

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS TO THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
INDEPENDENT CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PANEL**

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

1:00 pm (2 hours approx.)

Location: Online (Zoom)

AGENDA

Item	Speaker
Welcome and Introductions	Andrea Reimer, Consultation and Engagement Panel Chair
Solid Waste Management Plan Process Overview	Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Solid Waste Community Engagement
Presentation #1	Emily McGill, Master Recycler Vancouver/ SPEC
Presentation #2	Flora Poole, Binners' Project, Community Program Manager
Presentation #3	Hollis Nelson, Fraser Basin Council, Program Manager
Presentation #4	Jaime Cabrera Melendez, Bioloop Foundation, Executive Director
Presentation #5	Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste, President
Presentation #6	Olivia Lee, Youth Education Advisory Panel, Student
Presentation #7	Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd., Operations Manager
Presentation #8	Sara McQuaid, Threading Change, Director of Partnerships and Programs – Did not attend
Presentation #9	Sue Maxwell, Zero Waste BC, Chair
Presentation #10	Susana Carson, BSIbio Packaging Solutions, CEO
Presentation #11	Thi Nguyen, Member of public – Did not attend
Closing Remarks	Andrea Reimer, Consultation and Engagement Panel Chair

FBC Youth Program

Feedback on Metro Vancouver Engagement on Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Fraser
Basin
Council **YOUTH**
PROGRAM





Thank You Metro Vancouver!

