

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Zoom Meeting

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Director Jack Froese, Chair; Director Craig Hodge, Vice-Chair; Alice Henry, Ben Liegey, Bill Chan, Brianne De Man, Christian Dietrich, Cody Irwin, Doug Schell, Jake Turek, Jamie Kaminski, Jaye-Jay Berggren, John Doherty, Kevin Huang, Louise Schwarz, Love-Ese Chile, Lyndsay Poaps, Raman Johal, Sue Maxwell, Tara Immell, Ulwiana Mehta-Malhotra, William Selten.

Absent: Brenda Martens, Daniel Rotman, Grant Hankins, Hunter Bergen, Jessica Savoy, Mary Polak, Matthew Morin, Michael Zarbl, Sara Larter, Yasmin Abraham.

Metro Vancouver Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Chris Allan, Chris Chong, Chris Underwood, Jessica Yamamoto, Paul Henderson, Sandy Young, Sarah Evanetz, Terry Fulton, Zeenia Mizan.

1.	INTRODUCTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting started at 3:02 pm. 	Chair
	1.1 Welcome from the Chair 1.2 Committee members	Chair
2.	AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the September 21, 2022 meeting agenda. 	Chair
3.	MEETING NOTES – June 30, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the June 30, 2022 meeting notes. 	Chair
4.	ACTION/STANDING ITEMS	Chair
	4.1 Action items from June 30 meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates from staff. 4.2 Incoming/outgoing communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new communication. 	

5.	METRO VANCOUVER UPDATES	
	<p>5.1 Regional Recycling and Waste System Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current solid waste management plan targets a 10% per capita reduction in waste generation from 2010 levels and an 80% recycling rate. • The region has achieved the 10% per capita reduction target, and is at a North American leading 64% recycling rate. • Metro Vancouver works with many partners to advance waste reduction and recycling, and advance the circular economy. • Metro Vancouver owns and operates six recycling and waste centres and a Waste-to-Energy Facility. City of Vancouver owns and operates the Vancouver Landfill and Vancouver South Transfer Station. • Two new recycling and waste centres opened this year; United Boulevard Recycling and Waste Centre in March, replacing the Coquitlam Recycling and Waste Centre, and Central Surrey Recycling and Waste Centre in September. These new facilities maximize recycling options for customers. • A range of private facilities in the region receive and process source separated recyclables including organics, along with construction and demolition waste. • The Waste-to-Energy Facility manages about 25% of the region’s garbage, and the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy project will provide heat and hot water for 30,000 homes through an agreement with River District Energy. • Members were asked: What other information about the regional recycling and waste system would you like to know to be able to contribute on the committee? <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flow of waste through the region including points of generation and disposal, composition of waste generated, and related costs • Potential redundancies and vulnerabilities within the waste management system including areas of improvement for reuse efforts 	Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver
	<p>5.2 Solid Waste and Recycling Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is collected on waste generation, disposal and recycling, composition and source, and residuals, but does not include residual rates for recyclables processed internationally or Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) recycling composition. 	Terry Fulton, Metro Vancouver

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is collected through facility scale data, waste composition studies, third-party private facilities, reuse and repair organizations, and municipalities; this informs progress of initiatives, alignment with goals, and potential future targets. • Data is available as waste composition studies and annual reports (available on the Metro Vancouver website), and shows that generation and disposal rates have been decreasing as recycling rates increase; however, progress has plateaued in recent years. 	
	<p>5.3 Zero Waste and Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economies value material regeneration, through reuse and recycling, over resource extraction, by eliminating waste, which requires community-based collaborations, research, policy, programs, infrastructure and education. • Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Textile waste: Much infrastructure for sorting clothing exists in Metro Vancouver; everything can be donated and 25% of collected clothing is resold locally ○ Construction and demolition waste: Toolkits for municipalities and private companies to reduce waste and explore adaptive reuse, deconstruction, etc. ○ Networking: Metro Vancouver created the Regional Food Recovery Network and National Zero Waste Council to focus on waste prevention and creation of circular economies 	<p>Chris Underwood, Metro Vancouver</p>
	<p>5.4 Solid Waste Management Plan Planning and Engagement Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current plan (2011), and identifying opportunities for accelerated waste reduction and diversion, while reducing greenhouse gases and promoting a circular economy. • Key milestones: Board initiated a review of the solid waste management plan in 2019, Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel formed in 2020, Pre-engagement in spring 2021, and Public/Technical Advisory Committee formed in June 2022. • The next phase of the plan, on vision and guiding principles, will seek to engage broad audiences using a variety of engagement techniques. • Members were asked (via Mentimeter): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review? ○ How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision? 	<p>Sarah Evanetz and Sandy Young, Metro Vancouver</p>

