metrovancouver | SOLID WASTE

Solid Waste Management Plan

2026

About the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District

The Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) is a statutory corporation to service its 18 member municipalities and a portion of Electoral Area A. Under the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has authority for, among other things, the management of municipal solid waste, including the purchase, construction, operation, maintenance, and administration of facilities for solid waste management. GVS&DD is governed by the GVS&DD Board. Directors of the GVS&DD Board are mayors and councillors appointed by membership councils[1], and their votes on resolutions are population-weighted. The GVS&DD and its member jurisdictions work together to plan for and manage municipal solid waste across the region. The GVS&DD also manages major sewerage and drainage facilities in the region. A Liquid Waste Management Plan is developed and managed separately from this Solid Waste Management Plan.

In this plan, the GVS&DD is referred to as 'Metro Vancouver'. All references to 'Metro Vancouver', or commitments and responsibilities assigned to 'Metro Vancouver' in this plan should be interpreted to refer to the 'Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD)' alone. In this plan, 'Metro Vancouver' does not refer to any entity other than the GVS&DD.

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: q̓i̓c̓əy̓ (Katzie), q̓ʷɑːn̓ƛ̓ən̓ (Kwantlen), kʷikʷəƛ̓əm (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), qiqéyt (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scəẃaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh).

Metro Vancouver respects the diverse and distinct histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, which collectively enrich our lives and the region.

4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, BC, V5H 0C6 I metrovancouver.org I March 2026

Front cover: United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

1 The Director for Electoral Area A is not a mayor or councillor appointed by a membership council, but rather, is elected by residents to represent them on the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District and is also a member of the GVS&DD Board.

Member Jurisdictions

Metro Vancouver Regional District Members

GVS&DD Members

Village of Anmore
City of Burnaby
City of Coquitlam
City of Delta
Electoral Area A*
City of Langley
Township of Langley
City of Maple Ridge
City of New Westminster
City of North Vancouver
District of North Vancouver
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody
City of Richmond
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
City of White Rock

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

Village of Belcarra

Bowen Island Municipality

Village of Lions Bay

scəwaθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen First Nation)

Contents

Executive Summary and Focus Areas

This Solid Waste Management Plan reflects a shift in how we think about waste. The plan provides a pathway for moving from a system focused on managing materials at the end of their life to one that strives to preserve resources, prevent waste and keep materials in use as long as possible. It builds on the diverse perspectives in our region to present opportunities to continue advancing leadership in waste reduction and recycling.

The plan is guided and organized by the waste hierarchy, which aims to rethink, reduce, and reuse material before managing it through the highest available option of recycling, recovery, or disposal. Each level of the hierarchy has an associated goal, and within these goals are strategies and actions which will require strong leadership from Metro Vancouver and collaboration with others. Although all strategies and actions in the plan are important to building a thriving region where materials are valued and nothing is wasted, there are six priorities or focus areas highlighted below.

Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention: Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.

Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond: Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.

Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions: Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.

Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics: Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.

Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials: Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest value use of wood, supporting efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics: Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Strategic Principle: Prioritizing Local Solutions

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the Solid Waste Management Plan, and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities.

In addition, the Solid Waste Management Plan includes priorities described in the plan's three strategic approaches.

1. **Regulatory** – Continue to support the effectiveness of the generator levy, ensuring that all generators of waste contribute to the cost of the regional solid waste system. Advance regulatory measures to further encourage source separation and reduce barriers to participation. Conduct a comprehensive engagement process for the purpose of updating Metro Vancouver's licensing bylaw for private solid waste facilities.
2. **Recycling and Waste Centres** - Continue enhancing the recycling and waste centre network to improve convenience and access to reuse and recycling opportunities.
3. **Residuals Management** - Optimize the use of the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy facility to reduce reliance on remote disposal options. This will help maintain affordability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting waste. Continue to enhance environmental performance and pursue opportunities for energy recovery at both facilities, as well as beneficial use of materials such as bottom ash.

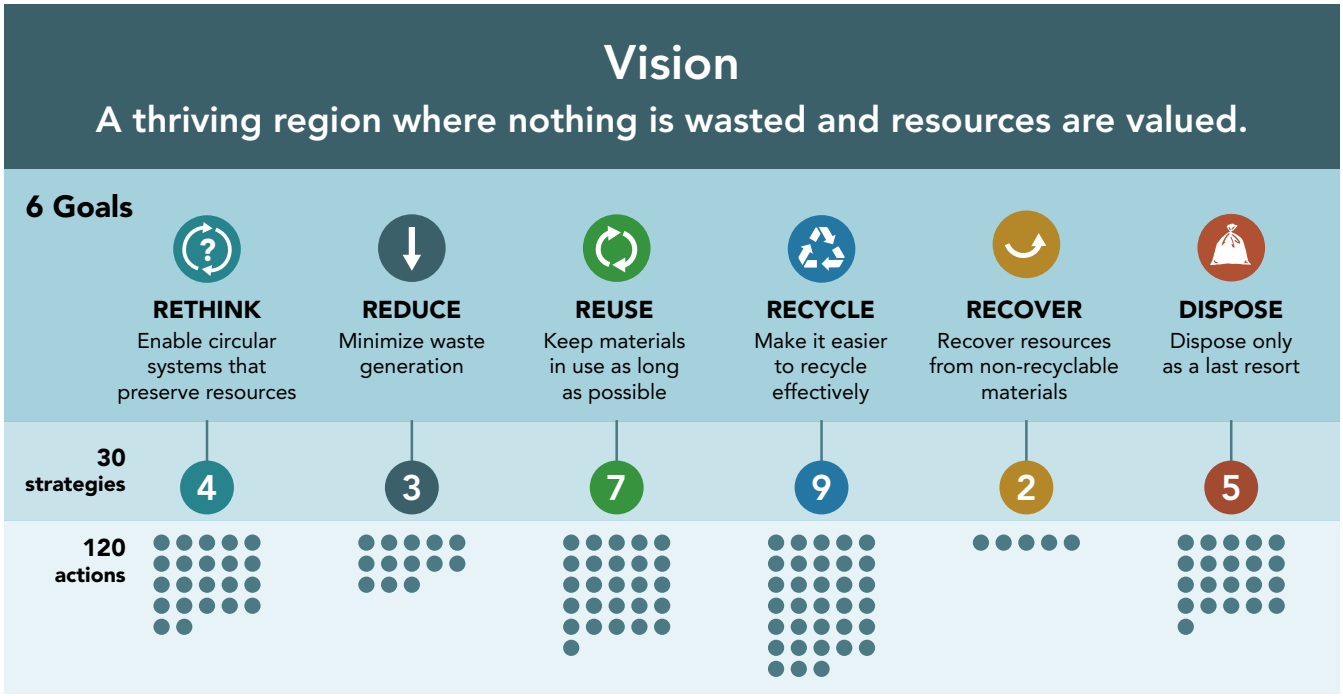


Figure E1 - Solid Waste Management Plan At-a-Glance

Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Center

Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

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

This plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also 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.

The BC government's *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* recommends initiating updates to regional solid waste management plans every 10 years. This plan replaces Metro Vancouver's *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* approved in 2011.

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.

Guiding Principles

- A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region.
- A solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges.
- Accountability from residents, businesses, and governments to prevent waste.
- Environmental stewardship and climate action.
- Inclusive solid waste services and programs.
- Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation.
- 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*. Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement and are consistent with Metro Vancouver's overall organizational strategic priorities. The vision statement and guiding principles were approved by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (GVS&DD) Board in 2023.

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 provincial 5 R 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.

Goals	Components
1. Enable circular systems that preserve resources	• Design waste-free systems • Transition to a circular economy
2. Minimize waste generation	• Prevent • Use less
3. Keep materials in use as long as possible	• Share/Donate • Repair/Refurbish • Repurpose
4. Make it easier to recycle effectively	• Recycle into new products • Compost and anaerobic digestion
5. Recover resources from non-recyclable materials	• Create alternatives to fossil fuels
6. Dispose only as a last resort	• Landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy

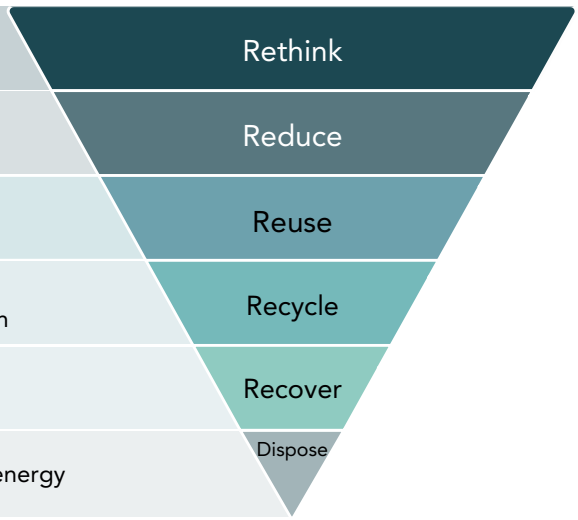


Figure 1 - Goals and Hierarchy

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.

Progress towards targets will be reported annually to the Ministry of Environment and Parks and the information will be publicly available.

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.

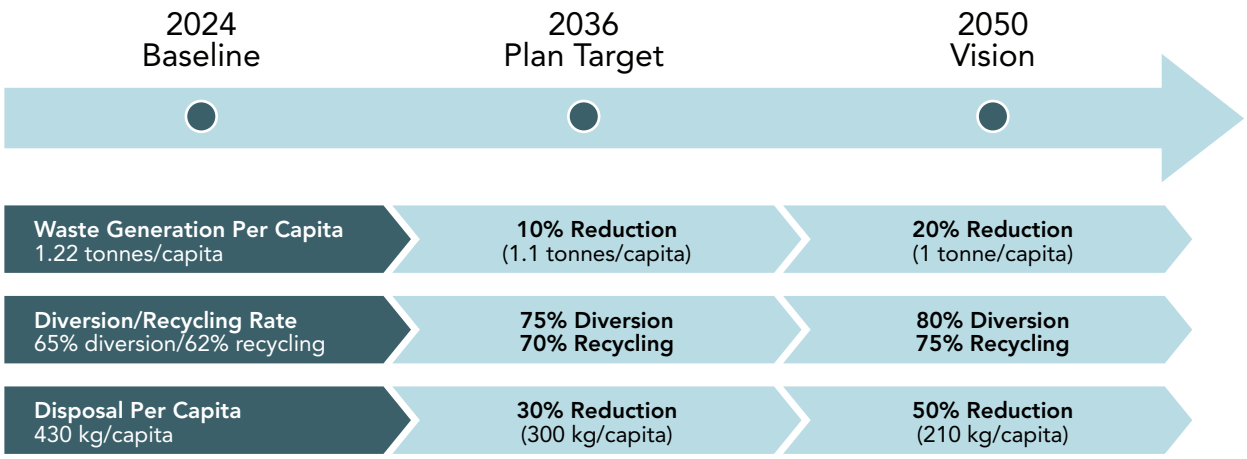


Figure 2 - Solid Waste Management Plan Targets

Waste generation includes both quantities of material diverted as well as disposed and measures progress toward the goal of transitioning to a circular economy where resources are preserved, waste generation is minimized, and materials are kept in use as long as possible.

This plan establishes a target of a 10% per capita reduction in waste generation by 2036 compared to 2024, calculated on a 5-year rolling average (Figure 2). A longer-term target is also included, to map a trajectory beyond the 10 year term of the plan, and to recognize that many actions in the plan require longer time frames to fully implement. The long-term target for waste generation is 20% per capita reduction from 2024 levels (approximately 1 tonne/capita) by 2050.

To align with the goals of making it easier to recycle effectively and recovering resources from non-recyclable materials, waste must, as much as possible, be diverted away from disposal into programs aimed at recycling materials back into new materials, before recovering materials as fuel. This plan establishes a target of 75% diversion by 2036, with a minimum 70% recycling rate. The long-term target of the updated plan is to achieve a 75% recycling rate and 80% diversion rate by 2050. The difference between the diversion rate and recycling rate is described as follows:

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.

Diversion rate includes all of the material recycled plus any material used to create alternatives to fossil fuels. The diversion rate refers to the tonnes of material diverted as a portion of the total tonnes of material recycled, recovered and disposed.

Sector specific diversion rate targets are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 - 2036 Sector Specific Diversion Rate Targets

Sector	2024 Baseline	2036 Target	2050 Target
Single-Family Residential	64%	75%	80%
Multi-Family Residential	36%	60%	75%
Commercial/ Institutional	47%	60%	75%
Construction and Demolition	81%	85%	90%

The sector specific diversion rates are calculated based the amount and type of material currently disposed and diverted in each sector, which would be addressed by the strategies and actions included in the Solid Waste Management Plan.

To reflect the goal of disposal only as a last resort, this plan sets a disposal rate target for the Metro Vancouver region of less than 350 kg/capita by 2031, less than 300 kg/capita by 2036, and 210 kg per capita by 2050: a 50% reduction from 2024 levels by 2050.

