

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 20, 2025

In-Person Meeting

1:00 pm – 3:00 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, November 20, 2025.

Attendees: Director Kirby-Yung (Chair), Director Hodge (Vice-Chair), Adelyn Chan, Ben Liegey, Bill Chan, Brenda Martens, Cody Irwin, Daryl Foster, Jennifer Henry, Louise Schwarz, Marcelle Moreira dos Santos, Raman Johal, Sarah Scanlan, Stephanie Voysey, Sue Maxwell, Tara Immell, William Selten

Absent: Allen Lynch, Amika Watari, Cassidy vander Ross, Christoph Schultz, Daniel Rotman, Doug Schell, Gil Yaron, Grant Hankins, Jake Turek, Jamie Kaminski, Jaye-Jaye Berggren, John Doherty, Kevin Huang, Komal Fatima

Metro Vancouver Staff: Chris Underwood, Karen Storry, Paul Henderson, Stephanie Liu, Terry Fulton, Faith Sabourault, Vanessa Hatten, Samantha Joy

Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Members: Celena Benndorf

1.	WELCOME The Vice-Chair, Director Hodge, welcomed PTAC members and introduced Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel member, Celena Benndorf.	Vice-Chair
2.	AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Vice-Chair, Director Hodge, presented and reviewed the November 20, 2025 meeting agenda.	Vice-Chair
3.	PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed October 3, 3035 meeting notes and there were no additions made.	Vice-Chair



4.	DISCUSSION ITEMS	Vice-Chair
	<p>Solid Waste Management Plan Update:</p> <p>4.1 Targets and Metrics</p> <p>Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, presented draft primary metrics and targets, and secondary metrics for the updated solid waste management plan.</p> <p>Member discussion on targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the importance of reducing food waste to achieve carbon neutrality. Support for efforts to address food waste. Highlighted that measuring total emissions from food waste is challenging and 80% of total emissions from food waste are not related production and distribution rather than landfill emissions. • Comment that the metrics look good but felt the targets for 2050 seem far away, and suggested that targets for 2030 and 2040 be set as well. • Comment that the targets may not be ambitious enough and suggested having 5-year and 10-year targets, along with adding sub-targets (e.g., food waste). • Plastics and packaging fall outside Metro Vancouver’s responsibility because they are covered under extended producer responsibility programs for residential sources. Members suggested looking at market conditions, as limited material value makes recycling challenging, and discussed how Metro Vancouver could start influencing markets. • Discussion on separating concrete from the targets (can set a separate target for just concrete), because large tonnages of concrete significantly skew overall figures. • Clarification requested on the distinction between the diversion target (80%) and the recycling target (75%). Questions about the remaining 5%, specifically (the portion that is diverted but not recycled). Metro Vancouver responded that portion is the portion that goes to recovery (such as using wood for fuel) rather than material-to-material recycling. Waste-to-energy is not included in that 5%, as waste-to-energy is considered disposal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff noted that if recycling markets become available, efforts would be made to close that gap, pushing more materials to recycling. • Members asked about sub-targets for waste generation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff confirmed that analysis was completed on roughly 170 waste composition material types which set out the amount of each material to be reduced or diverted. Work is underway to present them in a more digestible format and share with the committee. • Members asked if Metro Vancouver is aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and noted that the SDG target includes a 50% reduction in food waste generation by 2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff are exploring this to see how they can align. • Members asked if information on how much diversion/reduction will be provided on each sector (Industrial, Commercial, Institutional and residential waste). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will provide this data to members as part of the detailed calculation summary. 	Terry Fulton

- Members suggested including an overall total waste generation target in addition to per capita targets.

Member discussion on secondary metrics:

