



# Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update

## Options Analysis

### 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, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

### What is Solid Waste Management

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

# Metro Vancouver's Role in Solid Waste Management

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, and managing and disposing of the remaining waste in an environmentally responsible manner. This work is guided by our 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 across the region.

Metro Vancouver operates several recycling and waste centres in the region where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage. Metro Vancouver also runs educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage waste reduction, reuse and repair, and recycling.



## Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan

This important plan will guide solid waste management strategies, actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead. The updated plan will identify how our region can continue to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work towards 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.

# Previous Work

Metro Vancouver has established a vision statement and guiding principles, as well as goals and a waste hierarchy, for the solid waste management plan update. These will guide plan development and implementation, and were created with direct input from First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

## Vision and Guiding Principles

### Vision

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

### 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.

## Hierarchy and Goals

Goals	Components	
1. Enable circular systems that preserve resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Design waste-free systems</li><li>Transition to a circular economy</li></ul>	Rethink
2. Minimize waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prevent</li><li>Use less</li></ul>	Reduce
3. Keep materials in use as long as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Share/Donate</li><li>Repair/Refurbish</li><li>Repurpose</li></ul>	Reuse
4. Make it easier to recycle effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recycle into new products</li><li>Compost and anaerobic digestion</li></ul>	Recycle
5. Recover resources from non-recyclable materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recover materials from the waste stream</li><li>Create alternatives to fossil fuels</li></ul>	Recover
6. Dispose only as a last resort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy</li></ul>	Dispose

## Project Timeline

The solid waste management plan update process is being supported by robust First Nations and public engagement. Work began in 2021 and is nearing completion with a draft plan expected in 2026.



## Options Analysis

The objective of the current phase – options analysis – is to evaluate ideas that were generated in the previous phase by applying decision-making criteria that are grounded in the vision and guiding principles for the updated plan. The feedback we receive in this phase will help to decide what actions and strategies are included in the draft plan. This is the final step before the new plan is drafted.

## How to Get Involved

Provide your feedback on the potential strategies and actions to include in the updated solid waste management plan by October 31, 2025.

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit [metrovancover.org](https://metrovancover.org) and search "SWMP"

