

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC/TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 10, 2025
In-person Meeting
Metro Vancouver Head Office – Room 2911
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Director Sarah Kirby-Yung, Chair; Director Craig Hodge, Vice-Chair; Adelyn Chan, Allen Lynch, Amika Watari, Ben Liegey, Bill Chan, Brenda Martens, Cassidy vander Ros, Christoph Schultz, Cody Irwin, Daryl Foster, Gil Yaron, Jamie Kaminski, Jennifer Henry, Komal Fatima, Louise Schwarz, Marcelle Moreira dos Santos, Raman Johal, Sean Miles, Stephanie Voysey, Sue Maxwell, Tara Immell, William Selten.

Absent: Brianne De Man, Christian Dietrich, Daniel Rotman, Doug Schell, Grant Hankins, Jake Turek, Jaye-Jay Berggren, John Doherty, Kevin Huang, Lori Bryan (IAC Chair), Lyndsay Poaps, Matthew Morin, Michael Zarbl, Sara Larter, Ulwiana Mehta-Malhotra, Yasmin Abraham.

Metro Vancouver Staff: Brooke Atkinson, Chris Underwood, Chris Clarke, Karen Storry, Paul Henderson, Sahar Ahmadvand, Stephanie Liu, Terry Fulton, Samantha Joy.

	INTRODUCTIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting started at 1:00 pm 	Chair
1.	Welcome from the Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director Kirby-Yung welcomed Committee members Territorial acknowledgement 	
2.	AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the April 10, 2025 meeting agenda. A member suggested making more time to reach group consensus on discussed items and to bring new members up to speed; proposed additional meetings and/or postponing certain items to future meetings if necessary. 	Chair
3.	MEETING MINUTES – November 21, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the Nov 21, 2024 meeting notes and members did not note any errors or omissions. 	Chair
4.	ACTION/STANDING ITEMS	Chair

	<p>4.1 Action tracker</p> <p>The action tracker was reviewed, and updates were provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete action items include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff provided Notice of Bylaw Violation information to PTAC members after the February 21, 2025 meeting ○ Staff sent the invitation for the Zero Waste Conference on November 27, 2025 to PTAC members 	
5.	Invited presentation	
	<p>5.1 Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group</p> <p>Lucinda Phillips, Executive Director, Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) provided a presentation:</p> <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IZWTAG’s current scope doesn’t include managing Construction & Demolition materials • Current focus of IZWTAG on food waste management is reactive management of food scraps, not prevention/reduction • IZWTAG gets its metrics from product stewards, and collaborates with communities by providing them with data • Challenge: most First Nations rely on purchasing from large retail chains, and don’t have enough resources for recycling and reuse options 	<p>Guest Speaker – Lucinda Phillips</p>
6.	DISCUSSION ITEMS	
	<p>6.1 Draft Climate 2050 Solid Waste Road Map</p> <p>Sahar Ahmadvand, Assistant Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services</p> <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member’s suggestion of wording: “direct emission” rather than “emission” • The Road Map’s scope includes emissions directly from disposal (landfill and waste to energy), and aligns with the Board’s direction for the region on climate action. • Staff repeated the importance of moving up the waste hierarchy in reducing emissions, including embodied carbon. • A member raised a question on the Waste-to-Energy District Energy project; How were the GHG emission reductions calculated for the project? The calculations are based on a comparison to heating with natural gas. 	

6.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Update:

6.2.1 Overview and Timeline Update

Stephanie Liu, Program Manager, Community Engagement, Solid Waste Services, provided a timeline update on the solid waste management plan update.

There was no discussion on this item.

6.2.2 Draft Hierarchy and Goals

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, provided an update on the draft Hierarchy and Goals for the solid waste management plan.

Members had small group discussions on this item. A summary of these discussions is included as Attachment 1.

6.2.3 Draft Metrics

Lindsay Seidel-Wassenaar, Sonnevera, provided an update on draft metrics for the solid waste management plan. Sonnevera is part of Stantec’s solid waste management plan update consulting team.

