

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

**February 19, 2026
In-Person Meeting
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

MEETING NOTES

The Meeting Notes of the Public/Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), held in person at the Metro Vancouver – Head Office. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Attendees: Director Kirby-Yung (Chair), Director Hodge (Vice-Chair), Allen Lynch, Amika Watari, Ben Liegey, Brenda Martens, Christoph Schultz, Gil Yaron, Jamie Kaminski, Jennifer Henry, Komal Fatima, Louise Schwarz, Marcelle Moreira dos Santos, Raman Johal, Sarah Scanlan, Sean Miles, Sue Maxwell, Tara Immell, William Selten

Absent: Adelyn Chan, Bill Chan, Cassidy vander Ross, Cody Irwin, Daryl Foster, Daniel Rotman, Daryl Foster, Doug Schell, Grant Hankins, Jake Turek, Jaye-Jaye Berggren, John Doherty, Kevin Huang, Matthew Morin, Micheal Zarbl, Stephanie Voysey, Ulwiana Metha-Malhotra

Metro Vancouver Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Chris Allan, Chris Underwood, Karen Storry, Paul Henderson, Stephanie Liu, Terry Fulton, Joanne Gauci, Faith Sabourault, Alec Wu, Kelly Du

Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Members: Celena Benndorf, Ryan Williams

1.	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>The Vice-Chair, Director Hodge, welcomed PTAC members and introduced Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel member, Celena Benndorf and Ryan Williams.</p> <p>Staff welcomed members and noted that the session format was informed by feedback from the previous meeting and follow-up emails.</p>	Vice-Chair
2.	<p>AGENDA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Vice-Chair, Director Hodge, presented and reviewed the February 19, 2026 meeting agenda. 	Vice-Chair
3.	<p>PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed January 29, 2026 meeting notes and there were no additions raised; notes were accepted as provided. 	Vice-Chair



4.	DISCUSSION ITEMS	Vice-Chair
	<p>Each PTAC member spoke for up to 2 minutes to describe their main feedback on the initial draft solid waste management plan. Themes from the round-robin are summarized in Attachment 1, and the one-pager feedback that PTAC members submitted is Attachment 2.</p> <p>Some feedback from the round-robin included detailed feedback, and is included in Attachment 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase out the Burnaby Waste-to-Energy facility, with an aligned disposal strategy and transparent capital cost implications. • Set specific, time-bound, sector-specific targets (incl. per-capita waste and food-waste targets) with secondary metrics and benchmarks. • Provide transparent budgets, clear implementation timelines, and adaptive management check-ins. • Keep the plan progressive, with measurable actions, clear governance alignment, and solution pathways. <p>Solid Waste Management Plan Update: 4.1 Feedback Session on Initial Draft Plan Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, presented the initial draft plan’s vision, consisting of 6 goals, 30 strategies and 117 actions.</p> <p>Staff thanked members for ongoing contributions to the Solid Waste Management Plan process and outlined the session structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two rounds of small-group table discussions with rotating participation • Note-taking support at each table • Prompting questions to identify what is working, what is missing, and what should be strengthened • Opportunity for plenary report-back <p>Staff advised that a revised draft plan is being prepared for Zero Waste Committee consideration. Staff also advised that the revised package is expected to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A blackline version showing changes from the January 22 initial draft • A summary of key changes • Documentation of engagement inputs received during this phase (including PTAC submissions and meeting feedback) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A member asked whether the “waste reduction” target refers only to materials sent for disposal or the broader discard system. Staff clarification: The reduction target applies to discards across the system (recycled and disposed), not disposal alone. <p>Members participated in breakout discussions across table topics (targets/metrics,</p>	<p>PTAC Members</p>

