

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

Food Waste and Organics Management Working Group – Sixth Meeting

Monday, September 16, 2024
9:00 am – 10:00 am
Online meeting

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Ben Liegey (Chair), Doug Schell, John Doherty, Sue Maxwell, William Selten

Metro Vancouver Staff: Karen Storry, Stephanie Liu

ITEMS
<p>1. MEETING NOTES – August 12, 2024</p>
<p>2. Agenda/Structure for November Presentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarified difference between Nov 7 and Nov 21 presentation opportunities• On November 21, working groups have approximately 30 minutes to present.• Focus on data generated, and waste hierarchy and simplification: (prevention, rescue, recycling, unacceptable (and then have one slide for each of those subcategories)• Working group members were asked to share key priorities for each of those sections, highlight any metrics for Metro Vancouver to track, and note any resources that are recommended to refer to.• Discussion on key priorities:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recycling: Process organics <u>locally</u> within the region, and focus on producing high quality product, e.g. fertilizer (liquid or solid), algae, others.• Recycling/Unacceptable: Accept the system is not perfect and will not separate perfectly; but work to remove organics from garbage especially from multi-family as there is a large volume that can be captured. Key is to make a beneficial product. Explore technologies to extract organics from waste• Prevention: Explore tactics to target food waste at the source:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easier to enforce at the curb/source rather than the disposal facility. Provide tools; frame as business opportunity• Easier to go directly to businesses rather than haulers as haulers have comingled loads from multiple sources• Educational campaigns

- After education, move to penalties that are enough to change behavior.
- Make it simpler – for example if the service comes as a package service with 3 bins (can't choose just garbage)
- Prevention: enforce bans more effectively and use clear bags so ban enforcement is easier. Some challenges such as privacy issues to consider. Even if condensation makes it difficult to see in the clear bag at the facility, it may help the person at the source separate organics because the perception is that others can see in the bag. Clear bags have been implemented successfully in other areas in Canada.
- Focus on sectors where data shows biggest need/opportunity, e.g. residential v.s. business. 66% of food waste happening in IC&I sectors. Retail sector is more advanced than foodservice sector.
- Improve reporting / accountability: Clear metrics. Vancouver food policy council motion 2 years ago to ensure we're reporting food loss and waste data. Data isn't perfect but exists so let's share it and be transparent.
- Track Sustainable Development Goal. 12.3 to align internationally and track progress year over year.
- Focus on positives, to change behavior. For example highlight any costs savings associated.
- Example mechanism: Waste reduction plan to get business licence each year (Whistler)
- Haulers should be required to report data to Metro Vancouver (not just by-bin but accurate reflection of amount of waste picked up)
- Reference: Scotland Waste Reduction Plan:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-2019-food-waste-reduction-action-plan/pages/1/>
- <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/219841/wst-g-049-food-waste-management-in-scotland.pdf>
- Improving data at the source: Can Metro Vancouver organize a program for smart sensors for waste bins, such as bulk discounts? Market sounding to equip businesses with knowledge of technologies available for use. One challenge with sensors is companies want to sell subscription models and have 100% access to all data – businesses don't want to be tied to one service provider. Whistler-Blackcomb trialed some sensors and were able to reduce their waste pickup (Sue will provide contact to Karen)
- Metro Vancouver to align with Regional Planning's work on Food Systems. Also National Zero Waste Council is looking at how to measure food loss and waste across the food chain. Important to foster **cross-department collaboration** as higher in the hierarchy you get to discussions like food security and other things that involve other departments. Ensure waste part is informing and involved with food security/loss/reduction conversations.

3. Review of Food Waste Data

Deferred to next meeting

4. Reporting on SDG 12.3

5. Compostable Plastics (Louise)

Deferred to next meeting

6. Food Waste & Climate Change (Ben)

- Food waste accounts for 8-10% of global greenhouse gas. Need to draw bridges between Climate Action Plan and Solid Waste Management Plan related to food. Need to account for all emissions upstream (not just related to the disposal of food waste), to understand the full GHG impact.
- Would like to see carbon footprint reporting required of all businesses over a certain size here in the region.
- Reference: UNEP Food Waste Index Report: <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/unep-food-waste-index-report-2021>
- When looking at direct and indirect emissions (as a lot of food consumed in MV does not originate from MV) → When looking at consumption-based emissions, 20% of that is linked to Food. So it's important to include food when looking at climate action plans.
- Metro Vancouver noted it is working on Climate 250 Waste Roadmap. Solid Waste road map looks at disposal emissions while other road maps account for the other indirect emissions. Currently Scope 3 emissions are not reported (i.e. upstream considerations like production of food in another country – i.e. the impact of everything that you buy)
- Waste management plan should include accounting for upstream greenhouse gas emissions
- Reporting is almost more important than the plan itself. As reporting is where you get accountability.
- Organics going in landfill do significantly impact GHG emissions especially if gases aren't being captured effectively.
- Switching from landfill to composting you will save 10% emissions but switching from landfill to waste prevention you save so much more. Simply composting food waste is not the solution.

7. Next Meeting and Action Items

- Staff to provide feedback on presentation approaches across other groups to ensure alignment
- Staff to communicate final agenda and timing for the November 21 presentation day
- Key data request from staff: Data breakdown by sector (e.g. between residential and commercial food waste. Fill in data in highlighted cells here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oEpMztwRqIPYotJXWyU0fYcWUuLGHKr9/edit?gid=1487564117#gid=1487564117>)
- Report back on data related to contamination – before next meeting (October)