

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, via Zoom Video Conference.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

Mary Polak, Waste Connections of Canada  
(Co-Chair)

Izzie Abrams, Waste Connections of Canada  
Binder Boora, BC Earth Exchange

Lori Bryan, Waste Management Assoc. of BC

Mannie Cheung, Product Care Assoc. of BC

James Collins, Tymac Launch Service Ltd.

Jeremy Crawford, Waste Control Services

Christian Dietrich, Ecowaste Industries

Robby Gill, Cloverdale Fuel Ltd.

Grant Hankins, Waste Management Assoc.  
of BC

Ken Ingram, West Coast Reduction Ltd.

Gord Johnson,  
Empower Environmental/Northstar

Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste

Sean Kawakami, Convertus Group

Aiden Kiani, Lock-Block Ltd.

Jacqueline Lotzkar,  
Pacific Metals Recycling Inc.

Achilles Mallari, Sierra Waste Services Ltd.

Ralph McRae, Revolution

Maya Moucachen, Merlin Plastics

Nicole Peers,  
Queensborough Landing Recycling Depot

Terryl Plotnikoff,  
Canadian Mattress Recycling Inc.

Shad Prasad, Cascade Recovery+

Liliana Segal, Green Chair Recycling

Cynthia Shore, Republic Services

Nicole Stefenelli, Urban Impact Recycling  
Inc.

Sebastian van Wollen, Blue Planet Recycling

Michael Zarbl,  
Major Appliances Recycling Roundtable

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ken Carrusca, Cement Association of Canada

Matthew McAra, GFL

David Millman,

Waste Management of Canada

Josh Van Doorn, Super Save Disposal

**METRO VANCOUVER STAFF:**

Brooke Atkinson, Communications and Education Coordinator

Sarah Evanetz, Division Manager, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Solid Waste Services

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services Planning, Zero Waste Implementation

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Alison Hilkewich, Assistant to the General Manager, Solid Waste Services

Nanette van Doorn, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations

Adriana Velazquez, Senior Project Engineer

Sandy Young, Senior Engagement Specialist, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations,  
Solid Waste Services

**CITY OF VANCOUVER STAFF:**

Lynn Belanger, Manager, Transfer and Landfill Operations Branch  
John McDermott, Manager, Solid Waste Strategic Services Branch

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Kelsey Guenette, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

**AGENDA:**

**Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting #3**

June 7, 2022

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Zoom

**Agenda**

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1. Agenda
  - 1.1. June 7, 2022 Meeting Agenda
2. Minutes
  - 2.1. May 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Reports
  - 3.1. Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Structure
    - 3.1.1. No Automatic Muting
    - 3.1.2. Meeting Attendance
    - 3.1.3. Terms of Reference Update
  - 3.2. Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement
  - 3.3. Topics of Interest Discussion
    - 3.3.1. List of Topics from March 2022 IAC Meeting
    - 3.3.2. Breakout Room for Topics Discussion
    - 3.3.3. September Workshop of High Priority Topics
  - 3.4. Potential Standing Agenda Items for Discussion
    - 3.4.1. Waste Flows
    - 3.4.2. Upcoming Zero Waste Committee Reports
    - 3.4.3. Solid Waste Management Plan
    - 3.4.4. Operational and Other Solid Waste System Updates
    - 3.4.5. Additional
  - 3.5. Metro Vancouver Updates
    - 3.5.1. 2021 Waste Composition Study Results
4. Other Business
5. Next Steps
  - 5.1. Next meeting is on September 7, 2022

**References:**

- 1) IAC 2022 Committee Members List: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/SolidWasteRecycling-IAC-2022MembershipList.pdf>
- 2) IAC Terms of Reference: <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/ToR-IAC.pdf>

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

### **WELCOME**

Craig Hodge, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Solid Waste Industry and Recycling Advisory Committee (IAC) meeting.