<p>residual management strategy, regulatory strategy, and an overflow table).</p> <p>Small groups topics were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targets and Metrics ▪ Residual Management Strategy ▪ Regulatory Strategy ▪ Overflow (Financial overview, definitions, plan monitoring, recycling and waste centre strategy, disposal actions) <p>The following questions were discussed in the breakout groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the most important issue in this topic area? • What is working well in the draft plan? • What is missing? • What needs to be strengthened? <p>A summary of the feedback from the small group discussions is provided in Attachment 1.</p> <p>Some feedback heard in the small group discussions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for stronger, clearer regulations on what can be recycled, how materials must be handled, and increasing disposal ban inspections to reduce contamination levels. • Establish a budget and implementation schedule for each action, along with an assessment of projected impacts, to support transparent prioritization and resource allocation. • Acknowledge that the upper tiers of the hierarchy are transformative and less easily quantified, while committing budget and effort toward improving measurement to ensure meaningful action can still be tracked and evaluated. • Develop more detailed, sector-specific metrics, particularly for the commercial and institutional sectors, to better reflect differences in waste generation and diversion potential. • Need stronger support for circular economy entrepreneurs. Missed opportunity to be more ambitious and invest in land for circular economy facilities and innovation. 	
<p>5. INFORMATION ITEMS 5.1 Zero Waste Committee Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, provided an update on the February Zero Waste Committee meeting.</p>	Paul Henderson
<p>6. ACTION/STANDING ITEMS 6.1 Action Tracker 6.2 Public/Technical Advisory Committee Updated 2026 Work Plan 6.3 Regional Waste Flows January 2026</p>	Brooke Atkinson
<p>7. NEXT STEPS Staff reminded members that written feedback (including one-pagers) is requested by end of day Friday, February 20, 2026, to allow consolidation of comments into the revised draft and supporting materials.</p> <p>Staff provided information regarding posting and sharing member submissions:</p>	Brooke Atkinson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes from the session will be posted online. • PTAC member one-pagers will be compiled into a single PDF and posted to the PTAC website. • Members will receive an email with the link. • Members may also submit feedback through the plan website’s online discussion board. <p>Staff advised members of the PTAC the following meeting schedule changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The March 20, 2026 PTAC meeting will likely be cancelled. • A final PTAC meeting will be scheduled for April 2, 2026 (in-person, not hybrid) with Zero Waste Committee members invited. 	
	<p>8. ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The Vice Chair thanked the members and for their participation and contributions. The meeting adjourned with an invitation to reconvene on April 2, 2026.</p>	Vice-Chair

Attachment 1: Plenary Round-Robin and Small Group Discussion Summary – Solid Waste Management Plan Update Initial Draft – PTAC February 19, 2026

Attachment 2: PTAC Member one-pagers – Feedback on Initial Draft Plan

**Solid Waste Management Plan Update: Initial Draft
Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee Feedback
Session**

Thursday, February 19, 2026
Metro Vancouver – 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby
29 Floor, Room 2912

Metro Vancouver is updating its regional solid waste management plan, building on the strengths of the current plan and identifying ways to accelerate waste reduction and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and advance a circular economy. Metro Vancouver is currently receiving feedback on the initial draft solid waste management plan.

On February 19, 2026, Metro Vancouver held a feedback session on the initial draft plan at a Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee meeting. The session included two components – a round-robin opportunity for each member to provide a few words summarizing their main feedback on the initial draft plan, followed by small-group discussions.

Prior to the meeting, Metro Vancouver polled members to identify priority parts of the plan for small group discussion. Final small group topics were:

- Residuals Strategy
- Regulatory Strategy
- Targets and Metrics
- Overflow (Financial Overview, Definitions, Plan Monitoring, Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy, Disposal Actions)



SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Below are highlights from feedback at the session, categorized by the small group topics. Feedback will be considered as the draft is revised in preparation for providing to the Zero Waste Committee and GVS&DD Board. Following Board consideration, there will be an additional opportunity for comment prior to submission of the draft to the Ministry of Environment and Parks for approval.

