

Solid Waste Management Plan Update  
**Vision and Guiding  
Principles Phase**

**Engagement Summary Report**



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who provided input on the vision and guiding principles phase of public engagement for the solid waste management plan update. Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation to provide sustainable regional services, contributing to a livable and resilient region, and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations. The purpose of this phase of engagement was to listen and learn from the public and affected parties on key values and priorities related to how residents and businesses purchase, use, reuse, recycle and dispose of items in Metro Vancouver. We appreciate your time as well as the insights and comments you shared with us during the vision and guiding principles phase. We invite you to participate in the next phase of engagement: idea generation.

## About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. Its core services are drinking water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority.

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# Table of Contents

1. About the Solid Waste Management Plan Update	4
2. Executive Summary	5
3. First Nations Engagement	6
4. About the Engagement Process	7
5. Engagement Promotion	9
6. Engagement Participation	10
7. Engagement Feedback	14
8. How Feedback Will Be Used	21
9. Next Steps	21

# 1. About the Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Metro Vancouver is responsible for waste reduction and recycling planning, and operating a series of solid waste facilities in the region.

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* (2011), and identifying opportunities for accelerated waste reduction and diversion while reducing greenhouse gases and promoting a circular economy. The plan update is a multi-year process, with the most recently completed phase being the vision and guiding principles phase.

Throughout the process, Metro Vancouver is actively engaging with governments, including First Nations, government agencies, waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities, and Metro Vancouver residents to guide updates to the plan.



The vision and guiding principles will set the direction and create the foundation for the plan and will be built considering engagement input and feedback, provincial guidelines, a review of the current plan, Metro Vancouver guiding documents including the Board Strategic Plan, and a review of solid waste management plans in other jurisdictions.

## 2. Executive Summary

This report details the vision and guiding principles phase of engagement as part of Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan update. This phase focused on listening to and learning from the public, First Nations, and interested parties on values and priorities to guide the solid waste management plan.

The vision and guiding principles will set the direction and create the foundation for the plan and will consider engagement input and feedback, provincial guidelines, a review of the current plan, Metro Vancouver's Board Strategic Plan, and a review of solid waste management plans in other jurisdictions. The engagement process on the vision and guiding principles began in spring 2023 by engaging with First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, and advisory committees to gain insights and to help identify values and priorities.

Public engagement was subsequently held from September 18 to November 10, 2023, and included an online questionnaire, one in-person workshop, one virtual workshop, outreach at six community events, interviews, and community outreach at the PNE from August 19 to September 4, 2023. In addition, Metro Vancouver worked with 14 non-profit organizations with interest in solid waste management or environmental issues, as well as organizations representing equity-denied and under-represented communities. This collaborative engagement process provided an opportunity to leverage existing connections within these communities and engage with audiences that may not have been heard from previously.

The purpose of public engagement was to listen and learn to understand key values and priorities related to how residents and businesses purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver. This input will help to inform the vision and guiding principles to set the direction of strategies, actions, targets, and priorities of the solid waste management plan.

The following are key themes emerged based on feedback shared through this phase of engagement, presented in alphabetical order:

- Climate Considerations and Environmental Stewardship
  - There is a need to focus on circular economy principles and promote material reuse, minimize waste generation, and integrate environmental stewardship principles.
- Community Engagement
  - Invite the community to be more involved in waste management decisions.
- Convenience, Consistency, and Accessibility
  - Ensure all community groups have access to solid waste services and information, with an equity and accessibility lens, addressing economic and social barriers.
- Corporate Accountability
  - Increase producer responsibility and communicate the need for transparency in waste management practices by corporations; hold industries and manufacturers accountable.
- Economic Considerations
  - Support local businesses and the economy.
  - Incentives and fees/penalties for both individuals and businesses to encourage desired behaviours.
- Empowerment, Education, and Awareness
  - Empower people to make informed waste-related choices; education initiatives to focus on small behaviour changes that have a significant impact.

- Individual Accountability and Behaviour Change
  - Promote a cultural shift for waste disposal and product purchase decisions, with calls for reduced buying, promotion of a waste-free lifestyle, and consumer behavior change.
- Innovation, Technology, and Infrastructure
  - Consider technological advancements and innovations, emphasizing the need for embracing technology for waste management and a circular economy.
- Transparency, Government Accountability, and Collaboration
  - Transparency from government entities, ensuring that the public is well informed about the efficacy of recycling efforts.
- Waste Reduction and Prevention
  - Call for measures preventing manufacturers from producing excessive waste, such as over-packaging; call consumers to make better choices.