### **1. AGENDA**

#### **1.1 June 7, 2022 Meeting Agenda**

Mary Polak, Co-Chair, reviewed the agenda, noting the addition of Item 3.5.2, Taking Out the Trash Initiative.

### **2. MINUTES**

#### **2.1 May 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Polak called for errors or omissions in the minutes of the May 3, 2022 IAC meeting. No errors or omissions were identified by IAC members.

### **3. REPORTS**

#### **3.1 Industry Advisory Committee Meeting Structure**

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, reviewed the IAC meeting structure, and noted that the “raise hand” function would continue to be used to identify speaker order. Auto-muting would be eliminated unless noisy backgrounds etc. require staff to mute a participant.

Paul also noted that as per the IAC Terms of Reference, IAC members absent from two or more consecutive meetings may be dismissed at the discretion of the Co-Chairs. The three members that missed two consecutive meetings have been advised of the Terms of Reference provision.

Paul noted that an error identified in Section 14 of the IAC Terms of Reference had been corrected to outline that any amendments to the Terms of Reference would be provided to the Zero Waste Committee for information and not for approval.

#### **3.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Engagement**

Sandy Young, Senior Engagement Specialist, Strategy and Stakeholder Relations, Solid Waste Services, gave a presentation on the timeline for Solid Waste Management Plan engagement, and highlighted:

- The existing plan was approved by the province in 2011, and Metro Vancouver’s Board approved initiating a plan update in 2019
- Key goals include reduction, reuse, recycling, material and energy recovery, and disposal
- Updating the plan will accelerate waste reduction and diversion, promote a circular economy, and reduce greenhouse gases
- The public engagement program will exceed regulatory requirements, be transparent,

- inclusive, and responsive, and be equitable and accessible
- Pre-engagement occurred in spring 2021, leading to Phase 1: Guiding Principles/Engagement commencing in early 2023
  - Goals for pre-engagement were to learn about preferences for communication channels and methods of participation
  - Feedback included comments related to the desire for early and continuous opportunities to provide feedback, transparency in the use of input for decision making, and ensuring a fair and collaborative engagement process overall
- Indigenous engagement will be a separate, iterative, and collaborative process that includes First Nations and urban Indigenous peoples guided by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*
- An equity lens in solid waste management planning will incorporate public engagement program design, public/technical advisory committee selection, and plan development.

### **3.3 Topics of Interest Discussion**

#### **3.3.1 List of Topics from March 2022 IAC Meeting**

Co-Chair Polak reviewed the list of topics identified by IAC members at the March 2022 IAC meeting, noting that a workshop would be held in September 2022 to further discuss topics and develop priorities.

#### **3.3.2 Breakout Room for Topic Discussions**

Committee members were divided into breakout rooms to discuss the proposed list of topics, and considered the following questions:

- What important topic areas are missing from the list?
- Do the themes that the topics have been broken into make sense/how could they be improved?
- What topic areas should be discussed in the immediate future with the goal of finding near term solutions?
- What topic areas are best included in the longer-term discussions related to updating the Solid Waste Management Plan?

Following the breakout session, a representative from each group presented the following:

- Group 1:
  - Priority topics: EPR, circular economy, better communications, streamlining, and transparency of how things work
  - Near term and longer-term topics for discussion include reduction of greenhouse gases, use of technology/artificial intelligence, how to drive behavioural change, supply and demand/markets, product quality, climate change issues, procurement (how it will drive demand that will drive supply), and development of product quality to get to an end market

