



**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORKING GROUP**

Plastics Management Working Group – First Meeting
Meeting Notes
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm (Zoom)

Attendance

Working group members	Metro Vancouver staff present
Sue Maxwell, Chair	Brooke Atkinson – PTAC Coordinator
Louise Schwartz	Chris Underwood – Division Manager, Solid Waste Planning
Tara Immell	Karen Storry – Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Planning
John Doherty	Samantha Joy – Working Group Coordinator
Raman Johal	Zeenia Mizan – Solid Waste Community Engagement Program Assistant
Kevin Huang	
Michael Zarbl (absent)	
Hunter Bergen (absent)	
Brianne De Man (absent)	

ITEMS
<p>1. MEMBER INTRODUCTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members introduced themselves and shared their interest in being a part of this plastics working group
<p>2. FOCUS TOPIC DISCUSSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Storry presented on the background for plastic recycling in the Metro Vancouver region and what Metro Vancouver is currently working on for plastic reduction, recycling, and disposal Examples of how Metro Vancouver supports plastic reduction and recycling include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operating several Recycling and Waste Centre drop offs for plastics (foam, flexibles and mixed containers, bulky 2&5 plastics, and refundables) Education role to improve recycling confidence with residents through events like PNE and behaviour change campaign (What’s your Superhabit?) A number of reuse projects including Reuse Days, RCBC reviewing sustainable options and education needs, Ocean Ambassadors webinars for businesses, Metro Vancouver head office cafeteria reusable cup program, UBC sustainability scholar case studies Collaboration efforts includes working with other organizations like the Canadian Plastics Pact, National Zero Waste Council Reuse Working Group



- Metro Vancouver Disposal bans (EPR Plastics and Extended Polystyrene) at Metro Vancouver regional solid waste facilities support plastic diversion
- Metro Vancouver works with other levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal) on policy and regulation to address single-use items and plastic waste
- Plastics textiles waste has stayed consistent since 2016 until 2022, but it is still too much per person in the region
- Could clothes be diverted? Hard challenge for the industry to solve due to limited markets, wool and cotton can be mechanically recycled, but plastics and blends have limited recycling opportunities
- Metro Vancouver has a behaviour change campaign for textile reduction (Think Thrice)

Potential focus area discussions:

- Moving up the waste reduction hierarchy to reuse, repair and refill.
- Programs
 - Home recycling for film plastics
- Recycling confidence
 - How can we make sure the end markets are local? Not just the recycled resin made locally, but also having local manufacturers use the resin?
 - Recycling end market traceability for commercial sector recycling
- Upstream systems change/product design/end markets
 - Design of plastic products for recycling end markets
- Regulation
 - Recycled content minimums
 - Address plastics collected for recycling that are being sent to disposal
- Sustainable procurement/education for specific groups
 - SUI reduction/education for
 - small ethnocultural businesses
 - suppliers of food service ware
 - Cafeteria clients such as schools all working to understand the market capabilities of the service providers.
 - Strata organization better recycling performance and contract for MF buildings
- Potential to work upstream to ensure circularity in our recycling systems
- Focus areas chosen and potential solutions and ideas presented should be related to what Metro Vancouver considers with respect to an updated solid waste management plan, including potential actions that may be in Metro Vancouver's direct control, and actions that Metro Vancouver may influence

3. CHAIR SELECTION

- Sue Maxwell was selected as chair and Louise Schwartz as vice chair if Sue is not available

4. MEETING FREQUENCY and NUMBER

- A shared document will be created for the group to share information on what members already know and to focus each meeting on the areas with more interest



- Monthly one hour meetings except August

5. MEETING FORMAT

- Online

6. POTENTIAL PRESENTERS/ OTHER INFORMATION OR RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Karen to provide relevant Metro Vancouver data and information as needed upon request by working group members