Engagement feedback will help to inform the vision and guiding principles for the solid waste management plan update. For detailed thematic findings, see section titled *What We Heard and How We Are Responding*.

### 3. First Nations Engagement

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: **q̓ícáy** (Katzie First Nation), **q̓ʷa:ńłəń** (Kwantlen First Nation), **kʷikʷəłəm** (Kwikwetlem First Nation), **máthxwi** (Matsqui First Nation), **xʷməθkʷəyám** (Musqueam Indian Band), **q̓iqéyt** (Qayqayt First Nation), **se’mya’m** (Semiahmoo First Nation), **S̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish Nation), **scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ** (Tsawwassen First Nation) and **səlilwətaɬ** (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). 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.

The solid waste management plan update presents an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to advance collaboration and strengthen relationships with First Nations. Metro Vancouver engaged with First Nations to identify and understand their priorities related to waste management in their communities and to explore opportunities to work together on this project.

In February and March 2023, letters were sent to ten local First Nations, 19 First Nations located outside Metro Vancouver with interests in the region, and Métis Nation of BC, inviting feedback on this phase of the plan update. From March to May 2023 Metro Vancouver met with representatives from seven local First Nations to discuss vision and guiding principles for the updated solid waste management plan:

- **q̓ʷa:ńłəń** (Kwantlen First Nation)
- **kʷikʷəłəm** (Kwikwetlem First Nation)
- **máthxwi** (Matsqui First Nation)
- **xʷməθkʷəyám** (Musqueam Indian Band)
- **S̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh Úxwumixw** (Squamish Nation)
- **scəwáθən məsteyəxʷ** (Tsawwassen First Nation)
- **səlilwətaɬ** (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

# 4. About the Engagement Process

In spring 2023, Metro Vancouver engaged First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, and advisory committees to seek feedback on vision and guiding principles through a series of meetings and workshops. Subsequently, public engagement occurred from September 18 to November 10, 2023. The goal of public engagement was to create an opportunity for dialogue and to listen to and learn from the public and interested parties to understand the key values and priorities related to how residents and businesses purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver. This feedback will help to inform the vision and guiding principles.

The engagement program was developed and delivered with input from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel—a third-party panel of engagement experts providing guidance on engagement development and delivery.

APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT	DESCRIPTION
<b>Letters to member jurisdiction mayors and councils, and adjacent regional district boards</b>	Metro Vancouver launched vision and guiding principles engagement by writing to mayors and councils of member jurisdictions, as well as boards of adjacent regional districts (Fraser Valley Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District) to describe this phase of engagement and invite participation.
<b>Workshop with Member Jurisdiction Staff</b>	Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on values and priorities to include in the vision and guiding principles. Participants included members of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee, Municipal Waste Reduction Coordinators Committee, and some members of the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee.
<b>Zero Waste Committee meeting with Climate Action Committee members invited</b>	Discussion and feedback on values and priorities to be included in the vision and guiding principles.
<b>Workshop with the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee</b>	Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on values and priorities to include in the vision and guiding principles.
<b>Workshop with the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee</b>	Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on values and priorities to include in the vision and guiding principles.
<b>Meeting with Regional District Staff</b>	<p>Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on values and priorities to include in the vision and guiding principles.</p> <p>Regional Districts adjacent to Metro Vancouver, as well as regional districts where Metro Vancouver has existing contracts involving facilities in those communities, were invited.</p> <p>Participants included the Fraser Valley Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.</p> <p>The Thompson-Nicola Regional District was also invited.</p>

