



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

Plastics Management Working Group – Fourth Meeting
Thursday, July 25, 2024
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Online meeting

MEETING NOTES

PTAC Members Present: John Doherty, Sue Maxwell (Chair), Louise Schwarz

Metro Vancouver Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Karen Storry

ITEMS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEETING NOTES – June 20, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No edits or omissions for the meeting notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion on key actions the group has not included on reduction for input to Metro Vancouver ○ Reduction pieces could be more time bound and general directions on reduction could be more for the longer term plan update ○ Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Golden design rules for plastic packaging was discussed – focus on procurement (what consumers are choosing to buy) Golden Design Rules for Plastics Packaging (plasticspact.ca) ○ Unsold goods are something to focus on (i.e. after forest fires for insurance policies throwing out store items) ○ Reduction Policies driving the wasting of items in certain scenarios ○ Design for durability requirements – Metro Vancouver is responding to the ECCC plastic pollution prevention in the apparel and textiles sector discussion paper due September 1. As part of that feedback Metro Vancouver staff are advocating for durability requirements and labelling. ○ Right to repair – should be included in suggested approach to include in policies ○ Reusable items – could be more of an issue than single-use due to transport costs and environmental impact, as well as resources used to clean the items ○ Reusable items are only truly reusable if you reuse them – if too many are distributed then they could end up as waste in a landfill
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reuse



- Actions related to reuse:
 - Reuse of buildings – more plastics in buildings as time goes on and need to reduce that by reusing those materials
 - Construction sector should have to report out on how much plastic used for products
 - When that construction data is collected – will that data be used to inform the plan update on how to reduce those materials over time once we know how much is being wasted currently?

- **Any items flagged as yellow or red on the Miro Board**

Actions:

- Need a push for Extend Producer Responsibility (EPR) for all consumer products – challenges are that not all EPR programs are functioning as they should.
 - EPR should be functioning as more of a top down on the waste hierarchy – should look into eliminating and reducing the products that enter the system, rather than the other end where it is getting processed and sometimes hard to process
 - Good to look at what the goals are for the EPR programs – trying to manage and eliminate waste design on the upstream – to avoid incineration
 - Look at what the requirements are for EPR to function correctly to be able to process those products at the end of life, and eliminate the ones that are hard to recycle
 - Focus on the outcomes of the EPR, rather than the policy you want to change the program
 - Putting costs on the stewards and users rather than governments is valuable to reflect true cost for consumers
 - Caveats around EPR is needed
- Educating people for reuse, repair and recycle and how to consume more wisely (chemicals to be concerned about, footprint of products, how to assess quality and what the lifetime cost may be, sharing consumer reports through libraries etc.)
 - Having places where people can get the quality information and discourage misinformation sharing
 - Availability of transparent, clear accessible information – not putting onus on people to go out and seek that information
- Making it easier to do multi-stream recycling
 - Support the industry to serve the public in that way rather than making them do it or expecting them to do it
- Work with education facilities to expand systems – like UBC mindful move out
 - Good to work towards, but hard to implement as it needs funding to make it happen
 - Harder to get initiatives like this to get approved if there are no funding programs in place
 - Case study would help then its easier for faculty to accept
 - Need an organization to lead the initiative to create a coalition to discuss and implement this type of program
- Encourage requirements for zero waste plan as part of business licensing in member municipalities and product support (can start sector by sector)



- Need to hold accountable every participant in the waste management process (haulers and businesses)
- Helpful for zero waste plans to be enforced with businesses – gets them thinking about what they do waste on a daily basis (offer classes and best practices)
- Work with tourism sector to offer reusable bags, beverage containers, etc. in rooms and develop shared campaign for tourists to travel lighter
 - Need to know the life cycle of the reusable products that tourist company is giving out
 - Helpful to ban small toiletries (shampoo conditioner body wash) – reduces the plastic packaging (short term effective ban)
- Campaign to reduce bottled water use
 - Make sure to have an equity lens on this for access to water (Metro Vancouver currently doing water wagon)
 - Post-secondary facilities should ban them, there are a lot of plastic bottle use from students
- Support neighboring sharing networks
 - being able to share tools or equipment (local library share programs) tool library and thingery – how to support existing networks for sharing
- Encourage the use of reusable diapers
 - Make sure to have equity lens for affordability
- Supporting multi-family buildings to have less waste
 - Encourage strata organizations to have better recycling performance and good contacts for service of buildings and property management companies
 - be able to hold multi-family buildings accountable to be more environmentally conscious for bylaws and provide them education
- Mandate three stream collection for all construction renovation and demolition companies
 - Focus on the service providers rather than project owners
 - Provide feedback to citizens, businesses on results to show transparent and foster trust
 - Have the data independently verified – is hard to get accurate results for the waste data coming from haulers
 - Look for opportunity for waste diversion in waste composition studies – urban repurpose example – helpful for diversion and need to support this more to include in waste comp studies data collected

● **Next Meeting and Interim Actions**

- No meeting in August, next meeting in early September
- Chair to send out Doodle poll for September meeting date