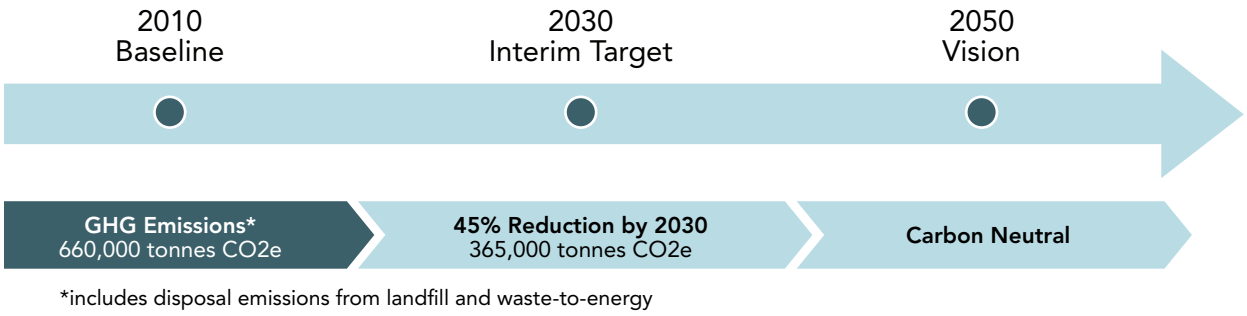


Figure 3 - Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Disposal Emission Targets

In addition to waste reduction, recycling and diversion targets, the Solid Waste Management Plan adopts Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Strategic Framework[2] targets which aspires to achieve carbon neutrality in solid waste management by 2050, and a 45% reduction in emissions from a 2010 baseline by 2030. The 2010 baseline is based on disposal emissions, and the target includes reduction in disposal emissions and emission reduction initiatives. Initiatives that reduce emissions from the disposal of materials help us progress toward carbon neutrality. Waste reduction and recycling actions that reduce emissions, such as deconstruction and house relocation, reuse and repair initiatives, zero emissions hauling equipment, district energy, alternative fuel generation, and renewable natural gas production, are also essential to meeting the carbon neutrality goal of this plan.

2 Metro Vancouver. (2018). *Climate 2050 Strategic Framework*. metrovancouver.org/services/air-quality-climate-action/Documents/climate-2050-strategic-framework-2018.pdf

View of downtown Vancouver and English Bay

Repair café hosted by the City of Maple Ridge and the Ridge Meadows Recycling Society in 2025

Secondary Performance Metrics

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

Secondary metrics help to measure progress related to the strategies and actions within the plan, and will be reported alongside the primary metrics and targets. Table 2 summarizes the secondary metrics that will be reported. Metrics will be reassessed periodically based on the availability and reliability of supporting data.

To help contextualize data, metrics will be presented alongside complementary indicators where possible. For example, statistics on construction and demolition waste can be compared with trends in housing starts and demolitions overall. Metrics will also be normalized against population growth or other indicators where appropriate to more accurately discern trends.

Table 2 - Secondary Metrics

Goal	Secondary Metrics
 **RETHINK**	• Number of jobs that support a circular economy • Number of circular initiatives supported/introduced[1] • Summary of advocacy efforts • Number of member jurisdictions with circular procurement policies and programs[1]
 **REDUCE**	• Number of single-use items in garbage and recycling • Amount of food waste in garbage and green bins plus a summary of available information on food loss • Percentage of region covered by reusables for dine-in regulations[1]
 **REUSE**	• Tonnes measurable reuse • Number items repaired at repair events[1] • Number of buildings relocated or deconstructed[1] • Percentage of region by population covered by deconstruction or home relocation requirements[1] • Tonnes food rescued to feed people or animals
 **RECYCLE**	• Recycling rate by material category, including the most common non-recyclable items identified • Trends in availability of and participation in organics recycling programs • Organics contamination rates
 **RECOVER**	• Ratio of recycling as a portion of diversion
 **DISPOSE**	• Energy generated (waste-to-energy and landfill)[2] • Greenhouse gas emissions from disposal facilities[2]

[1] Data on municipal programs and policies will be requested through existing processes, including annual surveys, standard summaries for Metro Vancouver supported repair cafes, and the illegal dumping dashboard

[2] Metro Vancouver will continue to rely on existing information published by the City of Vancouver to estimate energy generated and greenhouse gas emissions from the Vancouver Landfill

Overview

Metro Vancouver's Role and Authority

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling, and operating a series of solid waste facilities located around the region. This work is guided by commitment to environmental stewardship, and affordable and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents, innovative businesses, and non-profits across the region, and the programs and services provided by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver operates a series of recycling and waste centres, where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage, and a waste-to-energy facility located in Burnaby. Metro Vancouver works closely with the City of Vancouver which 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 (specifically, the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District or GVS&DD) is established and operating pursuant to the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act (GVS&DD Act). Under the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority, among other things, to enter into agreements, acquire property and assets, finance, design, construct and operate waste disposal facilities, set levies, set solid waste disposal fees, establish reserve funds and borrow in anticipation of revenue. Section 7B of the GVS&DD Act authorizes GVS&DD to set levies payable by generators of waste or by other persons who use the services of a waste hauler.

In addition to the GVS&DD Act, Metro Vancouver has the authority under the *Environmental Management Act* to regulate in relation to the management of municipal solid waste and recycling material. Section 25 of the *Environmental Management Act* authorizes Metro Vancouver to require an owner or operator of a site that accepts and manages municipal solid waste to hold a license, and to set terms and conditions for the issuing, suspending, amending or cancelling such license.

Solid waste management plans are authorized and regulated through the *Environmental Management Act*. Once a waste management plan is approved by the Ministry of Environment and Parks, it becomes a regulatory document. In conjunction with regulations and operational certificates that may apply, a solid waste management plan regulates the operation of waste management facilities.

Plan History

Metro Vancouver's first solid waste management plan dates to 1985, with subsequent updates in 1995 and in 2011.

The 2011 solid waste management plan included key initiatives such as the creation of the National Zero Waste Council, the organics disposal ban, and support for emerging province-wide extended producer responsibility programs for packaging and printed paper. These, and other initiatives, led to a 24% decrease in disposal from 2011 to 2024.

In November 2019 the GVS&DD Board approved initiating an update to the regional solid waste management plan. This updated plan builds on the success of the 2011 solid waste management plan and will guide Metro Vancouver to continue to minimize waste, increase recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and transition to a circular economy.

Appendix A includes references to all the solid waste management planning technical reports.

Metro Vancouver staff and its consultants coordinated the planning process, participated directly in the development of technical reports and conducted engagement with interested parties. Metro Vancouver's goal was to ensure broad participation in the planning process. Key participants in the planning process included:

- Zero Waste Committee of the GVS&DD Board: reviewed and/or approved components of the plan and provided direction to staff.
- First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts and advisory committees, including the Solid Waste Management Plan Public / Technical Advisory Committee and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee: reviewed information associated with the planning process and provided feedback to staff.
- Interested parties (including specific sectors, non-profit organizations, and the public): participated in consultation opportunities to provide input to the project team.
- The Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation & Engagement Panel: provided advice and feedback on the engagement process, reported to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board at each phase.

View of the Fraser River from Surrey

Metro Vancouver Board meeting

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 with First Nations

These strategic priorities guide all of Metro Vancouver's work, including solid waste management. These overarching 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 First Nations, local, provincial, and federal governments, 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

The federal government regulates in respect to waste management facilities under federal jurisdictions. The federal government also regulates in respect to the environment, which has implications for waste management operations, for example the *Landfill Methane Regulation under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. Some 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

In BC, the provincial government regulates environment and waste management through the *Environmental Management Act* and associated regulations. The Ministry of Environment and Parks approves solid waste management plans and local government bylaws adopted pursuant to the *Environmental Management Act*. The provincial government is responsible for setting the requirements for extended producer responsibility programs through the *Recycling Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*. Product stewardship programs are a cornerstone of the provincial regulatory framework to promote recycling. The province also aggregates and reports on regional district disposal rates.

Provincial legislation, such as the *Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act*, creates consistency across the province. Metro Vancouver will continue to work with the provincial government to help explore similar initiatives.

Local Health Authorities

Local health authorities have various interests and responsibilities related to the waste management process. Some regulations in respect to waste management are administered jointly under the *Environmental Management Act* and the *Public Health Act*, for example, the *Organic Matter Recycling Regulation*.

Metro Vancouver

In Metro Vancouver, regional solid waste management is provided by the Greater *Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District* (GVS&DD), a greater board established under the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage Act*. GVS&DD is one of the four entities forming part of "Metro Vancouver", the other entities being Metro Vancouver Regional District, Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation, and the Greater Vancouver Water District. GVS&DD develops the regional solid waste management plan for the Metro Vancouver geographic area and implements regional actions in the solid waste management plan.

Metro Vancouver's Member Jurisdictions

Metro Vancouver member jurisdictions provide local waste management services and implement municipal actions in the solid waste management plan where feasible. Member municipalities 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 management, and recycling collection services to protect the environment and public. Some member jurisdictions also own and operate recycling depots or organics processing facilities in the region. Member jurisdictions have regulatory authority to adopt bylaws that 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, and industry investment and innovation have contributed to the success of waste management and diversion goals in the region.

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 *Recycling Regulation under the Environmental Management Act*. For example, Recycle BC is responsible for the collection and recycling of residential packaging and paper products in BC. 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 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 appropriately.

Neighbouring Regional Districts

Outside of the Metro Vancouver geographic area, regional districts typically provide regional solid waste management. Regional districts are federations of municipalities and unincorporated areas, established and operating under the *Local Government Act*. Materials may flow between regional districts and Metro Vancouver 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."[3]

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."[4] Metro Vancouver is working closely with the Province and First Nations to better understand its role in advancing UNDRIP and has engaged with First Nations to understand how to best reflect these principles in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

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 the development of this Solid Waste Management Plan outlines a collaborative government-to-government engagement approach with First Nations identified as having interests within the Metro Vancouver region[5] as well as a community engagement approach inviting further dialogue with Indigenous peoples.

3 UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 11

4 UNDRIP Preamble paragraph 24

5 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.

View from Cypress Mountain

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 GVS&DD 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
- 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 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.

Solid Waste System

The overall system for managing solid waste generated within Metro Vancouver is highly integrated, described as follows.

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 4.

Figure 4 - Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver owns and contracts operation of seven solid waste facilities:

- 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
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre
- Waste-to-Energy Facility

Two facilities are owned and operated by the City of Vancouver:

- Vancouver Landfill
- Vancouver South Transfer Station (including Zero Waste Centre)

The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres and the Vancouver Transfer Station is to receive a range of recyclables and reusables from residents and businesses delivering those materials in small hand-unloaded vehicles for transfer to processing facilities and end markets, and to receive residential, commercial, and institutional garbage for transfer to disposal. The primary purpose of Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility and Vancouver Landfill is to dispose of commercial, institutional and residential garbage.

More details on recycling and waste centres are provided in the Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach, including information on municipal recycling depots. More details on disposal facilities are provided in the Residuals Management Strategic Approach.

Licensed Solid Waste and Recycling Facilities

Additional solid waste facilities operating in the region include municipal recycling depots and private solid waste facilities licensed under the GVS&DD *Solid Waste & Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw 181, 1996*, as amended (GVS&DD Bylaw 181). Facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 include recycling, compost, construction and demolition transfer stations, and material recovery facilities. Other facilities exempt from licensing, such as concrete processing facilities, also receive some materials for processing. As of 2026, one private licensed landfill within the region, Ecowaste Landfill in Richmond BC, receives the majority of the region's construction and demolition garbage.

More information on facility licensing under GVS&DD Bylaw 181 is provided in the Regulatory Strategic Approach.

Organic Materials Processing Facilities

In addition to private facilities licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181, as of 2026, organic materials generated in the region are also managed at:

- Cache Creek Compost Facility (Emterra), Cache Creek, BC (Provincial Permit 108485
- Dicklands Biogas Plant, Chilliwack, BC (Provincial Permit 109932)
- Ingerbelle Composting Facility, Princeton, BC (Provincial Permit 110025)
- Pacific Coast Renewables, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Permit 110185)
- Sea to Sky Soils, Pemberton, BC (Provincial Permit 106287)
- Surrey Biofuel Facility, Surrey, BC (Provincial Operational Certificate 108541)
- The Answer Garden Products, Abbotsford, BC (Provincial Authorization 105492)

Remote Landfill Disposal

Metro Vancouver contracts for remote landfill disposal through procurement processes. As of 2026, garbage in excess of what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills including Campbell Hill Landfill in Cache Creek, BC, the Roosevelt Regional Landfill in Roosevelt, Washington, and the Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Oregon. Garbage is delivered to these remote landfills as part of contingency landfill services agreements via trucking or a combination of trucking and rail haul.

Some private licensed facilities and waste haulers send construction and demolition garbage to remote landfills. Metro Vancouver has no jurisdiction for these landfills.

Closed Landfills in Metro Vancouver

A series of historic closed municipal solid waste landfills are located across the region. The landfill owners are responsible for managing environmental impacts of these landfills. Strategy 6.5 within this plan includes actions Metro Vancouver will take regarding closed landfills in the region.

Example Circumstances for Potential Expansion of Solid Waste Services Provided by Metro Vancouver

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 at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities is 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 limited market participants, 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 or other unplanned events.
- Opportunities for cost savings by co-locating services at Metro Vancouver facilities.
- Pilot studies evaluating the feasibility of collecting and processing recyclable materials which currently do not have a viable market.

