated plan prioritize rethinking, reducing, and reusing materials to advance a circular economy and account for changes in the solid waste management system.

¹ Gross expenditures by Metro Vancouver for waste reduction and recycling are approximately \$25 million per year, roughly 14% of the solid waste services operating budget. Some of these expenditures are recovered through recycling drop-off fees, material revenues, and through contributions from Extended Producer Responsibility programs. This includes solid waste planning and engagement staff, research projects, and the delivery of waste prevention and recycling initiatives.

Metro Vancouver Five-Year Financial Plan

Metro Vancouver's solid waste budget is approved by the GVS&DD on an annual basis as part of the overall GVS&DD Budget. ² A five-year financial plan is endorsed by the Board at the same time as the budget is approved.

Actions in the solid waste plan requiring Metro Vancouver expenditures will be brought forward for consideration by the GVS&DD Board through the regular budget process prioritizing actions where business casing shows the highest potential to advance solid waste management plan primary and secondary metrics. Annual reporting on progress to achieve the targets of the solid waste management plan ³ will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments are most appropriately allocated.

Metro Vancouver solid waste ⁴ capital expenditures are approved by the GVS&DD Board on a similar basis to ⁵ operating expenditures. Capital expenditures for the solid waste system are related to new facility development, facility upgrades, maintenance and replacement. Project specific business cases are prepared for any significant expenditures as part of the identification, planning and conceptualization for those projects.

On October 31, 2025 the GVS&DD Board approved the 2026 solid waste budget and endorsed the five-year solid waste capital plan. ⁶ Key actions included in the 2026 operating budget include:

- Complete the solid waste management plan update. Submission of an updated plan to the BC Ministry of Environment and Parks, following Board approval.
- Continue to enhance customer service and monitoring including investigating continuous feedback mechanisms.
- Continue to expand reuse and repair opportunities in partnership with member jurisdictions.
- ⁷ Leverage the National Zero Waste Council to advance the circular economy and waste reduction at a national level.

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Apparently such metrics have not been in place to-date?			
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¹ Key Capital plan initiatives included in the five-year financial plan include:

- Constructing recycling depots at North Surrey and Langley recycling and waste centres to provide consistent services at all recycling waste centres maximizing opportunities for waste reduction and recycling
- ² Biosolids processing at the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste-to-Energy Facility ³ District Energy system construction
- Acid gas reduction system construction
- Funding for land acquisition for future solid waste facilities.

⁴ The 2026 operating budget for the solid waste function is \$170 million dollars. The ⁵ five-year financial plan ⁶ capital budget is \$390 million. The Waste-to-Energy Facility Operational Certificate issued by the Ministry of Environment and Parks on September 23, 2025 may result in the acid gas reduction system requirements changing, which if occurs would be reflected in future capital budgets.

⁷ The weighted average tipping fee for 2026 is \$156 per tonne with garbage tipping fees projected to increase at 5% per year over the five-year financial plan. Tipping fees in Metro Vancouver are ⁸ less than public system tipping fees in comparable jurisdictions such as Toronto and Seattle. Both the budget and five-year financial plan are updated on an annual basis based on expected expenditures and revenues. Annual budget reviews will continue to explore opportunities to reduce expected future tipping fees through innovation and expenditure reduction.

The ⁹ 2026-2035 solid waste operating and capital detail is included in Appendix 2.

Regional District Collaboration

Metro Vancouver is bordered by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to the north, the Fraser Valley Regional District to the east, and the Sunshine Coast Regional District to the northwest. Materials for recycling, recovery, and disposal regularly flow between Metro Vancouver and these adjacent regional districts, as well as to ¹⁰ recycling and disposal facilities in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Collaboration with these regional districts helps to ¹¹ further shared priorities, including advancing a ¹² circular economy, advocating for ¹³ expanded extended producer responsibility programs, and managing ¹⁴ construction and demolition material. This plan was developed with input from adjacent regional districts, including discussions on opportunities for continued communication and coordination.

