

**Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee
Key Topic Discussion Feedback Summary - June 11, 2024**

At the June 11, 2024, Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting, the committee members provided input and feedback on recycling and organics capacity and product markets.

A summary of feedback received is presented below.

Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>What is currently working well?</p>	<p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased availability of recycling options for different streams • In our region, there are options for recycling challenging products like polystyrene and soft plastics • Availability of recycling and waste centres help capture more recyclable materials • Better access for plastics and paper recycling compared to organics • Accessibility and convenience of recycling depots (one-stop shop approach) • Ability to collect materials (curbside blue bin, commercial/industrial); there is accessibility • Free furniture pick-up systems for residents (Facebook Marketplace, Craigslist) <p>Market dynamics, economic viability, and issues affecting profitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the recycling side - open competitive market drives good competition
Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>What could be improved? What should be prioritized?</p>	<p>Behavioural challenges and related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When contamination enters stream, the challenge is to separate materials and manage the contamination • Lack of understanding of and regulation on source-separation; people get confused • “Wish-cycling”: people hope something can be recycled so they put it in recycling, which creates more problems in the system • Educate and reduce contaminated loads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can't trace back to specific trucks ○ MV staff do not track down source of contamination

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Results in increased investment into reducing contamination in loads<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Impacts product quality, and ultimately market uptake● Challenges with receiving materials that people don't know what to do with, so they throw into the compactor, which creates a problem<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There is a difference between what "can" vs. "what is" being recycled effectively at processing facilities <p>Regional capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● In-region vs. out-of-region processing<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What is real carbon footprint of in-region vs. out-of-region compost (e.g. North shore traffic)○ Fraser valley (e.g. Abbotsford, Chilliwack) closer to end user○ In-region not necessarily better○ There is a lack of facilities to deliver compostable materials for processing; challenging to meet the high threshold and limited local capacity● For organics, out-of-region transportation appears to be only solution (very costly)● Lack of available processors for materials (certain kinds of plastics, organics).● Lack of processing capacity for bulky items (furniture).● Encourage reuse and exchange of materials <p>Market dynamics, economic viability, and issues affecting profitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Need consistent end markets and market price, which is not the case for majority of plastics and other materials today.● Markets for these products/materials are difficult to find; difficult to know where to take these products<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Makes it unprofitable/difficult to do, costly for ratepayer● Profitability of recycling – if loads are contaminated, then it doesn't work. Heavily contaminated bins can't be recovered and become waste● Products that work well – ones with proven markets – are designed for recyclability, flexible packaging (examples: PET Clear bottles) – issue with some products is that they look "boring" on the shelf; enhancing packaging design could help incentivize greater uptake on product recycling
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- Different types of bins at construction sites would be helpful for sorting at source, but usually there isn't the required footprint to facilitate

Regulatory environment and policy

- Prioritize extended producer responsibility (EPR) for compliance
- Role of Metro Vancouver
 - Ensuring regulator is not competitor
 - Hearing of RFPs/RFQs for Metro Vancouver organics or C&D facilities causes more uncertainty for investment
 - To create more capacity, improve service, add technology, reduce residuals to landfill, we need to create regulatory certainty of the market
- Ensure level playing field (through regulation)
- Federal plastics prohibition does not take into consideration some of the market complexities, for example, flexible plastics bags in BC had recycling options
- More legislation is needed for compostable plastic materials; compostable plastics are difficult for plastics processors to recycle
- Need to understand barriers to develop infrastructure
- Regulatory environment
 - Creating more capacity/improvements to current process/access to technology
- More transparency needed on what happens to organic and recyclable materials after they are collected

Siting challenges

- Zoning and licencing make it difficult to site organics processing facilities.
- Land use
 - Difficult, costly, and competitive to develop land
 - Metro Vancouver making land available could level the playing field
 - Same issue as for Construction and Demolition
 - Developing recycling requires land and cost
- Environmental challenges to find sites for processing of organics
- Cost of land to successfully increase processing capacity
- Collection of materials from commercial/institutional and construction and demolition sectors. Lack of space for containers

	<p>Collaboration, technology and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment in AI/technology could improve quality of product
Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>What are some examples of potential solutions? Are there additional things we should be considering?</p>	<p>Recycling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify materials that are effectively recycled, and focus on ensuring those are separated effectively Focus on recyclables that have a viable market Provide more information about what can/can't be recycled to get cleaner streams – more valuable material going toward recycling Need capacity for pre-sorting prior to materials going to processing facility – need a system to take contamination out even after 'source separation' from residents and businesses, as contamination still exists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pricing needs to also reflect this extra step <p>Behavioural challenges and related issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop telling public to recycle something that can't be recycled effectively at the existing processing facilities with existing markets Education is important; mostly needed on the commercial and multi-family side; residential is not as much an issue <p>Market dynamics, economic viability, and issues affecting profitability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Vancouver/member jurisdictions should have mandates to use compost material (e.g. wood chips) to drive end markets to allow recycling operations to flourish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Don't own/operate, but drive end markets Need stable environment to allow competition to occur at pricing that can allow a business to get an adequate return <p>Regulatory environment and policy matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More leadership from all levels of government is needed to provide more regulatory certainty Focus efforts on behavioural change, instead of where processing occurs (in, or out, or region) Improving quality of material and adopting innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider AI solutions (e.g. for organics) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> automatically notifies the correct address Include these things in RFPs/bylaws Provide tax incentives for producers that incentivize design for recyclability

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more capacity/improvements to current process/access to technology • There are still a lot of consumer products that are not recyclable that create contamination; need policy/requirements for products to ensure packaging is all recyclable • Appropriate mix of incentives and penalizations for producers who do not follow rules/regulations (“carrot and stick”) <p>Collaboration, technology and innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver working with municipalities on licencing of organics processing facilities. Expedite process or other incentives. Partnerships to find beneficial uses • Better ways to separate clean wood from demolition loads that can be financially beneficial • Improve reporting from facilities and data tracking • Include recycled materials in procurement for new builds; there is a need to require an amount of recycled/reused materials • Develop a notification system for haulers who may be collecting from producers who are known to break rules
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MEMBERS PRESENT:

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| Lori Bryan, Waste Management Assoc. of BC
(Co-Chair) | Matthew McAra, GFL Environmental Inc. |
| Craig Hodge, Director, Metro Vancouver
Board of Directors (Co-Chair) | Ralph McRae, Revolution Infrastructure Inc. |
| Edwin Berkhof, Evergen Infrastructure Corp. | David Millman, Waste Management of
Canada Corp. |
| Jeremy Crawford, Waste Control Services | Maya Mouchachen, Merlin Plastics |
| Happy Deol, Super Save Group | Dimitri Pantazopoulos, Waste Connections of
Canada |
| Glen Furtado, Cement Association of Canada | Shad Prasad, Cascade Recovery + |
| Grant Hankins, Canada Minibins.com Ltd. | Ken Schultze (Alternate for Fabio Scaldaferrri),
Pacific Mattress Recycling Inc. |
| Josh JansenVandoorn, Anaconda Systems Ltd. | Sandy Sigmund, Encorp Pacific Canada,
Return-It |
| Gord Johnson, Northstar | John Turner, BC Biocarbon Ltd. |
| Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste | Jasper Van de Wetering, Heidelberg Materials
Canada Ltd. |
| Sean Kawakami, Convertus Canada Ltd. | Pinky Vargas, Republic Services |
| Mike Lannin, Super Save Group | Stewart Young, GFL Environmental Inc. |
| Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd. | |
| Achilles Mallari, Sierra Waste Services Ltd. | |