

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

Food Waste and Organics Working Group – Second Meeting

Monday, May 13, 2024

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Online meeting

Google Meet

Members in attendance: Ben Liegey, William Selten, Louise Schwarz, John Doherty, Sue Maxwell

MV Staff: Terry Fulton, Brooke Atkinson, Stephanie Liu

MEETING NOTES

ITEMS
1. MEETING NOTES – APRIL 22, 2024
2. FOCUS NOVEMBER PRESENTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relate to Solid Waste Management Plan Update Issue/Opportunity Discussion Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Metro Vancouver is suggesting and recommending the use of the issue/opportunity discussion questions as a guide or framework for reporting back to the main PTAC committee at the end of the year, to streamline data collection and analysis of feedback from the idea generation phase across all audiences.
3. WORKING GROUP NAME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Members discussed whether the working group name should be changed. Members discussed how “organics management” may not feature food waste/prevention and food loss. - Members agreed to update the name to: “Food Waste and Organics Working Group”
4. ORGANICS TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential areas for focused topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste hierarchy: prevention, food donations, compost & waste management ○ Food Cycle: manufacturers, retailers, hotels and restaurants, homes - Question was posed whether to have sub-working groups instead as there are so many topics to cover through this working groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Response: prefer to stay as one working group, and choose a focus (1-2 topics) for each meeting. Members may have interest and knowledge in multiple sub-areas.



- Member commented that the topics can be split into three general areas – waste prevention, recycling participation, and processing.
- Members agreed to use the Miro board to add ideas, group into categories, and rank interest
- Members discussed a few areas of interest that may be areas to dive into in more detail at future meetings:
 - Possibility of an easy to use system where leftover food could be picked up at foodservice establishments without worry of liability
 - Waste prevention via incentives or regulation of producers/manufacturers
 - Simplifying and streamlining recycling bin options – e.g. ‘all items from this establishment are compostable’
 - Compostable plastics:
 - o Avoiding greenwashing and consumer confusion as many ‘compostable plastics’ are not compatible with processing facilities; also, having compostable plastics as an option prevents some producers from considering alternative types of materials such as paper/fibre, or reducing the amount of packaging
 - o Government restrictions on compostable plastics due to cost, contamination, etc. How to move the responsibility to the producer instead
 - o Processing infrastructure
 - o Suggestion to **invite Love-Ese Chile** to speak on this topic as a scientist who specializes in this area
 - Contamination: how to ensure the cost of contamination is the responsibility of those who produce the contamination
 - Basic level actions – there are businesses who currently don’t compost food waste. Penalties should be applied considering it’s been compulsory since 2015.
 - Most actions are cost-driven so enforcement and penalties are key.
- Members spent some time to work in the Miro board to add and rank ideas for discussion

5. NEXT STEPS

- **June Meeting Date**

- **Other actions:**

- Chair to send a poll for availability for the June meeting date, including some morning options
- Before the next meeting, members to working the Miro board to rank topics. Chair to review and decide on a topic for the next meeting.
- Chair to provide an update at the June 14 general PTAC meeting
- Next meeting agenda: include an agenda item to discuss formalizing/streamlining the process for requests for information from MV staff (e.g. waste composition data)



- Next meeting: Metro Vancouver staff to provide a presentation on organics insights from waste composition