¹⁵ Not all priorities are shared between adjacent regional districts. During development of this plan, the Fraser Valley Regional District expressed concern about environmental impacts related to ongoing use of the Waste-to-Energy Facility. Waste-to-energy continues to be a cost effective and environmentally responsible method to manage residual garbage, and the facility's contributions of nitrogen dioxide, fine

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particulates, and anthropogenic (human caused) greenhouses gases are ¹ less than 1% of regional emissions. Metro Vancouver will continue to engage in open dialogue with Fraser Valley Regional District staff on opportunities to collaborate, and welcomes additional feedback from all regional districts during plan implementation.

Risk Analysis

The strategies within this plan were developed based on engagement feedback and selected based on their ability to help achieve the plan's goals. Each strategy focuses on a specific part of the goal, such as the type of material, the sector involved, or the method for making progress in each area. If the full list of strategies and actions are not initiated, the plan may fall short of its goals and targets. This can also affect strategies in other parts of the waste hierarchy. For example, if construction and demolition waste is not reduced as outlined in Strategy 2.4, it will impact the reuse of building materials in Strategy 3.3.

² Metro Vancouver will work to implement actions from multiple strategies at the same time under each goal. This approach will help ensure meaningful and measurable progress.

Plan Monitoring

Metro Vancouver will continue to report annually on solid waste management statistics including the ³ targets and applicable secondary metrics outlined in the solid waste management plan. At the five year mark, Metro Vancouver will complete an ⁴ effectiveness review detailing the status of each initiative in the plan. This will be shared publicly, and all feedback received will be submitted along with the results of the review to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

In the event new regulations, facilities, or residuals management options are considered, Metro Vancouver will use the corresponding section of this plan to guide the process. The plan will be maintained as a living document, with ⁵ schedules added as necessary. Any updated schedules will be highlighted in the submission to the ministry as part of the corresponding effectiveness review or submitted for approval as required.

⁶ Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation" is a guiding principle of the plan, and many strategies and actions reference collaboration with First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, residents, businesses and the solid waste and recycling industry. Continued collaboration is essential both for implementation and monitoring of the plan.

Plan progress will be reviewed with a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee representing a variety of interests, experiences and expertise. The purpose of the Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee will be to provide feedback on:

- plan progress in conjunction with annual progress reports

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- planned implementation of strategies and actions
- advancement of measures contemplated in the regulatory, residuals, or recycling and waste centre strategic approaches.

Committee members will be recruited through an application process. Where possible, the Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee will include members of the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee. Applications will be reviewed by staff and membership recommendations will be made to the GVS&DD Board.

In addition to the Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver will ¹continue to participate in ²working groups and committees that operate at a provincial, national or international level to develop solutions on topics such as producer responsibility, products and materials, and the circular economy. Locally, Metro Vancouver will continue to report progress and evaluate opportunities for collaboration and share information through the following committees and/or new committees with overlapping responsibilities:

Table 8: Committees

Committee	Membership
Zero Waste Committee	Elected officials from Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions, as appointed by the Board Chair
Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee	Representatives from the solid waste and recycling industry including waste haulers and facility operators
Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Subcommittee	Solid waste management staff from member jurisdictions
Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee	Solid waste management operations and communication staff from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts and communities

Additional plan monitoring activities include the following:

- Exploring increasing transparency and access to data through a ³public dashboard of solid waste management plan performance indicators;
- Continued provision of data to the province to support updates to the ⁴LC Disposal Calculator;
- Meeting with Ministry of Environment and Parks staff routinely to discuss plan progress and other topics of shared interest; and
- Completion of ⁵regular waste composition studies to determine the types and quantities of material disposed to help monitor progress and inform implementation of programs.
- Reporting out on progress in implementing actions and strategies in the solid waste management plan

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SCHEDULE

All actions within the plan are important, however some strategies within the plan are best initiated early on to facilitate the implementation of others. For example, many of the advocacy initiatives described in the plan, if successful, will simplify implementation of related programs and policies within the region.