Discussion summary:

- Per-capita metrics and combinations of relevant metrics are recommended as they can help normalize fluctuations due to population increase and other socio-economic changes in the region over time.
- The current focus of measuring greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) for the region is on disposal-related emissions only. Upstream GHG emissions captured within other activities such as reuse and recycling are more challenging to measure, but moving material up the waste hierarchy also reduces upstream and embodied emissions.
- Waste moving out of the region: current data only available for garbage, not recyclable materials. Metro Vancouver is researching best practices to capture this data and is gradually improving on measuring data related to reuse and repair.
- Comment from members about importance of metrics related to the guiding principles, some of which are difficult to quantify – such as economic opportunities and circular economy. Metro Vancouver staff are reviewing metrics used by other regions/countries, and welcomes additional feedback from members.
- A member suggested considering metrics which are difficult to measure at present but may become relevant in the future.
- Question if metrics from community level have been considered. Certain metrics related to initiatives funded by Metro Vancouver can be included as secondary metrics to indicate progress in a specific area (e.g. food recovery, recycling and waste centre reuse programs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Vancouver encouraged members to email additional feedback, and there will be additional meetings on this subject to discuss in further detail. <p>6.2.4 Draft Options Analysis Criteria</p> <p>Karen Storry, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Services</p> <p>This item was deferred to the May 8, 2025 meeting. This is an additional PTAC meeting that members agreed was important to hold to continue discussions on the draft hierarchy, goals, metrics, and options analysis criteria for the solid waste management plan update.</p>	
7.	INFORMATION ITEMS	
	7.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates	Paul Henderson
8.	OTHER BUSINESS	
	8.1 PTAC Vancouver Landfill Tour Reminder – September 18, 2025	Brooke Atkinson
9.	ADDITIONAL ITEMS	
	<p>9.1 Public/Technical Advisory Committee Updated 2025 Work Plan</p> <p>9.2 Regional Waste Flows March 2025</p>	
	<p>ADJOURNMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjourned at 4:00 pm 	Chair

Attachment 1: Small Group Discussion Summary – Solid Waste Management Plan Update Draft Hierarchy and Goals - PTAC April 10 2025 Meeting

Solid Waste Management Plan Public/Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Small Group Discussion Summary – Solid Waste Management Plan Update Draft Hierarchy and Goals

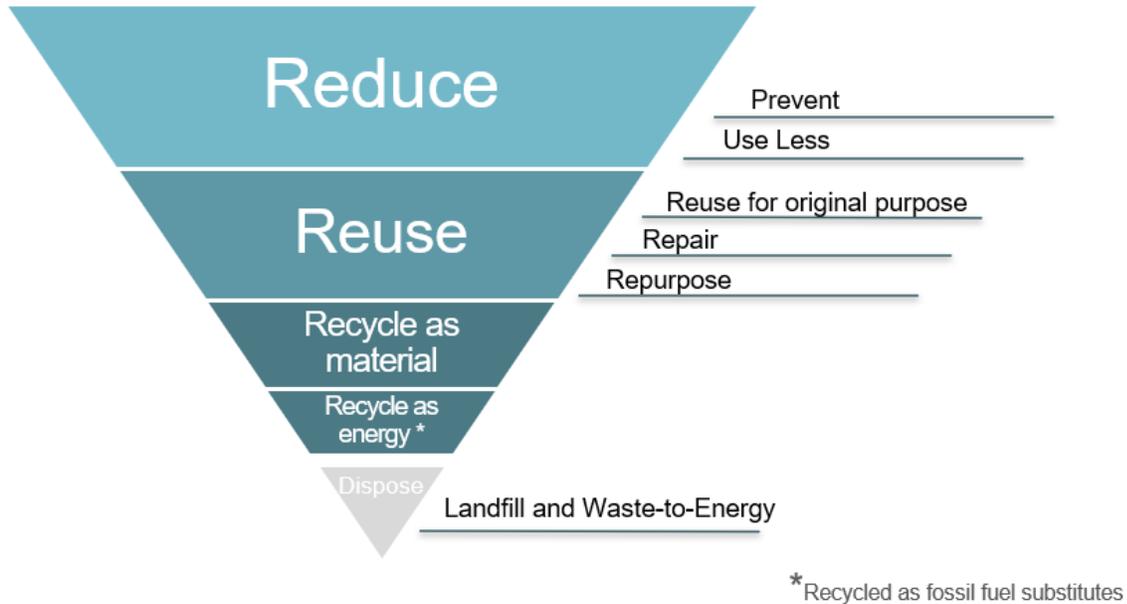
April 10, 2025

At the April 10, 2025 Public/Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) meeting, Metro Vancouver sought input/feedback from members on the following items related to the solid waste management plan update:

- Draft Hierarchy
- Draft Goals

PTAC members broke into small groups to have in depth discussion and provide their input/feedback. The draft hierarchy and goals were presented to members:

Draft Hierarchy



Draft Goals

- 1** Prioritize waste prevention
- 2** Keep materials in use as long as possible
- 3** Make it easier to recycle effectively
- 4** Dispose of remaining garbage responsibly

WHAT WE HEARD

The table below summarizes themes that emerged through the small group discussions. All feedback will be taken into consideration as Metro Vancouver finalizes the solid waste management plan update hierarchy and goals.

<p>Draft Hierarchy <i>Is there anything missing?</i></p> <p><i>Anything that should be changed or removed?</i></p> <p><i>Other feedback?</i></p>	
Theme	What We Heard
Hierarchy design/audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is this hierarchy for? This graphic is not clear • Consider other designs and graphics, other than a triangle • Consider making it circular like the Ellen Macarthur Foundation butterfly diagram • Consider incorporating a hierarchy and a cycle in one diagram • The font should be larger in the upper categories of the hierarchy • It is useful to have different hierarchies for different sectors and audiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include as many as 9 Rs for the manufacturing and business audience depending on their industry and sector ○ Consider using similar structure as the City of Victoria hierarchy in the middle sections, meaning repurpose, repair and reuse would be separate rungs of the hierarchy ○ Zero Waste (international alliance) hierarchy for the public • City of Victoria graphic is better for the public (specifically multifamily) but it was noted (instead of recycle the rest it should say upcycle the rest)
Reduce and higher levels of the hierarchy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think about using ‘avoid’ – so that instead of reduce people would think about avoiding • Consider including “rethink”, “redesign” or “reimagine” before prevent and reduce • Under ‘reduce’ have wording on how this is tracked. The top of the hierarchy is where we have the least data because it’s not getting weighed • Reduce: add amended rungs to include preserve resources, make less, and buy less • ‘Prevent’ and ‘use less’ is part of ‘reduce’, but BEFORE that, we should focus on sharing resources. “Share” is also more positive language than ‘prevent’

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent” should simply be “use less” – an idea that the prevention should apply to businesses and use less should apply to residents
Reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is reuse really meaning in the hierarchy? • Consider adding “share” under reuse (or even under reduce) • Could track how many items people buy versus accessing lending libraries, versus disposing – difficult to track • Donation should be incorporated somehow • Unclear whether food waste recovery fits under reuse • Consider adding disassembly in reuse, referring to taking something apart and using the parts • What is the difference between reuse for original purpose and repair – aren’t they linked? • Reduce and reuse could potentially be linked to show circularity
‘Recycling as material’ and ‘Recycle as energy’ category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling and highest value – in past, the word diversion is more appropriate than recycle – need to be specific on what is diverted versus what is recycled as new material • Recycle as energy is not clear <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The recycling should be only for materials at their highest value ○ Inclusion of “Recycle as energy” or fuel suggests a constant demand and would ultimately discourage active participation in the top of hierarchy • Consider changing ‘Recycle as energy’ to “Recycle as Dedicated Fuel” • Materials to fuel – could be an option for the recycle as category • “Recycle as energy” is more appropriate in disposal; should be “disposal as energy” • Suggest ‘recycle’ as material level (category) – have sub group, ‘recycle for highest value’, then have different sub levels – focus on the value of products recycled and the materials needed to recycle
‘Dispose’ category	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be differentiation between waste to energy disposal (materials burned and energy not used) versus recycled for energy • Waste to energy should be included above landfill, since it still has a beneficial component • Why is dispose not divided into two different categories? Landfill versus waste to energy? • Residuals management might be more clear than “dispose”
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be transparency around the budget plan on this hierarchy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Focus efforts and budget on the top of hierarchy rather than investing in the incinerator ● Push the budget where the priorities are such as grants for C&D, invest higher up the hierarchy ● Should allocate serious budget to education programs/campaigns, or to support community organizations who are already doing the work ● Focus on education on circular economy, donut economics, etc. for students and youth, who can lead others
<p>Compatibility of hierarchy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The hierarchy doesn't quite work for food as we don't recycle or reuse food – we donate, recycle as feed, and recycle for compost ● For Food: Prevent → donate → recycle as feed → recycle as energy → dispose ● Hierarchy – food waste prevention at the reuse/donate stage. At first look at hierarchy couldn't see food in there. "Reuse for original purpose" is important (feed people) ● The proposed hierarchy does not show where composting fits; believe that it should be a distinct "rung" in hierarchy ● Consider representing "source separation" in the hierarchy ● There needs to be clear definitions for all levels of the hierarchy to prevent greenwashing or confusion ● The Government of BC solid waste management planning guidance directs to and asks for prioritization of prevention and reduction; however, reduction and prevention seems to be out of scope when GHG emissions come up during meetings. The higher levels of hierarchy have great potential but are not getting enough attention and resources. ● Consider changing "Waste Hierarchy" to focus more on resource prevention
<p>How to inspire action</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on convenience, and socializing the practice of sharing etc. ● People will self-educate if they believe in something ● Factors: convenience, social pressure, and money

