



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

Plastics Management Working Group – Third Meeting
Thursday, June 10, 2024
9:00 am – 10:00 am
Online meeting

MEETING NOTES

Attendance: Sue Maxwell, Doug Schell, Brianne De Man, Tara Immell, Michael Zarbl

Metro Vancouver Staff: Karen Storry, Brooke Atkinson

ITEMS
<p>1. MEETING NOTES – May 16, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Schell (Vancouver Coastal Health) and Brianne De Man (EMBERS Eastside Works), introduced their new job roles to the group • No edits to the meeting notes from May 16, 2024
<p>2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for products/packaging with plastics</p> <p>EPR for Industrial Commercial and Institutional sector could be focus area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPR programs focused in the Provincial regulations – packaging and consumer products • Province looking at trying how to handle nonresidential packaging • By the time the solid waste management plan update comes into play – the Province may already have set their regulations • Focus could be looking at how effective the EPR programs are at addressing the current issues • Prioritizing the most important EPR programs to tackle will be easiest to breakdown where the issues are and how to come up with solutions • Current EPR programs don't do the things that are priority – reducing waste and designing better products to begin with. Note this is important for producers to pay the full costs of a program to incent better design. • Group to explore the priorities for EPR programs and suggestions on how to improve them • Vancouver Coastal Health doing programs with PPE – recycled through a company – able to take the metal out of the PPE to be able to recycle medical equipment • To what degree do organizations and businesses have the resources they need and support to be able to reduce their waste and be a part of EPR programs <p>Programs and policies to make sure all business have a basic level of recycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizations should be able to take initiative before Metro Vancouver and the Province come in to help and support with implementation



- Accountability for all business – especially for public sector - Publically funded organizations should be leaders
- Education - Business coaching – Lethbridge has coaching for business for 3 stream system
- Mandatory recycling for the business sector - How to enforce businesses to recycle when the EPR programs are not strong and prevalent enough
- IC&I for businesses – should have stronger policies for zero waste to reduce waste at the source and less into the landfill
- Large companies in the IC&I sector could implement their own recycling programs
- Smaller businesses – should have opportunity to have their own recycling programs in place and stronger business policy to focus on zero waste
- Disposal bans for easy to recycle materials – Metro Vancouver did a good job with the organics disposal ban rollout and could use that model
- Pathways for recycling – understanding the end markets
- Metro Vancouver to put in place ways to enforcing disposal bans at point of source, rather than with the haulers who drop off at facilities
- Eliminate hard to recycle plastic
- Accessible recycling markets [to small business/commercial] for items like coffee cups and film plastics
- Without the regulatory environment to enforce it – businesses and residents won't do it
- Pushing for change for Metro Vancouver to push Province –very important to also look at design and rethink how designing products to make it easier to recycle and have EPR programs in place
- Need a suit of policy and regulation
- EPR with eco-design and Eco modulation built in

3. Reduction

Programs and policies to move plastic products up the pollution prevention policy to achieve durability, reuse and repair.

- Right to repair (like in Quebec)
- Investment in solution and pilots for collective reuse system
 - More reuse drop-off infrastructure like Urban Repurpose at the North Shore
 - Reuse first at regional facilities (similar to the Quesnel landfill)
- Standards for reuse for things like food service ware so systems are more harmonized
- More education and behavior change like think thrice to help consumers think reuse.
- Need to have an intercept point that is prominent to get people to think about diversion
- Behavior change is important to intercept people when they are doing the action to be able to get them to think about other options that focus on reuse and diversion

4. As time permits, items flagged in yellow – did not discuss



5. Solid Waste Management Plan Update Issues/Opportunities Discussion Questions – Updated

- It is suggested that members use the draft issues/opportunities questions as a framework for their focus area presentations at the November 21 presentation day.

6. Next Meeting and Interim Actions

- Chair to send out the next meeting doodle poll
- Members to fill out the Miro Board with concern areas