THEMES FROM ROUND-ROBIN

(each member provided up to 2 minutes summary of their main feedback on the initial draft plan)

- **Definitions & Scope:** Lock in precise definitions (recycling, diversion, recovery, circularity, “waste” as a verb rather than a noun), explicitly anchoring to Zero Waste hierarchy (incl. “rethink”) and circular economy.
- **Stronger, Mandatory Regulation:** Move beyond pilots/soft language and tighten disposal bans, require region-wide source separation, and expand inspection/enforcement (incl. private sector/construction and demolition).
- **Residuals Strategy & Waste-to-Energy:** Phase out the Burnaby Waste-to-Energy facility, with an aligned disposal strategy and transparent capital cost implications.
- **Targets & Metrics:** Set specific, time-bound, sector-specific targets (incl. per-capita waste and food-waste targets) with secondary metrics and benchmarks.
- **Monitoring & Enforcement:** Expand progress reporting (esp. food waste), do region-wide spot checks on residential curbside (e.g., clear bags), and apply consistent penalties.
- **Reuse/Repair/Circular Infrastructure:** Scale deconstruction, reuse, repair cafés/reuse days, house relocation; enable reuse at depots; fund non-profits and innovators.
- **Budget, Resourcing & Timelines:** Provide transparent budgets, clear implementation timelines, and adaptive management check-ins.
- **Equity & Access:** Ensure services work for residents without cars, (i.e. provide limited bulky-item pick up for supported housing) to reduce service inequities.
- **Education & Consistency:** Unified regional messaging, simpler public materials; consistency across municipalities (e.g., multi-family housing recycling rooms).
- **Regional Roles & Collaboration:** Greater clarity on Metro Vancouver’s support to municipalities (Plan section 4.2 & 4.4), extended producer responsibility roles/classifications, and retail/institutional/commercial partnerships.
- **Climate & Health:** Tie actions to consumption-based emissions and human health outcomes; make environmental outcomes explicit.
- **Plan Ambition & Governance:** Keep the plan progressive, with measurable actions, clear governance alignment, and solution pathways.

REGULATORY STRATEGY

What needs to be strengthened?

- **Need for Stronger, Clearer Regulations**
 - Need specific, concise regulations to reduce waste and improve clarity.
 - Clear guidelines on what can be recycled, how materials must be handled, and increasing disposal ban inspections to reduce contamination levels.
- **Enhanced Enforcement & Disposal Bans**
 - Strengthen implementation and enforcement of disposal bans (including at Waste-to-Energy facility).
 - Make enforcement consistent across all facilities and municipalities.
- **Financial Accountability & Incentives**
 - Use fines, load rejections, and tipping fee adjustments to create meaningful consequences.
 - Fines should motivate both haulers and site management to change behavior.
 - Increasing tipping fees may further incentivize proper waste separation.
- **Pay-as-you-throw & Clear Bags**
 - “Pay-as-you-throw” models used in Europe or mandatory clear bags could increase accountability but risk illegal dumping if residents don’t want to participate.
 - Clear bags as a potential tool for simplifying inspection and preventing cheating.
- **Hauler Responsibility**
 - Haulers must take responsibility for contaminated loads and educate customers.
 - Clear mechanisms are needed so haulers cannot avoid responsibility or push back.
 - If contamination persists, haulers should face increased costs or lose customers due to higher service fees.
- **Source Separation as Core Strategy**
 - Mandatory source separation across all streams (organics, recycling, garbage).
 - Keep the system simple, enforceable, and uniform across municipalities.

What is missing?

- **Targeted Campaigns & Behaviour Change**
 - Consider phased campaigns focusing on one priority material at a time (e.g., organics).
 - Regulations and communication campaigns must work together.
 - Long-term education is required for residents to understand and adopt waste reduction habits.
- **Metro Vancouver’s Role**
 - Metro should maximize its enforcement powers at regional facilities.
 - Could also track sector performance, redirect budgets strategically, and hold municipal members accountable.
- **Strengthening Construction & Demolition Oversight**
 - Learn from places like San Francisco: license haulers and receivers more thoroughly, audit them, and track recycling performance.
 - Increase transparency around actual construction & demolition waste volumes and practices.
 - Current construction & demolition targets and reporting lack accuracy and clarity.
- **Clear, Accessible Regulations**
 - Residents and businesses face confusion about what can be recycled.
 - Regulations should specify recyclable materials clearly, with stronger supportive language.