Draft Goals <i>Is there anything missing?</i> <i>Anything that should be changed or removed?</i> <i>Other feedback?</i>	
Theme	What We Heard
Presentation of the goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals could be in a shape – to better visually align with how they fit into the hierarchy
Language / definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear definitions are needed for every goal Focus on positive language. (e.g. ‘maximize efficiencies’ rather than ‘reduce waste’) Get rid of the words “garbage” and “waste” and use the word “materials” or “resource”
Goal 1 – Prioritize waste prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs more clarity/to be defined This is very broad compared to other goals – maybe break out into 1) education on waste prevention, 2) implement actions to prevent waste, etc. One area is best before dates – need more education for households on this. Very few items have an expiry date, they’re just guides Should focus more on the top of the hierarchy; need more clarity to what extent this goal applies in the context of solid waste system/management plan
Goal 2 – Keep materials in use as long as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus should be keeping products in highest use for as long as possible Could be “Keep materials and their value” in use
Goal 3 – Make it easier to recycle effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do we mean by “effective” in recycling? Need to better define what is meant in this goal (i.e., who and how market needs to adapt) Could we take out effectively, if you are applying the hierarchy – you would be as effective as possible There are clean tech/deep tech companies out there with robots for sorting recycling more effectively Is there anything about recycle at end-of-life instead of just recycle? Producer Responsibility to reduce; debate about applicability Extended Producer Responsibility – holding Recycle BC more accountable to pay instead of municipalities for collection and recycling of soft plastic and glass “Effective and efficient” may be better than simply “effective” How do we align our metrics with the goal we’re trying to achieve with recycling? Can we reflect that innovation may increase what is considered recyclable? “Make it easy” could be “easy to understand” or “convenient”

<p>Goal 4 – Dispose of remaining garbage responsibly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why use the word garbage? Is it because its more digestible for audiences? Does it really target the right audience for this hierarchy and goals? • Resource management, not waste management • What about future mining of old landfills? Do we prepare by separating garbage in landfills for ease of material extraction later? • Innovation could be incorporated into this goal
<p>Missing from the draft goals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed goals (except for the third one) are not inspiring and are very similar to the previous plan goals • Design products to prevent waste • Maximize resource value • Goal to prevent as much disposal as responsible seems missing • ‘Accessibility’ is missing both in goals and Guiding Principles. One of the proposed goals refers to “easier” recycling, but ease is not the same as accessibility • Inclusivity and affordability are not adequately reflected in the goals • Goals have to be bold and per capita such as “shutting down the incinerator” and spending the saving per capita on top of hierarchy to reduce waste such that an incinerator is not needed in future • Bans for problematic materials have been successful tools in the past, where do they fit within the proposed goals and which other materials could be banned? • Circular economy is not called out enough and is so important – need a singular distinctive goal that supports reuse economy • Priority that prevention should start with those actually manufacturing the waste • The goals should be more far reaching, global • What about “Prioritize waste production at the source”? • “Community” is missing • Should be more focus on prevention. Right now we have same number of goals as the waste hierarchy. But if we have more goals related to the higher end of the waste hierarchy, it emphasizes the top of the waste hierarchy • Invest in fostering businesses that can use the recyclables and make use of reusable materials