

Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update
Targets, Metrics, and Initial Draft Plan
Engagement Summary Report

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on draft targets, metrics, and the initial draft solid waste management plan. Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation to identify and plan for sustainable regional services, contributing to a livable and resilient region, and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations.

Feedback from all phases of engagement, including the feedback received on the initial draft plan, was considered in developing the revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan. We appreciate your time as well as the insights and feedback you shared with us during this phase.

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is made up of four separate legal entities, each governed by its own Board of Directors. Board directors are elected officials from member jurisdictions.

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	4
1. About the Solid Waste Management Plan Update.....	5
2. Executive Summary.....	6
3. About the Engagement Process.....	9
4. Engagement Promotion.....	10
5. Engagement Participation.....	11
6. Engagement Feedback – What We Heard and How We Are Responding.....	14
7. How Feedback Was Used.....	20
8. Next Steps.....	20

1. About the Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling, and operating a series of solid waste facilities across the region. This work is guided by a commitment to environmental stewardship, and affordable and accessible waste management services.

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan* (2011), to continue progressing towards a thriving region where nothing is wasted, and resources are valued. Metro Vancouver has actively engaged with First Nations, member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities, and Metro Vancouver residents to develop the draft plan. The plan update was a multi-year process, with the final phase – draft plan – ongoing.



This engagement summary report covers engagement feedback received in the time following the options analysis phase – specifically, engagement on draft targets and metrics in November and December 2025, and engagement on an initial draft solid waste management plan from January 22 to February 20, 2026. The initial draft was developed by evaluating strategies and actions informed by ideas generated during earlier phases of engagement.

Feedback received on the initial draft informed revisions that were incorporated into a revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan, which will be provided to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board. The revised plan would then be circulated for an additional public review and comment period before being submitted — along with all engagement feedback gathered throughout the update process — to the Minister of Environment and Parks for review and approval.

This report provides a summary of what was learned through engagement on draft targets, metrics, and the initial draft solid waste management plan.

2. Executive Summary

This report details engagement on draft targets, metrics and an initial draft solid waste management plan, which will be referred to in this report as the 'Draft Plan phase'. This phase focused on receiving feedback from First Nations, member jurisdictions, advisory committees, neighbouring regional districts, and other interested parties on the draft solid waste management plan.

The Draft Plan phase is the culmination of all previous phases which focused on listening to and learning from feedback on vision and guiding principles, ideas and potential actions for solid waste management plan, and options analysis. The potential actions and strategies identified through idea generation were reviewed through options analysis by applying decision-making criteria grounded in the updated plan's vision and guiding principles, as well as considering engagement feedback.

Metro Vancouver's process for developing the updated solid waste management plan was based on provincial guidelines and considers engagement input and feedback received during all phases of engagement. The draft plan engagement process began in November 2025 by engaging member jurisdictions, and advisory committees on potential targets and metrics for the draft plan. Metro Vancouver then published an initial draft plan on its website on January 22, 2026 and invited comments on the initial draft plan from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, adjacent regional district staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, and others. Metro Vancouver also held dedicated feedback sessions on the initial draft with member jurisdiction staff, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee.

Feedback on the initial draft was then considered in developing a revised draft updated Solid Waste Management Plan.

Feedback from Initial Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement – January 22 to February 20, 2026

Summarized below are the themes that emerged based on feedback received through engagement meetings, letters, and emails for the initial draft solid waste management plan.

➤ **Accessibility and Inclusion**

Potential gaps in equitable access to waste services, particularly for people without cars, those living in multi-family buildings, and individuals with mobility or time limitations. Participants suggested the plan address these barriers with defined actions to encourage full and inclusive participation in waste reduction and recycling programs.