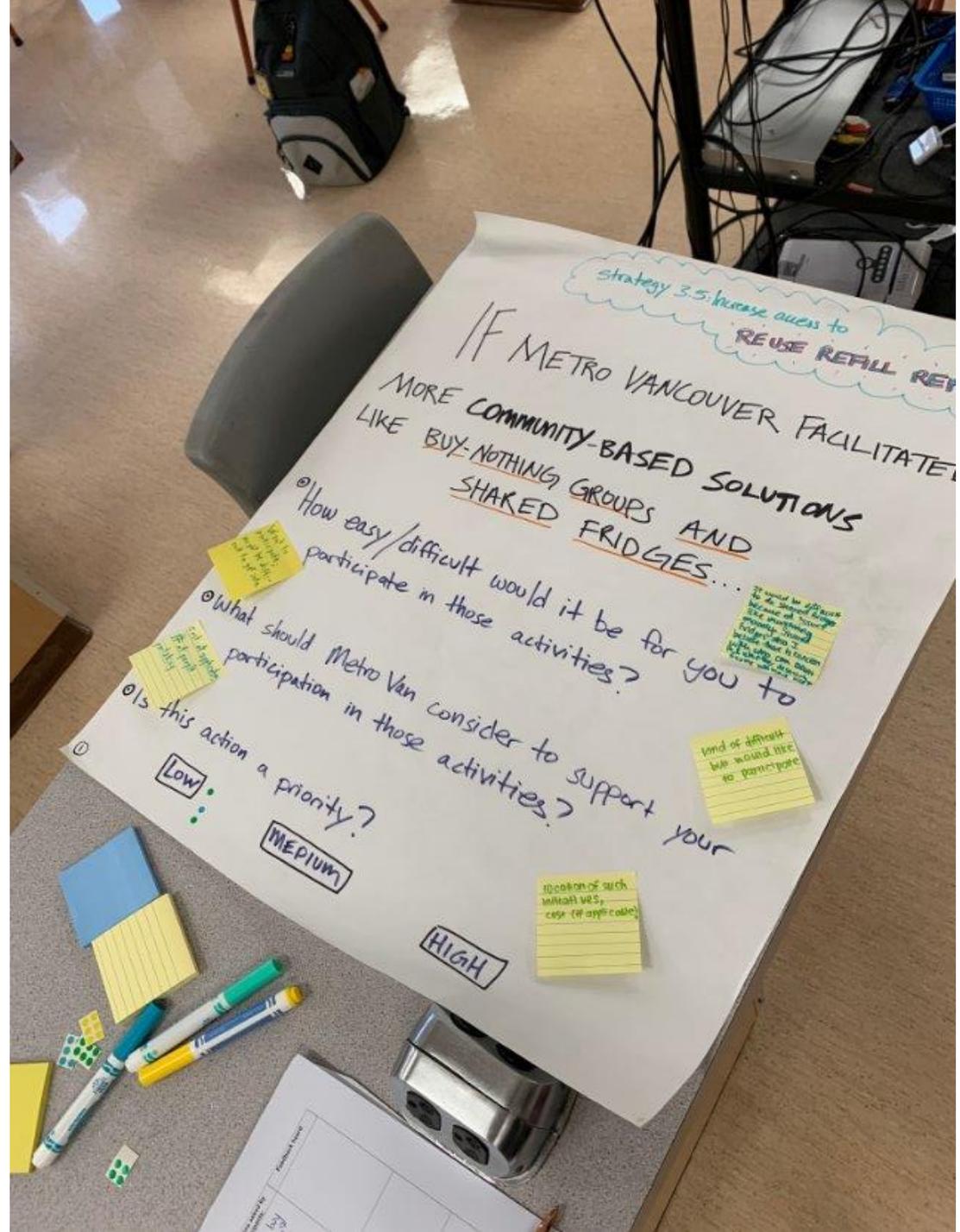
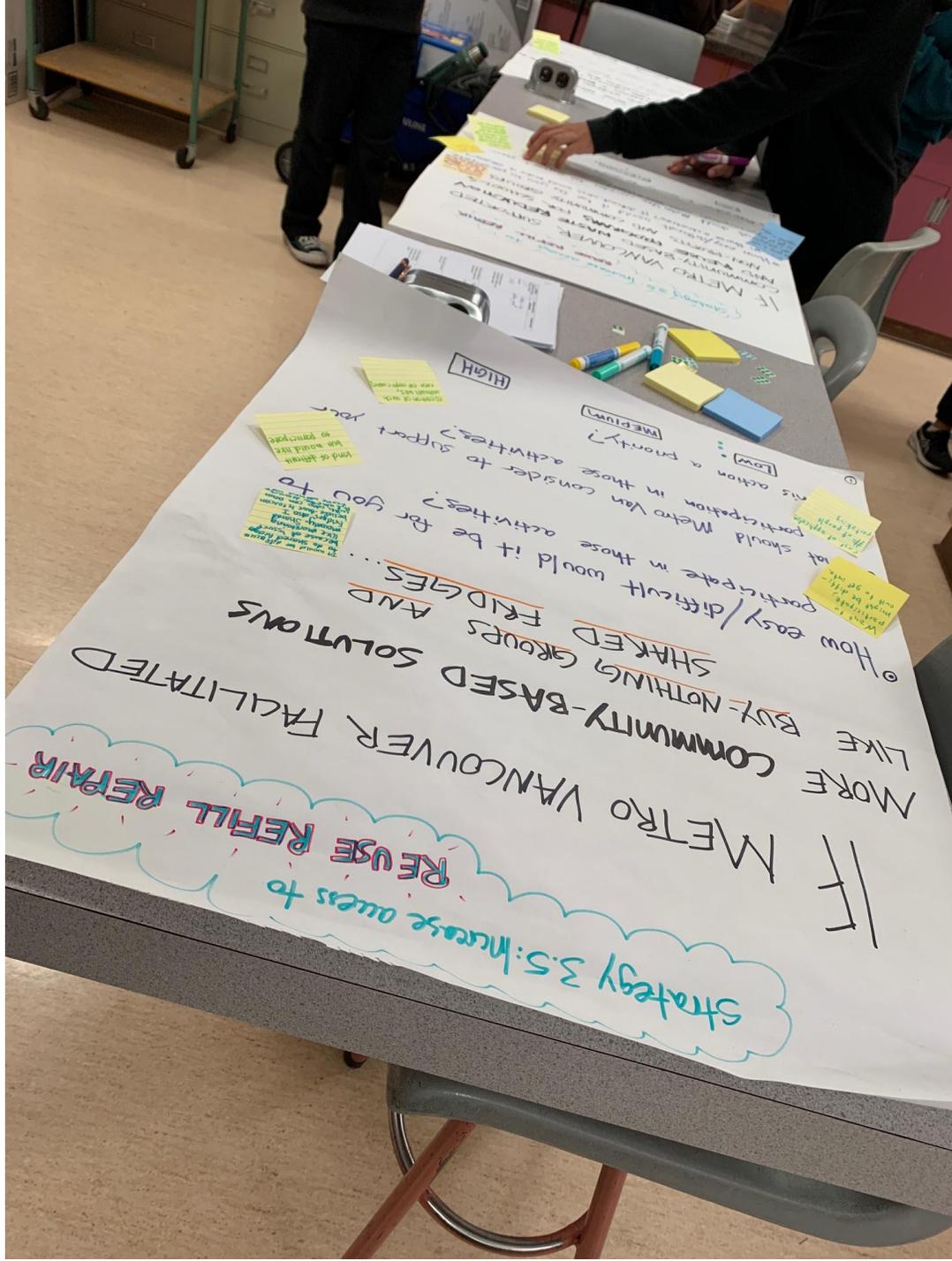
The FBC Youth Program was engaged for three phases of engagement on the SWMP Update through the:

Collaborative Engagement Program!