As part of reporting on progress in implementing the solid waste management plan, a list of actions currently underway will be included along with new actions expected to be implemented in the next reporting period. This approach will ensure that the scheduling of actions is dynamic based on both the goals and targets of the plan, as well as emerging issues and success in implementing actions currently underway.

GLOSSARY

Anaerobic Digestion is the biological process by which organic matter (e.g., Food Scraps), is broken down in the absence of oxygen, producing raw biogas and other byproducts. The raw biogas is commonly used to generate electricity through cogeneration or upgraded to natural gas.

Backyard Composting means the composting of Food Scraps or Yard Trimmings, or both, at a site where (a) the Food Scraps or Yard Trimmings are generated by the residents of a residential dwelling unit, and (b) the annual production of compost does not exceed 20 cubic metres.

Biosolids are treated solids recovered from wastewater. The solids have been treated by microorganisms and heat to eliminate pathogens and reduce odours. The final product is similar to soil and is rich in nutrients and organic matter.

Bottom Ash is a residual from the incineration of municipal solid waste, largely comprised of slag (stony waste separated from metals), ceramic, glass, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and un-combusted organics.

Built Environment refers to all human-made physical structures, spaces, and associated infrastructures, including buildings, urban infrastructure, private and public spaces, and built assets, that provide settings for human habitation, work, mobility, and social life. This encompasses all life-cycle phases from planning and construction through use, maintenance, renovation, and deconstruction.

¹ **Buy-Nothing Group** refers to an online group where residents can share and obtain items for free from other residents, rather than purchasing new items. The goal is to empower people to keep more items in use, while building strong communities and sustainable livelihoods for the makers, fixers, and others who transform old into new, over and over again.

Bulky Objects includes any household item that is too large to be disposed of via regular household garbage and recycling pick-up programs. Bulky household items include, for example, furniture, large



appliances (e.g., dishwasher, refrigerator), domestic construction materials, exercise equipment, and mattresses.

Circularity refers to a waste management approach that keeps materials and products in use for as long as possible by prioritizing Waste Prevention, Reuse, Repair, refurbishment, remanufacturing, and recycling, while minimizing the extraction of new resources and reducing environmental impacts throughout the entire lifecycle of materials.

Circular Economy is an alternative to a traditional linear economy (make – use – dispose). The circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracts the maximum value from them while in use, then recovers and regenerates products and materials at the end of their service life.

Climate Change is a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere, and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Commercial/Institutional means Municipal Solid Waste originating from commercial and institutional sources.

¹**Compostable Plastic** includes any type of plastic that is certified or labeled compostable² regardless of its actual performance in organics processing systems.

Construction and Demolition Waste means Municipal Solid Waste that originates from demolition or construction sources that has not been handled, managed or mixed with Municipal Solid Waste from other sources.

Deconstruction is the systematic dismantling of buildings or other structures to maximize the recovery of reusable and recyclable materials, as opposed to traditional demolition which focuses on rapid removal and often results in different types of materials being mixed together.

Design for Disassembly is an approach to designing buildings, products, or systems so that their components can be easily taken apart at the end of their useful life, allowing materials and parts to be reused, refurbished, or recycled rather than ending up as waste.

Disposal Ban means the regulatory tool by which defined materials are banned from being disposed of in regional facilities. Surcharges are levied if banned materials are present in the loads, at levels beyond thresholds defined in the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

District Energy is a system where energy from a central generation facility is converted to energy, typically in the form of electricity, steam, or hot water, and distributed through underground piping to supply energy to a larger area.

Dispose/Disposal refers to landfilling and mass burn waste-to-energy.

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Embodied Carbon refers to the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the life cycle of a product or system. Embodied carbon is typically measured in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent (kgCO₂e).

Environmental Stewardship is the protection, preservation and enhancement of natural spaces and resources in an environmentally responsible manner.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is a management system based on industry and consumers taking life-cycle responsibility for the products they produce and use.