Mixed paper for recycling

Composition of Regional Waste Disposed Over Time

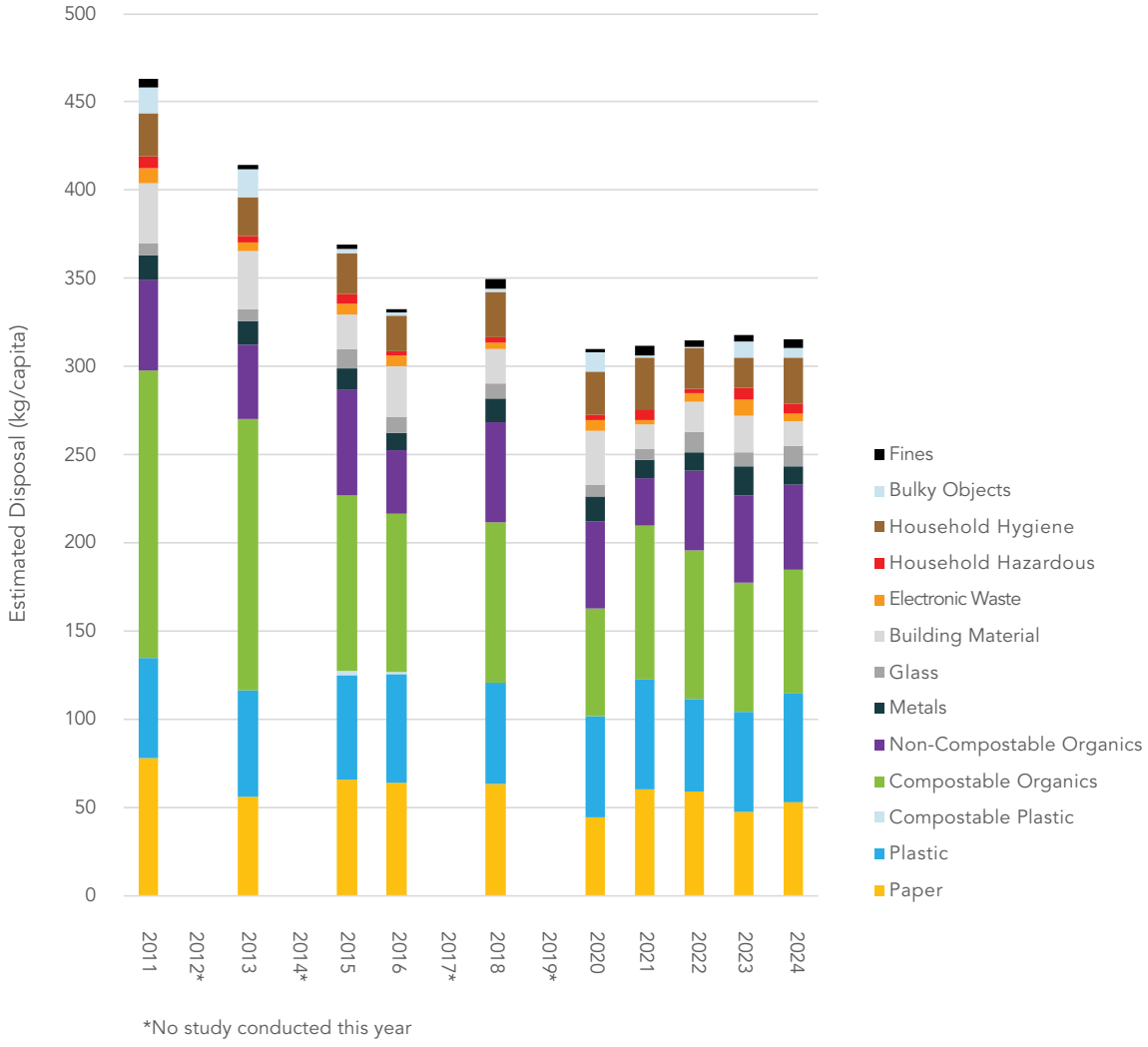


Figure 5 - Waste Composition Over Time

As part of the process to update the solid waste management plan, Metro Vancouver reviewed progress since the previous 2011 solid waste management plan was approved, including trends in waste composition (Figure 5), disposal, and recycling and waste generation data, to identify key issues and opportunities. 2024 will serve as the baseline year from which to assess future progress.

Battery recycling at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre

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 waste and 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.[6] The Ellen MacArthur Foundation launched the butterfly diagram based on Braungaut & McDonough Cradle to Cradle, which presented strategies for technical and biological cycles (Figure 6). 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, promoting the effective use of finite resources, and balancing the use of renewable resources.

Metro Vancouver's "Repair and Re-wear" campaign

6 Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2019). Completing the Picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change. https://content.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/m/3eac8667edd240cc/original/Completing-the-picture-How-the-circular-economy-tackles-climate-change.pdf

Metro Vancouver's "Repair and Re-wear" campaign

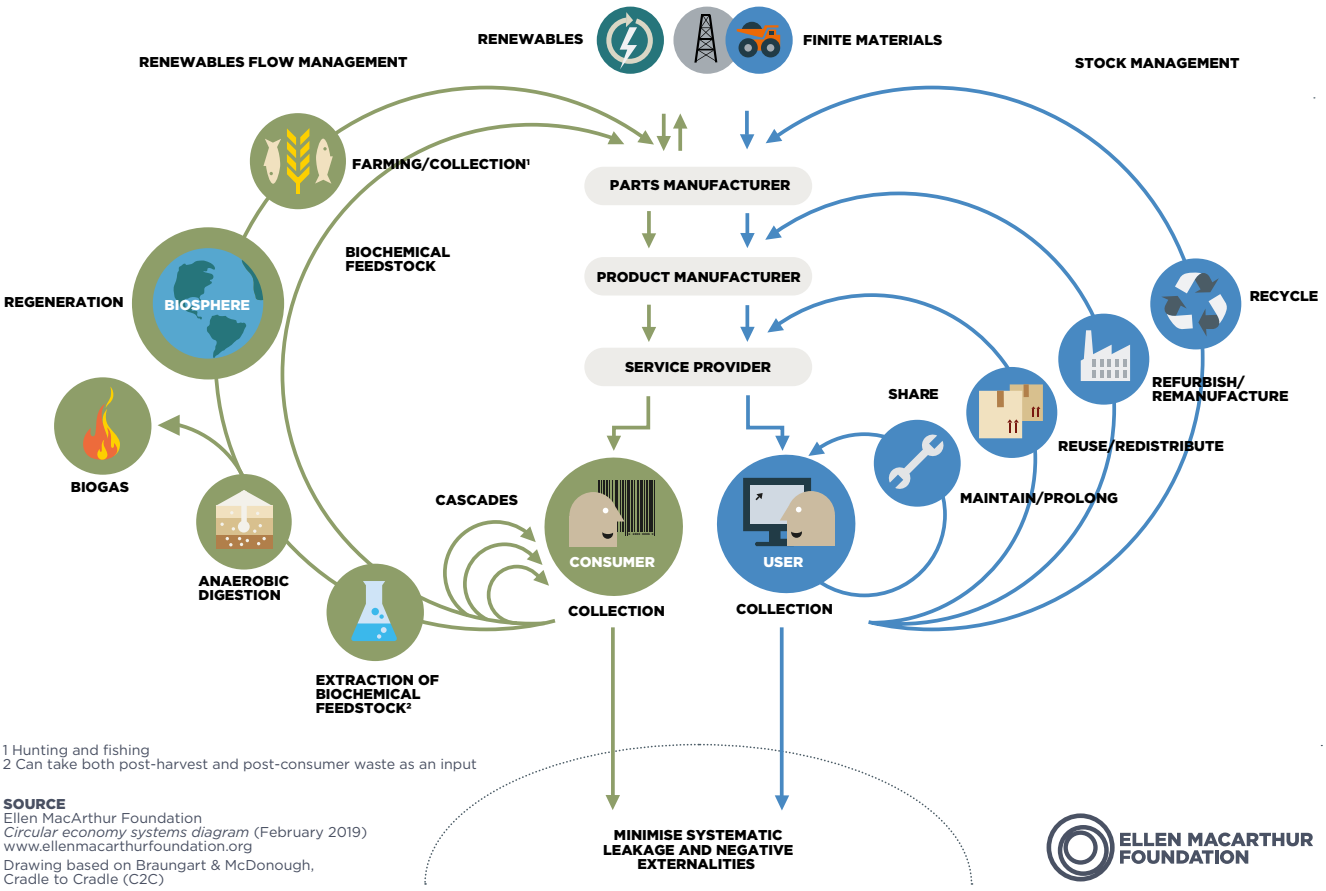


Figure 6 - The Ellen MacArthur Butterfly Diagram

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 and transitioning to a circular economy 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.

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.

The User-Pay Principle

The user-pay principle is a core element of the solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver's solid waste system is primarily funded through tipping fees, which is consistent with the user-pay principle in that generators of waste fund the cost of managing the waste proportional to the amount of waste they generate. Metro Vancouver's variable tipping fee model aligns with the cost of managing different sized loads.

Metro Vancouver's generator levy is an extension of the user-pay principle. Through the generator levy, all generators of waste contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, regardless of where they choose to dispose of that waste. The generator levy is embedded in the tipping fee at Metro Vancouver facilities and supports a reliable and resilient waste and recycling system that benefits all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region.

Many successful waste prevention initiatives are based on the user-pay principle, where waste generators are held financially accountable for the waste they produce. This principle extends to the concept of extended producer responsibility, where producers are responsible for the products they create, and to residents and businesses that pay the generator levy and tipping fees to dispose of garbage but can drop-off many reusable and recyclable materials at no cost. This plan advocates for continued alignment with user pay principles through enhancement of extended producer responsibility programs, while continuing to consider affordability in how actions are implemented.

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 plan's vision, principles, waste hierarchy and goals. This includes strategies for advocacy efforts to rethink the system, outreach and education, implementation or expansion of programs and policies, and 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 is out of scope for this plan; however, waste prevention efforts may extend to these sectors.

The plan applies to the geographic area of the Metro Vancouver Regional District, including Belcarra, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, and sc̓əw̓aθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen First Nation), which are not member jurisdictions of the GVS&DD. Figure 7 shows the boundaries of the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

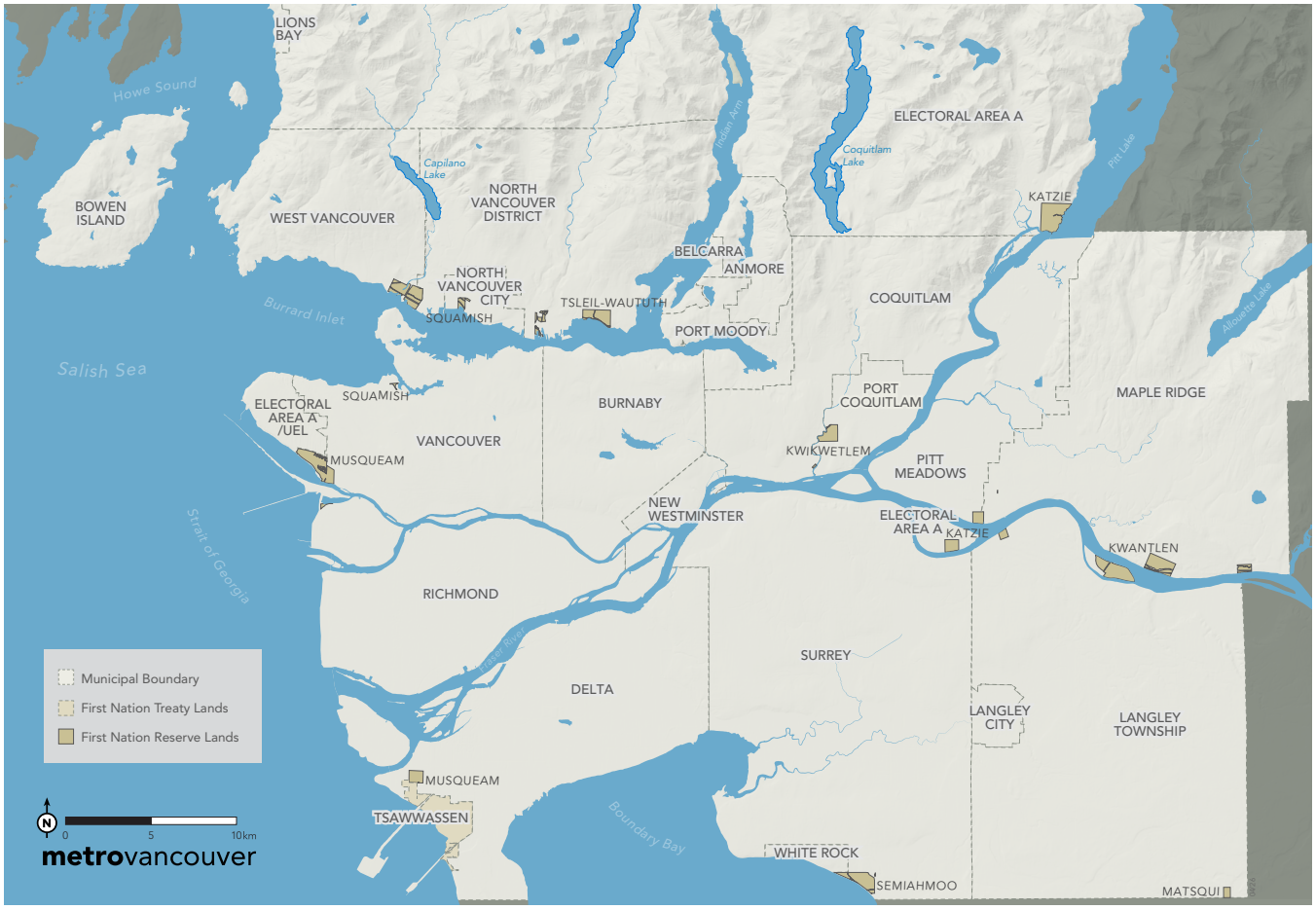


Figure 7 - Metro Vancouver Regional District

Alignment and Linkages

Alignment with International Initiatives

All United Nations member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[7] in 2015, including 17 sustainable development goals. Although solid waste management is linked to several of these goals, the strongest alignment is with Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. This goal aims to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns, and has twelve associated targets. The United Nations sustainable development targets most closely linked with this plan are described in Table 3.