Collaborative Engagement Program

- Enables broader engagement
- Supports existing work and relationships in community
- Broadens education and awareness of Metro Vancouver's responsibilities in the region
- Provides tangible materials and supports
- Flexible and responsive







metrovanancouver | SOLID WASTE

Templeton Secondary Engagement Event

Feedback From Youth and Educators

- Call for more active and broad push for education and engagement on waste
- Call for more in-person activities, hands-on experience
- Appetite to hear directly from Metro Vancouver
- More time dedicated specifically to Environmental Clubs





Thank You Metro Vancouver!

We appreciate the support and the opportunity to involve local youth in the planning that affects their future!

Feedback on Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Engagement Process

Community & Youth-Focused Engagements by Bioloop Foundation



Land Acknowledgment & Relationship-Building

- We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are presenting from lands traditionally stewarded by Indigenous Peoples
- We recognize the ongoing relationships Indigenous Nations have with this land and with the systems that sustain it, including waste, resources, and the environment



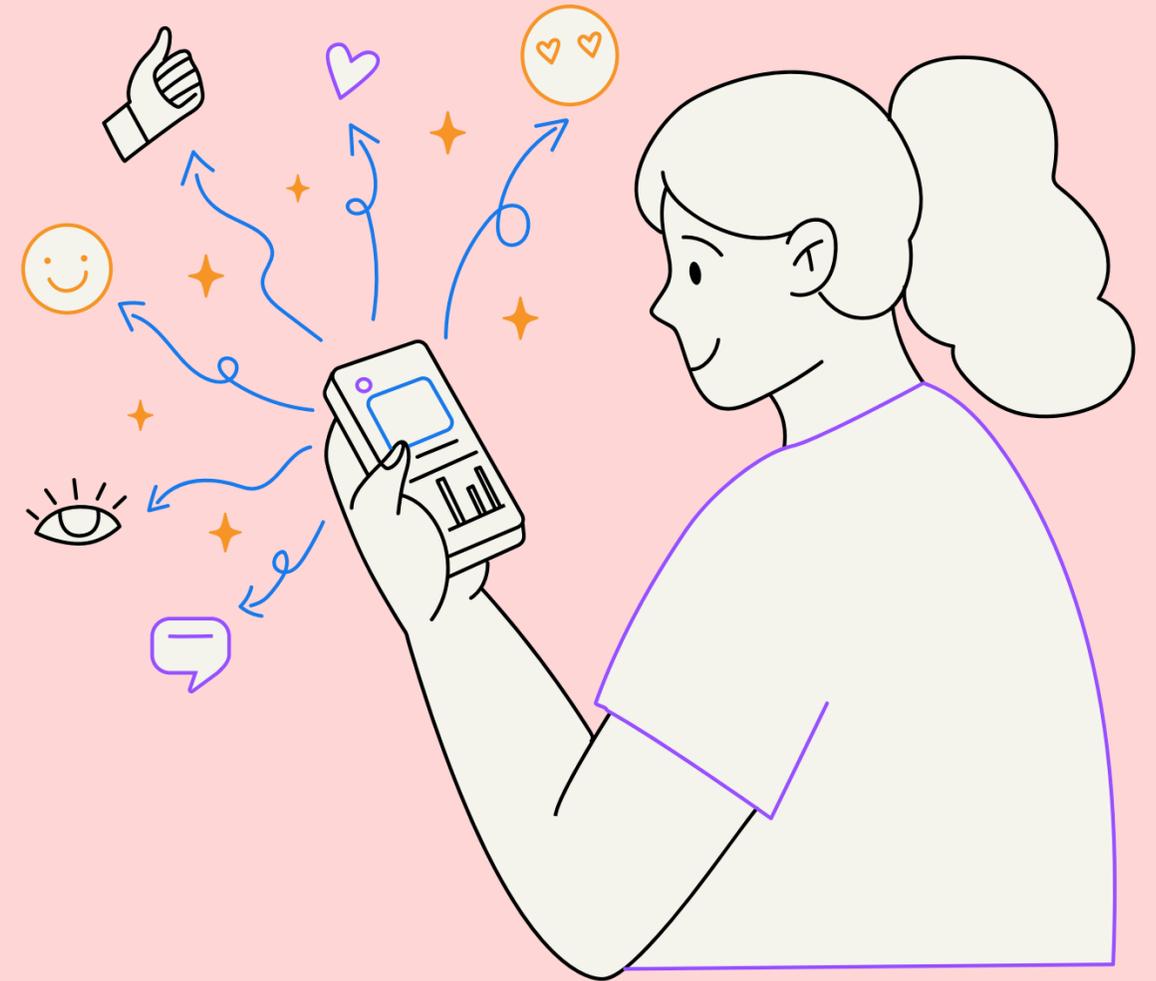


Who we are & why we participated?