<b>Community outreach at the PNE</b>	Metro Vancouver staff attended the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) to engage the public and share information on the project.
<b>Online Questionnaire</b>	An online questionnaire was provided to receive feedback and to understand key values and priorities.
<b>Virtual Workshop</b> • open to the public	Facilitated virtual workshop to engage the public and interested parties to better understand the values that are most important when considering the long-term management of solid waste in Metro Vancouver.
<b>In-Person Workshop</b> • open to the public	Facilitated in-person workshop to engage the public and interested parties to better understand the values that are most important when considering the long-term management of solid waste in Metro Vancouver.
<b>Outreach at Community Events</b>	Metro Vancouver participated in community events in six areas of the Metro Vancouver region to gain feedback and insights from the public.
<b>Collaborative engagement</b>	This provided an opportunity work with 14 not-for-profit organizations with an interest in solid waste management or environmental issues, and/or representing equity-denied and seldom heard from communities. Each organization was provided with a comprehensive toolkit to support engagement with their audiences. Each organization completed a summary of what was learned through engagement.
<b>One-on-one interviews</b>	Facilitated interviews for individuals and organizations to share their insights and feedback. Seven interviews were completed with representatives from local organizations.
<b>Opportunity to present to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel"</b>	The public was invited to present directly to the Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel to provide feedback on the engagement process.



# 5. Engagement Promotion

Information on how to participate in engagement was shared with the public and interested parties via various avenues, described below.

## Website

A project webpage for the solid waste management plan update was launched to provide project information, and links to the online questionnaire and public engagement opportunities. Project information was shared on the Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Services web page as well as the calendar of events webpage. There were more than 3,000 web page visits during the vision and guiding principles phase.

## Social Media

The social media promotion ran from September 18 to November 10, 2023, via LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. The social media posts provided information about the solid waste management plan update and encouraged participation and input.

## Print Ads

Two iterations of print ads ran in each of the Vancouver Sun and the Province newspapers, sharing project information and public engagement opportunities.

## Information Card Distribution

Project information cards were distributed to customers at six Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centres, the Vancouver Landfill, and the Vancouver Transfer Station.

## E-blasts

Engagement opportunities were promoted via email to recipients subscribed to receive notifications on Metro Vancouver solid waste topics, including the solid waste management plan.

## Outreach



**2 advertisements**

in the Vancouver Sun and Province newspapers



**6800 postcards**

distributed at Metro Vancouver Recycling and Waste Centres, Vancouver Landfill, and Vancouver Transfer Station



**3245 visits**

to project webpage



**5500 e-blast recipients**

Two notifications sent



**20 Social Media posts**

**Reach:** 217,921  
**Engagements:** 259  
**Clicks:** 910

## 6. Engagement Participation

The graphic and table below outline the level of participation in each of the engagement opportunities offered. Overall, Metro Vancouver staff facilitated 23 meetings, received nearly 500 responses to the online questionnaire, reached over 800 participants at community events plus an additional 5,300 at the PNE, and worked with 14 not-for-profit organizations who coordinated engagement with their networks on the regional solid waste management plan.

## Engagement



**255 QR code scans**

from newspaper ads, postcards and e-blasts



**484 responses**

received to the questionnaire



**831 engaged**

at community events



**14 organizations**

participated in collaborative engagement, reaching 869 people

ENGAGEMENT TECHNIQUE	PARTICIPANTS	DATE
<b>Advisory Committees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member jurisdiction staff advisory committees (workshop)</li> <li>• Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee (workshop)</li> <li>• Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee (workshop)</li> <li>• Agricultural Advisory Committee (written update)</li> <li>• Youth and Education Advisory Panel (workshop)</li> <li>• Zero Waste Committee and Climate Action Committee (presentation and discussion)</li> <li>• Invest Vancouver Advisory Committee (presentation and discussion)</li> <li>• Regional Planning Advisory Committee Social Issues Sub-Committee (presentation and discussion)</li> </ul>	March – November 2023
<b>Community outreach at the PNE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5,300 participants</li> </ul>	August 19 – September 4, 2023
<b>Virtual Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 39 registrants</li> <li>• 18 participants</li> </ul>	October 13, 2023
<b>In-Person Workshop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 registrants</li> <li>• 4 participants</li> </ul>	October 24, 2023
<b>Outreach at Community Events</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 831 participants at six events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riverfest (167)</li> <li>• Shipyards Festival (203)</li> <li>• Car Free Day (317)</li> <li>• Pitt Meadows Farmers Market (34)</li> <li>• Metro Vancouver Housing Site (28)</li> <li>• Diwali Celebration (82)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	September – November, 2023
<b>Presentation and dialogue with adjacent regional district staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraser Valley Regional District</li> <li>• Sunshine Coast Regional District</li> <li>• Squamish-Lillooet Regional District</li> <li>• Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen</li> </ul>	July 2023