Table 3 - Linkages between UN Sustainable Development Targets and the Solid Waste Management Plan

UN Sustainable Development Target	Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan
12.3 By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses	Preventing food waste is a key focus area of the plan. By maximizing food waste reduction and other target materials, Metro Vancouver aims to reduce overall waste generation by 10% by 2036. Strategy 1.4 also looks at ways to better track progress towards a circular economy including better data for food waste.
12.5 By 2030 substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse	The solid waste management plan prioritizes waste prevention, reduction, reuse and recycling as outlined in the waste hierarchy.

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 12: "Reduce waste and transition to zero-emission vehicles". Table 4 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 4 - Alignments and Linkages Between Federal Targets and Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan

Environment and Climate Change Canada Target	Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan
Zero plastic waste by 2030	The updated solid waste management plan outlines efforts to continue Metro Vancouver's ongoing work to reduce plastic waste, which is supported by a robust provincial regulatory framework and efforts by member jurisdictions. Metro Vancouver aims to reduce the disposal of all materials by 50% by 2050, with plastic identified as a priority area.
Reduce the amount of waste Canadians send to disposal from a baseline of 699 kilograms per person in 2014 to 490 kilograms per person by 2030 (a 30% reduction); and to 350 kilograms per person by 2040 (a 50% reduction).	Metro Vancouver's per capita disposal target is 300 kg per person by 2036, compared to a provincial target of 350 kg per person.

7 United Nations. (2015). *Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda

Green bin food scraps recycling

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 300 kg per person by 2036, which is less than the provincial target of 350 kg per person.

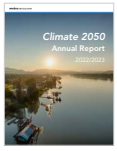
Metro Vancouver's hierarchy aligns with the BC Pollution Prevention Hierarchy, with some exceptions:

- "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, similar to landfilling
- "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. Region-specific principles were developed to reflect the values identified through engagement, and are consistent with Metro Vancouver's overall organizational strategic priorities.

Alignment with other Metro Vancouver plans

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

Other Metro Vancouver Plans		Links to the Solid Waste Management Plan
	**Board Strategic Plan (2022–2026)** Provides a framework for Board decisions to address regional priorities, today and for the long-term.	The Board Strategic Plan 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 generations.
	**Clean Air Plan (2021)** Sets a 10 year plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve 2030 emissions targets while focusing on ecological health and environmental stewardship.	The Clean Air Plan is Metro Vancouver's plan for reducing air contaminant emissions and managing air quality. 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 contaminants, 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)** Establishes Metro Vancouver's long-term climate strategy, guiding climate policy for 25 years.	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 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.

Other Metro Vancouver Plans		Links to the Solid Waste Management Plan
	**Metro 2050: Regional Growth Strategy (2022)** Provides a regional vision for managing growth, protecting ecosystems, and ensuring efficient infrastructure to build resilient, connected communities.	Metro 2050 is the region's 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)** Establishes 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.	Metro Vancouver's Liquid Waste Management Plan (provincial approval pending at the time of writing the Solid Waste Management Plan) 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.
	**Regional Food Systems Strategy (2011)**	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.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Vancouver
Kids

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 across the region.

Strategies and actions were selected based on research, engagement feedback, and a third-party assessment of options based on economic, environmental and social impacts including:

- Affordability
- Economic prosperity
- Innovation
- Circularity
- Collaboration
- Waste reduction
- Greenhouse gas reduction
- Environmental stewardship
- Inclusion
- Convenience
- Community participation
- Supporting waste prevention habits and actions

A list of approximately 200 action options was discussed with interested parties during the options analysis phase of the plan update. Participants provided feedback on options, which contributed to their consolidation and refinement of action into the strategies and actions presented in this Solid Waste Management Plan.

Disposal actions were not included in the initial list of action options, but were developed collaboratively with the City of Vancouver and the City of Delta and presented for feedback during engagement on the initial draft plan.

Member Jurisdiction Actions

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. Many other actions not specifically presented as member jurisdiction actions can be amplified and improved through the support and input of members, including education and outreach, advocacy, and program pilots.

Advisory committee feedback session

Goal 1: Rethink

Enable circular systems that that preserve resources

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.

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 Advocate for incentives and funding programs for key circular activities:

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

b. Low-wastelocal food production such as vertical farms, gleaning, food remanufacturing, and industrial symbiosis opportunities.

c. 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 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:

a. Circular built environment solutions

b. Circular food systems

c. Circular products and services

Bike repair at repair café 2025

STRATEGY 1.2

Help lead the transition to a more circular regional economy 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 Lead by example by integrating additional waste prevention policy and programs within Metro Vancouver's corporate operations and share learnings with other jurisdictions.

1.2.2 Work with economic development agencies to:

a. Identify and implement circular business opportunities.

b. Co-develop industry-supported targets and standardized methods of tracking waste prevention performance by business type.

c. Develop a recognition program to celebrate businesses in the region leading the adoption of new circular economy practices.

d. Increase low barrier employment opportunities that support a circular economy.

1.2.3 Increase circular economy curriculum and training:

a. Embed circular economy into professional development

b. 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:

a. Scale circular food systems

b. Rethink approaches to a circular built environment, such as design for disassembly.

c. Equip small and medium-sized enterprises with practical guidance to operationalize circular economy practices.

d. Improve access to circular products and services including reuse and repair.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

1.2.5 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

Collaborate 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 systems level change. This transformation also requires leadership by, and collaboration between, government, business, and non-governmental organizations. Metro Vancouver will help facilitate this work through a national platform for shared learning, collaboration, and leadership.

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 areas, and others as they emerge:

a. Textiles

b. Procurement

c. Cities

d. The built environment

e. Plastics

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

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

Zero Waste Conference 2025

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

1.3.5 Develop, test and share circular procurement approaches, tools and templates.

STRATEGY 1.4

Collect and share data to track progress toward a circular economy

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 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 Work toward annual solid waste management reporting by material type and sector on all levels of the waste hierarchy, starting with organics, wood, and textiles:

a. Pursue 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 key performance indicators to track progress on circular economy through rethinking and reducing waste.

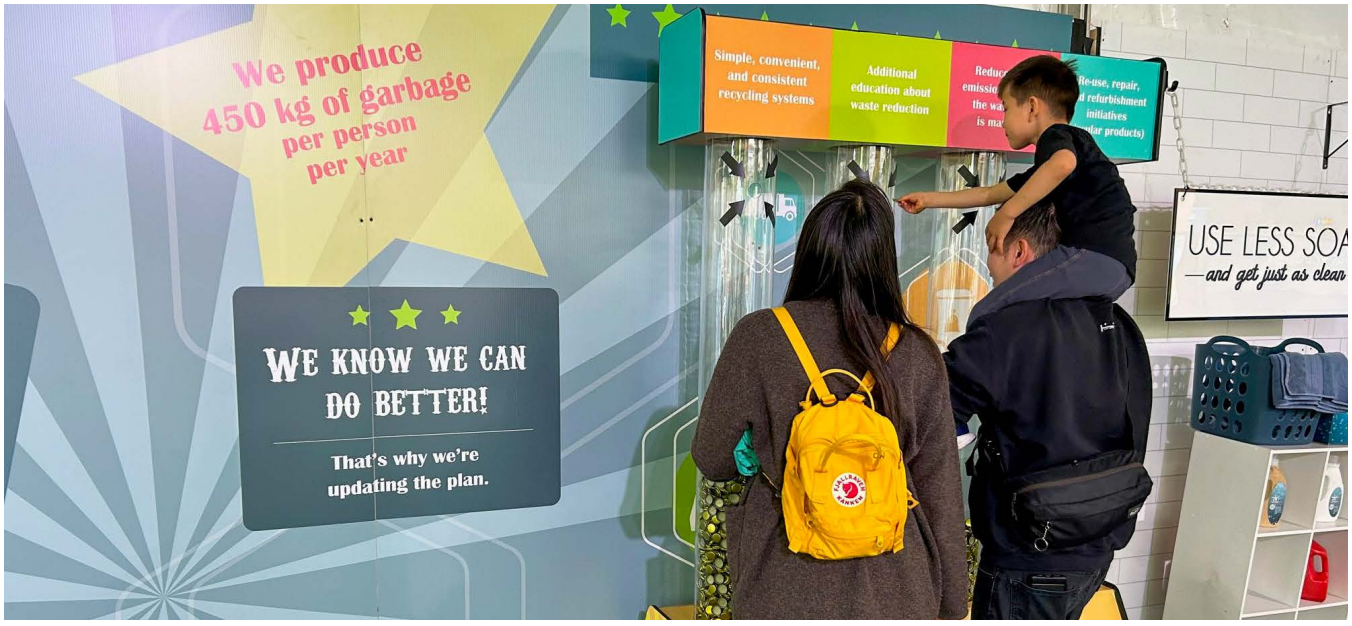
1.4.3 Develop methods for estimating and reporting environmental and economic benefits for waste prevention actions such as reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (potentially including embodied carbon), potential cost savings, affordability, and life-cycle impacts.

1.4.4 Implement new data collection technology.

1.4.5 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 diversity, equity, and inclusion in solid waste data starting with current practices and gaps.



Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Activation at PNE 2023

Home deconstruction

Goal 2: Reduce

Minimize waste generation

Minimizing waste generation not only helps achieve the region's ambitious waste reduction goals, it supports a vibrant regional economy where resources are valued. By preventing waste before it is created, such as by eliminating unnecessary packaging and avoiding food waste, natural resource use is minimized, and less energy is used in the production, distribution and consumption of products. Metro Vancouver will continue to encourage everyday waste prevention habits which add up to make a big difference.

STRATEGY 2.1

Collaborate with businesses and institutions to reduce waste at the source

Businesses deliver products and services that meet the daily needs of Metro Vancouver residents. Metro Vancouver will work with businesses and institutions to reduce waste, starting with the construction, demolition, textiles, and hospitality sectors.

2.1.1 Collaborate with the construction and demolition sector to develop solutions for waste reduction that can be implemented at the regional level:

a. 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.

b. 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, summarize and action the challenges and opportunities related to reducing construction and demolition waste.

2.1.3 Collaborate with the textiles sector on solutions for textile waste reduction such as resale and repair programs, and circular textiles designs.

2.1.4 Support reduction of waste from business with practical tools and education:

a. Co-develop education tools with business leaders and associations to help businesses reduce waste, motivate customers to participate, and comply with evolving waste reduction regulations.

b. Increase in-person education where businesses and others can talk directly with experts on how to reduce waste.

2.1.5 Host forums with large generators of waste to co-develop and implement waste reduction solutions.

2.1.6 Work with high waste generation sectors to develop, promote and implement 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 reduce commercial and institutional waste.
2.1.8 Develop, test and share definitions and approaches for zoning and development bylaws to clarify siting 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 North American leading recycling rate. However, to achieve the waste reduction goals outlined in this plan, we need to go beyond recycling and focus on preventing waste before it is created. Everyday waste prevention habits make a big difference. Metro Vancouver will encourage residents to prevent waste by implementing the following actions:

2.2.1 Increase in-person education where residents can talk directly with waste reduction educators.

2.2.2 Educate 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 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.

2.3.1 Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.

2.3.2 Pilot and scale up initiatives to support food waste prevention practices and share learnings with the hospitality and entertainment sectors, post-secondary institutions, healthcare facilities, large-scale catering operations, and food distributors.

Reusable products

Goal 3: Reuse

Keep materials in use as long as possible

Work is already underway to scale up reuse opportunities and increase access to reuse, refill and repair. By keeping materials in use for as long as possible, overall waste generation can be significantly reduced. Through collaboration and innovation, Metro Vancouver will expand reuse systems that are convenient, affordable, and easy for residents and businesses to participate in.

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 to help align programs and policies across the region for reusable food service ware and salvaged building materials:

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 waste reduction and recycling and their potential to facilitate the implementation of reuse and repair systems.

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 flexible plastics and foam.

3.2.3 Advocate for consistent extended producer responsibility programs across Canada.

3.2.4 Participate in extended producer responsibility program engagements and advocate for:

a. Improvements to existing programs and the implementation of new programs.

b. Increased financial incentives for local government to participate in collection of extended producer responsibility programs materials for programs where local governments are not getting full cost recovery.

c. Expansion of residential-only packaging drop-off programs to small businesses.

d. The inclusion of reuse and repair in extended producer responsibility programs.

e. Expansion of recycling drop-off options for products, including retail and mobile options to improve convenience and accessibility.

f. Programs that reduce barriers for recycling large items.

3.2.5 Collaborate with producer responsibility organizations to enhance data sharing, enabling better insights, greater transparency, and progress toward shared waste prevention and recycling goals.

STRATEGY 3.3

Increase reuse of used building materials

To accommodate a growing region, more single-family homes are being replaced with 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:

3.3.1 Advocate to increase the use of used building materials in new projects.

3.3.2 Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to:

a. Prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use.

b. Expand the reach and use of a more contractor- and designer-friendly marketplaces for salvaged construction and demolition materials.

c. Motivate residents to incorporate more used building materials into their home renovation projects.