Fly Ash consists of fine particulates that are captured in a Waste-to-Energy Facility's air pollution control system. These particulates are a mixture of ash from the combustion process and lime and carbon which are added to capture acid gases and mercury.

Food Loss refers to losses in the stages between production and distribution of food, including spoilage as a result of production and processing technologies.

Food Recovery involves taking good and healthy food products, considered surplus or not marketable by food industry standards, and redirecting it to food programs who redistribute it to individuals and households in need.

Food Security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy lifestyle.

Food Scraps means Municipal Solid Waste that is comprised of food, including meat, fish, fat, dairy products, bread, baking products, fruits and vegetables, whether cooked or uncooked.

Food Waste is the loss of edible and inedible food parts at the point of retail or consumer use.

Generator Levy means the levy payable by a Generator pursuant to the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379 at the rate set out at section 7.1 of the Bylaw.

Gleaning refers to harvesting leftover crops from a farmers' field after the commercial harvest.

Green Bin Program is a Municipal Solid Waste collection program that targets organic waste collection including food scraps and yard waste.

Greenwashing means any environmental claims that are deceptive because they are false, misleading, or not adequately and properly tested or substantiated where required.

House Relocation is an alternative to demolition and involves the lifting and transport of part, or all, of an existing house.

Household Hazardous Waste is a term used to describe a broad range of potentially hazardous products, including flammables, gasoline, pesticides, toxics, corrosives, all of which are not Municipal

Solid Waste. It is critical that they are collected and disposed of responsibly, so they do not endanger humans, wildlife, or our environment.

Industrial Symbiosis is a collaborative approach in which the residues from one industrial process serve as nutrients for another, creating a closed-loop system that mimics natural ecosystems. This concept aims to enhance resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact by forming integrated industrial networks that share materials, energy, and information.

Illegal Dumping is the deliberate abandonment of waste on public or private property. Illegal dumping happens in both rural and urban environments (e.g., furniture left in back alleys, construction waste dumped on farmland).

Landfilling is the process of disposing of waste in or on the land in an organized manner while establishing engineered systems and approaches for minimizing impacts from things like leachate, landfill gas and vectors.

Linear Economy a system where resources are extracted to make products and materials that eventually end up as waste and are thrown away; materials move in one direction, from raw material to waste.

Low Barrier Employment refers to opportunities that are available to persons with persistent and multiple barriers (long-term barriers) and that are not expected to be overcome in the short-term.

Material Banks (buildings) are systematic inventories or databases that document and track building materials and components throughout their lifecycle, particularly focusing on their potential for reuse, recycling, or recovery at the end of a building's life.

Multi-Family refers to residential buildings containing more than four dwelling units. This includes typical building types like apartment buildings, condominium blocks, townhomes/row-housing, or other multiple-unit residential developments.

Municipal Solid Waste refers to Recyclables, compostable materials, and Residuals that originate from residential, commercial, institutional, demolition, land clearing or construction sources or Solid Waste included in the Solid Waste Management Plan. It excludes agricultural and industrial waste.

Organics is unpackaged Food Scraps, Yard Trimmings, Clean Wood, Recyclable Paper that has been soiled by or comingled with food residue, tissue paper, paper napkins or paper towels.

Performance Targets are specific, measurable and time-bound objectives that can be used to assess progress toward a goal (e.g., 80% reduction from 2010 waste generation levels).

Performance Indicators are specific performance metrics that indicate progress toward a given target (e.g., recycling rate).

Performance Metrics are data that can be used to track progress (e.g., tonnes of waste recycled).

Producer Responsibility Organizations refers to not-for-profit organizations or industry associations that are the entity designated by a producer or producers to act on their behalf to administer an extended producer responsibility or product stewardship program. In Canada, a PRO may also be referred to as a “stewardship organization,” an “industry funding organization” or a “delegated administrative organization”.