- Need simpler, more accessible information resources, currently there are too many existing and it causes confusion for residents.
- **Linking Policies Across Sectors**
 - Connect food policy, climate policy, and waste policy for mutual benefit.
 - Clarify roles for municipal, regional, and provincial governments.
- **Clarifying Metro Vancouver's Regulatory Authority**
 - Include a clear list of what Metro *can* and *cannot* regulate.
 - Identify where provincial or federal leadership is necessary (e.g., food waste reduction incentives).
- **Data Transparency & Public Reporting**
 - Strengthen open-data reporting to track progress on goals, budgets, and performance.
 - Provide easy-to-understand visual summaries of waste data available online.
 - Use accessible language to build trust and communicate results effectively to the public and to businesses.

What is working well in the draft?

- **Events & Waste Reduction**
 - Advocate for mandatory source separation at events.
 - Currently Metro Vancouver does provide toolkits, budget planning guides, and checklists to support organizers, these could be strengthened.
 - Metro Vancouver can establish/coordinate best practices even if it cannot legislate event-specific bylaws.
- **Effective Use of Regulation to Drive Diversion**
 - Organics disposal ban demonstrates regulation's ability to dramatically improve diversion.
 - Industry resistance is common, so incentives and penalties must be balanced.
 - Encourage compliance through business licensing tied to recycling/diversion plans.

TARGETS AND METRICS

What is the most important issue in this topic area?

- **Need for Clear, Specific, and Measurable Targets**
 - Set defined, sector-specific, and/or explore material-specific targets.
 - Differentiate impact across initiatives/events and across commercial/ICI sub-sectors.
- **Alignment Between Goals, Metrics, and Measurement**
 - Targets only work if they are paired with coherent metrics and consistent measurement frameworks.
- **Precision in Language and Intent**
 - Terms like "climate neutral" may be misunderstood and should be refined for accuracy and clarity.
- **Ambition and Resourcing**
 - Goals should be more ambitious, and the budget should reflect the scale of desired impact.

What is working well in the draft?

- Establishing a coordinated policy framework by collaborating closely with municipalities.
- Strengthening the waste-reduction hierarchy through the inclusion of a new “rethink” tier.

What is missing?

- Develop more detailed, sector-specific metrics, particularly for the commercial and institutional sectors, to better reflect differences in waste generation and diversion potential.
- Define clear metrics for each tier of the waste-reduction hierarchy, ensuring consistent measurement from “rethink” to disposal.
- Establish a budget and implementation schedule for each action, along with an assessment of projected impacts, to support transparent prioritization and resource allocation.
- Expand the regenerative design approach demonstrated in construction and explore how similar principles could be applied across other waste streams.
- Provide specific actions and pathways toward climate neutrality, including methodologies and assumptions.
 - Demonstrate the climate benefits of reduced waste generation by quantifying associated decreases in carbon emissions.
- Enhance reporting practices by presenting progress-to-date against targets, with a clear mechanism to adjust or pivot when performance is below expectations.
- Allocate dedicated land and infrastructure to support repair, reuse, reduction activities, and material recovery—particularly for high-value materials such as wood.
- Acknowledge that the upper tiers of the hierarchy are transformative and less easily quantified, while committing budget and effort toward improving measurement to ensure meaningful action can still be tracked and evaluated.

What needs to be strengthened?

- Assess the economic value of items repaired at repair events, rather than focusing solely on the number of items repaired, to better illustrate the financial and environmental benefits of repair.
- Strengthen and expand reuse initiatives, ensuring they play a more prominent role in the waste-reduction hierarchy.
- Shift terminology from “pilot” or “testing” to “policy” and “regulation” to signal commitment, maturity of approach, and long-term implementation.
- Revisit the construction recycling rate, noting that including concrete inflates the overall recycling percentage and may not accurately represent true material recovery performance.
- Increase transparency around recycling processes by clearly distinguishing between materials that are collected and those that are actually recycled, processed, or reused.