<b>Collaborative engagement organizations hosting engagement activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Apparel &amp; Gear Association</li> <li>• Binners' project</li> <li>• Coast Waste Management Association</li> <li>• Fraser Basin Council Youth Program</li> <li>• Hong Kong House Cultural Society</li> <li>• Mind Your Plastics</li> <li>• Ocean Ambassadors</li> <li>• SPEC Master Recyclers</li> <li>• The Recycling Council of British Columbia (RCBC)</li> <li>• Vancouver Food Runners</li> <li>• Waste Management Association of BC</li> <li>• Women Transforming Cities</li> <li>• YWCA City Shift</li> <li>• Zero Waste BC</li> </ul>	September – November 2023
<b>Interviews / Meetings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 505-Junk</li> <li>• BC Bottle &amp; Recycling Depot Association</li> <li>• BC Housing</li> <li>• Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group)</li> <li>• Landlord BC</li> <li>• Vancouver Regional Construction Association</li> <li>• Youth Member of the Public Referred from the Youth and Education Advisory Panel</li> </ul>	September 18 – December 15, 2023
<b>Online questionnaire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 484 participants</li> </ul>	September 18 – November 10, 2023

## Collaborative Engagement

Collaborative engagement is a new program that Metro Vancouver initiated during the vision and guiding principles phase of engagement. Collaborative engagement involves the provision of support and funding to not-for-profit organizations to engage their networks on the solid waste management plan update. The goal of the initiative is to hear from audiences and organizations who may not be aware of or have access to opportunities to provide input to Metro Vancouver. This includes organizations that represent underrepresented or equity-denied communities, youth, seniors, urban Indigenous people, and environmental groups. During this phase, Metro Vancouver worked with 14 organizations, who conducted engagement activities with their networks including in-person and online surveys, interviews, online information sessions, lunch and learns, online and in-person meetings and workshops, phone calls, social media promotions, and newsletter promotions. This collaborative engagement initiative reached a total of 869 individuals through the following organizations:

- BC Apparel and Gear Association
- Binners' Project
- Coast Waste Management Association
- Fraser Basin Council Youth Program
- Hong Kong House Cultural Society
- Mind Your Plastics
- Ocean Ambassadors
- Recycling Council of BC
- SPEC Master Recycler
- Vancouver Food Runners
- Waste Management Association of BC
- Women Transforming Cities
- YWCA City Shift
- Zero Waste BC

## Solid Waste Advisory Committees

Metro Vancouver staff facilitated workshops with the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, and member jurisdiction staff committees (the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee and the Municipal Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee, with the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee members invited). Project information was provided, and members were provided an opportunity to share feedback and insights on values and priorities that would help inform the vision and guiding principles. Some of the feedback shared in these sessions included the need to improve recycling and disposal access in small and remote communities and a recognition of the shared responsibility of individuals and industry to be accountable to change. In addition, the importance of collaboration and fostering a sense of community was identified as needing to be a priority for and between all levels of government, private businesses, and industry.

Incentivizing recycling and moving to defining waste materials as a commodity (resource) instead of garbage, were also key areas of feedback. When discussing the environment, there was a focus on establishing and communicating the connection between waste reduction and climate issues as well as the importance of ensuring collaboration at all levels.

Expanding on public education to encourage consumers to buy less while making it easier for the public to recycle were agreed to be important factors. Some shared their perspective of a growing distrust from the public about recycling systems, due to a perception of recycling streams being ultimately disposed. Identifying ways to shift people's perspective on what is considered waste and to create education campaigns aimed at businesses, tourists, and residents were identified as a positive area of focus to address public perception or misunderstanding.

When looking at the longer term, innovation was a key theme, including the use of artificial intelligence and technology at all stages of the waste management process, including waste collection, recycling, and transportation, as well as the need to invest in circular solutions and ways to eliminate waste at the source, such as reducing packaging and banning single-use items.

There were comments on ensuring policy allows for market-driven outcomes, and avoiding conflict between the regional government's role as a regulator and a service provider.