3.3.3 Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to:

a. Increase reuse of building materials.

b. Research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building material resale.

Home deconstruction

Bulk food and refill store

Goal 3: Reuse

STRATEGY 3.4

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

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

3.4.2 Seek approval to establish a business funding program to support the transition to reuse, refill, repair.

3.4.3 Collaborate with event organizers, event venues, and institutions to implement reusable 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 broad 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 expand these opportunities and make it easier for residents to access reliable reuse, refill, and repair options through the following actions:

3.5.1 Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.

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

3.5.3 Accelerate adoption of donation collection options for reusable items such as clothing and books in multi-family buildings.

3.5.4 Research, trial and implement additional ways to scale reuse and repair:

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

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

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

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

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

STRATEGY 3.6

Scale up efforts to recover food

Some businesses and organizations in the region produce surplus food, while others receive donated food 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 who 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.

3.6.1 Maintain and scale a regional food recovery network:

a. 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.

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

c. 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:

3.7.1 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.


RE
TURN
TO
PLAY


COOKING OIL
CLOTHING
BOOKS

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.

STRATEGY 4.1

Promote design for recyclability and the use of recycled content in 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 by incorporating recycled material such as compost, recycled concrete, and recycled asphalt in their own operations and projects, as well as through strategic partnerships with organizations working to increase recycled content in consumer materials and products.

4.1.1 Work to improve the recyclability of products and packaging and incorporate recycled content:

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

b. Research and advocate for improvements to the recyclability or phase out of multi-material products including coffee cups.

c. Enhance 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 Work with engineering design and construction organizations to include recycled asphalt and concrete in roads, fill, and other applications.

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

Battery recycling at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre

STRATEGY 4.2

Encourage the development of new 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 can continue to work with its members and the private sector to help ensure that collection and processing capacity keeps pace. Ongoing conversations will ensure the region can accommodate the growing volume of recyclables.

4.2.1 Convene recycling industry with the goal to maintain and increase recycling infrastructure that services the region:

a. Reduce barriers for siting of private sector recycling activities.

4.2.2 Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management.

4.2.3 Advocate for 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 green bin programs and alternatives for residents, businesses and institutions

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 trimmings 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 improve participation through the actions outlined under this strategy.

4.3.1 Research technology options and support pilot programs to improve organics recycling in the commercial and institutional sectors.

4.3.2 Work collaboratively with the solid waste and recycling industry to increase participation and reduce contamination in organics programs focusing on sectors with the lowest participation rates and highest contamination rates.

4.3.3 Continue to 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 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.

4.4.1 Work with businesses, recycling depot operators, and producer responsibility organizations to improve consistency of recycling collection.

4.4.2 Improve access to textile donation and recycling collection services.

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 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.

4.5.1 Develop of a signage standard and customizable signage creation tool in collaboration with producer responsibility organizations.

4.5.2 Assess and pilot digital tools that allow users to scan waste items receive clear, multilingual instructions on options for reuse, repair, recycling, or disposal.

4.5.3 Centralize and improve awareness of recycling information and resources.

STRATEGY 4.6

Provide 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 improve recycling accuracy, consistency, and participation by providing resources designed for different sectors and recyclers.

4.6.1 Provide tailored education to businesses by:

a. Developing practical online resources for specific business types.

b. Working on understanding recycling data and challenges in specific sectors including events, film, tourism, food service, and health care.

c. 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.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.6.4 Improve the reach of behaviour change campaigns by amplifying messaging through member jurisdiction public communications.

STRATEGY 4.7

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 transparency helps build confidence that materials are 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.

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

4.7.2 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 online recycling database/search tools.

STRATEGY 4.8

Enhance approaches to Metro Vancouver's 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 creating a financial disincentive for disposing of banned materials. By strengthening this program Metro Vancouver can keep more recyclable material out of the garbage.

4.8.1 Pursue options to enhance disposal ban inspection efficacy such as innovative detection technologies and clear bags policies.

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

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

4.8.4 Business case increasing the number of disposal ban inspections at Metro Vancouver and City of Vancouver solid waste facilities.

STRATEGY 4.9

Identify recycling opportunities for common litter and illegal dumping items

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 and its members can amplify these efforts through continued collaboration and the actions listed under this strategy.

4.9.1 Increase the number of community drop-off events to provide options for large or difficult to manage materials and prioritize diversion over disposal.

4.9.2 Support community clean-up initiatives through reduced disposal fees and information on recycling options if available.

4.9.3 Enhance litter and illegal dumping data to identify opportunities to recycle commonly littered or illegally dumped materials.

4.9.4 Review approaches in other jurisdictions to reduce illegal dumping, including opportunities to recycled common illegally dumped materials, and consider implementation of initiatives proven effective elsewhere.

Metro Vancouver and member jurisdictions will collaborate to:

4.9.5 Develop, test, share and advocate for approaches to minimize litter from residential recycling containers while optimizing material recycled.

Cardboard recycling

Clean wood recycling

Goal 5: Recover

Recover resources from non-recyclable materials

Not all materials are currently recycled into new products due to 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 interim. This can be done by using materials that would otherwise be disposed to recover energy through the creation of fossil fuel alternatives.

STRATEGY 5.1

Recover energy from materials collected at regional facilities 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 for 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.

5.1.1 Continue to collect clean dimensional lumber not currently reused or recycled due to insufficient processing capacity or technical constraints at existing facilities, 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.

STRATEGY 5.2

Encourage recovery of 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, by helping to develop markets for energy recovery where reuse or recycling is not currently viable.

5.2.1 Share information on construction and demolition waste characteristics and quantities to support the potential to recover energy from construction and demolition waste that are currently reused or recycled.

5.2.2 Encourage energy recovery from construction and demolition material currently not reused or recycled.

5.2.3 Advocate for and support piloting of technologies to convert wood waste into energy and fuel while potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Salvaged lumber for reuse

Vancouver Landfill

Goal 6: Dispose

Dispose only as a last resort

Despite the region's success in reducing and recycling waste, approximately one million tonnes of garbage require disposal each year. The Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility serve the region as cost effective and environmentally responsible local disposal options for residential and commercial and institutional garbage, with contingency landfill disposal available for any garbage beyond what can be managed at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility. Other materials such as construction and demolition waste, liquid waste system residuals, and soil are important considerations as optimizing the management of these materials helps to preserve disposal capacity for garbage.

STRATEGY 6.1

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

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 allows Metro Vancouver to continue to maximize associated environmental benefits, such as energy recovery and utilization, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from long distance waste hauling, while closely monitoring environmental performance and providing education for the public.

6.1.1 Vancouver Landfill:

a. Continue to work with the City of Vancouver to maximize landfill gas utilization at the Vancouver Landfill through projects such as renewable natural gas development.

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

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

d. 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.

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

6.1.2 Waste-to-Energy:

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

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

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

d. Continue to provide and expand opportunities for education and public awareness on the Waste-to-Energy Facility and associated infrastructure such as interactive displays and tours, and the importance of waste prevention and recycling over disposal.

e. Continue to pursue the beneficial use of bottom ash from the Waste-to-Energy Facility in cement plants.

6.1.3 Optimize Use of Local Disposal Facilities:

a. Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

STRATEGY 6.2

Use 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.

6.2.1 Consider, among other factors, the following as part of the procurement process(es) for contingency disposal: 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 at the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility, with some remote disposal under contingency contracts currently required. No new long-term disposal capacity is currently anticipated over the duration of this plan, but in the event 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. 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 (for more information, refer to Residuals Management Strategic Approach).

6.3.1 If additional long-term disposal capacity is required:

a. consider the residuals management technical criteria outlined within the solid waste management plan to compare options for securing the required capacity.

b. facilitate broad and inclusive regional engagement on options. Findings and recommendations will be reported publicly before any decision to proceed.

Garbage claw at the Waste-to-Energy Facility

STRATEGY 6.4

Monitor disposal options for waste that requires specialized disposal

Some 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. Other materials, such as asbestos, liquid waste system residuals, and international waste, must be managed according to specific regulations and procedures. Soil 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.

6.4.1 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 flow 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 health authorities to review disposal options for hospital 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 beneficial use of soil within the Vancouver Landfill property so as not to displace garbage disposal capacity.

STRATEGY 6.5

Advance closure activities at closed landfills in the region

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. As of 2026, a total of 24 known closed municipal or regional landfills exist in the region.

6.5.1 Complete closure activities at the former Coquitlam Landfill:

a. Undertake closure activities within Coquitlam Landfill Lot 3 to minimize leachate production and landfill gas migration and prepare the area for end-use.

b. Continue to use Lot 3 to support waste reduction initiatives until final closure.

6.5.2 Prepare an updated report summarizing the closure status of all closed landfills in the region, including a map with the location of all such landfills within 18 months of plan approval.

United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

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 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.

Focus Areas

Six focus areas represent collections of actions which work toward big changes in specific areas, with a high potential to promote meaningful change and help reach the targets of the plan. These initiatives are seen as priorities for the updated solid waste management plan and consist primarily of initiatives that are new or haven't yet been initiated.

Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention: Enable a circular regional economy through advocacy for circular programs and policies. In parallel, work locally and nationally with organizations such as economic development agencies to enable businesses to deliver circular products and services that keep products and materials at their highest value possible. Start with circular food systems and the built environment as priority sectors.

Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond: Increase access to reuse, refill, and repair through program implementation at regional solid waste facilities and member events, advocacy for reuse requirements across the region, and business engagement with a focus on the food and hospitality sectors.

Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions: Focus efforts to improve recycling in sectors with lower recycling rates such as multi-family and commercial/institutional through consideration of policy and regulatory options, tailored education tools, hauler incentives, and updated space and access requirements.

Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics: Continue to enhance and expand the regional food recovery network while exploring opportunities to prevent food from being wasted in the first place, by leveraging improved data and strengthening collaborations. Further support the development of local organics processing capacity and markets through public procurement, advocacy, and education.

Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials: Work with economic development agencies, researchers, and the construction and demolition sector to develop, pilot, and share improved approaches for keeping building materials at their highest and best use. Prioritize enabling house relocation, deconstruction programs, and expansion of local reuse markets. Continue advancing opportunities for the highest value use of wood, supporting efforts to offset fossil fuel use by recovering energy from building materials that are not currently recyclable.

Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics: Continue to work nationally with organizations that create and manage plastics to promote elimination of unnecessary plastics, design for recyclability, and the use of recycled content in plastic products and packaging. Support and advocate for faster implementation of residential collection programs that accept a more consistent and broader range of materials to make recycling easier and more effective.

Table 5 describes how the focus areas will help meet the targets and long-term vision of the plan.

Table 5 - Anticipated contribution of focus areas to the plan 10-year targets and 2050 vision.

2036 Target	2050 Vision	Focus Area[1]
1.1 tonnes/capita waste generation (10% reduction from 2024 baseline)	1 tonne/capita waste generation (20% reduction from 2024 baseline)	• Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention (Up to 5% decrease) • Scale up reuse opportunities at Metro Vancouver facilities and beyond (Up to 5% decrease) • Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics (Up to 5% decrease) • Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% decrease) • Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics (Up to 5% decrease)
75% Diversion (10% increase from baseline) 70% Recycling	80% Diversion (15% increase from baseline) 75% Recycling	• Increase participation in organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions (Up to 10% increase) • Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material (Up to 5% increase) • Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics, and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics. (Up to 5% increase)
300 kg/capita disposal (30% reduction from 2024 baseline)	210 kg/capita disposal (50% reduction from 2024 baseline)	• Disposal decreases as a result of both decreasing waste generation and increased diversion, as described by the initiatives above
45% reduction in GHG emissions from solid waste by 2030 (2010 baseline)	Carbon Neutral	• As waste disposal decreases, associated GHG emissions decrease as well. Meeting the 50% disposal target will decrease emissions by at least 50% if high GHG emitting materials are targeted • Initiatives with the potential to recover energy to offset fossil fuel use such as the focus area "Expand efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable building material" can further contribute to carbon neutrality

[1] Estimated progress towards targets shown indicates results at 2050. 2036 results are expected to be approximately halfway toward the 2050 targets.

Strategic Principle: Prioritize Local Solid Waste Management Solutions

Prioritizing local solutions (solutions within Metro Vancouver region or in close proximity) for solid waste management aligns with the vision and guiding principles of the solid waste management plan and is a strategic principle. Local solutions for managing solid waste increase resilience, reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions, create local employment and economic benefit, and are typically less expensive than solutions in distant communities. A number of actions within the solid waste management plan prioritize local solutions including:

- Action 1.2.2a Work with economic development agencies to identify and implement circular businesses opportunities.
- Action 1.2.6 Work with businesses to implement solutions to support circular products and services.
- Action 1.3.1 Bring together ideas and facilitate discussions across sectors to create circular economy solutions that accelerate waste prevention.
- Action 2.1.8 Develop, test and share definitions and approaches for zoning and development bylaws to clarify siting requirements for waste reduction and recycling activities.
- Action 2.3.1 Work with businesses, industry associations, and non-profits to reduce food loss and waste improving distribution, purchasing, storage, and preparation methods through initiatives such as regional food recovery hubs or shared infrastructure.
- Action 3.3.3b Work collaboratively with academia and building and infrastructure sectors to research and scale innovative solutions to meet land use needs for key waste reduction activities such as house moving, deconstruction, and building resale.
- Action 3.5.1 Continue to scale up reuse drop-off at Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, to provide reuse options at all recycling and waste centres, as described in the recycling and waste centre strategic approach outlined in this plan.
- Action 3.3.2a Accelerate the development of second-hand building material markets by working with industry and economic development agencies to prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use.
- Action 4.2.2 Support the development of additional local organics processing through leveraging Metro Vancouver procurement processes for organics management.
- Action 6.1.3 Reduce reliance on remote disposal facilities through optimized use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility.