- Group 2:
  - Priority topics: EPR and the concept of adding commercial/institutional materials to that program, allocation of resource to waste-to-energy (WtE), accountability in the recycling system (accurate statistics)
  - Additional topics include moving resources away from incineration, role/cost/benefit analysis of EPR, and addressing the exporting of waste (e.g. have restrictions on how waste is moved out of the country)
- Group 3:
  - Priority topics: Land zoning and “3P modelling” should be added under the theme “Public-Private Integration”
  - Immediate topics of concern include consumer education, “Not In My Backyard” (NIMBY), processing opportunities to keep a circular economy regionally, and multi-family diversion
  - A longer-term topic for discussion is capacity
- Group 4:
  - Styrofoam should be added to the “Recycling/Circular Economy/Zero Waste” theme
  - Topics that could be grouped together include free market, open market, flow control, and competition
- Group 5:
  - How the private sector can support MV and local governments in the pursuit of zero waste should be added to the list of topics
  - It would be beneficial to organize breakout rooms in a manner that groups similar organizations together to be more effective in developing specific suggestions related to their industries
  - An important topic for discussion is public policy and how to ensure products have recycled content across the supply chain
  - In the short term, design for recyclability in a circular economy, and communication across supply chain, are important topics
- Group 6:
  - Public education could be moved into the “Public-Private Integration” theme and prioritized in a number of the other themes as well to improve general public understanding of recyclability
  - Short-term topics for discussion include prioritization of communications strategies and public education in an effort to increase recyclability, which will change demand and potentially how manufacturers design products
  - Long-term topics for discussion include the importance of language – with 64% of materials being recycled, language needs to change from “solid waste” to “resource” as recyclable materials are not waste; this relates back to public education.

For detailed breakout room notes, refer to Appendix 1.

Co-Chair Polak invited additional feedback from IAC members, and the following comments were offered:

- Satisfied with the variety of individuals in the breakout groups – sometimes it is beneficial to not be in a silo
- Discuss how MV can focus on reduction/reuse strategies; it is an area that we can “move the needle” on in the region if more resources are allocated towards it
- There is an issue with how the regional district balances efforts within its departments and a sense of tension (i.e., solid waste is trying to accomplish a goal, and climate action is trying to accomplish a goal, but they are not complimentary); how does balance happen and how is the overall net regional benefit assessed?
- Preference to participate in breakout sessions with similar organizations
- A priority topic related to finding solutions to reduce the hypocrisy of those promoting recycling but not accepting it as priority at their facilities could be added to the list
- An additional topic for discussion could be how procurement drives demand.

### **3.3.3 September Workshop of High Priority Topics**

Co-Chair Polak invited IAC members to email any additional feedback on priority topics ahead of the September 2022 workshop to the Co-Chairs. It was noted that a survey would be circulated to IAC members to gather consensus on whether the workshop should be held in person or virtually. Survey results available as Appendix 2.

### **3.4 Potential Standing Agenda Items for Discussion**

Paul Henderson noted the following potential standing agenda items for future meetings:

- Waste Flows
- Upcoming Zero Waste Committee Reports
- Solid Waste Management Plan
- Operational and Other Solid Waste System Updates.

Committee members were invited to identify additional potential standing agenda items and/or indicate that any of these topic areas need not be included as meeting standing agenda. During an ensuing discussion, it was suggested that some standing items could simply be provided in writing without the requirement to present the information to the Committee.

### **3.5 Metro Vancouver Updates**

#### **3.5.1 2021 Waste Composition Study Results**

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services Planning, Zero Waste Implementation, gave a presentation on 2021 Waste Composition Study results, and highlighted:

- A full-scale study includes samples from all sectors received at regional facilities and is conducted annually

- A multi-family study focuses on apartment and townhome waste sampled directly from participating buildings and will be conducted annually for the next three years, then every two years thereafter
- Both a full-scale and multi-family study were conducted in 2021
- Results of the full-scale study indicated similarities in data from 2018 and 2021, while 2020 showed significant differences
- In 2021, it was found that masks increased by more than double from 2020 (40 masks per capita to 94 per capita)
- Results of the multi-family study indicated many similarities to the previous study in 2017.
- In conclusion:
  - 2021 composition is similar to pre-pandemic composition in 2018
  - Single-use items are lower than in 2018
  - Personal protective equipment disposal, particularly masks, has increased since 2020
  - Compostable organics remain a key opportunity in the multi-family sector.

During an ensuing discussion, an IAC member suggested that future studies could include more per capita statistics and data on the volume of recycled/composted materials.