Recycling is the collection, transportation and processing of products that are no longer useful in their present form and the subsequent use, including composting or anaerobic digestion, of their material content in the manufacture of new products for which there is a market.

Recycling Depot is a facility where residents and businesses can drop off a variety of recyclable materials.

Recycling and Waste Centre refers to Metro Vancouver owned facilities throughout the region where residents and businesses drop off garbage, Yard Trimmings and a variety of other recyclable materials.

Reduce means decreasing the amount of Municipal Solid Waste generated at source. It includes activities which result in more efficient reuse or Recycling of primary products or materials but does not include only compacting or otherwise densifying the waste.

Reuse refers to at least one further use of a product in the same form (but not necessarily for the same purpose).

Recover is the reclaiming of recyclable components and/or energy from Municipal Solid Waste. This does not include composting, anaerobic digestion, or mass-burn waste to energy.

Residuals is the fraction of Municipal Solid Waste that is left after prevention, reuse, and recycling and is destined for Disposal.

Single-Family refers to detached homes generally comprised of six units or less. In the context of this plan, single-family waste typically refers to waste that is collected at curbside.

Single-Use Item means the item is designed to be disposed of after a single use or short-term use, whether or not it could be reused.

Small Load Waste is a load of Municipal Solid Waste that is under 1 tonne.

Tipping Fee means the fee charged by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) for disposing of Municipal Solid Waste at a Solid Waste Facility, as set out in Table 1 of Schedule “B” of the Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No. 379.

Waste Generation is the total amount of disposed Municipal Solid Waste and diverted Recyclables or recovered material. This does not include material that is reused.

Waste hierarchy is a framework that ranks waste management practices by environmental impact, from most to least favourable.

Waste Prevention refers to actions that avoid waste from being created in the first place.

Mass Burn Waste-to-Energy refers to the combustion of residual waste using single mass burn process that typically includes energy recovery through the production of electricity or heat.

Worm Bins are containers used in vermicomposting in which worms live and are used to break down food scraps and other organic matter.

Yard Trimmings includes Municipal Solid Waste that comprises vegetative matter resulting from gardening, landscaping or land clearing

Zero Waste as both a philosophy and a goal, aims to reduce and ultimately eliminate Municipal Solid Waste.

DRAFT



APPENDIX A – DRAFT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

DRAFT SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

BACKGROUND:

- A. As part of preparing and updated a solid waste management plan under the Environmental Management Act, the Ministry of Environment and Parks recommends that Metro Vancouver should establish a dispute resolution procedure
- B. Section C.1.1 of the Ministry of Environment's "A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning" (2016) (the "Guide") describes the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure as follows:

32. Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure

- (1) Every regional district should establish its own dispute resolution procedure for dealing with disputes arising during implementation of the plan.
- (2) The procedure should be limited to disputes involving
 - (a) an administrative decision made by the regional district in the issuance of a license,
 - (b) interpretation of a statement or provision in the plan, or
 - (c) any other matter not related to a proposed change to the actual wording of the plan or an operational certificate

NOW THEREFORE the Board hereby adopts this Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure in satisfaction of Section 32 of the Guide:

PART A - DISPUTES INVOLVING AN ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION MADE BY THE GVS&DD IN THE ISSUANCE OF A SOLID WASTE FACILITY LICENCE

1. This Part A of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes relating to an administrative decision made by the Solid Waste Manager or the Deputy Solid Waste manager, as such terms are defined in GVS&DD Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, as amended or replaced from time to time ("Bylaw 181"), in connection with the issuance, amendment, suspension, refusal or cancellation of a licence pursuant to Bylaw 181 (a "Decision").
2. Pursuant to Bylaw 181 any person who considers himself or herself aggrieved by a Decision (a "Disputing Party") may dispute the Decision by delivering written notice ("Written Notice") to the Solid Waste Manager within 21 days after the disputed Decision is made.
3. In the Written Notice, the Disputing Party may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation with GVS&DD.
4. If the Disputing Party does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the Disputing Party may proceed with the appeal process specified in Bylaw 181.
5. If the Disputing Party indicates that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process:

- a. The Commissioner will, as permitted under Bylaw 181, extend the time for commencing the appeal under Bylaw 181 until such time as the non-binding mediation has concluded; and
 - b. The parties will proceed to non-binding mediation in accordance with the process specified in section 6 below.
6. The following process applies to non-binding mediation under this Part A:
 - a. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Disputing Party will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Disputing Party) two weeks prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Disputing Party, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation;
 - d. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives. The Commissioner will not participate in the mediation meeting; and
 - e. The Disputing Party and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
7. If the Disputing Party and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through mediation, the Disputing Party may either:
 - a. Terminate the dispute; orProceed with the appeal in accordance with the process specified in Bylaw 181.

PART B - DISPUTES INVOLVING INTERPRETATION OF A STATEMENT OR PROVISION IN THE PLAN OR ANY OTHER MATTER NOT RELATED TO A PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ACTUAL WORDING OF THE PLAN

8. This Part B of the Plan Implementation Dispute Resolution Procedure applies to disputes involving interpretation of a statement or provision in the solid waste management plan or disputes of any matter connected to the solid waste management plan other than proposed changes to the wording of the solid waste management plan.
9. Any person who disputes the GVS&DD's interpretation of a statement or provision in the solid waste management plan or who disputes any matter connected to the solid waste management plan other than proposed changes to the wording of the solid waste management plan (a "Complainant") may commence a dispute under this Part B.
10. A dispute under this Part B is commenced when the Complainant delivers written notice ("Part B Written Notice") to GVS&DD's Commissioner indicating that the Complainant wishes to resolve a dispute, and summarizing the nature of the dispute.
11. In the Part B Written Notice, the Complainant may indicate that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process with GVS&DD.

12. If the Complainant does not indicate that he or she wishes to participate in non-binding mediation, the dispute will proceed in accordance with the process specified in section 15 below.
13. If the Complainant indicates in the part B Written Notice that he or she wishes to participate in a non-binding mediation process the following process applies:
 - a. The Complainant and GVS&DD will mutually agree on a mediator, and agree on a date for a mediation meeting;
 - b. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the mediator. The Complainant will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to GVS&DD) two weeks prior to the date of the mediation and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) one week prior to the mediation;
 - c. The Complainant, GVS&DD and the mediator will meet for the purposes of mediation; d. The Complainant and GVS&DD may bring up to four representatives to the mediation. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives; and
 - e. The Complainant and GVS&DD will share equally all costs of the mediation (such as for example, the mediator's fees and the costs of facility rental if applicable) and each party will pay its own costs.
14. If the Complainant and GVS&DD are not able to resolve the dispute through non-binding mediation, the Complainant may:
 - a. Terminate the dispute; or
 - b. Proceed with the dispute resolution process specified in section 15 below.
15. The process for dispute resolution under this Part B is as follows:
 - a. The Complainant will submit a non-refundable payment of \$2,000 to the GVS&DD to cover a portion of the GVS&DD's costs of this dispute resolution process;
 - b. GVS&DD will appoint 3 members of its Board to form an ad hoc dispute resolution select committee ("Committee");
 - c. Changes in the membership of the Committee may only be made prior to the presentation of oral submissions to the Committee and such changes can only be made by the Board;
 - d. Committee members will be remunerated in accordance with the provisions of Metro Vancouver Regional District Remuneration Bylaw No. 1425, 2025 as amended or replaced from time to time as if they were attending a Board meeting;
 - e. The Committee may set its own procedures for considering the dispute, which procedure will include the hearing of the dispute on a date set by the Committee. In addition, the Committee may:
 - i. ask questions of the Complainant and the GVSⅅ
 - ii. determine that the dispute resolution hearing will be closed to the public;
 - iii. adjourn to consider its decision;
 - iv. provide its decision at the conclusion of the hearing, or may specify a future date on which it will deliver its oral decision; and
 - v. determine any other matter that the Committee considers necessary.