Questions asked:

- How did the metrics and targets get derived, did they incorporate increased reduction habits or is it solely based on reduction of just waste (waste composition)?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: The metrics and targets were derived using a combined analysis of annual report data as well as waste composition.

- Are we counting repair metrics?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: We track number of items repaired at cafes but noticed that requesting data deters municipalities from hosting repair cafes.
- What is the source of the climate-neutral actions, and can the associated calculations be shared?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: This is in the Solid Waste Primer, under Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 strategy.
- To what extent do the proposed waste-reduction targets contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: Detailed modeling and emissions-reduction calculations are in progress to verify the degree of alignment with the 2050 climate-neutral objective.

RESIDUALS STRATEGY

What is the most important issue in this topic area?

- Haven't done a deep dive mapping of what to do with waste.
- Many targets are to 2050. What seems missing is a deep dive on capacity, assets needed, costs to manage waste in that timeframe.
- Plan should also account for disaster debris planning.
- Health authority waste is disposed to the Waste-to-Energy (WTE) facility instead of to landfill. This requires contingency planning when WTE is down. Metro Vancouver should explore options.
- Social criteria of the draft Technical Criteria for Evaluation Residual Waste Management Options should consider benefits of appropriate disposal of healthcare waste and address public perception and impact on public health.
- The strategies under Goal 6 should consider treatment of niche waste streams
- Europe considers WTE as a pretreatment to landfill. Look at other pretreatment options instead.
- Look at specific issues such as organics creating methane in landfill, and what is created when waste is burned.
- Why is the plan considering additional disposal capacity? Previously MV had said that increasing WTE capacity would not be considered.
 - Technical criteria for evaluating residual management options is included in the plan if additional capacity is required during the life of the plan.

What is working well in the draft?

- Material recycled is quite significant
- Vancouver Landfill is managed well (testing, etc.)
- Shows ongoing commitments based on what MV is already doing

What needs to be strengthened?

- **Financial and Economic Considerations**
 - Shift spending from disposal toward zero-waste investments; highlight the opportunity cost of disposal-focused spending.

- Strengthen analysis of capital, operating, and full lifecycle costs.
- Re-evaluate contingency disposal pricing, consider alternative RFP approaches for better value.
- Question keeping waste in Metro Vancouver at all costs, suggest closing WTE, paying more for contingency disposal, and reinvesting savings into waste reduction.
- **Regulatory, Testing, and Compliance**
 - Implement stronger regulatory standards, following leading jurisdictions.
 - Add a robust testing program near WTE facilities (river sediment, soil, residential impacts).
 - Expand pollutant monitoring requirements and clarify what must be measured.
 - Advocate for provincial hauler licensing and standardized data reporting.
 - Improve enforcement of disposal bans, supported by better load inspection tools (e.g., clear bags).
- **System Design, Facility Operations, and Waste Handling**
 - Clarify what resources remain in waste streams and why.
 - Separate landfill and WTE in Strategy 6, because their impacts differ significantly (e.g., plastics behave differently in each).
 - Consider burnable vs. non-burnable separation like Japan.
 - Add industry expert consultation to residuals management strategy.
 - Provide more reuse opportunities at Recycling & Waste Centres (e.g., reuse days, bike reuse).
 - Add ability to capture reusable materials during disposal processes (Table 6).
- **Contingency Disposal + Definitions**
 - Describe contingency disposal facilities, locations, and costs more clearly.
 - Add “contingency disposal” to the glossary and distinguish it from “remote landfills.”
- **Public Education, Behaviour Change, and Inspection**
 - Increase education around biomedical vs. standard hospital waste; most hospital waste should go to landfill with proper inspection.
 - Add wildlife-attractant management (e.g., bear-related issues in Coquitlam).
 - Include aggressive reduction targets, enforcement mechanisms, and measures to address potential illegal dumping.
 - Add actions to incentivize behavior change, currently incentives for residents are weak; consider reviewing residential bin fee structures.
 - Promote reuse in addition to recycling, aligning with the waste hierarchy.
 - Improve public understanding of metrics, scale, baseline, and relevance matter.
- **Policy Advocacy**
 - Advocate for extended producer responsibility for tires on rims.
 - Metro Vancouver should lead in waste labeling and reducing misclassification.
- **Communication and Program Strategy**
 - Reconsider tours and communications that overly promote WTE without discussing negative impacts; shift emphasis toward zero-waste education.
 - Recognize that reuse is currently under-emphasized in referenced strategies and needs stronger integration.