	See attachment 2 for the results.	
6.	MANAGER'S REPORT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Zero Waste Conference occurs on September 28 and 29 with all Public/Technical Advisory Committee members invited. • Director Jack Froese will not be running for re-election as the Mayor of Langley Township meaning the Public/Technical Advisory Committee will receive a new chair and potentially new vice-chair. • Metro Vancouver offers support for Public/Technical Advisory members who may require financial assistance or otherwise. Any members with questions on opportunities for support should email zerowaste@metrovancover.org. 	Paul Henderson, Metro Vancouver
7.	Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting was adjourned at 4:57 pm. 	Chair
8.	NEXT MEETING: Meeting dates for 2023 will be set following the appointment of the Zero Waste Committee chair and vice-chair, who hold the same positions on the Public/Technical Advisory Committee.	

Attachment 1: Meeting Discussion and Chat Comments

Attachment 2: Mentimeter Poll Results

Attachment 1: Meeting Discussion and Chat Comments

Discussion points have been edited for conciseness and clarity. Responses have been provided for questions not addressed during the meeting due to time constraints. Some chat comments have been edited for clarity.

5.1 Regional Recycling and Waste System Overview

Following the presentation, members were asked: What other information about the regional recycling and waste system would you like to know to be able to contribute on the committee?

Discussion:

- **Waste-to-Energy**

Q: I read a bit about the challenges with creating a new Waste-to-Energy Facility. What is important to know?

- A: The 2011 Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan targeted reducing waste but also included creating new waste-to-energy capacity. A procurement process for new Waste-to-Energy was initiated but later terminated. Metro Vancouver's goal for this solid waste management plan update is to focus on waste reduction and recycling.

- **Material Flow**

Q: We reduced waste generation rates by 11%. How was that achieved? Also, it would be helpful to know where materials go after going through local recycling facilities.

- A: A range of factors affect waste generation. Metro Vancouver has a number of programs that encourage behaviour change related to consumption/waste generation. Current data is limited with respect to ultimate destination of recyclable materials.

Q: What gaps or redundancies exist in the material value chain, and what are the vulnerabilities in the Metro Vancouver solid waste system?

- A: These topics will be important for discussion during the solid waste management plan update process. All of us see the benefits of increasing local capabilities to reduce waste and add value.

- **Calculating Recycling Rate**

Q: Where materials are generated and where they're going is important to minimize distance travelled outside of region. Does recycling mean collection, or recovery and conversion? It's important to know if materials are just sent to the Waste-to-Energy Facility when looking at the 64%.

- Metro Vancouver uses many sources of information to compile recycling statistics, some more complete than others. When counting the 64% recycling rate, garbage managed at the Waste-to-Energy Facility is not counted as recycling with the exception of metal recovered from the ash from the facility. Metro Vancouver strives to provide transparent data with respect to recycling calculations.

- **80% Recycling Rate Aspirational Goal**

Q: Can you offer some reflection or insight on why we haven't reached the 80% reduction?

- The 80% goal was extremely ambitious. Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling. There continue to be opportunities to reduce waste and how we do that is a key opportunity for the new solid waste management plan. Half of multi-family waste is organics and there continues to be large quantities of wood disposed. Reuse is a whole additional layer to push more to reduce materials.

- **Drop-off Recycling Facilities**

Q: How do city-owned recycling and waste centres affect future design if other cities have plans for facilities?

- Metro Vancouver's strategy is to move to a model where every Metro Vancouver recycling and waste centre has consistent services that maximize recycling and reuse options. For cities that have their own recycling depot, Metro Vancouver has put in place a model that provides financial support for the city facilities. As part of that arrangement, the city provides minimum recycling services consistent with the Metro Vancouver system and allows customers from around the region to use their depots.

- **Waste Reduction Targets**

Q: For food waste, do you have data by region, avoidable vs. unavoidable, etc.? What is the new goal for waste reduction?

- Metro Vancouver's [waste composition studies](#) include a breakdown of food waste by what is avoidable and what is unavoidable. We report data for the region as a whole, broken up by sector, but not by municipality. Reporting by municipality would be challenging given how material flows around the region. Setting new targets for waste reduction will be a key action in developing a new plan.

- **Reuse**

Q: I want to know about the waste hierarchy and next level uses of materials, and consider the end of a product's life vs. the end of the consumer's use of it. Could there be opportunities to put reuse facilities first before recycling?