- f. The Complainant and GVS&DD may each bring up to four representatives to participate in the dispute resolution hearing. The GVS&DD representatives may include the Commissioner, the Solid Waste Manager, the Deputy Solid Waste Manager, the General Manager of Solid Waste Services, or other representatives;
- g. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each prepare and submit a written brief for the Committee. The Complainant will provide its brief to the Committee (with a copy to GVS&DD) four weeks prior to the date of the dispute resolution hearing and GVS&DD will provide its brief to the mediator (with a copy to the Complainant) two weeks prior to the hearing; and
- h. The Complainant and GVS&DD will each have a maximum of 45 minutes to make oral submissions to the Committee.

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APPENDIX B

Item E2
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
SOLID WASTE SERVICES
2026 BUDGET
2026 — 2030 FINANCIAL PLAN

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	% CHANGE	2027 PLAN	% CHANGE	2028 PLAN	% CHANGE	2029 PLAN	% CHANGE	2030 PLAN	% CHANGE
REVENUES											
Solid Waste Tipping Fees	\$148,874,301	\$160,039,613	7.5%	\$172,609,790	7.9%	\$180,406,743	4.5%	\$195,533,526	8.4%	\$204,605,382	4.6%
Energy Sales	6,250,000	6,250,000		6,250,000		6,000,000		6,000,000		6,060,000	
Other External Revenues	4,928,890	3,614,141		6,571,114		9,525,103		9,956,322		9,864,813	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%
EXPENDITURES											
Operating Programs:											
Solid Waste Operations											
Allocated Quality Control	\$ 25,407	\$ 26,274		\$ 26,752		\$ 28,940		\$ 28,098		\$ 29,216	
Ashcroft Ranch	616,197	–		–		–		–		–	
Engineers in Training	123,306	130,788		135,225		138,156		141,142		144,205	
Landfills	44,458,053	43,979,138		43,510,599		39,077,120		41,168,681		41,974,607	
Recycling and Waste Centre	53,831,557	59,376,424		61,990,346		65,782,042		67,917,393		69,714,518	
Waste to Energy Facility	28,523,685	33,334,956		37,909,430		38,127,313		41,644,844		43,189,540	
	127,578,205	136,847,580	7.3%	143,572,352	4.9%	143,153,571	(0.3%)	150,900,158	5.4%	155,052,086	2.8%
Solid Waste Planning											
Policy and Facility Development	609,217	616,462		636,684		650,077		663,730		677,687	
Zero Waste Implementation	2,956,614	2,796,643		2,773,676		2,836,540		2,900,630		2,965,817	
Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives	–	745,254		1,214,548		746,986		1,237,652		770,551	
Community Engagement	1,364,396	1,366,358		1,297,990		1,305,098		1,360,327		1,365,871	
	4,930,227	5,524,717	12.1%	5,922,898	7.2%	5,538,701	(6.5%)	6,162,339	11.3%	5,779,926	(6.2%)
Administration and Department Support											
	756,095	778,512	3.0%	805,059	3.4%	822,777	2.2%	840,841	2.2%	859,305	2.2%
Environmental Regulation and Enforcement											
	1,616,473	1,679,330	3.9%	1,724,461	2.7%	1,758,251	2.0%	1,796,541	2.2%	1,827,863	1.7%
Allocation of Centralized Support Costs											
	5,828,516	5,666,647	(2.8%)	6,924,633	22.2%	7,117,539	2.8%	6,957,975	(2.2%)	6,959,443	0.0%
Total Operating Programs	140,709,516	150,496,786	7.0%	158,949,403	5.6%	158,390,839	(0.4%)	166,657,854	5.2%	170,478,623	2.3%
Allocation of Project Delivery Cost											
	397,060	360,015	(9.3%)	349,668	(2.9%)	356,880	2.1%	362,811	1.7%	367,801	1.4%
Debt Service											
	17,138,153	18,431,056	7.5%	25,029,164	35.8%	33,687,060	34.6%	41,662,467	23.7%	49,311,167	18.4%
Contribution to Reserve											
	1,808,462	615,897	(65.9%)	1,102,669	79.0%	3,497,067	217.1%	2,806,716	(19.7%)	372,604	(86.7%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$160,053,191	\$169,903,754	6.2%	\$185,430,904	9.1%	\$195,931,846	5.7%	\$211,489,848	7.9%	\$220,530,195	4.3%