Additional Feedback

- What are we doing about reducing soil disposal?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: There is specific action to minimize soil taking up space at the Vancouver Landfill.

- What is the risk and cost incurred if targets are missed?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: Cost differential can be applied to methods to decrease waste.
- The value of landfill space preserved for as long as possible should be considered FVRD did triple bottom line analysis of landfill space.
- What are the beneficial use opportunities for bottom ash?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: Cement plant opportunity to substitute for raw materials. 90% of bottom ash could be used.
- Against beneficial use of bottom ash. Look at best practices to minimize potential toxins from bottom ash.

OVERFLOW

(Financial Overview, Definitions, Plan Monitoring, Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy, Disposal Actions)

What is working well in the draft?

- Appreciate seeing that there will be a plan monitoring committee – next iteration of this group to keep the plan in motion.
- Appreciate Strategy 4.6 and section on tailored recycling information.
- Recycling and Waste Centre Strategy – good to see drive time / consistent services across locations identified.

What is missing?

- Could plan monitoring include focus on adaptive management?
- Could we include public consultation at the plan monitoring phase?

What needs to be strengthened?

- Need better strategy around multi-family. Can we consider regulatory or financial mechanisms to get strata companies supporting diversion better?
- Need more space allocated for sharing/repairing/reuse as well as diversion in multi-family.
- Appreciate there is strategy for extended producer responsibility (EPR) but maybe consider stronger language for consistent EPR. E.g., try to expand on actions 3.2.4. and 3.2.6.
- Need stronger support for circular economy entrepreneurs. Missed opportunity to be more ambitious and invest in land for circular economy facilities and innovation.
- Budget cycle is an issue. How can we fund those working in this space, like through accelerators?
- Would help to have more details on the funding/budget. Have a high-level overview and then budget table but no description of different sections in the budget.
- Need something stronger around contamination/source separation.

Other feedback:

- We need the ability to hear feedback and see updates after one-pagers submitted.

Questions asked:

- Can we put collection facilities at transportation stations, like Skytrain?

- Metro Vancouver Response: This would require dealing with another entity and having bins where there are large amounts of people, which may not be practical and may pose a security risk.
- What is the engagement budget covering in future years when not in plan development phase?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: It would cover engagement related to plan implementation.
- Can you provide overview of the finances?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: The Board receives a five-year forecast but only approves budgets on a year-to-year basis as we can't fetter future Boards. Can't run deficit budgets.
- Is the economic system at risk?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: Our model is slightly different from other municipalities. Metro Vancouver has a Tipping Fee Bylaw which contains a Generator Levy provision that provides funding to the core parts of the regional system for waste that is taken outside of the Metro Vancouver system for disposal.
- Can the private sector purchase their own landfill?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: Land availability and costs in region are likely prohibitive. Accessibility issues to access landfills outside of the region (road access/border issue).
- Has there been a procurement of land for a new landfill?
 - Metro Vancouver Response: No.
- Does Metro Vancouver have pop-up recycling events?
 - We work with member jurisdictions on this – e.g., we worked with Surrey to have drop off for Surrey residents. Increases awareness in community and numbers ramp up as a result after the events.