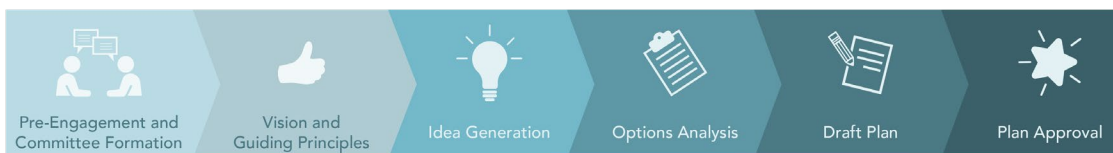


SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Workshop

June 6, 2023

On June 6, 2023, Metro Vancouver held a workshop with members of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) to discuss vision and guiding principles for the updated regional solid waste management plan. There were 22 of 30 IAC members present.



The vision and guiding principles phase of engagement sets the foundation and direction for the plan development process, by gathering feedback on values, priorities, interests, and key solid waste management considerations now and into the future.

At the June 6, 2023 IAC workshop, four key questions were presented to members:

1. What waste reduction, recycling and garbage disposal topics are most important, now and into the future?
2. List words or phrases that describe what matters, when deciding what to do with products, packaging and materials that are no longer needed.
3. The updated solid waste management plan is intended to reflect the values of everyone in the region. What values, interests, and priorities can be considered?
4. Thinking of how we purchase, use, reuse, repurpose, recycle and throw things away in the Metro Vancouver region, what could be better in the future than it is today?

A summary of themes that emerged at the workshop is presented in the *What We Heard* section below. Note that the feedback presented here is meant to highlight key themes from the discussion. Detailed discussion notes are being retained as part of the full engagement record, and individual comments will be included in feedback logs as part of an engagement report at the end of this phase on vision and guiding principles.

Next steps include providing an update report to the Zero Waste Committee on what we have heard so far through engagement with First Nations, member jurisdiction staff, and advisory committees, followed by the launch of public engagement on vision and guiding principles. Following public engagement, Metro Vancouver will produce an engagement summary report for this phase of engagement and provide a draft vision statement and guiding principles to the Zero Waste Committee and Board for consideration.

Members are encouraged to submit any additional feedback before June 30, 2023, to solidwasteoperations@metrovancover.org.

WHAT WE HEARD

The table below summarizes themes that emerged through the small group discussions, which will be taken into consideration as Metro Vancouver continues to engage on the vision and guiding principles for the updated plan.

Priority	What We Heard
Accessibility and inclusivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve recycling and disposal access in small and remote communities • Ensure dialogue with people who live close to facilities; engage with under-represented groups about the impact of facilities on communities • Consider cost of living and accessibility when planning services and facilities
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve waste and recycling metrics (including for construction and demolition waste) • Ensure reporting of accurate recycling rates with clear definitions • Recognize the shared responsibility of individuals and industry • Provide incentives to build and operate recycling facilities • Financial accountability and transparency (related to contracts and procurement) • Eliminate “greenwashing”
Affordability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentivize recycling and circular solutions to producers • Create solutions for high real estate costs – limited access, high costs, zoning
Circular economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design products to be recyclable • Reuse construction materials • Define waste materials as a commodity (resource) instead of garbage
Climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote lower GHG emission and carbon capture technology • Encourage low-carbon and low-emission vehicles • Focus on solutions to reduce GHGs in concrete and cement producers • Avoid activities that pose environmental liability in the future
Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with all levels of government, private businesses, and industry • Engage with and foster a sense of community • Ensure an open market for service providers
Convenience, consistency, simplicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recycling easier for the public, especially with separation and storage • Invest in facilities that take all waste streams (ex. North Shore facility) • Increase capacity and ease for easy plastics recycling
Education and behavior change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on and implement provincial waste hierarchy • Public education around understanding compostables, keeping recycling clean, and reducing contaminations • Public education around reuse of items and extending the life of products • Establish and promote clear values around waste disposal and recycling • Incentivize behavior change (reward people rather than penalize) • “Where Does it Go?” for recycling and disposal education, awareness • Encourage consumers to purchase less and purchase recycled/repurposed items

Environmental stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrict the use of natural resources, or premium pricing for natural resources • Ban the use of resources from areas immediately surrounding the city (ex. aggregate) • Consider capital costs and the overall environmental path
Equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and enhance opportunities for a competitive market • Rebates and grants from the provincial government
Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance the waste prevention, reuse, and repair economies, as well as technological innovations and habit innovations • Provide options for reuse, repair, and recycling that are easier than disposal • Technology and AI to assist with contamination or multi-family homes Landfill mining and gas capture • Landfill mining and gas capture • Invest in circular solutions and ways to eliminate single-use items
Regulation and Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure policy allows market-driven outcomes; avoid conflict between the roles of regulator and market competitor • Extended producer responsibility (EPR) • Implement and maintain disposal bans for reduction of waste • Maintain organics disposal ban • Standardize and define the terminology used in measurement and metrics
Waste Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate waste at the source – focus on local processing and local re-use • Reduce daily deliveries from online retailers

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES:

Director Craig Hodge, Co-Chair
 Mary Polak, Co-Chair
 Achilles Mallari – Sierra Waste Services Ltd.
 Aiden Kiani – Lock-Block Ltd.
 Christian Dietrich – Ecowaste Industries
 David Millman – Waste Management of Canada
 Edwin Berkhof – Evergen Infrastructure Corp.
 Gord Johnson - Empower
 Grant Hankins – Waste Management Association of BC
 Izzie Abrams – Waste Connections of Canada
 Jaimie Kaminski – HSR Zero Waste
 Jeremy Crawford – Waste Control Services
 Ken Carusca – Cement Association of Canada

Matthew McAra - GFL
 Maya Moucachen – Merlin Plastics
 Michael Zarbl – Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable
 Mike Lanin – Super Save Group
 Nicole Stefenelli – Urban Impact Recycling Inc.
 Nicole Victor - Covanta
 Pinky Vargas (Cynthia Shore) – Republic Services
 Ralph McRae – Revolution
 Sandy Sigmund – Encorp Pacific Canada
 Shad Prasad – Cascade Recovery +
 Terryl Plotnikoff – Canadian Mattress Recycling Inc.