- Bioloop Foundation, a community-based organization
- Performed collaborative engagements in 2024 and 2025 for Metro Vancouver
- Focused on engaging residents, especially youth from underrecognized communities



How We Learned About the Opportunity?



What worked!

- Discovered the call for proposals through LinkedIn by following Metro Vancouver's page
- Clear initial information once connected with staff

What could improve...

- Limited promotion beyond existing networks
- Risk of missing organizations not already connected to Metro Vancouver

Timing & Call for Proposals

Key Observation

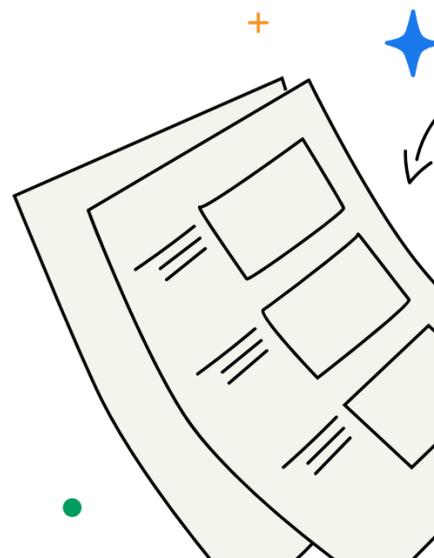
- The call for proposals happened very quickly

Impact

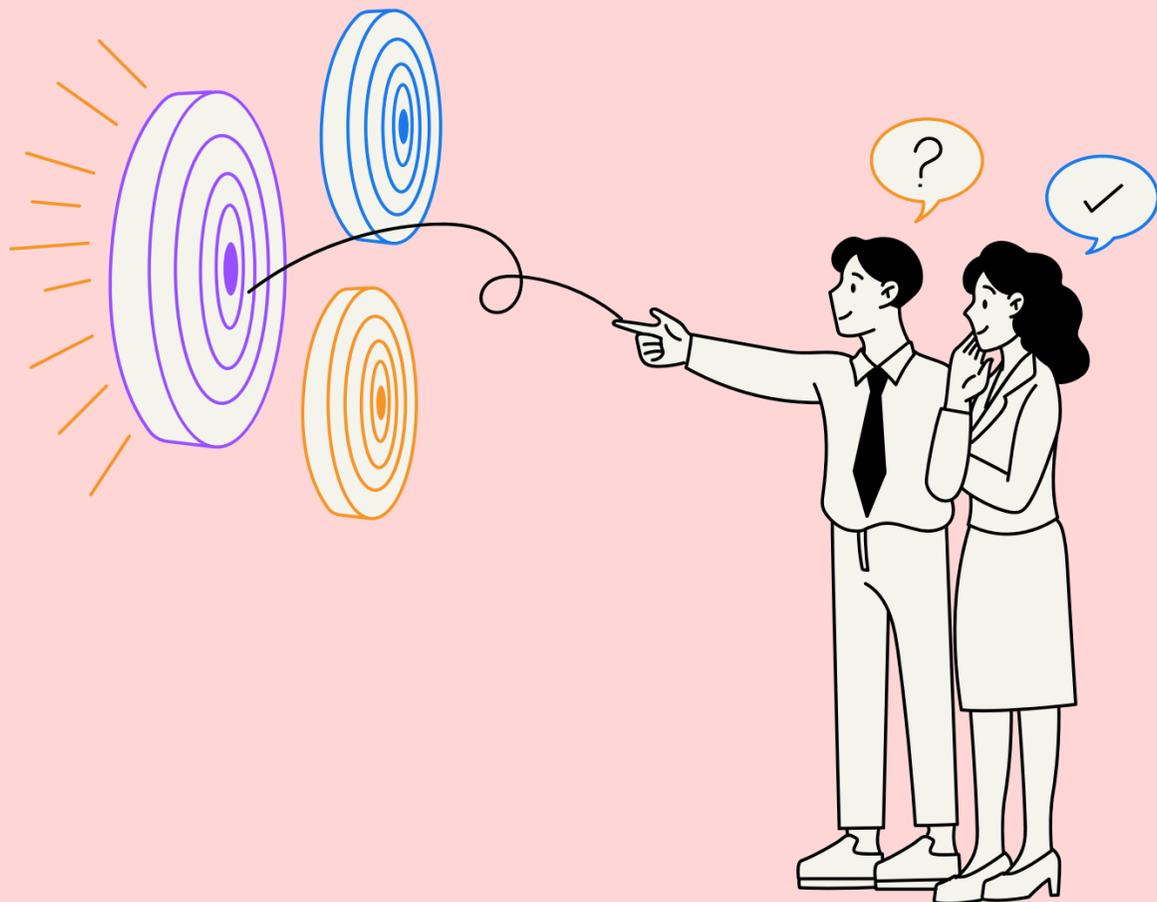
- Limited time for organizations to plan, partner, and design inclusive engagement
- Reduced ability for some community groups and residents to participate