Flexible plastics recycling at United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

Metro Vancouver Disposal Ban inspection

1

Regulatory Strategic Approach

Purpose

The solid waste management plan 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, the regulatory strategic approach aims to clarify Metro Vancouver's outlook with respect to any future regulatory actions to advance solid waste management plan goals and targets. Advocacy efforts encouraging regulations at other orders of government are not referenced in this section, but are included under strategies and actions.

Overview

The 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 *Environmental Management Act*, and the *Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Act*.

Existing Regulations

The primary bylaws related to solid waste management in the Metro Vancouver region are listed below and their key components are summarized in Table 6.

1. The *GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379,2024,* as amended (GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw), which sets 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 (GVS&DD Bylaw 181), which specifies licensing requirements for 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 (GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Bylaw), which allows the issuance of penalties up to $500 per contravention[8] of specified provisions of GVS&DD Bylaw 181 and the GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw. It also establishes a process for dispute adjudication.

8 Penalties are subject to change from time to time.

Metro Vancouver Disposal Ban Inspection

Table 6 - Existing Regulations

Bylaw	Key Components
GVS&DD Tipping Fee and Solid Waste Disposal Regulation Bylaw No.379, 2024, as amended	• Fees and surcharges • Recyclable and hazardous materials banned from disposal • Generator levy • Hauler records
GVS&DD Municipal Solid Waste and Recyclable Material Regulatory Bylaw No.181, 1996, as amended	• Facility licensing • Powers of Solid Waste Manager and Officers • Fees
GVS&DD Notice of Bylaw Violation Enforcement and Dispute Adjudication Bylaw No.278, 2024, as amended	• Bylaw violations and penalties • Dispute adjudication

Since approval of 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 GVS&DD 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 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. The generator levy is a key contributor to Metro Vancouver's continued success in advancing waste reduction and recycling.

Metro Vancouver's Regulatory Role

Metro Vancouver's solid waste facilities provide convenient garbage drop-off for residents and businesses, determine the final disposal destination of that material, and provide 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 GVS&DD Bylaw 181. Organics management facilities are managed by the private sector or member jurisdictions. This system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.

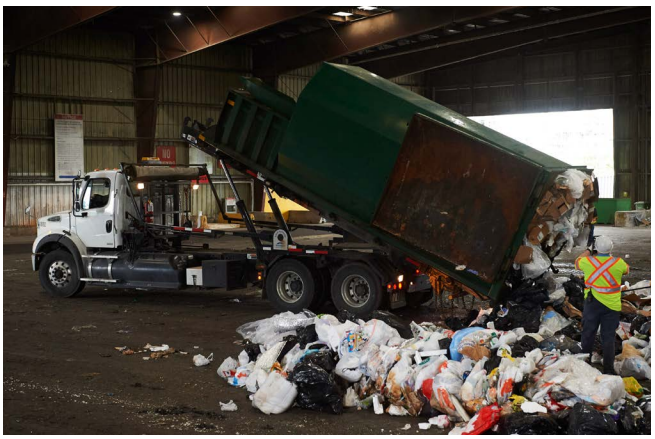
Metro Vancouver's regulatory authority does not currently include the ability to enforce bylaws at the generator or property level. Generally, that authority resides with municipalities. Also, outside of Metro Vancouver's regulatory authority are extended producer responsibility programs, regulations impacting the sale and distribution of specific products, and 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 rethink waste and transition to a circular economy, including design for recyclability, the right to repair, and waste prevention legislation, as described in the strategies and actions section of the plan.

Compliance and Enforcement

Metro Vancouver's Environmental Regulation & Enforcement group is responsible for enforcing the provisions of GVS&DD Bylaw 181, including reviewing licence applications and ensuring compliance with licence terms and conditions. Officers appointed under GVS&DD 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[9] (penalties are subject to change) of specified provisions of the generator levy and GVS&DD Bylaw 181. GVS&DD 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 GVS&DD Tipping Fee Bylaw. In addition, Metro Vancouver publishes information from the Smart Waste Program to help understand the movement of waste around the region. This information is used to assess the effectiveness of the disposal ban and generator levy programs, respectively, and helps inform decisions on how these programs can continue to be improved.



Recycling and waste centre tipping floor

9 Penalties are subject to change from time to time.

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 Table 7 but the numbering does not indicate relative importance.

Table 7 - Regulatory Priorities

Regulatory Priority	Solid Waste Management Plan Guiding Principle
Improve data accuracy, transparency and availability	• Changes to reporting requirements in regulations can help improve **transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling**
Increase reuse and recycling	• Continuing to increase reuse and recycling demonstrates Metro Vancouver's commitment to **environmental stewardship and climate action**
Reduce barriers to participation	• Reducing barriers to participation helps in delivering **inclusive solid waste services and programs**
Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system	• The facility licensing system helps maintain **accountability from residents, businesses and governments to prevent waste**
Support effectiveness of the generator levy	• By ensuring all generators contribute to the costs of the regional solid waste system, the generator levy supports **a solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region** • Similarly, the generator levy enables Metro Vancouver to maintain **a solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges**
Support innovation, particularly for reuse and repair	• Embedding reuse and repair into regulations can spur **innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation**

Example Future Regulatory Enhancements

Table 8 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.

Table 8 - Example Regulations and the Regulatory Priority they Support

Sector	Example Regulation	Regulatory Priority Supported
Generator	Mandatory source separation	• Increase reuse and recycling
Hauler	Hauler Licensing including mandatory source separation and separate management of streams	• Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation • Support effectiveness of the generator levy • Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability
	Reduced disposal ban surcharges for collectors that meet minimum requirements, as described in action 4.8.2	• Increase reuse and recycling • Reduce barriers to participation
	Additional disposal ban categories for recyclable materials and increased surcharges	• Increase reuse and recycling
Licensed Private Facilities	Updated reuse and recycling minimums in licences	• Increase reuse and recycling • Support innovation
	Expanded types of facilities that require a licence	• Improve data accuracy, transparency, and availability • Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system
	Incentives for innovation within licenses	• Support innovation
	Administrative monetary penalties to address non-compliances	• Support effectiveness of licensing system
	Administrative improvements to licensing bylaw including updating definitions	• Support effectiveness of the facility licensing system

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 objective of the proposed regulation, and are there other options for achieving the same objective?
- Does GVS&DD currently have authority to implement the proposed regulation, and if not, what would be required to obtain that authority?
- What are the resource requirements for developing, administering, and enforcing the proposed regulation?
- Which sectors, businesses, or individuals would be subject to the proposed regulation, and what is the estimated impact of the proposed regulation on helping the region meet the Solid Waste Management Plan goals and targets?
- What are the expected operational consequences to the solid waste system overall?
- What are the expected financial implications resulting from the proposed regulation, such as tipping fee changes or other costs borne by residents, businesses, Metro Vancouver or member jurisdictions?
- At which level of government would this regulation be most effective? Does this conflict with any existing regulation at another level of government?
- 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 proposed 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 public consultation.

Municipal curbside collection, Port Moody


metrovancouver
Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre

2

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 such as organics, mattresses, and extended producer responsibility materials like packaging and paper.

Recycling depots located before the weigh scales at recycling and waste centres allow customers to drop off recyclable materials for free. As of 2026, 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 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
- United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre

The facility locations are depicted below in Figure 8, 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 8 - Regional Solid Waste System

Metro Vancouver uses the term "recycling and waste centres" to reflect the priority to maximize recycling drop-off services. Improvements to the system since 2014 include:

- 2014: Establishment of a recycling depot ahead of the weigh scales at the previous 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

Various recyclable and reusable materials have been added at recycling and waste centres over the years. Metro Vancouver will continue to add new materials at facilities as opportunities arise, and ensure sufficient space is available at recycling and waste centres for this purpose.

Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre

Municipal Recycling Depots

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 and work collaboratively with Metro Vancouver on harmonizing materials accepted, where feasible. As of 2026, these include:

- Burnaby Eco-Centre
- Richmond Recycling Depot
- Ridge Meadows Recycling Depot
- Vancouver Zero Waste Centre

Strategic Approach

Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Future continuous improvements and upgrades to facilities aim to improve consistency of services at all recycling and waste centres, maximize opportunities for reuse and recycling, minimize drive times for residents, increase accessibility, and optimize the layout of any new facilities or facility upgrades according to best practices. 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 Solid Waste Management Plan.

Table 9 - Recycling and Waste Centre Priorities

Priority	Considerations

Best practices in facility design, construction, and operation	• Incorporate best practices in facility design that maximize reuse and recycling, and improve convenience and safety for users such as:
	  • 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 greenhouse gas emissions through low or zero carbon equipment and fuel.
	• Consider greenhouse gas emission implications, potentially including embodied carbon when selecting construction materials and methods for the development and maintenance of facilities.
	• Incorporate sustainability features, such as reused or recycled construction materials such as concrete, asphalt, and wood where possible.
	• Consider 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 BC Building Code and 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.

Priority	Considerations
Consistent and maximized reuse and recycling opportunities	• 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. • Include flex space at facilities to expand or trial new opportunities for reuse and recycling.
New facilities developed in areas with expected future growth	• 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 diversify.
Reasonable and consistent drive times	• Site future facilities close to areas that experience relatively high drive times, accounting for population density. • Aim to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions through reduced drive times.
Resilient and cost-effective service delivery	• 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 in 2023 to evaluate the regional solid waste system and analyze future system service and infrastructure needs and opportunities over the next 30 years. To evaluate the 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 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.

Drive time analysis will continue to be used in evaluating locations for future recycling and waste centre development.

Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre

Vancouver Landfill

3

Residual Management Strategic Approach

Purpose

The Solid Waste Management Plan residual management strategic approach outlines Metro Vancouver's plans for managing residual solid waste (garbage) remaining after efforts to reduce waste and recycle, 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 2026, Metro Vancouver has no plans to actively pursue additional disposal 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 2026 are as follows:

1. Vancouver Landfill
2. Waste-to-Energy Facility
3. Remote landfills under contingency disposal contracts

Vancouver Landfill (Operational Certificate MR-01611)

The Vancouver Landfill is owned and operated by the City of Vancouver. The landfill has been operating since 1966 and received approximately 65% of the region's residential and commercial/institutional garbage in 2024. 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 2050 or when the landfill reaches a post-settlement height of 39 metres, whichever comes first. In either case, the Vancouver Landfill is expected to continue to serve as a primary disposal facility for the term of this Solid Waste Management Plan. Meeting the waste reduction targets outlined in this plan helps ensure the landfill can remain a disposal option for as long as possible.

The Vancouver Landfill provides opportunities for public drop-off of recyclable materials and through its operations optimizes the 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 (Operational Certificate 107051)

Metro Vancouver's Waste-to-Energy Facility has operated in Burnaby since 1988 and 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 at a facility located outside of the Metro Vancouver 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 landfills for 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 local disposal options. As of 2026, contingency disposal landfills used include:

- Campbell Hill Landfill, Cache Creek, BC
- Roosevelt Landfill, Roosevelt, WA, USA
- Columbia Ridge Landfill, Arlington, OR, USA

Construction and 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 that cannot feasibly be recycled is sent for disposal at the following facilities:

- Vancouver Landfill, Delta BC (Operational Certificate MR-01611)
- Ecowaste Landfill, Richmond, BC (Operational Certificate MR-04922)

Waste-to-Energy Facility

Strategic Approach

Future Disposal Capacity

In Canada, landfilling is expected to continue to be the most common approach to managing residual waste for the foreseeable future. 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. Technologies, other than the 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*[10] which includes an overview of considerations of all potential residuals management options and technical criteria to consider for evaluating residual waste management options, should additional long-term disposal capacity be required. Table 10 summarizes these criteria.

Table 10 - Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options

Criteria Category	Criteria for Evaluating Residual Waste Management Options
Economic	• Overall cost, including 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
Environmental	• Potential to emit pollutant emissions/discharges to air, land and water • Greenhouse gas emissions - direct and indirect contributions and offsets (avoided greenhouse gas emissions) • General environmental factors such as dust, odour, litter, noise, and vectors • 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 and testing systems
Regulatory Compliance	• Meets or exceeds all current or anticipated environmental and waste management regulations • Permitting and approval processes required for implementing the system
Resource Use	• 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

10 Stantec. (2025). *Residual Waste Management Options Review*.

Vancouver Landfill flare station

Criteria Category	Criteria for Evaluating Residual Waste Management Options
Social	• Potential negative impact on public health and safety • Public perception, cultural considerations and community acceptance of the system • Job creation during construction and operation
Technical Feasibility	• Maturity, reliability and degree to which the system has been proven on a commercial scale • 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

Collaborative engagement outreach event

Education and Outreach

Metro Vancouver's behaviour 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 dedicated 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.
- Increase the public's familiarity with the solid waste system by practicing accessible engagement and meeting people where they are at, including in-person interactions, public events, tours, and conversations with experts.
- Continue to use research 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 resources, 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.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Guiding Principle

Inclusive solid waste services and programs is a guiding principle of the 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 Metro Vancouver's Accessibility Plan (2023–2026), which emphasizes universal design, adaptability, and collaboration. These principles will be integrated into implementation of the plan's strategies and actions to remove barriers and enable participation by people of all abilities.

