

**Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee  
Key Topic Discussion Feedback Summary – May 14, 2024**

At the May 14, 2024, Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting, committee members provided input and feedback on construction and demolition waste management.

A summary of feedback received is presented below.

Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>What are some of the current challenges for construction and demolition waste management?</p>	<p><b>Existing Facility capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough capacity to process and reuse C&amp;D materials within the region with existing facilities</li> <li>• A large portion of material that used to be recycled, now can't be recycled. Historically, C&amp;D MRFs separated put wood and sent it to CANFOR and other locations as alternative fuel. The remaining material was disposed to landfill. Construction has increased resulting in increased waste, but at the same time end market and disposal capacity has decreased.</li> </ul> <p><b>Siting for processing activities (reuse and recycling)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of space (land) due to high price of real estate</li> <li>• Diminishing disposal capacity (land use and siting challenges)</li> </ul> <p><b>Demolition and construction site space and sorting challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited space at construction sites for on-site sorting and separate containers and systems for fast and easy material sorting</li> <li>• On-site separation is not always happening properly – materials are sent to landfill because of lack of information, resources, or buy-in by construction industry</li> </ul> <p><b>Economics of recycling and reuse don't work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It costs more to recycle C&amp;D materials than to dispose of them.</li> <li>• More affordable options within the region for source separation and disposal are needed</li> <li>• Reuse and recycling of C&amp;D waste does not seem competitive when in many cases landfilling is a more readily available and affordable option even in the case of out-of-region landfills</li> <li>• Deconstruction and other solutions are expensive – the construction industry is already burdened with high costs</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Lack of End Markets and Disposal Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of infrastructure for moving towards a circular economy:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Historically pulp and paper industry was taking the wood waste but more forest industry facilities have been closing down</li> <li>○ Government could allow for C&amp;D waste to be used as a source for bioenergy or bio-materials by facilitating and funding the processes that promote circular economy in general</li> </ul> </li> <li>• With no where to take material, we still see material going to unlicensed facilities creating environmental liabilities for all parties. There are risks to the companies who take materials as they could be required to pay for the clean-up and subject to fines from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>• Declining market for fuel switching due to declining pulp and paper industry – also a lack of access to this market for C&amp;D as it is mainly processing forest products</li> <li>• No stable market for recycled wood - Market saturation with an increase in C&amp;D material in an ever-growing region with increasing C&amp;D activity</li> <li>• Viability of end markets is not consistent</li> <li>• Lack of an established product market and demand             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Current example market is cement kilns which have a limited capacity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Invest in finding the end use markets cases for all types of C&amp;D material</li> </ul>
Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>What could be improved?</p>	<p><b>Pricing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Metro Vancouver should raise the price of disposal for C&amp;D waste or stop accepting it altogether</li> <li>○ Metro Vancouver needs to re-assess tipping fees and see how it impacts where people choose to take C&amp;D materials. The current tipping fee is lower than most private C&amp;D processing facilities.</li> <li>○ When Metro Vancouver started accepting C&amp;D waste and wood at transfer stations at a lower price, other facilities that accept and recycle these materials were forced to lower prices to remain competitive</li> <li>○ Prices need to be set at a rate that licensed operators can profit and have the certainty they need to invest in new technologies. A suggestion that \$300 per tonne would be more required for the market to make a profit.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Incentives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Incentives to encourage wood recycling and reuse of products in new builds</li> <li>○ Make it easier for people on demolition sites to separate materials</li> <li>○ Additional fees for purchasing new materials that are recyclable (EPR)</li> <li>○ Fund alternative technologies – biocoal, fuel alternatives, etc.</li> <li>○ Easing the regulations that facilitate the energy and fuel generation from C&amp;D wood waste</li> <li>○ There is not enough dis-incentive for developers and property owners to demolish a house; the moving of existing houses should be incentivized</li> </ul> <p><b>Consistent regulatory framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There needs to be a regulatory framework that forces the sorting of C&amp;D waste at the site of demolition</li> <li>○ Policies for encouraging source-separation of the material</li> <li>○ Enforcement can be improved at C&amp;D processing facilities; fines should be levied at existing source separation facilities that are not following guidelines</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion Question</b>	<b>Feedback</b>
<p><b>What are some examples of different solutions?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Metro Vancouver to stop accepting C&amp;D waste and let the private industry manage these materials</li> <li>● Incentivize the private processing facilities within the region</li> <li>● Adopt a system of off-site or out of region materials processing opportunities for industry - allow for industry to take materials out of region for processing and then back in for disposal</li> <li>● Reduce the cost of entry to the market within the Metro Vancouver region with incentives and partnerships</li> <li>● Review current regulations for taking materials out of region</li> <li>● Advance and fund the technologies such as gasification that can convert the C&amp;D wood waste into energy and fuel such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Electricity</li> <li>○ Aviation fuel or hydrogen</li> <li>○ Biomass/Biocoal</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Develop deconstruction protocols and policy</li> <li>● Foster new markets for materials to be reused, repurposed, and diverted</li> <li>● Research successful jurisdictions</li> </ul>

	Additional comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative technologies to manage C&amp;D waste are 5-10 years away, and this issue is pressing now</li> <li>• The site in south Vancouver (Southern Star) requires urgent action – the site is over capacity.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Issue: If Southern Star was to shut down it would cause challenges for the construction industry</li> <li>○ Likely will have a large clean-up bill and it is unclear who will be responsible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Lori Bryan, Waste Management Assoc. of BC  
(Co-Chair)

Craig Hodge, Director, Metro Vancouver  
Board of Directors (Co-Chair)

Angus MacFarlane, Growing City

Achilles Mallari, Sierra Waste Services Ltd.

Christian Dietrich, Ecowaste Industries

Dimitri Pantazopoulos, Waste Connections of  
Canada

Glen Furtado, Cement Association of Canada  
Harwant Deol, Super Save Group

Izzie Abrams, Waste Connections of Canada

James Collins, Tymac Launch Service Ltd.

Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste

Jasper Van de Wetering, Heidelberg  
Materials Canada Ltd.

Jeremy Crawford, Waste Control Services

Leanne Koehn, Ridge Meadows Recycling  
Society

Maya Moucachen, Merlin Plastics

Michael Zarbl, Major Appliance Recycling  
Roundtable

Mike Lannin, Super Save Group

Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd.

Pinky Vargas, Republic Services

Ralph McRae, Revolution Infrastructure Inc.

Shad Prasad, Cascade Recovery +

Stewart Young, GFL Environmental Inc.