APPENDIX B

Item E2
GREATER VANCOUVER SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
CAPITAL PORTFOLIO
SOLID WASTE SERVICES

	CAPITAL BUDGET FOR APPROVAL	2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2027 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2028 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2029 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2030 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2026 TO 2030 TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES									
Landfills									
Coquitlam Landfill Maintenance	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000	Multiple	Maintenance
Total Landfills	\$ 24,050,000	\$ 6,600,000	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 740,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 11,340,000		
Recycling and Waste Centres									
Langley Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	\$ 20,500,000	\$ 8,250,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre Upgrades	1,500,000	750,000	650,000	-	-	-	1,400,000	Construction	Upgrade
Site Reconfiguration	44,100,000	2,500,000	9,750,000	6,000,000	-	-	18,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
Recycling and Waste Centre Maintenance	11,500,000	1,000,000	4,500,000	3,500,000	500,000	500,000	10,000,000	Construction	Maintenance
Solid Waste Facility Land Purchase	-	-	-	-	40,000,000	40,000,000	80,000,000	Design	Resilience
Total Recycling and Waste Centres	\$ 77,600,000	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 18,900,000	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 40,500,000	\$ 125,900,000		
Waste To Energy Facility									
Acid Gas Reduction	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 55,000,000	\$ 40,000,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000,000	Design	Upgrade
Biosolids Processing	24,250,000	5,000,000	7,000,000	6,400,000	1,200,000	-	19,600,000	Construction	Resilience
Waste-to-Energy Facility Maintenance	72,150,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	34,250,000	Construction	Maintenance
Waste to Energy Facility District Energy	84,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000	20,000,000	25,000,000	28,600,000	98,600,000	Multiple	Resilience
Total Waste To Energy Facility	\$ 185,850,000	\$ 21,850,000	\$ 88,850,000	\$ 73,250,000	\$ 33,050,000	\$ 35,450,000	\$ 252,450,000		
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 287,500,000	\$ 40,950,000	\$ 111,250,000	\$ 87,490,000	\$ 73,800,000	\$ 76,200,000	\$ 389,690,000		
CAPITAL FUNDING									
New External Borrowing	\$ 252,390,000	\$ 16,331,000	\$ 103,646,000	\$ 80,018,000	\$ 69,057,000	\$ 73,043,000	\$ 342,095,000		
Reserve	18,810,000	19,619,000	604,000	1,072,000	3,543,000	657,000	25,495,000		
External Funding - Interagency	16,300,000	5,000,000	7,000,000	6,400,000	1,200,000	2,500,000	22,100,000		
Total	\$ 287,500,000	\$ 40,950,000	\$ 111,250,000	\$ 87,490,000	\$ 73,800,000	\$ 76,200,000	\$ 389,690,000		
SUMMARY BY DRIVER									
Growth	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Maintenance	\$ 107,700,000	\$ 14,450,000	\$ 14,850,000	\$ 11,090,000	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 7,600,000	\$ 55,590,000		
Resilience	108,250,000	10,000,000	27,000,000	26,400,000	66,200,000	68,600,000	198,200,000		
Upgrade	71,550,000	16,500,000	69,400,000	50,000,000	-	-	135,900,000		
Opportunity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total	\$ 287,500,000	\$ 40,950,000	\$ 111,250,000	\$ 87,490,000	\$ 73,800,000	\$ 76,200,000	\$ 389,690,000		