

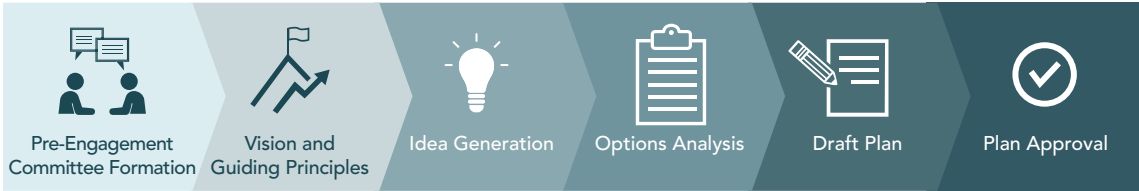


Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Idea Generation | Feedback Summary

Why update the solid waste management plan?

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current plan (approved in 2011), and identifying opportunities for accelerated waste reduction and recycling while reducing greenhouse gases and promoting a circular economy.



Idea Generation

Metro Vancouver is committed to engaging with governments including First Nations, the waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities, and residents at all phases of the plan update process – this ensures the opportunity for multiple perspectives to be considered.

Metro Vancouver completed the idea generation phase of engagement in 2024. Feedback directly contributed to the updated hierarchy and goals and helped us develop a long list of actions that will be evaluated for potential inclusion in the updated plan.

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

First Nations Engagement

The solid waste management plan update presents an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to strengthen relationships with First Nations. Metro Vancouver is engaging with First Nations to identify and understand priorities related to waste management and to ensure that Indigenous interests, perspectives, and values are reflected in the plan update.

Indigenous and urban Indigenous peoples are invited to participate in all public engagement activities. A separate First Nations engagement strategy focuses on government-to-government engagement with First Nations.

Public Engagement Process

- Online public questionnaire
- Outreach at six community events
- One-on-one interviews
- Community outreach at the PNE
- Collaborative engagement with 14 not-for-profit organizations reaching equity-denied and under-represented communities

Summary of Engagement Feedback

During the engagement phase, participants were invited to share their ideas and perspectives on improving solid waste management in the region. Discussions were guided by seven key questions, developed through a review of the current plan.

The seven guiding questions were:

What actions can build on our success to:

- Rethink and prevent waste in the first place?
- Enhance accountability for eliminating waste?
- Leverage knowledge and expertise through collaboration?
- Increase participation and reduce contamination in organics and recycling programs?
- Promote confidence in recycling systems?
- Help us expand inclusive programs and services?
- Plan for future infrastructure and systems for waste management across the region?

Participants shared a wide range of ideas to improve the region’s waste management systems. The following themes reflect the most common topics raised:

Equity & Accessibility  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility and inclusivity in waste systems• Multilingual and culturally relevant communication	Transparency & Accountability  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear definition of waste and recycling• Public understanding of waste outcomes	Collaboration & Governance  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross-jurisdictional partnerships• Policy and regulation improvements	Affordability, Convenience, & Consistency  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistent services and policies region-wide• Cost-effective solutions
Innovation & Infrastructure  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smart tools and AI• Decentralized systems	Environmental & Economic Impact  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate action through waste reduction• Incentives and business engagement	Circular Economy & Waste Prevention  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repair, reuse, and reduction of single-use items• Food waste prevention	Education & Engagement  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public awareness campaigns• Multilingual education tools

Next Steps

Sign up to be notified about opportunities to participate in the next phase of engagement for the solid waste management plan update: options analysis.



Visit metrovancover.org and search “SWMP” or scan the QR code.