In response to a question regarding whether MV conducts studies on recycling streams, it was noted that focus is placed on garbage as it is what is received at MV facilities; however, Recycle BC does conduct its own studies.

### **3.5.2 Taking Out the Trash Initiative**

Paul Henderson advised that a pilot project under the Metro Vancouver Regional District Sustainability Innovation Fund, titled “Taking Out the Trash Initiative”, was approved by the Board in February 2022. The study is driven by member municipalities with an interest in moving to low carbon garbage collection and litter collection vehicles and is led by the Air Quality Department. The project is in the early stages, and staff will be invited to present at the September 2022 IAC workshop to provide an overview and further details with respect to the study.

During an ensuing discussion, an IAC member of Waste Connections of Canada offered to share best practices in terms of electric/hydrogen vehicles with Air Quality staff.

It was requested that future reports at IAC meetings include statistics indicating how much recycled content is being used by MV or other public agencies.

## **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**



Co-Chair Polak thanked Committee members for their participation and advised that the next meeting was scheduled to occur on September 7, 2022.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

**Appendix 1: Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting June 7, 2022 - Breakout Room Notes**

**Appendix 2: September Workshop of High Priority Topics – Survey Results**

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## **Appendix 1: Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting June 7, 2022 - Breakout Room Notes**

Questions asked during breakout

1. What important topic areas are missing from the list? (topic list provided in the agenda package ahead of the June 7, 2022 meeting)
2. Do the themes that the topics have been broken into make sense/How could they be improved?
3. What topic areas should be discussed in the immediate future with the goal of finding near term solutions?
4. What topic areas are best included in the longer term discussions related to updating the solid waste management plan?

### **Group 1**

Members: Izzie Abrams, Ken Ingram, Mannie Cheung, Terryl Plotnikoff, Achilles Mallari

Reported out to plenary: Izzie Abrams

- Would like more about EPR and Circular Economy
- Under communications – public's needs information and transparency to help them make decisions. Also streamline the process/information for consumers. City of Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, Consumer Council – all the natural places where consumers go look for information and they need alignment. Stimulate and facilitate behaviour change
- Expanding EPR dovetail with the province (ministry 5 year service plan) need to immediately work with the ministry
- Principles of Circular Economy and policy
- Artificial Intelligence, technological advances in recycling centres
- Wood recyclers – challenge finding a place to send recycled wood. A mill has shut down
- Wood waste – the solution needs to be less dependent on pulp and paper mills and need to find markets
- GHG – create broader local infrastructure / end markets for recycled items. Need resilience in the region
- From a procurement side create demand among big consumers – focus on government procurement for recycled content
- Attracting more organics processors, wood processors to the province
- Product quality – for recycling and organics because the end users are tightening their restrictions in regard to accepting material
- Residential side the contamination is increasingly a problem
- Impacts of natural disaster – emergency preparedness plan. Managing the clean up and more information about Metro Vancouver's resilience plan
- Develop sustainable end markets in the long term
- Waste to Energy as a long term goal or discussion. Worth looking at in the long term as capacity declines

### **Group 2**

Members: Ralph McRae, Jeremy Crawford, Jamie Kaminski, Michael Zarbl, Gord Johnson