Recommendation

- Allow more lead time for future collaborative engagement calls



Comparing Engagement Phases



Idea Generation Phase (2024)

- More preparation time
- Stronger ability to tailor sessions for participants

Options Analysis Phase (2025)

- Much shorter timeframe
- Increased pressure on organizers and participants

Engagement Toolkits & Staff Support



What worked well

- Toolkits were excellent and clearly laid out
- Explained the full process, deliverables, and expectations
- Templates were especially helpful

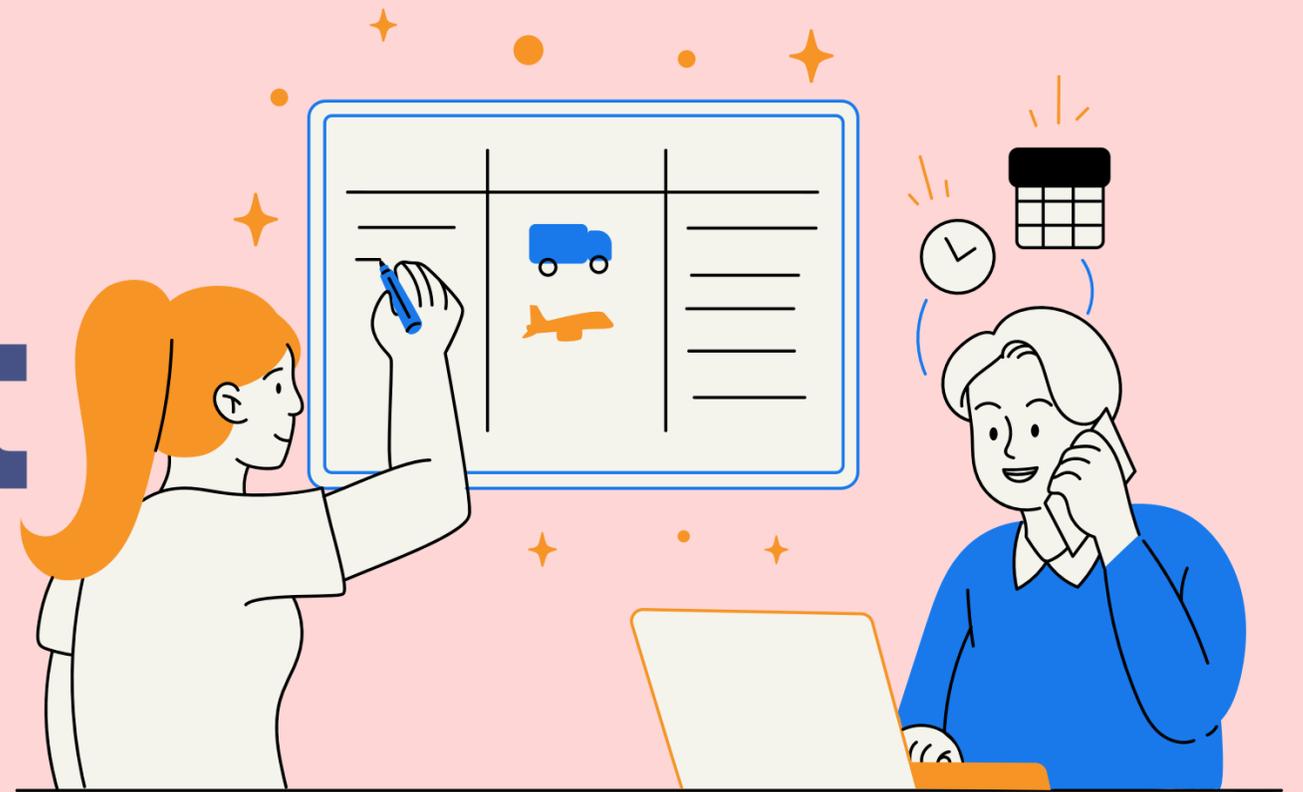
Challenges

- Large volume of information
- Short timelines made it difficult to fully absorb all details

Staff support

- Metro Vancouver staff were consistently present
- Always willing to clarify information and answer questions