### **Workshops (Public Audience)**

Metro Vancouver also hosted virtual and in-person workshops with the public to share their feedback and insights on values and priorities that would help inform the vision and guiding principles. Feedback heard in these sessions included that there is a need for a system change, to shift from the current system

of single use to a reuse system and to adjust the focus from merely managing waste to rethinking the entire product lifecycle. When considering equity and societal improvements, feedback showed that there is a need to ensure that any changes in service do not disproportionately impact those who rely on recycling services to generate income or those with lower socio-economic status. It was noted as a key area of interest to break through silos and approach waste management as cross-disciplinary opportunities to foster collaboration and innovation. Some believed that accountability and driving forward a circular economy were critical with it being notably important to distinguish between holding producers and consumers accountable, as they are seen to have different roles. While there is change needed, there was acknowledgment that Metro Vancouver is a global leader in waste management and that the direction that is chosen will have a bigger impact when other jurisdictions follow.

## **7. Engagement Feedback**

### **Questionnaire Results**

A total of 484 participants responded to the online questionnaire. The online platform provided the public and interested parties the opportunity to self-select their participation in particular components of the questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of seven questions and included the opportunity to share open-ended input and feedback. The questionnaire was open from September 18 to November 10, 2023, and a link was shared on the Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan project web page, social media, email promotions, public postcard handouts, and at engagement meetings and workshops. A summary of questionnaire results is presented below.

Ten themes had been identified from early engagement with First Nations, member jurisdictions, and advisory committees, as potentially informing the vision and guiding principles for the updated solid waste management plan. Questionnaire respondents were asked to think about how they purchase, use, reuse, recycle and throw things away, and to rate each of the themes on a scale from very important to not important.

While all 10 themes were seen as very important by a majority of respondents, the level of overall importance varied somewhat.

**Convenience** and consistency was the theme most often seen as very important (82%), followed by three quarters who said that **environmental stewardship** (74%) and **circular economy** (73%) were very important to them.

Seven in 10 also said that **affordability and accessibility** (70%), **product design and innovation** (70%), **education and behaviour change** (70%), **accountability and transparency** (69%) and **climate resilience** (68%) were very important.

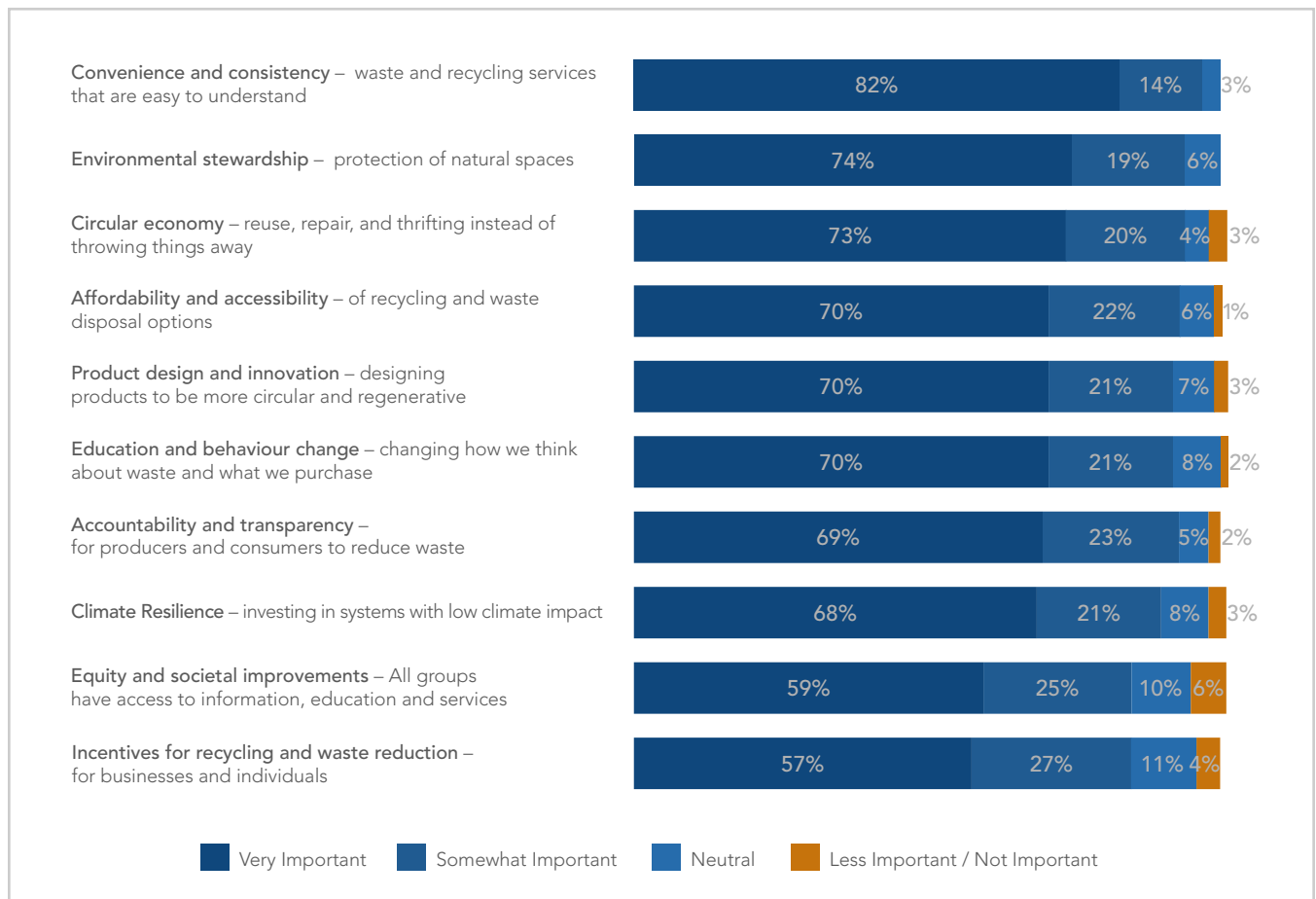
The bottom two themes were **equity and societal improvements** (59%) and **incentives** (57%).