- Members discussed that Metro Vancouver currently lists emissions only under “disposal,” but there are additional sources such as transportation and other waste-related activities.
 - Staff noted that while the Climate 2050 primer only looks at disposal emissions from disposal activities, it also lists carbon reduction projects in other areas such as low carbon transport. Other Climate 2050 road maps cover other areas such as transportation and built environment.
 - Staff are exploring what carbon neutrality means, and will work with the climate team to align with the Climate 2050 approach.
- Members suggested adding secondary metrics such as the number of material bans, regulations introduced, or other enforcement measures.
- Members noted that secondary metrics are difficult to set without knowing the plan actions, and recommended developing metrics that align with finalized actions. (e.g. number of partnerships, businesses certified as zero waste, and municipalities with zero waste procurement processes).
 - Staff noted that the draft list of strategies and actions have been shared with committee and were used to inform the draft metrics, and encouraged members to provide feedback on secondary metrics that they feel might be missing based on that list.
- Members requested that greenhouse gas data be shown in much greater detail, including emissions by type of disposal, so the information is clearer and more comprehensive than the 2021 biennial report.
- Members observed that under “recycle,” the metric for “tonnes recycled” is missing, and similarly under “dispose.”
- Members asked where the definitions for “circular jobs” come from.
 - Staff are working on a glossary to clearly define terms.
- Members discussed the overlap between “reduce” and “reuse” and asked how this will be tracked. Metro Vancouver acknowledged challenges with tracking the end fate of reused materials and indicated they are open to feedback on the best approach.
- Members asked how single-use items are counted and questioned why the metric is based on the number of items rather than tonnes.
 - Staff explained that counting items is more impactful than tonnes, since individually these materials weigh very little.
- Members suggested that under “reuse,” metrics could include the number of programs offered in the region and the number of partners that have committed to offering reusables, along with other supporting measures.
- Members emphasized the need to be careful with definitions. They noted that diversion currently includes recovery and suggested that there should not be a goal for recovery—focus should remain on material recycling.
- Members noted that the “reuse” section lacks context and suggested adding more meaningful metrics (e.g. include number of homes relocated versus demolished, and number of homes demolished that could have been relocated).

<p>5. INFORMATION ITEMS</p> <p>5.1 Zero Waste Committee</p> <p>Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, provided an update on the November 2025 Zero Waste Committee agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, Paul described safety and operational challenges that have arisen at solid waste facilities as a result of improper disposal of nitrous oxide canisters. Metro Vancouver is actively working various measures to encourage effective management of the cylinders, and will communicate the information when available. <p>Member discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members asked if Binnars were collecting coffee cups over a period of time and if cups were being donated to Binnars for the Coffee Cup Revolution event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Metro Vancouver provides funding for this one-day event, and Binnars may or may not collect the coffee cups over time. The Coffee Cup Revolution highlights the volume of single use coffee cups that are being used and disposed of. The event also highlights that there are not effective recycling solutions for large volumes of paper cups given that the over 200,000 cups collected at this event must be disposed of at the Waste-to-Energy Facility. 	<p>Paul Henderson</p>
<p>6. ACTION/STANDING ITEMS</p> <p>6.1 Action Tracker (Attachment 4)</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>7. ADDITIONAL ITEMS</p> <p>7.1 Potential Meeting Dates for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 29, 2026 • February 19, 2026 • March 26, 2026 <p>Member discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted that the February meeting falls close to Family Day and university breaks and suggested moving it. • Members also noted that the March meeting coincides with spring break. <p>7.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Draft Regulatory Strategic Approach</p> <p>Member discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members inquired if costing for disposal options will be included in the plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Metro Vancouver confirmed that costing will not be part of the plan, and that as implementation progresses, individual activities will require separate Board decisions. • Members expressed concern that the plan feels like “a plan to have a plan” rather than a plan with firm commitments. They flagged that this is a missed opportunity to secure commitment from member municipalities to enact specific actions as part of the plan. • Staff noted that the updated regulatory approach provided is similar to what 	<p>Chair</p>

	they have seen before and will also be included in the draft plan for further comment. 7.3 Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Draft Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach (Attachment 6) 7.4 Public/Technical Advisory Committee Member Submitted Feedback on Options Analysis (Attachment 7) 7.5 Public/Technical Advisory Committee Potential Work Plan Items for 2026 (Attachment 8) 7.6 Public/Technical Advisory Committee Updated 2025 Work Plan (Attachment 9) 7.7 Regional Waste Flows October 2025 (Attachment 10) 7.8 OCEANA Single-Use Item Reduction Presentation (Attachment 11)	
	8. NEXT STEPS	Chair
	9. ADJOURNMENT The Chair thanked the members for the discussion and feedback. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.	Chair

Attachment 1: Draft Meeting Notes – October 3, 2025 – Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee

Attachment 2: Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Performance Metrics and Targets Report

Attachment 3: Solid Waste Management Plan – Options Analysis Update (November 6, 2025 Zero Waste Committee Report)

Attachment 4: Action Tracker

Attachment 5: Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Draft Regulatory Strategic Approach

Attachment 6: Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Draft Recycling and Waste Centre Strategic Approach

Attachment 7: Public/Technical Advisory Committee Member Submitted Feedback on Options Analysis

Attachment 8: Public/Technical Advisory Committee Potential Work Plan Items for 2026

Attachment 9: Public/Technical Advisory Committee Updated 2025 Work Plan

Attachment 10: Regional Waste Flows October 2025

Attachment 11: OCEANA Single-Use Item Reduction Presentation