Youth Engagement & Inclusion



Key feedback from our experience

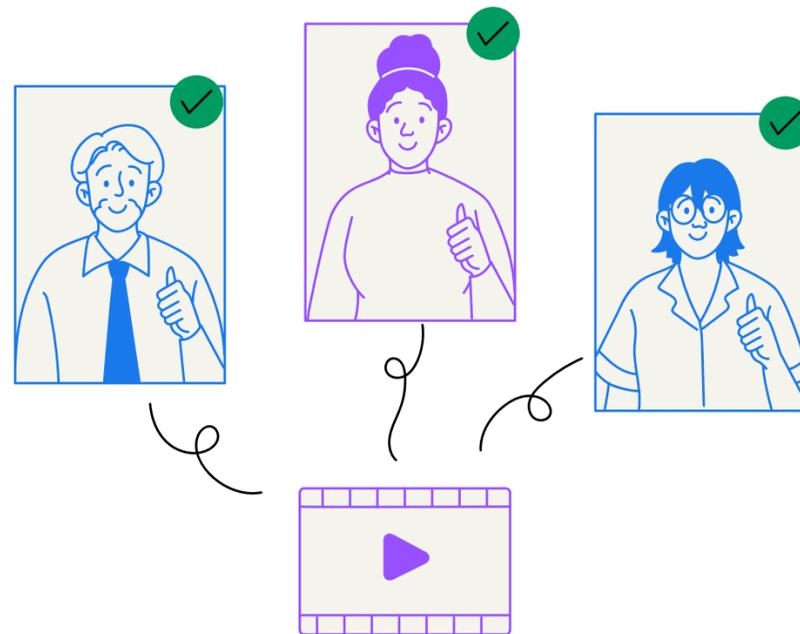
- Youth are interested and motivated to engage
- Youth bring valuable ideas, lived experiences, and perspectives

What supports meaningful participation

- Safe, accessible, and inclusive spaces
- Information explained in different ways
- Recognition that learning styles and comprehension vary

Recommendation: **Hybrid engagement**

- Option to participate online or in person
- Removes barriers related to transportation, scheduling, and comfort levels



Good practice

- Break information into smaller, clear sections
- Allow time for questions and discussion

Accessibility & Engagement Design

Empowering
People Through
Knowledge

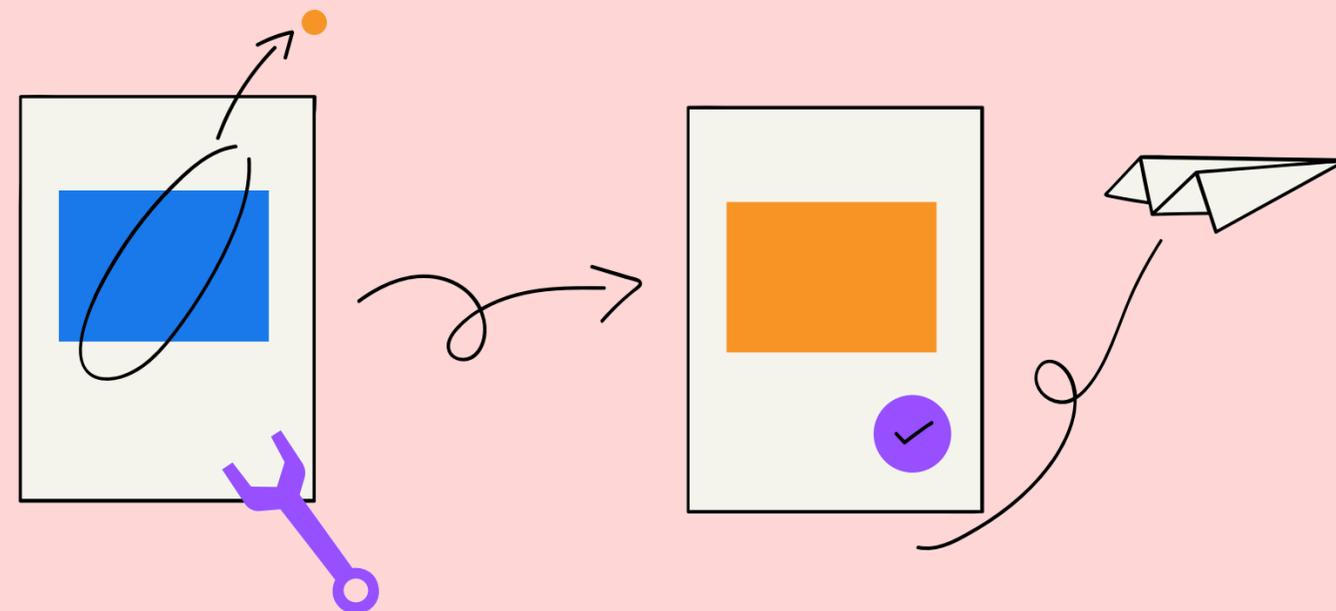
Key Takeaways & Recommendations

What to continue

- Strong staff support
- Well-designed toolkits
- Commitment to collaborative engagement

What to strengthen

- Longer timelines for calls for proposals and engagement delivery
- Broader promotion of opportunities
- More flexible, inclusive engagement formats





Bioloop Foundation

Final reflection

- Community and youth engagement is meaningful when it is well-timed, accessible, and inclusive
- Thank you for the opportunity to share Bioloop Foundation's experience and feedback



Jaime@bioloopfoundation.org

EMPOWERING



BIOLOOP



LEADERS

FEEDBACK ON ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Presented by Olivia Lee



Youth Education and Advisory Panel | Grade 11 Student

WHAT WORKED WELL?