Respondents were asked for further comments on additional themes (171 comments) and on what they thought successful solid waste management should look like in the future (193 comments).

The comments received about additional themes reiterated or expanded on one of the ten proposed themes, often adding suggested strategies or emphasizing certain elements of one of the proposed themes that respondents felt were important.

Overall, the comments revolved around the need for a comprehensive, collaborative, and accountable approach to waste management, involving businesses, individuals, and regulatory bodies. There was a strong emphasis on reducing waste at its source, education, incentives/disincentives, and systemic changes to address the multifaceted challenges associated with waste.

Feedback from the questionnaire comments were included in the overall feedback analysis that has been summarized in the *What We Heard and How We Are Responding* section below.



## What We Heard and How We Are Responding

Metro Vancouver conducted qualitative analysis of all the feedback shared during the vision and guiding principles phase of engagement. The feedback was coded, and a feedback log was developed to record all feedback received across a variety of engagement methods: from public online questionnaires to committee meetings, collaborative engagement reports and others. Based on an iterative approach to coding, the following 10 themes emerged across many of the engagement methods.

PRIORITY / INTEREST	WHAT WE HEARD	HOW WE'RE RESPONDING
<p><b>Climate Considerations and Environmental Stewardship</b></p>	<p>Amongst those who participated, there was a shared interest in addressing the climate crisis and viewing waste management within the broader scope of climate change and environmental impact.</p> <p>Others shared the need for a focus on circular economy principles, environmental stewardship, promoting material reuse, and minimizing waste generation.</p> <p>Respondents also shared an interest in climate resilience and the need to focus on systems with low climate impact and considering the entire lifecycle of waste.</p> <p>Others shared a focus on biodiversity and ecosystem protection, aligning waste management with the broader goals of protecting biodiversity and ecosystems. This includes sustainable resource use and ensuring that waste management practices contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources.</p> <p>Health and environmental impacts were noted as important, recognizing the effects of waste on the environment and how that environment has an impact on human health.</p> <p>Global environmental leadership and positioning waste management within the context of global environmental stewardship and leadership was an additional area of focus.</p>	<p>Climate considerations and environmental stewardship are incorporated in the draft vision statement and guiding principles.</p>
<p><b>Community Engagement</b></p>	<p>Feedback included the need for community engagement in waste management decisions, and for more engagement particularly when there is a need to support a cultural shift towards less consumption and more mindful purchasing.</p>	<p>Feedback taken into consideration as Metro Vancouver develops engagement for future phases.</p>