➤ **Clear and Accessible Definitions**

Precise and consistent definitions for terms such as recycling, diversion, recovery, zero waste, circular economy, and carbon neutrality. Clear definitions help support transparency. Comment that "recovery" should not be counted as diversion. Support for a simple, consistent glossary that clearly explains these key terms

➤ **Action-oriented**

Need for clearly defined and ambitious targets that include 5- and 10-year milestones as well as sector-specific goals for residential, institutional/commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste streams. Participants emphasized the importance of reporting both per-capita and total tonnage, along with publishing all calculations, formulas, and assumptions in a consistent and transparent manner.

- **Construction and Demolition Materials**
The construction and demolition sector is seen as both a large source of waste and a significant opportunity for action. Feedback recommended consistent regional deconstruction practices, better tracking of material flows, reuse hubs for salvaged materials, and clearer rules for handling concrete, wood, and drywall. Participants also called for separate tracking of construction and demolition waste data, mandatory source separation, support for deconstruction over demolition, and transparency regarding end markets.
- **Financial Overview and Affordability**
Request for more transparency in the financial aspects of the plan, including lifecycle costs of the Waste-to-Energy Facility, cost-per-tonne comparisons across disposal and diversion methods, and budgets for prevention-focused initiatives. There is concern that the current budget appears weighted toward disposal rather than upstream waste reduction.
- **Food Waste and Organics**
Food waste was widely identified as a major opportunity to achieve environmental and community benefits. Support for stronger reduction targets, clearer definitions such as “preventable food waste”, improved support for food recovery organizations, and better data on commercial and institutional food waste generation.
- **Member Jurisdiction Roles and Collaboration**
Municipalities requested clearer, easy-to-find summaries of their roles within the plan, along with standardized tools and shared resources. Collaboration is considered essential, especially in areas such as multifamily recycling, public-space recycling, and construction and demolition waste reduction actions.
- **Prioritize Reuse and Repair**
Defined commitment to reuse and repair, including investments in regional reuse hubs, repair cafés, reuse days, and deconstruction/salvage programs. Participants want reuse tracked separately from recycling, along with greater effort to expand opportunities to repurpose materials and strengthen support for building-material recovery.
- **Regulatory Tools and Enforcement**
Call for strong regulatory action to support waste reduction, including mandatory source separation, inspectable or clear bags, load inspections, standardized enforcement protocols, and consistent fines for waste generators. Many believe education alone is insufficient and must be paired with firm, visible enforcement measures.
- **Reporting and Plan Monitoring**
Support for clear, publicly accessible reporting through accessible dashboards that include sector-specific data, inspection results, and transparent distinctions between diversion and disposal. Participants also want consultant reports to be publicly released and some expressed interest in independent oversight of monitoring and reporting.
- **Residual Waste Management**
Long-term planning for residuals raised questions about landfill capacity, environmental impacts, and contingency options for disposal. Stakeholders want clearer accounting for residual waste, stressing that “recovery” should be counted as disposal rather than recycling/diversion and that all residual management practices be transparent. They also asked for clarity around landfill planning, the division of roles between landfills
- **Role of Private Industry**
Feedback that private industry could play a greater role, including suggestions to privatize aspects of the regional solid waste system. Participants note that private operators already manage many recycling and processing functions, and they see industry involvement as a potential driver of innovation within the broader waste system.

including a commitment to environmental stewardship and climate action in the guiding principles which will guide every aspect of the plan update for the next decade. Metro Vancouver also aims to reduce waste generation per capita by 10% by 2036 which will help reduce single-use plastics entering the environment or sent for disposal. First Nations feedback received during the plan update process has been valuable in contributing to the draft plan.

3. About the Engagement Process

Metro Vancouver engaged member jurisdictions, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees and other interested parties to receive feedback and create opportunities for feedback for the initial draft solid waste management plan.



Engagement objectives included:

- Receive feedback from member jurisdiction staff and advisory committees on potential primary targets and metrics, and secondary metrics, to measure updated plan progress.
- Receive feedback from First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, neighbouring regional districts, advisory committees, and others on the initial draft of the updated solid waste management plan.