- A: Metro Vancouver has begun to pilot this approach. As an example, Metro Vancouver engaged a local non-profit organization, Urban Repurpose, to divert reusable items that would have been disposed of or sent for recycling at the North Shore Recycling and Waste Centre. In the first event in 2022, Urban Repurpose collected two tonnes of reusable material in four-and-a-half hours. The event included education on the waste management hierarchy and reuse and repair organizations in the region. The learnings from the pilot will help inform future work in this area.

Q: How much resources does Metro Vancouver have to put toward reuse?

- Encouraging reuse is a key priority for Metro Vancouver. Examples include the reuse days, repair café funding, and more. The allocation of resources will also be important in a new plan.

Chat Discussion:

- Q: I would like to get more data. Who picks up what and where does it go? Waste specs. Especially interested in waste that is landfilled. The more data the better.
 - A: Metro Vancouver doesn't have access to data on the specifics of waste collection; however, detail on where waste goes is included in the annual solid waste and recycling summary reports [here](#).
- Q: Also interested in what facilities are planned to be built in the next few years (short term), if any. So we understand what Metro Vancouver is already doing.

- A: Planned capital program expenditures are reported to the Zero Waste Committee and available publicly. The most recent update was on October 14, 2022, and can be accessed [here](#).
- Q: Has any GHG emission calculation been done for the transport and disposal of all waste streams?
 - A: GHG emissions calculations are done when comparing potential transportation and disposal options and considered along with financial and technical information to determine which option to recommend.
- Q: What data is collected and how openly accessible is it? Are there standardized reports that are required for waste generators / processors?
 - A: Data on recycling, disposal, and composition is available in the annual solid waste and recycling summary reports [here](#), and details on how it's collected were provided in the Solid Waste and Recycling Data presentation. Most data is recorded at the facility level, so there are no standardized reports for generators. Processors who are licensed under Solid Waste Regulatory Bylaw 181 provide information to Metro Vancouver's Environmental Regulation & Enforcement division, who then provide aggregated data for inclusion in the annual summary reports.
- Behaviour change was mentioned as a key component to success. Waste-to-energy doesn't seem to hit the mark when trying to reduce waste.
 - A: Metro Vancouver's behaviour change programs focus on encouraging residents and businesses to reduce waste.
- Q: How much material is being sent across the border? And is that material ending up in landfills? Does our accounting end at the border?
 - A: Metro Vancouver's annual report includes amounts of waste management out of region, either through Metro Vancouver's contingency disposal contracts or by private facilities shipping construction and demolition residuals to remote landfills. Information related to which landfill private facilities send construction and demolition waste residuals to is not available to solid waste staff.
- I may hope accounting doesn't end at the border. Waste generator is responsible until the end of the cycle. But, indeed, good question. Transport is a super important part of the waste cycle.
- Q: Are there any plans to tackle the increased usage of 'compostable' plastics? It is to my understanding that compostable plastics cannot be processed in our current waste/recycling streams.
 - A: Plastics labeled as compostable are a cross-jurisdictional issue that is being discussed at all levels of government. Most Metro Vancouver municipalities do not accept compostable plastic in their green bin programs, and we have updated our [website](#) to reflect that.
 - Response from committee member in chat: I can shed some light on the earlier question as I have done trials on compostable plastics. I think there are indeed bad compostable plastics, but I also believe there is usage for it, as long as they are properly tested. BNQ is changing their standard now reducing compostability for compostable plastics from 100 to <45 days. I think that will be a good improvement.
- Vancouver Community Bike Shop Network (VCBN) did a pilot as part of Vancouver's Greenest City Grant program to create the Recycling Program, which removed bikes from the facilities to either properly

recycle them or restore them. I'm not sure if this program has continued. Knowing about programs like that, their success, and their viability to scale would be great information to have for this committee as well.

5.2 Solid Waste and Recycling Data

Chat Discussion:

- Please keep the focus on expanding and supporting reuse networks that includes repair and refurbishment. EPR will always be the main go to for recycling but we need to make sure they are not undermining or competing against the most valuable and ever growing reuse markets, which includes refill. On the bottom end of the Zero Waste Hierarchy, if we can take waste-to-energy out of the conversation and the plan, that would also free up a lot of resources, both time spent arguing why it is not a helpful solution, as well as funds. That would be a huge leap forward in progress.
- My concern is the Vancouver Landfill is due to be full/close in 2030 – 2032 (less than 10 years). They also have a zero waste to landfill policy for 2040. The Waste-to-Energy Facility is aging, at 34 years old. Those two sites probably process over 50% of the material generated in the region (minus C&D and organics). These facilities/sites take years to permit/develop so it worries me when there is no plan other than reduction.
- Q: What is the limit for residential waste reduction? What are the barriers to further reduction?
 - A: Many barriers we face in increasing residential waste reduction are the result of products themselves that have no other option than disposal. Focusing on waste reduction and solid waste management options that help the transition to a circular economy will position us to further decrease residential waste reduction beyond what we may believe the limit is today.