<p><b>Convenience, Consistency, and Accessibility</b></p>	<p>Comments on the need to make recycling and waste disposal more accessible and convenient for residents, with a lens to equity and accessibility, ensuring all groups have access to waste management services and information, addressing economic and social barriers.</p> <p>Insights were shared regarding community involvement, such as fostering shared responsibility between individuals, industries, and governments for effective waste management. This includes expanded curbside pickup services and easier-to-understand recycling programs.</p> <p>There is a recurring theme suggesting a shift in garbage pickup frequency, with some advocating for bi-weekly pickups. Others propose additional recycling categories, such as glass, or a dedicated bin for refundables or more focus on hard-to-recycle items like toothpaste tubes and medication blister packs.</p> <p>Participants also called for consistent rules and services across municipalities that move towards supportive regulations. Some participants suggested there should be community-based solutions that foster local community initiatives and grassroots movements for waste reduction that are inclusive of diverse cultural practices and knowledge.</p>	<p>Concepts of accessibility and addressing barriers are included in the draft guiding principles.</p> <p>Shared responsibility and accountability are included in the draft guiding principles.</p> <p>Specific suggestions on waste collection programs, rules and services, and community-based solutions can be considered in the development of the idea generation phase.</p>
<p><b>Corporate Accountability</b></p>	<p>We heard an emphasis on transparency in waste management practices and holding large corporations and industries accountable for waste generation, including encouraging producers to take responsibility for recycling their products, especially for items that are difficult to recycle (e.g. lithium batteries).</p> <p>Wider implementation of EPR was mentioned in this context to ensure accountability. The importance of transitioning towards a circular economy was highlighted, with calls for more EPR, where producers are responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products, including proper disposal. There were comments for manufacturers to consider end-of-life solutions and pay fees based on the recyclability of their products. There was a strong desire to work towards more circular product design to minimize waste.</p> <p>There were also those who commented that businesses in general should participate more in recycling, with some saying it should be mandatory for businesses to do so.</p> <p>Respondents call for stricter regulations on companies to ensure genuine recycling practices rather than sending waste to landfills. This includes ethical practices: ensuring waste management systems are fair, inclusive, and consider diverse cultural contexts.</p>	<p>Concepts of corporate accountability, responsibility, and participation are included in the draft guiding principles.</p> <p>Concepts on circular product design will be taken into consideration in development of next phases of engagement, including idea generation and options analysis.</p>

<p><b>Economic Considerations</b></p>	<p>Another theme that emerged was related to the cost and economics of waste management, including incentives and disincentives.</p> <p>Many spoke of implementing carrots and sticks – incentives and fees/penalties. Incentives (monetary) for sustainable practices for both individuals and businesses were often identified, including examples about how to incentivize businesses to use less packaging and choose recyclable alternatives, imposing surcharges for goods that are hard to recycle, penalties on companies producing non-recyclable items, implementation of eco-fees on products, deposits for items like cigarette butts to encourage cleanup, and fees on wasted/overflow products from retailers/businesses.</p> <p>It also included other small- and large-scale initiatives such as providing discounts on almost-expired food and beverages and providing incentives for businesses to invest in eco-friendly practices.</p> <p>Also noted was addressing the costs associated with the regular maintenance of waste management services and equipment.</p> <p>The local economy was also a focus for those who participated in the process as they were interested in exploring how waste management practices support local businesses.</p>	<p>Ideas on economic considerations, including incentives and disincentives, can be taken into consideration in development of next phases of engagement, particularly idea generation.</p> <p>The concept of supporting the local economy is incorporated in the draft guiding principles.</p>
<p><b>Empowerment, Education, and Awareness</b></p>	<p>Related to the theme of promoting consumer behavioural change, many participants identified the need for empowering people to make informed waste-related choices and for education initiatives to focus on small behaviour changes that have a significant impact, creating a culture of responsible waste management.</p> <p>This includes promoting consumption reduction and encouraging responsible recycling and disposal through public education programs, including public announcements, publications, and clear signage for different types of waste and recycling materials.</p> <p>It was regularly identified just how important youth engagement is, with the specific example of incorporating waste management education into early learning to foster long-term sustainable habits.</p>	<p>Specific feedback on behavior change, education programs, and signage will be taken into consideration in development of next phases of engagement.</p>