Metro Vancouver shared information about:

- The engagement process, including how feedback from previous phases helped to develop the initial draft plan.
- How interested parties could engage in this phase of the process, and where to learn more about how to participate.
- Intended objectives of the phase and how feedback received will be used to develop the revised draft Solid Waste Management Plan.

The table below provides a summary of engagement activities including intended audience(s).

Audience	Engagement Method/Description
Member jurisdictions	<p>Metro Vancouver engaged with Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Subcommittee members to receive feedback on draft targets and metrics in late 2025.</p> <p>In addition, Metro Vancouver engaged member jurisdiction staff on the initial draft solid waste management plan in early 2026:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC) – provided project information, including status and timeline, at the regular March 2026 committee meeting, including Q&A. Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC) – shared project presentation during regular January 2026 REAC meeting, and invitation to a member staff feedback session on the initial draft plan. Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee and the Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators Committee – project information shared, feedback opportunities at regular committee meetings, and invitation to a member staff feedback session on the initial draft plan. Member jurisdiction feedback session on initial draft plan with multiple member staff advisory committees invited.
Neighbouring regional districts	Metro Vancouver sent the initial draft plan to staff of neighbouring regional districts in early 2026, to invite feedback and describe the process and next steps. Regional districts contacted included Fraser Valley Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.
Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee	Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on draft targets and metrics in late 2025 and received feedback on the initial draft plan through a dedicated feedback session in early 2026.
Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee	Metro Vancouver staff shared project information and received feedback and insights on draft targets and metrics in late 2025 and received feedback on the initial draft plan through a dedicated feedback session in early 2026.
Public	<p>The initial draft plan was also sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not-for-profit organizations that participated in the Collaborative Engagement program in previous phases of the solid waste management plan update Extended producer responsibility organizations A subscriber database of over 900 contacts who have expressed interest in receiving updates on the solid waste management plan update

4. Engagement Promotion

In late 2025, Metro Vancouver worked directly with the Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee, the Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee, and the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee, to receive feedback on draft targets and metrics.

In early 2026, information on how to participate in the engagement process on the initial draft plan was shared with the public and interested parties via various channels, as described below.

Website

The dedicated project webpage for the solid waste management plan update was updated with a copy of the initial draft plan and information about the draft plan engagement phase process and timeline. There were 765 views of the solid waste management plan update webpage during the draft plan phase.

E-blasts

Engagement opportunities were promoted via email to 928 recipients who are subscribed to receive notifications on Metro Vancouver solid waste management plan update.

Direct Emails

Metro Vancouver also notified the following groups when the initial draft solid waste management plan was available on the website:

- Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-Committee
- Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee
- Staff at Fraser Valley Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
- Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee
- Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee
- Collaborative engagement organizations that participated in previous phases.
- Extended producer responsibility organizations
- Provincial staff
- Sector representatives including food and beverage, multi-family housing, textiles, and healthcare

5. Engagement Participation

The table below summarizes engagement participation during the draft plan phase.

Audiences	Engagement Offered
Metro Vancouver Committees	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zero Waste Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 2026 Manager's report item to Zero Waste Committee describing next steps including engagement on an initial draft plan.• February 2025 report and presentation to Zero Waste Committee on the initial draft plan
Member Jurisdictions	
Member Jurisdictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shared initial draft with staff and discuss through existing staff advisory committees such as REAC, REAC Solid Waste Subcommittee, and Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee• Dedicated feedback session on February 9, 2026, with 20 participants
Regional Administrators Advisory Committee (RAAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attended regular meeting to provide project information and update on initial draft solid waste management plan

Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented draft municipal actions, targets, and metrics at January REAC meeting Invitation to member jurisdiction feedback session on initial draft plan
REAC Solid Waste Sub-Committee and Regional Waste Reduction Coordinators' Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented draft targets and metrics for feedback in late 2025 at scheduled committee meeting Shared initial draft plan Invitation to member jurisdiction feedback session on initial draft plan
Other Governments	
Neighbouring regional districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared initial draft plan via email with staff at Fraser Valley Regional District, Sunshine Coast Regional District, and Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Fraser Valley Regional District submitted a written response with feedback on the initial draft plan and invited Metro Vancouver to present at a future Fraser Valley Regional District Board meeting.
Ministry of Environment and Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided updates at regular quarterly meetings Provided copy of initial draft plan Provincial staff always invited to observe Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee and Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meetings
Metro Vancouver Advisory Committees	
Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft targets and metrics for discussion at November 20, 2025 meeting Initial draft plan walkthrough at January 29, 2026 meeting Dedicated feedback session on all parts of the initial draft plan at February 19, 2026 meeting, with 19 committee members in attendance Written submissions from 15 Public/Technical Advisory Committee members.
Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft targets and metrics for discussion at November 4, 2025 meeting Initial draft plan walkthrough on January 28, 2026 Dedicated feedback session on February 10, 2026, with 16 committee members in attendance
Public	

<p>General public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial draft plan published on webpage • Directed public to initial draft plan on webpage if interested • Collaborative engagement organizations • Database of over 900 contacts who had signed up to receive notifications on the solid waste management plan update
<p>Ten First Nations with communities currently located within the region and other First Nations with interests in Metro Vancouver: separate engagement process.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ᑕᑖᑕᑖ ᑖᑖ(Katzie First Nation) • ᑕᑖᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ(Kwantlen First Nation) • ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ(Kwikwetlem First Nation) • ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ(Matsqui First Nation) • ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ(Musqueam Indian Band) • ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ(Qayqayt First Nation) • Semiahmoo First Nation • Skwxwú7mesh úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) • scəwáθən məsteyəxᑕᑕ (Tsawwassen First Nation) • səlílwətaᑕᑕ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation) • Stó:lō • Cowichan Tribes • Douglas First Nation (Xa'xtsa) • Halalt First Nation • Leq'á:mel First Nation • Lillooet Tribal Council • Lyackson First Nation • Pauquachin First Nation • Penelakut Tribe • Peters First Nation • Samahquam First Nation • Skatin Nations (SkookumChuck) • Snuneymuxw First Nation • St'at'imc Chiefs Council • Stz'uminus First Nation (Chemainus) • Ts'uubaa-asatx Nation • Tsartlip First Nation • Sᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ (Tsawout First Nation) • Tseycum First Nation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate First Nations engagement process from public engagement approach • First Nations received initial draft plan and were invited to provide comment • Metro Vancouver received written feedback from one First Nation. Metro Vancouver also met with a First Nation in December 2025, in between the Options Analysis and Initial Draft Plan engagement windows.

6. Engagement Feedback – What We Heard and How We Are Responding

Below is a thematic summary of what we heard during the draft plan engagement phase, including feedback on targets, metrics, and the initial draft plan. The table below also includes Metro Vancouver’s response.

Plan Component / Interest	What we heard	Metro Vancouver Response
Accessibility and Inclusion	<p>Concerns about lack of planning for equitable access to services across the system to encourage everyone to participate fully. Highlighted barriers for people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • don’t have cars • live in multi-family buildings • have mobility challenges or limited time 	<p>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.</p> <p>Staff considered this feedback and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strengthened accessibility language in the accessibility and inclusion and the recycling and waste centre strategic approach sections of the plan. • identified multi-family as one of the focus areas of the plan
Clear and Ambitious Targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan needs clear, ambitious, and transparent targets with 5- and 10-year milestones, sector-specific goals (Residential, IC&I, C&D), and both per-capita and total tonnage reporting. • Calculations and assumptions (like diversion rate formulas) published in a consistent way. 	<p>Staff considered this feedback and made the following changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added 2036 targets and a 5-year target for disposal per capita • Highlighted key focus areas that will drive progress toward the plan's targets <p>Targets were set based on current waste composition data and are meant to be ambitious but achievable.</p> <p>Metro Vancouver staff prepare annual solid waste statistics using multiple sources including jurisdiction surveys, producer responsibility organization reports, and aggregated private facility data. Metro Vancouver clearly outlines the methodology used and strives for transparency and accuracy.</p>
Clear, Accessible Definitions and Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use precise, consistent definitions for recycling, diversion, recovery, zero waste, 	<p>Staff considered this feedback and made the following changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan:</p>