1 Clear Materials

Documents well-organized & easy to find

2 Flexible Participation

Tools & opportunities allowed participation with student schedule



3 Welcoming Staff

Supportive space in YEAP

4 Transparency

Online materials + meetings built trust

OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for Improvement

- Public-Facing Events
- Longer Consultation Windows
- Plain Language
- Outreach
- Clear Updates

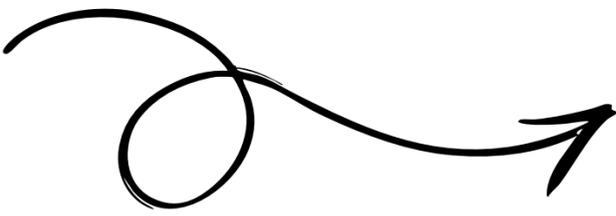




MORE PUBLIC EVENTS

Now

- 1. Few public sessions
- 2. Partner-led events
- 3. Youth groups missed



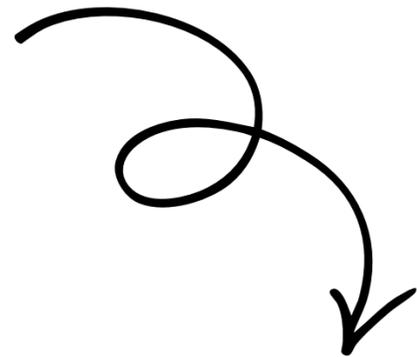
After

- 1. Wider awareness
- 2. Access
- 3. Youth voice

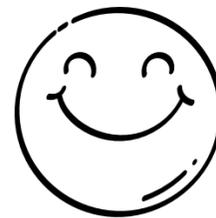


Longer Consultation Windows

- 1. Lots of material
- 2. Short timelines
- 3. Hard for busy groups



- 1. Better understanding
- 2. Quality input
- 3. Inclusive participation



SIMPLER LANGUAGE



Technical documents

Few summaries

Hard for newcomers



Easier entry point



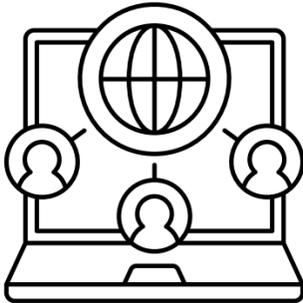
Clear key choices



Confident youth input



Outreach Beyond Digital



- Mostly online engagement
- Low visibility offline
- Digital barriers



- Reach offline residents
- Build trust in person
- Include youth & newcomers



Clear Updates

- Input unclear
Impact not visible
Invisible contribution
- Stronger transparency
Clear link to action
Encourages future input





CONCLUSION

Current Gaps:

- Limited Accessibility
- Technical wording
- Selective Involvement



What Improvements Offer:

- Wider Publicity
- Clarity & Efficiency
- Inclusion & Pride





THANK YOU!

Ineffective feedback mechanisms in the engagement process

Metro Vancouver hears,
but doesn't seem to be listening.

15 + years of engagement with MetroVan

- Specialist in Compostable packaging systems
- 20yrs +
- Founded and funded one of the largest non-profit research programs in North America for compostable packaging and how it is processed in operational facilities.
- 10+ years of research and policy experience in Canada & the US
- Technical expert for research projects built by Canadian provincial and federal government departments & intergovernmental agencies.

- Metro Vancouver publications and on-line messaging mis-informs on the solid waste category of compostable packaging.
- Inaccurate definitions
- Unsupported, and inaccurate claims

A pattern of public misinformation.

- **Early 2010's** packaging reduction guides mis-informed with untrue statements.

I informed, went through process... No reply... no changes made.

- **Pandemic era** on line statements were made that continued the pattern of mis-information.

I informed... Issues presented & discussed through solid waste review process. Changes were made on-line... within a year, jurisdiction changed to the province, & now the province of BC is making the same erroneous claims.

Today... the MV Solid Waste plan continues to mis-inform.

Compostable Plastic includes any type of plastic that is certified or labeled compostable regardless of its actual performance in organics processing systems.

Metro Vancouver's public definition not used by any industry group or government agency that I've worked with over the past 20 years.

The definition is in direct contradiction to other industry and government definitions and it inherently infers a failure of performance.

Al.... .

- Compostable plastic is a type of [biodegradable plastic](#) designed to break down into carbon dioxide, water, and biomass within months, specifically in industrial composting facilities.