<b>Individual Accountability and Behaviour Change</b>	<p>Many comments focused on making individuals accountable for their waste and for properly recycling or disposing of their waste. There were also those who commented on the need to change consumer behaviour and promote a cultural shift not only for recycling, but also for product purchase decisions, with calls for reduced buying and the promotion of a waste-free lifestyle.</p>	<p>The concept of individual accountability to reduce waste is included in the draft guiding principles.</p>
	<p>This included shifting the focus to future-proofing waste management: planning for the long-term sustainability of waste management systems and adapting to changing climate and societal needs, ensuring waste management systems are adaptable to evolving climate conditions and societal changes.</p>	<p>The concept of ensuring resiliency in the face of future challenges is incorporated in the draft guiding principles.</p>
<b>Innovation, Technology, Infrastructure</b>	<p>This theme focused on technological advancements and innovations for more efficient waste management, emphasizing the need for embracing technology for waste management and a circular economy.</p>	<p>The concept of fostering innovation is incorporated in the draft guiding principles.</p>
	<p>Support for sustainable design and product innovation was expressed, encouraging designs for longevity, repairability, and circular use of products.</p>	<p>Concepts of valuing and conserving materials and products are incorporated in the draft vision and guiding principles.</p>
	<p>There were numerous comments calling for investment in technology to reduce landfill reliance. Specifically, observations of reusable or recyclable materials ending up in landfills, suggestions for improved technology in sorting recyclables from mixed waste, and the development of regulations to limit mixed waste in landfills. Some participants also discussed waste-to-energy solutions, while others commented against incineration.</p> <p>Other respondents highlight the need for improved management and infrastructure at waste transfer stations and the need for infrastructure improvements. Others propose larger areas for waste handling processes to facilitate efficient movement and processing of products.</p> <p>Comments on facilitating entrepreneurship to support a growing circular economy.</p>	<p>Discussion around specific technologies and infrastructure will be brought into the conversation in subsequent phases, including idea generation.</p>

<p><b>Transparency, Government Accountability, and Collaboration</b></p>	<p>Related to the theme of public education and information sharing, there is an emerging theme around the importance of transparency in explaining what happens to the various types of waste and recycled items. A recurring theme is the call for transparency from government entities like Metro Vancouver, ensuring that the public is well-informed about the efficacy of recycling efforts.</p> <p>These comments also stress the need for transparency in the recycling process, from collection to the end product. Those engaged were very interested in initiatives leading to accountability in waste management and in holding waste managers accountable for their practices. There were also calls for partnerships and coordination, including advocating for cooperation between different stakeholders for improved waste management between different sectors. Comments included the need for process re-evaluation, continuously monitoring and assessing the operational, policy, and cost aspects of waste management for more effective solutions.</p>	<p>The concept of building confidence in and providing accurate information about what happens to waste and recycling is included in the draft guiding principles.</p>
<p><b>Waste Reduction and Prevention</b></p>	<p>Waste reduction is a significant theme, with a specific emphasis on improving measures to prevent manufacturers from producing excessive waste, such as over-packaging. There is also significant interest in helping consumers to make better choices when it comes to what they purchase.</p> <p>A prevalent concern is the excessive use of plastic packaging, with a call for less packaging to be used for more environmentally friendly alternatives. Those engaged in the process expressed frustration over the paradox of being criticized for plastic bag use when many food items come in non-recyclable plastic packaging.</p> <p>There is also a strong emphasis on reducing single-use items and encouraging bulk buying. Promoting the use of sustainable, reusable alternatives was of keen interest to many.</p>	<p>Comments heard on waste reduction and prevention were directly incorporated in the draft vision and guiding principles</p> <p>Comments specifically highlighting plastic packaging, single-use items, and bulk buying will be taken into consideration in development of next phases of engagement, including idea generation and options analysis.</p>

## 8. How Feedback Will Be Used

Feedback from this engagement process will help inform the vision and guiding principles for the updated solid waste management plan, which will be presented for consideration by the GVS&DD Board. The vision and guiding principles will be shared in the next phase of engagement as it forms a foundation for subsequent phases, including idea generation and options analysis.

## 9. Next Steps

The draft solid waste management plan vision and guiding principles, along with this engagement summary report, will be presented to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board for consideration. Further opportunities to engage on the solid waste management plan update will be available as the project transitions to the idea generation phase.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact **604-432-6200** or [zerowaste@metrovancover.org](mailto:zerowaste@metrovancover.org).