	<p>circularity, carbon neutrality, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion about these terms is seen as undermining credibility, especially when “recovery” is counted toward diversion. Comment that “recovery” should not count as diversion. • Include simple and consistent glossary explaining key terms like recycling, diversion, recovery, and “zero waste.” • Commit to actions by using stronger language in the plan – use active voice to demonstrate commitment to the goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified definitions of diversion and recycling • Strengthened language throughout the plan to become more actionable <p>The draft plan's waste hierarchy prioritizes waste reduction and recycling over recovery, with disposal (including waste-to-energy) as a last resort.</p>
Construction and Demolition Materials	<p>The construction sector was identified as a major source of waste and a major opportunity for ambitious goals in the plan. Suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more consistent deconstruction practices across the region • better tracking of construction and demolition materials flows • reuse hubs for salvaged building materials • clearer rules for drywall, wood, and concrete handling • calls for separate tracking of construction and demolition data, mandatory source separation, deconstruction over demolition, house-moving corridors, and transparency about end-markets (especially for concrete, wood, and drywall) • some feedback suggested that including concrete and asphalt in recycling can distort diversion rates. • support for deconstruction and salvaging building materials 	<p>The draft Solid Waste Management Plan includes several actions that address this feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, test and share improved tools and approaches for house relocation and deconstruction programs and policies including data review • 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 • Pursue comprehensive materials flows for key sectors every 5-10 years to better track progress toward keeping materials in circulation for longer • Prioritize the development of local facilities and collection programs for triaging building materials to their best and highest use <p>The solid waste and recycling annual report shows the construction and demolition diversion rate both with and without concrete to demonstrate there is still work to be done in this sector.</p>
Financial Overview and Affordability	<p>Need for the plan to have cost transparency and estimates:</p>	<p>The plan prioritizes waste reduction. The Metro Vancouver solid waste system is cost effective compared to solid waste systems in other</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lifecycle costs of the Waste-to-Energy Facility • cost-per-tonne of different disposal and diversion options • budgets for upstream actions • budget seems weighted toward disposal rather than waste prevention 	<p>major Canadian cities. After accounting for recycling and waste centre and transportation costs, the Vancouver Landfill and Waste-to-Energy Facility are comparable. In contrast, contingency disposal is nearly double the cost.</p> <p>The draft Solid Waste Management Plan specifies that actions in the 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 primary and secondary metrics. Annual reporting will indicate how funds were allocated to Solid Waste Management Plan initiatives including corresponding metrics on the effectiveness of each, such as progress toward plan targets and improvements in secondary metrics. This reporting strategy will assist in prioritizing funding and informing where investments can be most strategically allocated.</p> <p>More detail has been added to the draft Plan with respect to allocation of funds across the solid waste hierarchy, as well as more detail on the rational for allocation of funds within the solid waste budget.</p>
<p>Food Waste and Organics</p>	<p>Food waste was highlighted as a major opportunity for environmental and community benefits. Feedback emphasized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stronger reduction targets • clearer definitions (e.g., “preventable food waste”) • better support for food recovery organizations • more data and reporting on commercial and institutional food waste 	<p>The draft Solid Waste Management Plan includes several strategics and actions that address this feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize food waste reduction initiatives for the commercial and institutional sectors (Strategy 2.3) • Scale up efforts to recover food (Strategy 3.6) <p>These are also complemented by action 1.2.2.2: Co-develop industry-supported targets and standardized methods of tracking waste prevention performance by business type.</p>
<p>Member Jurisdiction Roles and Collaboration</p>	<p>Member municipalities requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear, easy-to-find summaries of municipal actions • shared standards and resources • support for multi-family buildings, public recycling, and 	<p>Metro Vancouver will address this feedback during plan implementation by working closely with members to implement waste reduction initiatives.</p>