US Compost Council....

- *Compostable* Product (n): Any product specifically manufactured to break down in a *compost* system at the end of its useful life. May be made from *plastic*, paper, ...

Federal Government – Canada...

- Compostable plastics are... materials designed to undergo biological decomposition in industrial composting facilities, breaking down into carbon dioxide, water, inorganic compounds, and biomass, often certified under standards like ASTM D6400 or ISO 17088

Public information needs to be accurate

Metro Vancouver has a responsibility to provide accurate information on the issues they engage in/report on.

Their publications create/reflect? internal bias, and their failure to present accurate information, influences internal engagement, public perception, business and economic perception, as well as mis-informing other levels of government.

When that information filters through to the NZWC, they mis-inform across Canada.

The pattern of repeated mis-information is irresponsible.

Indicates a failure of their public feedback process.

Review of MV engagement process February 11

Thank you for the opportunity to present today in the hopes that we can all learn from this process and the review to improve the system. Zero Waste BC has been involved since the initiation of the Public Technical Advisory Committee and has had a keen interest in Metro Vancouver's solid waste system since the last planning process. I have attended all the PTAC meetings save one and almost all of the working group meetings as well.

1. Time frame of planning process
 - a. It is hard to maintain momentum when the planning process takes as long as plan used to last. Sometimes it has felt as if we were delayed in order to secure approvals for contracts for the waste to energy facility before any meaningful discussion of its future or possible closure.
2. PTAC meetings and amount of time
 - a. The meetings were not structured to encourage conversations nor learning from each other. It sometimes felt like we were just checking a box on a topic so we can rush on to the next one. Often we just hear from one or two members but if no one speaks up, we jump on to the next agenda item. Agenda items at meetings focused on unimportant details rather than full discussion of ambition and extent of actions.
 - b. Earlier on, the meeting format often used small group discussions as ways to elicit feedback but that also meant the whole group did not get to hear each others' perspectives or develop more of a consensus. This did change when we requested at least an opportunity for sharing feedback.
 - c. There was inadequate time to analyze and discuss key topics early on so PTAC members requested additional meetings to cover topics adequately and some additional meetings were held but key topics like residual disposal options were delayed and some topic discussions felt perfunctory rather than substantive.
 - d. PTAC members formed three working groups to develop key action areas. This took a lot of additional time for members and it does not feel like that input is fully reflected in the plan.
 - e. Notes from the early meetings were not reflective of the conversations at the meetings. Often watering down any opinions that Metro Vancouver leadership did not wish to move forwards. We greatly appreciate the extra time it has taken for the Engagement Panel to attend our meetings to address this issue.
3. Inclusion of more diverse voices
 - a. This has been a positive addition, however, the process needs to go beyond just recruitment, but also ensuring people do not experience barriers to attending meetings nor sharing their thoughts. The meetings are often run like a council meeting -quite formal and time constrained which may not be comfortable for everyone to share their thoughts. In addition, new members were added to PTAC part way through and more could have been done to bring those members up to speed and make them feel like contributing their ideas.

4. Community engagement through grants to community groups
 - a. This has also been a positive addition and ZWBC used grants and additional volunteer time for the first two rounds but decided not to participate in the last one as the scripts seemed designed to avoid zero waste and meaningful change and the results did not incorporate the input.

5. Lack of support from Metro Vancouver has been ongoing and includes:
 - a. Information not provided upon request
 - b. Not utilizing the skills of the consulting firm hired to assist with the plan nor allowing the staff experts to answer questions
 - c. Consultants reports on 3Rs, C&D and MF/ICI have not been made public.
 - d. Feedback not incorporated (latest example -feedback asking for stronger targets provide after Nov 20 2025 meeting, Jan 2026 meeting still had same targets)
 - e. Hierarchy version approved by ZWC and then Board not incorporating IAC and PTAC input and not shown to either before the approval meetings.
 - f. Missing opportunities of planning process to engage with key stakeholders to advance actions in the plan rather than delaying action with a need for future consultations
 - g. No proper residual disposal analysis for local situation but wasted time and money on a generic report that offered no new information.
 - h. The plan does not mention zero waste once.

6. Lack of transparency
 - a. We have tried to do analysis that should have been done as part of the planning process by Metro Vancouver and asked more detailed information that would have been useful for this but MV staff have refused to provide it despite asking for cost details for over a year. In looking at a Freedom of Information request, we were quoted a cost of \$170,000.
 - b. A quick review of the logs of response to input often show some just “noted” or have answers that do not correspond to the input.

We hope the lack of transparency, precommitment to specific directions, lack of accountability to the feedback provided, and challenge in building trust can be addressed with an improved process so that participants feel their engagement is a good use of their time.