The potential actions listed under each of the principles below are illustrative examples intended to demonstrate possible approaches. Metro Vancouver will continue to 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 centres.
    - Prioritize accessibility improvements and incorporation of universal design standards at recycling and waste centres.
2. Inclusive Service and Program Delivery
    - Support options for individuals with mobility limitations.
    - Add programs and services for underserved areas and residents facing barriers.
    - Identify and address gaps in accessibility across the region for reuse, recycling, and disposal services.
3. Community Support and Engagement
    - Foster the development of volunteer networks to assist seniors, residents without a personal vehicle, and people with disabilities in recycling and waste reduction efforts.
    - Collaborate with community organizations to provide training and resources.
4. Education and Awareness
    - Provide signage and resources designed to help reduce complexity for residents with disabilities or communication barriers.
    - 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. "A 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 funded 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 program 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.

The majority of residential and commercial garbage flows through 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 the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility is sent to remote landfills in central British Columbia and the United States. After accounting for proportional recycling and waste centre and transportation expenditures, the 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.

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. For near-term future planning, the only practical alternative to the Waste-to-Energy Facility and the Vancouver Landfill is contingency disposal at remote private landfills. Therefore, closing either facility would lead to significant disposal cost increases.

Table 11 - 2024 Disposal Costs

	Vancouver Landfill	Waste-to-Energy Facility	Contingency Disposal
Total Cost/Tonne	$123	$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. Under this agreement, the landfill may 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.

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.

Gross expenditures by Metro Vancouver for waste reduction and recycling are approximately $25 million per year, roughly 15 per cent 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. The remainder are recovered through tipping fees.

Table 12 - 2026 Allocation of Expenditures

Hierarchy	$ (Millions)
Rethink, Reduce, and Reuse	$5.5
Recycle	$19.5
Recover and Dispose	$120
Debt Servicing, Contribution to Reserves and other	$25
Total	$170

This allocation reflects the range of costs associated with material that Metro Vancouver handles directly – garbage and recyclables delivered to recycling and waste centres. In contrast, Metro Vancouver provides support for region wide recycling but the funding for management of recyclable materials falls to generators, producer responsibility organizations, the private sector and others. The expenditure allocation for waste prevention activities, relative to other goal areas, reflects Metro Vancouver's role at this level of the hierarchy, which primarily involves collaboration, research, and advocacy, where every dollar spent can have impacts many times beyond Metro Vancouver's expenditure.

Providing cost estimates for each initiative outlined in the plan, at the time of plan development, is not practical given the number and scope of actions and the interdependence of various organizations in delivering solid waste programs and services. Instead, Metro Vancouver will apply a business casing approach aligned with the existing annual GVS&DD Board budgeting process based on conditions at the time of implementation of the actions. This process involves a triple bottom line assessment of capital, operating, and life cycle costs for Metro Vancouver. It also considers cost implications for residents, businesses, and organizations involved in or impacted by each initiative, such as tipping fee changes, as well as potential benefits such as job creation, improved environmental outcomes, and economic benefits realized over a longer timeframe.

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. A five-year financial plan is endorsed by the GVS&DD Board at the time the budget is approved.

Actions in the solid waste management 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 targets. Annual reporting on progress to achieve the targets of the Solid Waste Management Plan will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments are most appropriately allocated.

Metro Vancouver solid waste capital expenditures are approved by the GVS&DD Board on a similar basis to 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. 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.
- Leverage the National Zero Waste Council to advance the circular economy and waste reduction at a national level.

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.
- Biosolids processing at the Waste-to-Energy Facility
- Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy system construction
- Acid gas reduction system construction
- Funding for land acquisition for future solid waste facilities.

The 2026 operating budget for the solid waste function is $170 million. The five-year financial plan 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.

The weighted average tipping fee for 2026 is $156 per tonne with garbage tipping fees projected to increase at 5 per cent per year over five years. Tipping fees in Metro Vancouver are less than public system tipping fees in comparable jurisdictions such as Toronto and Seattle. The annual budget and five-year financial plan are updated each year 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.

Capital expenditures for 2026-2035 are projected to be $900 million, including $390 million estimated for 2026-2030. The focus from 2031-2035 will be consistent with 2026-2030 estimates, with the goal of continuing to prevent waste while minimizing tipping fee increases.

The 2026-2030 solid waste operating and capital budget details are included in Appendix B.

Collaborative engagement program workshop

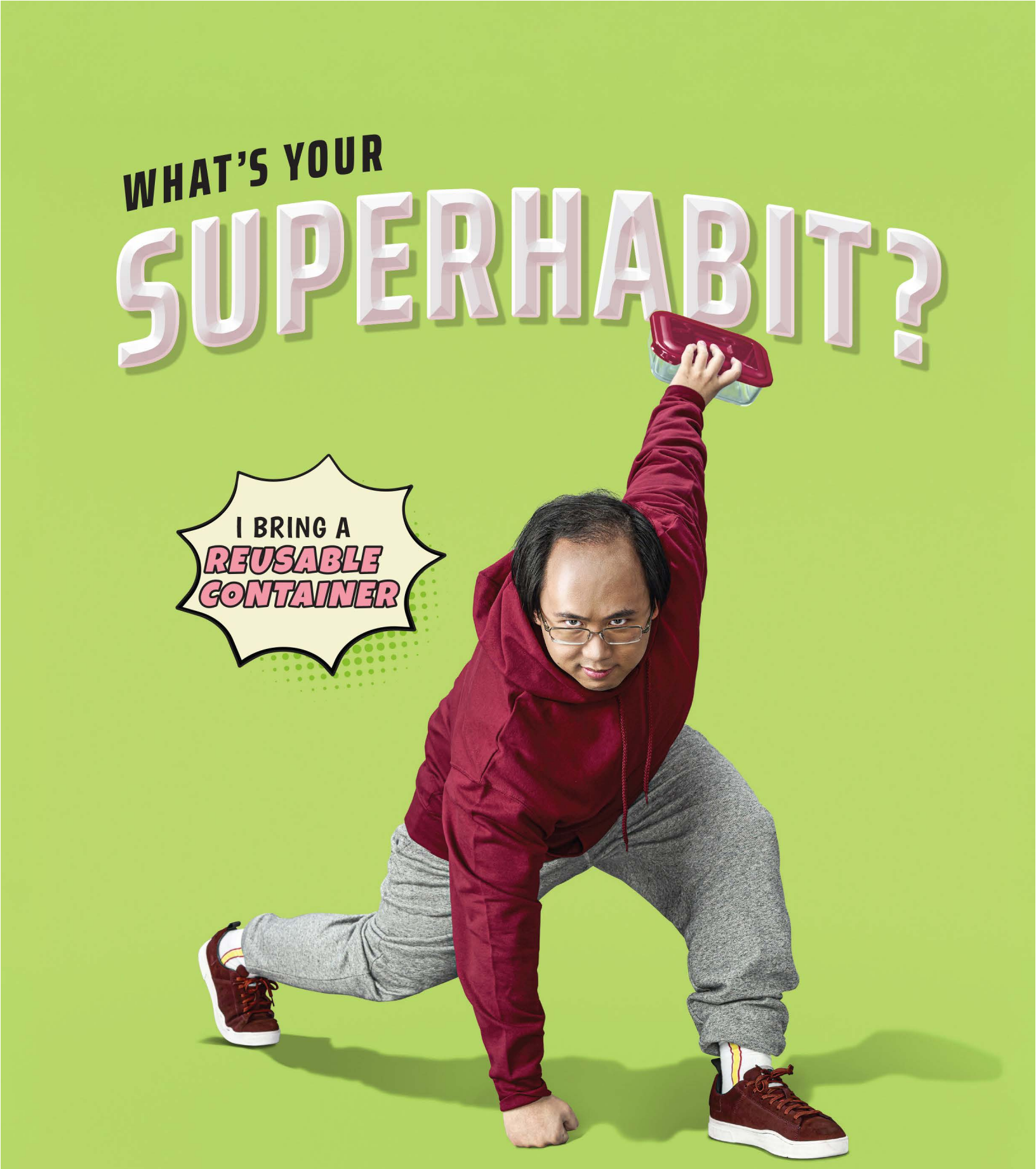
Regional District Collaboration

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 recycling and disposal facilities in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

Collaboration with these regional districts helps to further shared priorities, including advancing a circular economy, advocating for expanded extended producer responsibility programs, and managing construction and demolition material. Collaboration may include sharing data and information, amplifying or aligning education and outreach programming, coordinated advocacy efforts, and direct implementation of programs in a pan-regional area. This plan was developed with input from adjacent regional districts, including discussions on opportunities for continued communication and coordination.

Metro Vancouver will continue to monitor impacts to adjacent regional districts throughout plan implementation, identifying and discussing any potential impacts with adjacent regional districts as they arise. No significant negative impacts are anticipated through implementation of the plan, but it is expected that Metro Vancouver and adjacent regional districts will share the economic, environmental, and social benefits of transitioning to a circular regional economy, preventing waste, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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 particulates, and anthropogenic (human caused) greenhouses gases are 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.



Metro Vancouver behaviour change campaign, "What's Your Superhabit?"

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 2.1, it will impact the reuse of building materials in Strategy 3.3.

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.

The success of the plan is also dependent on factors that GVS&DD can influence but are ultimately beyond its control. Examples of factors include:

- Markets for recyclable materials, particularly for materials like wood, which have experienced market declines in the years prior to the development of this plan.
- The success of extended producer responsibility organizations in reaching their objectives.
- The ability of member jurisdictions to implement member actions as described in this plan.
- The degree to which residents and businesses respond to behaviour change campaigns, regulations and requirements, and participate in waste reduction and recycling programs.
- Unplanned events such as storms or pandemics that result in a surge of waste materials.
- The success of provincial and federal initiatives.
- Economic factors influencing the production and consumption of materials.

These risks can be mitigated in part through ongoing collaboration with the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, members, and the provincial and federal government. The flexible approach to implementation outlined in the plan also allows GVS&DD to re-prioritize actions and resources accordingly to respond to unforeseen challenges.

Compliance Promotion

The solid waste management system in Metro Vancouver is highly integrated and depends on the interconnected operations of many different organizations, including First Nations, local, provincial and federal governments, the private sector, non-profit organizations and the public. The following strategies, if undertaken by the applicable party, help to contribute to the overall success of the plan through promoting compliance with the strategies and actions.

- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, producer responsibility organizations, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can provide education on the plan, highlighting focus areas, and new initiatives to raise awareness and encourage participation.
- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, the solid waste and recycling industry, non-profit organizations, businesses, and institutions can work together to enhance data accuracy and sharing, helping to reliably track progress and identify emerging issues.
- Metro Vancouver can advance regulatory priorities specified in the regulatory strategic approach of this plan.
- Metro Vancouver, member jurisdictions, and senior levels of government can develop, enact, and enforce regulations.

Plan Monitoring

Metro Vancouver will continue to report annually on solid waste management statistics including the targets and applicable secondary metrics outlined in the Solid Waste Management Plan. At the five-year mark, Metro Vancouver will complete an 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 schedules or appendices added as necessary. Any updated schedules or appendices will be highlighted in the submission to the ministry as part of the corresponding effectiveness review.

"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.

The provincial *A Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning* recommends plan progress is reviewed with a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee representing a variety of interests, experiences and expertise. In the Metro Vancouver context, the purpose of a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee would be to provide feedback on:

- Plan progress in conjunction with annual progress reports
- Planned implementation of strategies and actions
- Advancement of measures contemplated in the regulatory, residuals, or recycling and waste centre strategic approaches.

Committee members are typically recruited through an application process. Applications would be reviewed by staff and membership recommendations made to the GVS&DD Board.

In addition to developing a mechanism for feedback on plan progress such as a Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee, Metro Vancouver will continue to participate in working 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 current committees (Table 13) and/or new committees with overlapping responsibilities:

Table 13 - Committees as of 2026

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 and waste reduction operations and communication staff from member jurisdictions and adjacent regional districts and communities

Zero Waste Conference

Additional plan monitoring activities include the following:

- Exploring increasing transparency and access to data through a public dashboard of solid waste management plan performance indicators.
- Continued provision of data to the province to support updates to the BC Disposal Calculator.
- Meeting with Ministry of Environment and Parks staff routinely to discuss plan progress and other topics of shared interest.
- Completion of regular waste composition studies to determine the types and quantities of material disposed to help monitor progress and inform implementation of programs.
- Reporting on progress in implementing actions and strategies in the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Identifying and sharing potential impacts of implementing actions and strategies with affected parties, including First Nations and adjacent regional districts.
- Reporting on expenditures related to the plan and their effectiveness.

Plan Implementation 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 program

A high-level schedule outlining the anticipated schedule for key initiatives within each of the plan's focus areas is attached as Appendix C. This will be updated annually, and the timing of remaining initiatives in the plan will be assessed each year as part of the plan monitoring process.

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 the goals and targets of the plan, as well as emerging issues and success in implementing actions currently underway.