	<p>construction and demolition initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaboration seen as critical to successful implementation 	<p>Member actions are clearly identified in the draft Solid Waste Management Plan. Member jurisdiction actions are intended as potential areas of focus for members to consider – they are not requirements.</p> <p>Actions where many potential participating parties have been identified including member municipalities have been clarified to remove member municipalities unless specific member actions are required to implement the action.</p>
Prioritizing Reuse and Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show clear intention to invest in reuse and repair infrastructure like regional hubs, repair cafés, reuse days, and deconstruction/salvage programs. • Track reuse separately from recycling. • Commit to seeking more opportunities to reuse and repurpose materials. 	<p>The draft Solid Waste Management Plan includes several strategies and actions that address this feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (Action 1.4.1) • Work with businesses, institutions and event organizers to expand reuse, repair and refill options (Strategy 3.4) • Increase access to and foster the broad adoption of reuse, refill and repair (Strategy 3.5) <p>Metro Vancouver plans to continue to scale up reuse drop-off at recycling and waste centres, and work with member jurisdictions to facilitate opportunities to expand repair and reuse events such as repair cafes.</p>
Regulatory Strategy and Enforcement	<p>There was support for much stronger enforcement, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory source separation • clear/inspectable bags • load inspections • standardized enforcement protocols • consistent fines for waste generators • education alone is seen as insufficient. <p>Some feedback not in support of additional regulation, noting that more regulation would be a barrier</p>	<p>Staff considered this feedback and made the following changes to the initial draft solid waste management plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added clear bags as a potential option to explore to enhance disposal ban inspection efficiency • Clarified regulatory focus areas including advancing regulatory measures to further encourage source separation as an early initiative in implementing the Plan.