5.3 Zero Waste and Circular Economy

Discussion:

- **Focus of the Committee**

Q: I'm wondering whether we as a committee will be focusing on reuse or just on disposal?

- The Public/Technical Advisory Committee is providing advice on all elements of the solid waste management plan, and its focus on reusing, reducing and recycling. The goal is to advance waste reduction, recycling, and the circular economy.

Chat Discussion:

- Other metrics that would be useful are tonnes exported (from Metro Vancouver but not by Metro Vancouver). For the Waste-to-Energy Facility – total emissions of annual dioxin/furans, heavy metals, NOx, SOx, as well as total time running and % of time spent in start up, shut down and malfunction.
 - A: An annual Waste-to-Energy Facility environmental monitoring and reporting update provides information on the facility emissions. Read the 2021 update that went to the Zero Waste Committee on September 9, 2022, [here](#).

5.4 Solid Waste Management Plan Planning and Engagement Update

Following the presentation, members were asked (via Mentimeter):

- What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review?
- How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision?

See attachment 2 for the results.

Chat Discussion:

- BC Forestry industry (to promote wood reuse)
- I appreciate how clear the presentations have been on the topics in scope. If any of us have mentioned points that might be considered out of scope, it would also be helpful to know what those might be (for instance, I'm assuming there might be limitations around how EPR might be addressed).

What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review?

Amsterdam

Europe, Germany

Montreal (in terms of how the public sector has supported circular economy)

EU Circular bioeconomy policies, specifically around cascading use of organic waste

Academic institutions

organics waste ban scotland

Portland, OR

Denmark's work on the circular economy

Europe

What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review?

King County -wood hierarchy and map for circularity businesses for wood

California organics policies

Waste generators

Vancouver Food Policy Council in The PLEDGE on Food Waste, EcoMeter, Too Good To Go, Vancouver Food Runners, Rethink2gether

Portland -mapping reuse/repair/refill

Schools (age up to 18)

Germany, Amsterdam, London

Consumption based emissions - Scotland/King County/Victoria/city of Vancouver

generally organizations that have been successful in reducing waste created

What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review?

Capannori

UKRI GBP 22.5M government investment into reuse

End users of recycled and upcycled materials

Global Alliance of Waste-Pickers (Global Rec)

Toronto

Examples of leading rural jurisdictions

Zero Waste Grocery Businesses in Vancouver

ISO circular economy standards are in development

Reuse and repair organizations

What jurisdictions or organizations should be looked to as part of the solid waste management planning literature review?

BNQ

Nanaimo -CE and Doughnut economics

Five centres in the UK to receive funding for circularity

IZWTAG (Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group)

Kamikatsu, Japan

Cariboo Regional District self-serve re-use locations

How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision?

Working groups in person

Brainstorming ideas

in-person workshops - its easy to get distracted and loose focus in virtual settings

Specific waste stream focus groups

In person workshops, perhaps rotating to make more accessible to different geographic locations

In person workshops by type of waste streams

Base it on existing accepted definitions _Zero Waste Hierarchy for ZW principles, Ellen Macarthur Foundation for CE principles, Doughnut economics to ensure social impacts addressed

workshop for panel members but surveys/webinars for rest of our community

participating in committees

How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision?

echoing specific waste stream focus

specialists involvement in groups

In-person workshops

after learning more, being critical of current policies

How to encourage Industrial symbiosis

Online workshop groups

Groups with experts in those specific areas

Submitting existing resources and programs in the region for review

visits to interesting places (like the incinerator)

How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision?

events that rest of community can attend to learn about waste - to find more people passionate about climate action

connecting circular economy with bioeconomy to address overlaps and gaps and encourage transition to plant and waste based products

Tours, if possible, of waste management / circular innovators in different geographic areas and/or sectors

Retreats on the gulf island :)

In person workshops by commodity/sector

Love the tour of the waste-to-energy facility idea

break out groups tackling a particular aspect with an expert involved in the relate break out group discussion

Engage industry early, and also organizations such as Business Improvement Associations .

Focused committee participation

How would you like to participate in Phase 1 engagement on the guiding principles and vision?

cross pollination between waste types would also be helpful, there may be ideas that people haven't thought of

opportunities to take tangible action

relating this to our respective professions and applying what learn to lead our own workshops / educate others (and inspire subsequent action !)

Facility Tours

human centred design!

Would definitely like to see groups of mixed expertise discuss a variety of questions

For in-person meetings, bring in actual samples of waste put into different streams