Plan Amendments

This Solid Waste Management Plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead while also addressing issues anticipated in the next 20 to 25 years. It is anticipated that the various actions implementing the solid waste management system that occur over the life of the Plan will not require an amendment to the Plan. Major changes to the solid waste management system contemplated in the Plan may require an amendment to the Plan.

Without being exhaustive, the following actions do not require an amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan:

- Establishing a new site or facility that requires a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Any changes to operations of a facility that is licensed under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Establishing a new site or facility, or changes to an existing site or facility that is exempt or excluded from requiring a licence under GVS&DD Bylaw 181.
- Procurement of new organics processing capacity or facilities located outside of the Metro Vancouver region, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Procurement of new contingency disposal at a remote landfill located outside the Metro Vancouver region, or changes to existing contingency disposal facilities, if such facility is authorized under applicable laws.
- Introducing any regulatory initiatives contemplated in the Regulatory Strategic Approach in the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Establishing a new Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre, or a municipal recycling depot, or upgrading, or changing the location or operations of an existing Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre or a municipal depot.
- Establishing a new organics composting or anerobic digestion processing facility within the region.
- Any changes to the operations of the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility that do not make it a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations, irrespective of whether such changes require an amendment to the Operational Certificate for the Vancouver Landfill or the Waste-to-Energy Facility.
- Any changes to timelines or budgets for implementing the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to performance reporting, including secondary metrics.
- Addition of any new strategies and actions in alignment with the vision, guiding principles and goals of the Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Any changes to the dispute resolution procedure, the plan implementation schedule, the annual solid waste services 5-year financial plan, or the list of supporting documents.

The Solid Waste Management Plan will only be amended if there are major changes in the solid waste management system described in the plan, for example:

- A change in the geographic boundary of the plan.
- New landfills or waste-to-energy facilities or any new disposal facility in the region that is a reviewable project under the *Environmental Assessment Act* and associated regulations.
- Changes to the Solid Waste Management Plan vision, guiding principles, hierarchy and goals, primary performance metrics and targets.
- The addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minster's approval letter.

With the exception of the addition, deletion or revision of policies or strategies related to the conditions outlined in the minister's approval letter, when a plan amendment becomes necessary, Metro Vancouver will undergo a public engagement process and submit an amended plan to the Minister of Environment and Parks for approval, along with a detailed consultation report.

Yard trimmings drop off at a recycling and waste centre

Dispute Resolution Procedure

Appendix D outlines a dispute resolution procedure for disputes involving an administrative decision made by the GVS&DD in the issuance of a license, 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 or an operational certificate. The process provides an opportunity for the complainant/disputant to participate with Metro Vancouver in non-binding mediation. If a resolution is not reached, a decision on the issue will be made by a committee of the GVS&DD Board. This ensures an open and transparent process.

Glossary

Acid gas refers to acidic gaseous pollutants such as hydrogen sulfide (H2S), hydrogen chloride (HCl), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and nitrogen oxides (NOx).

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 end result is an earth-like product that 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.

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.

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.

Diversion refers to the sum of both recycling and recovery, but does not include reuse and materials used as landfill cover.

Dispose/disposal refers to landfilling and mass burn waste-to-energy.

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. This is considered reuse in the waste hierarchy, as food originally intended for sale is repurposed. Food recovery is different from recovery, as defined.

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.

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.

International waste means waste that originates from outside of Canada, including from airports, cruise ships, land-border crossings, and other points of entry.

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 organization (PRO) refers to not-for-profit organization or industry association that is 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 anerobic 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).

Recovery in the context of this plan is the reclaiming energy from municipal solid waste. This does not include food recovery, composting, anaerobic digestion, or waste-to-energy.

Residuals is the fraction of municipal solid waste that is left after prevention, reuse, and recycling and is destined for disposal.

Salvage means removing materials such that they are protected from damage and kept intact so that they can be reused.

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.

Waste-to-energy refers to the combustion of residual waste using mass burn processes 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


→ what is considered compostable. is a key one.
Strategy 1.1
Advocate for circular economy policies
ID001
Advocate that federal and provincial governments phase in regulations for the prohibition of the import, export manufacture, and distribution of non-essential, non-recyclable products and packaging.
13
Consistent regulation for recycled materid is important
Eliminate food waste would be positive
Strategy 1.1
Advocate for circular economy policies
ID003
Advocate for regulatory approaches that prevent waste through implementation of low carbon, circular design and business models.
12
Strategy 1.1
Advocate for circular economy policies
ID090
Advocate that federal and provincial governments develop regulatory programs to improve reporting and implementation of circular food systems.
12
What does the distribution look li
are perishable a
no go?
Is this
for liabil
→ maybe
could help
The implement
Key to keep
of gar and b
down.
Strategy 1.1
Advocate for circular economy policies
ID004
Work with other municipalities and regions across Canada to develop and advocate for implementation of priority circular economy regulations.
10
Would be better to increase cost of C&D disposal.
Strategy 1.1
Advocate for circular economy policies
ID005
Advocate that federal and provincial governments develop regulatory programs to improve reporting and implementation of circular built environment solutions.
8
Cost of housing is a BIG concern.
This one has the biggest impact if it is done well.
Prefer incentives or

Appendix A — Solid Waste Management Plan Technical Studies and Supporting Documents

Metro Vancouver. (2024). Informational Handouts Supporting Discussion Topics – Idea Generation. https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/waste-prevention-reduction-idea-generation-supporting-documents.pdf

Metro Vancouver. (2025). Draft summary of ideas staff consider unadvisable. https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/draft-summary-of-ideas-staff-consider-unadvisable.pdf

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Stantec Consulting Ltd. (2026). Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan: Residual waste management options review. https://metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/Documents/residual-waste-management-options-review.pdf

Appendix B — Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Solid Waste Services 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan 2026 Budget

	2025 BUDGET	2026 BUDGET	% CHANGE	2027 PLAN
REVENUES				
Solid Waste Tipping Fees	$148,874,301	$160,039,613	7.5%	$172,609,790
Energy Sales	6,250,000	6,250,000		6,250,000
Other External Revenues	4,928,890	3,614,141		6,571,114
TOTAL REVENUES	**$160,053,191**	**$169,903,754**	**6.2%**	**$185,430,904**
EXPENDITURES				
Operating Programs:				
Solid Waste Operations				
Allocated Quality Control	$ 25,407	$ 26,274		$ 26,752
Ashcroft Ranch	616,197	–		–
Engineers in Training	123,306	130,788		135,225
Landfills	44,458,053	43,979,138		43,510,599
Recycling and Waste Centre	53,831,557	59,376,424		61,990,346
Waste to Energy Facility	28,523,685	33,334,956		37,909,430
	127,578,205	136,847,580	7.3%	143,572,352
Solid Waste Planning				
Policy and Facility Development	609,217	616,462		636,684
Zero Waste Implementation	2,956,614	2,796,643		2,773,676
Zero Waste Collaboration Initiatives	–	745,254		1,214,548
Community Engagement	1,364,396	1,366,358		1,297,990
	4,930,227	5,524,717	12.1%	5,922,898
Administration and Department Support	756,095	778,512	3.0%	805,059
Environmental Regulation and Enforcement	1,616,473	1,679,330	3.9%	1,724,461
Allocation of Centralized Support Costs	5,828,516	5,666,647	(2.8%)	6,924,633
Total Operating Programs	140,709,516	150,496,786	7.0%	158,949,403
Allocation of Project Delivery Cost	397,060	360,015	(9.3%)	349,668
Debt Service	17,138,153	18,431,056	7.5%	25,029,164
Contribution to Reserve	1,808,462	615,897	(65.9%)	1,102,669
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	**$160,053,191**	**$169,903,754**	**6.2%**	**$185,430,904**

% CHANGE	2028 PLAN	% CHANGE	2029 PLAN	% CHANGE	2030 PLAN	% CHANGE
7.9%	$180,406,743	4.5%	$195,533,526	8.4%	$204,605,382	4.6%
	6,000,000		6,000,000		6,060,000	
	9,525,103		9,956,322		9,864,813	
9.1%	**$195,931,846**	**5.7%**	**$211,489,848**	**7.9%**	**$220,530,195**	**4.3%**
	$ 28,940		$ 28,098		$ 29,216	
	–		–		–	
	138,156		141,142		144,205	
	39,077,120		41,168,681		41,974,607	
	65,782,042		67,917,393		69,714,518	
	38,127,313		41,644,844		43,189,540	
4.9%	143,153,571	(0.3%)	150,900,158	5.4%	155,052,086	2.8%
	650,077		663,730		677,687	
	2,836,540		2,900,630		2,965,817	
	746,986		1,237,652		770,551	
	1,305,098		1,360,327		1,365,871	
7.2%	5,538,701	(6.5%)	6,162,339	11.3%	5,779,926	(6.2%)
3.4%	822,777	2.2%	840,841	2.2%	859,305	2.2%
2.7%	1,758,251	2.0%	1,796,541	2.2%	1,827,863	1.7%
22.2%	7,117,539	2.8%	6,957,975	(2.2%)	6,959,443	0.0%
5.6%	158,390,839	(0.4%)	166,657,854	5.2%	170,478,623	2.3%
(2.9%)	356,880	2.1%	362,811	1.7%	367,801	1.4%
35.8%	33,687,060	34.6%	41,662,467	23.7%	49,311,167	18.4%
79.0%	3,497,067	217.1%	2,806,716	(19.7%)	372,604	(86.7%)
9.1%	**$195,931,846**	**5.7%**	**$211,489,848**	**7.9%**	**$220,530,195**	**4.3%**

Appendix B — Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Capital Portfolio Solid Waste Service

	APPROVED CAPITAL BUDGET	2026 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2027 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			
Landfills			
Coquitlam Landfill Maintenance	$ 24,050,000	$ 6,600,000	$ 3,500,000
Total Landfills	**$ 24,050,000**	**$ 6,600,000**	**$ 3,500,000**
Recycling and Waste Centres			
Langley Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	$ 20,500,000	$ 8,250,000	$ 4,000,000
Maple Ridge Recycling and Waste Centre Upgrades	1,500,000	750,000	650,000
North Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre Depot Development and Site Reconfiguration	44,100,000	2,500,000	9,750,000
Recycling and Waste Centre Maintenance	11,500,000	1,000,000	4,500,000
Solid Waste Facility Land Purchase	–	–	–
Total Recycling and Waste Centres	**$ 77,600,000**	**$ 12,500,000**	**$ 18,900,000**
Waste To Energy Facility			
Acid Gas Reduction	$ 5,450,000	$ 5,000,000	$ 55,000,000
Biosolids Processing	24,250,000	5,000,000	7,000,000
Waste-to-Energy Facility Maintenance	72,150,000	6,850,000	6,850,000
Waste to Energy Facility District Energy	84,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000
Total Waste To Energy Facility	**$ 185,850,000**	**$ 21,850,000**	**$ 88,850,000**
TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	**$ 287,500,000**	**$ 40,950,000**	**$ 111,250,000**

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2028 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2029 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2030 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	2026 TO 2030 TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	ACTIVE PHASE	PRIMARY DRIVER
$ 740,000	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	$ 11,340,000	Multiple	Maintenance
$ 740,000	**$ 250,000**	**$ 250,000**	**$ 11,340,000**		
$ 4,000,000	$ –	$ –	$ 16,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
–	–	–	1,400,000	Construction	Upgrade
6,000,000	–	–	18,250,000	Construction	Upgrade
3,500,000	500,000	500,000	10,000,000	Construction	Maintenance
–	40,000,000	40,000,000	80,000,000	Design	Resilience
$ 13,500,000	**$ 40,500,000**	**$ 40,500,000**	**$ 125,900,000**		
$ 40,000,000	$ –	$ –	$ 100,000,000	Design	Upgrade
6,400,000	1,200,000	–	19,600,000	Construction	Resilience
6,850,000	6,850,000	6,850,000	34,250,000	Construction	Maintenance
20,000,000	25,000,000	28,600,000	98,600,000	Multiple	Resilience
$ 73,250,000	**$ 33,050,000**	**$ 35,450,000**	**$ 252,450,000**		
$ 87,490,000	**$ 73,800,000**	**$ 76,200,000**	**$ 389,690,000**		

Appendix C — Plan Implementation Schedule

Focus Area	Key Initiatives
1. Lead the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention	Advocate for circular programs and policies
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular food systems
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular built environment solutions
	Work locally and nationally to enable business to advance circular products and services
2. Scale up reuse opportunities at recycling and waste centres and beyond	Expand reuse at recycling and waste centres
	Increase reuse at events
	Engage with food and hospitality businesses to expand reuse
	Advocate for reuse requirements encompassing the region
3. Increase access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses and institutions	Advance hauler incentive program
	Assess regulatory options to increase source separation
	Provide tailored education and tools
	Update space and access requirements
4. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable food and organics	Enhance and expand the regional food recovery network
	Improve data on food waste
	Develop additional local organics processing capacity
5. Expand efforts to prevent disposal of valuable building materials	Enable house relocation and deconstruction programs
	Expand local reuse markets
	Recover energy from building materials not currently recyclable
6. Work with organizations that make, sell, use, collect, and recycle plastics to improve collection of recyclable plastics and eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics	Promote elimination of unnecessary plastics
	Advocate for faster implementation of more consistent and broader residential collection programs

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10

Appendix D — Dispute Resolution Procedure

Solid Waste Management Plan Dispute Resolution Procedure

BACKGROUND:

A. As part of preparing and updating 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) The GVS&DD 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 GVS&DD 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; or

    b. Proceed 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 wilt 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

    d. 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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