

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

Plastics Management Working Group – Second Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2024

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Online meeting

Microsoft Teams

Meeting Notes

Members in attendance: Brianne De Man, John Doherty, Doug Schell, Louise Schwarz, Michael Zarbl

Metro Vancouver Staff: Karen Storry, Brooke Atkinson

ITEMS
<p>1. MEETING NOTES – APRIL 17, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were asked if there were any edits to the meeting notes. No edits were provided.
<p>2. FOCUS NOVEMBER PRESENTATION</p> <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. ○ Feedback gathered from PTAC members on the discussion questions at the April 12, 2024 meeting will be used to update the questions. Updated questions will be provided to working groups.
<p>3. Miro Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair explained how to use the Miro board for populating potential discussion topics and ranking them for focus topics of each meeting. • Information is included on the Miro board related to what Metro Vancouver is currently doing with initiatives and statistics for recycling in the region. • There is also other information from organizations in the waste industry (consumer plastics statistics and landfill information). • Members are encouraged to add to the Miro Board on what their interest areas are and to rank others. • This phase of the solid waste management plan update is to work on ideas and solutions for the current problems in the waste system, goals will be generated in the next phase.



- Members looked at the Miro board and discussed ideas and concerns on the board.

Areas of interest discussed:

- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs:
 - Currently, Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR) is focused on difficult to recycle items, but there should be a way to focus more on the redesign, reuse, and repair of items rather than trying to mitigate the disposal through EPR.
 - More policies are needed at a larger scale to support repair, reuse, redesign items through EPR programs.
 - Equity perspective is important for EPR programs, making sure that the expense is going back to the producer rather than on the consumer.
 - Producers are making incremental change through the design of products (recycled content, less plastic packaging, etc.). Consumers need to keep pushing for producers reducing plastics.
- Educating consumers should be the producers responsibility and not consumers. Make sure the producers can implement labelling to support educating the consumer, can be done through governments regulating.
- Need a regulatory environment like in Europe that does not allow items to be disposed in landfill, forces alternatives to be implemented.
- Need to be able to have regulations to ensure companies have parts available for fixing appliances/electronics, since they are not available, it incentivizes buying new instead of repair – costly.
- Ensure harmonization on single-use items for municipalities, enable them to put their own bylaws in place (rather than have provincial approval).
- Need stronger provincial regulations for IC&I plastic reduction.

4. Next meeting date and requests for Metro Vancouver staff:

- The Chair will send out a Doodle Poll to decide the June meeting date.
- Members discussed what information Metro Vancouver staff can provide to the group to support their focus areas.
- Request for staff to provide 5-10 case studies or examples from other jurisdictions that complement/expand on Miro Board entries.
- Request for a list of what kind of plastics are not recyclable and where those items are coming from, to see where they need to be eliminated.
- Request for staff review Miro Board and provide feedback on current status of the suggestion.