



Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Vision and Guiding Principles

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. Metro Vancouver is recognized across North America as a leader in recycling, composting, and reducing garbage.

About Solid Waste Management

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

Metro Vancouver's Role in Solid Waste Management

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for less waste, improving reuse and recycling systems, and managing and disposing of the remaining waste in an environmentally responsible manner, guided by our commitment to environmental stewardship and cost effective and accessible waste management services.

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



Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan

This important plan will guide the solid waste management strategies and actions, targets and priorities in the decade ahead. The new plan will identify how our region can continue to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work towards a circular economy. The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Guide to Solid Waste Management Planning provides eight guiding principles for solid waste. Metro Vancouver will incorporate these principles in the solid waste management plan as well as aligning with the Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan to ensure that the plan reflects the diversity of communities in Metro Vancouver.

Project Timeline

The solid waste management plan update process is expected to take two to three years and is being supported by robust First Nations and public engagement. Metro Vancouver will engage audiences and gather feedback in the stages described below, to support the plan update:



Where are we at now?

Metro Vancouver has completed early engagement with member jurisdictions, First Nations, adjacent regional districts, and advisory committees to seek feedback on the fundamental values, vision and guiding principles that will guide the plan development and implementation.

The feedback heard has helped to identify the following 10 emerging themes:

1. Accountability and transparency for producers and consumers to reduce waste
2. Affordability and accessibility of recycling and waste disposal option
3. Circular economy – reuse, repair, and thrifting instead of throwing things away
4. Climate Resilience – investing in systems with low climate impact
5. Convenience and consistency – waste and recycling services that are easy to understand and simple to use
6. Education and behaviour change – changing how we think about waste and what we purchase
7. Environmental stewardship – protection of natural spaces
8. Equity and societal improvements – all groups have access to information, education and services
9. Incentives for recycling and waste reduction for businesses and individuals
10. Product design and innovation – designing products to be more circular and regenerative



Next Steps

The vision and guiding principles will set the direction and build the foundations for the plan and will be informed by engagement input and feedback, Provincial guidelines, a review of the current plan, Metro Vancouver guiding documents, and a review of solid waste management plans in other jurisdictions.

We will be listening and learning from the public and affected parties on key values and priorities related to how residents and businesses purchase, use, reuse, recycle and throw things away in Metro Vancouver.

The public engagement process will take place from September 18 to November 3, 2023.

Public engagement feedback will help to shape the vision and guiding principles for the updated plan.

There are several ways that you can participate in the public engagement process:

1. Share your feedback by completing a 5-minute online questionnaire
2. Sign up to participate in a virtual or in-person workshop
3. Stop by our booth at an upcoming community event
4. Register to speak with the Consultation and Engagement Panel
5. Sign up to receive timely information and updates by visiting the project page
6. Share your insights and feedback with Metro Vancouver staff at zerowaste@metrovancouver.org

To participate in any of the above activities, please scan the QR code or visit metrovancouver.org and search "SWMP"