	to innovation and private industry participation	
Reporting and Plan Monitoring	<p>Transparent and clear public reporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accessible dashboards with information on progress towards targets and goals • sector-specific level data (separate sectors) • inspection results published • diversion vs. disposal clarity • public sharing of consultant reports • independent oversight of the waste system 	<p>Metro Vancouver will continue to publish sector-specific data, an annual report on the efficacy of the disposal ban program, and consulting reports.</p> <p>Staff will work on continuous improvement of data publishing formats in alignment with corporate standards as new data tools become available and adopted corporately.</p> <p>Waste-to-energy is considered as disposal and annual reporting will differentiate the between diversion and recycling rates. Metro Vancouver will continue to proactively work to move materials up the waste hierarchy.</p> <p>The draft Solid Waste Management Plan includes details on the plan monitoring advisory committee as well as other committees that will continue to provide guidance during the implementation of the updated solid waste management plan.</p>
Residuals Management and Disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions about long-term landfill capacity, environmental impacts, contingency planning, and how residual waste (what remains after recycling and composting) is measured. • Comments that recovery should not be counted as recycling, and that residual management must be transparent. • Clarity requested in the plan around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ landfill capacity planning, ○ landfill vs. Waste-to-Energy Facility roles ○ contingency disposal ○ environmental risk management (air emissions, landfill leachate, hazardous materials). 	<p>Landfills are an important component of the regional solid waste system providing approximately 75% of regional disposal capacity. Landfills account for more than 95% of residuals disposal in Canada.</p> <p>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. Metro Vancouver will optimize the use of the Vancouver Landfill and the Waste-to-Energy Facility to reduce reliance on remote disposal options, to help maintain affordability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with transporting waste.</p> <p>Where a feasible alternative exists, Metro Vancouver aims to manage materials according to the highest applicable level of the waste hierarchy (e.g. recycling before recovery). Recovering energy from non-recyclable</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments to stop landfilling waste altogether. • Do not send material to cement kilns and other industries for recovery; this should be counted as disposal. 	materials is preferable to disposal according to Metro Vancouver’s waste hierarchy, which is consistent with the provincial and federal hierarchies.
Role of Private Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privatize the regional solid waste system • Don’t privatize the regional solid waste system 	Metro Vancouver provides convenient drop-off for small loads of recyclables, and disposal of residential and commercial/institutional garbage for all residents, businesses and institutions in the region. This system provides reliable and resilient waste and recycling services that benefit and are available to all residents and businesses who generate waste in the region. It also allows Metro Vancouver to implement the disposal ban program at its facilities which encourages recycling rather than disposal of many recyclable materials. Recycling sorting and processing facilities, and most commercial recyclables collection and drop-off are managed by the private sector. An integrated system allows and encourages private sector innovation in recycling.
Waste-to-Energy (Incineration)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase out or close the Waste-to-Energy facility. • Avoid projects that require new incineration capacity (e.g. District Energy). • Improve transparency about emissions, lifespan, and costs. • Participants emphasized that burning waste should be treated as disposal, not as recycling or diversion. • Requests for deeper assessment of pollution risks, cumulative exposure (especially close to the Waste-to-Energy Facility), microplastics in soil, disaster debris planning, and alignment with public health stakeholders. Some ask for independent toxicological monitoring. 	<p>Waste-to-energy costs are consistent with local landfilling, and half of remote landfilling.</p> <p>No work is underway to develop new waste-to-energy capacity in the region.</p> <p>Comprehensive emissions data is reported to various regulatory agencies, and publicly available on Metro Vancouver’s website, including real-time continuous emissions monitoring data, stack test results, and other environmental performance data.</p> <p>In 2024, average emissions across parameters reported to the Zero Waste Committee were 17 per cent of the provincial Operational Certificate limits.</p>
Zero Waste and Circular Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt the Zero Waste Hierarchy and remove “recovery” in the hierarchy. 	The plan’s waste hierarchy prioritizes reduction and recycling over recovery, with disposal (including waste-to-energy) as a last resort.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should explicitly focus on upstream reduction and not position disposal as a major system pillar. • Across all groups, there was strong support for aligning the plan with zero waste principles, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ redesigning systems to reduce waste ○ supporting local circular businesses and innovators ○ encouraging repair, sharing, and product longevity • Participants expressed enthusiasm for regional leadership in the circular economy. 	<p>Leading the transition to a regional circular economy through waste prevention is a key focus area of the updated Solid Waste Management Plan. Many plan actions focus on waste prevention and reduction.</p>
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7. How Feedback Was Used

Feedback from this engagement phase has helped to refine the revised Solid Waste Management Plan to strengthen its strategic direction, clarify implementation pathways, and enhance accountability. The updated plan emphasizes prioritizing local solid waste management and sets clear targets for the next 10 years. It identifies several priority focus areas for near-term action, new or significantly expanded from the 2011 plan, such as improving multi-family diversion and preventing construction and demolition waste. An executive summary was added to the Solid Waste Management Plan in response to feedback calling for better articulation of key initiatives to drive progress towards the plan goals and targets. These initiatives are referred to in the revised Solid Waste Management Plan as Focus Areas and outline high priority strategies and actions that are new since approval of the 2011 of the plan.

8. Next Steps

This engagement summary report will be presented to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board, along with a revised draft solid waste management plan. Following review by the GVS&DD Board, the draft solid waste management plan will be distributed for an additional public comment period prior to submission to the Ministry of Environment and Parks.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact 604-432-6200 or zerowaste@metrovancover.org.