Reported out to plenary: Ralph McRae

- Solid waste services are best provided through market mechanisms

- Economics have generally proven that an open, free, and competitive system provides the best cost and service
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)
  - What role does industry have/does MV have? Is it a benefit/hindrance? Is a system in place to deal with it? What is there to treat it?
  - EPR with respect to IC&I will be an important topic for MV to consider impacts and what it will do to competition
  - This is a long-term issue, need to understand implications from a competition level
  - Governance of EPR and the ability to “move the needle”
  - Advocate towards better governance for all organizations to participate and ensure they are being innovative in terms of recycling
- Need full supply chain accountability and accurate statistics
- Need to determine whether committee can engage effectively in this region where our regulators are also our competitors
- Avoid adding additional resources to waste energy and add them to waste reduction efforts
- Focus on improving disposal bans and address the exporting of waste out of the region/country
- Understanding exporting/regulations that MV has in place may be productive for the IAC
- Like to see how MV can drive more reuse and reduction of waste
- Need to see fundamental change to the way this sector deals with these issues (i.e., know where we are starting from and then see achievement)
- The IAC will not be able to develop short-term solutions but can decide on the most important topics and where it can move the needle most
- How to make recycling more accountable
- Run pilots on actionable items we already have
- Talk to the Ministry about the exporting of waste
- Need a better understanding of data/better reporting of numbers and how the region got to where we say we are
  - How do we gather data and support organizations and move in the direction of more reuse and better reuse?
  - We cannot manage what we cannot measure
- Question accountability throughout the entire system
  - Need full supply chain accountability from generator to ultimate disposal
- Need to do more, and we need to do better
- Start by looking at the disadvantages and advantages of EPR, what exporting of mixed waste means and why it is not good

### **Group 3**

Members: Lori Bryan, Christian Dietrich, Sean Kawakami, Shad Prasad

Reported out to plenary: Lori Bryan

### **Additional topics:**

- Public-Private Integration
  - Permitting
  - Procurement process (contracts)
  - 3P modeling
  - Franchising
- Regulation/Incentives

- Financing
- Long-term Planning/Resiliency
  - Land zoning for waste facilities
- Recycling/Circular Economy/Zero Waste
  - Labelling of recyclable products

**Areas of interest:**

- Consumer education (including those with NIMBY mentality)
- Processing opportunities
  - Keeping the circular economy regional
  - Also includes regulation and zoning
- Multi-family diversion – education opportunities to support behavior change
- Capacity (e.g. landfill) with respect to long-term planning

**Group 4**

Members: Binder Boora, James Collins, Cynthia Shore, Grant Hankins

Reported out to plenary: Cynthia Shore

- Break out groups should be organized according to industry to make them more focused (one comment)
- Areas of interest:
  - Design for recyclability
  - Requirements for recycled content (how to advance public policy)
  - Transition to circular economy (how can MV assist, how can MV support local businesses transition)
  - Communications to support behavior changes, CE and other shifts across the supply chain (stewards, businesses)
  - Education, communications, behavior change to support getting to zero waste
  - Shifting consumer choices (ie more support for recycled content)
  - Desire to learn more about regulatory/jurisdictional boundaries (ST)
  - Caution about harmful plastics messaging – it hurts businesses recycling plastics.

**Group 5**

Members: Liliana Segal, Robby Gill, Aiden Kiani, Maya Moucachen, Nicole Stefenelli

Reported out to plenary: Nicole Stefenelli

- Hard to recycle plastics – Include examples, such as Styrofoam
- Prioritize the following:

**Public-Private Integration**

- Level playing field
  - Same level of access for all players
  - C&D in not standardized – different number of bins. Not same for all sites
- Combined together - free/open market
- Competition

- Efficiency
- Flow Control

### **Recycling/Circular Economy/Zero Waste**

- Organics: Shortage of processing and recycling facilities
- Packaging recycling
- Hard to recycle plastics
- Use of recycled materials
  - Markets for materials
  - Use of recycled materials is a roadblock. Not many avenues to use recycled materials in C&D industry
- Ease of access
- Opportunities to divert from landfill
  - Landfill bans – Steer away from SUI. Still available at points of sale (supermarkets) vs restaurants. Need for consistency
  - Consistent disposal bans

### **Group 6**

Attendees: Nicole Peers, Sebastian van Wollen, Jacqueline Lotzkar

Reported out to plenary: Jacqueline Lotzkar

- Discussed that public education could be moved into public/private integration to address the gap between what happens at facilities vs. individual action
- Discussed that public education could also fit under long term planning/resiliency
- Prioritized public education for near term discussion
  - What is being missed in terms of public messaging?
  - How do we continue to encourage recycling?
  - Discussed ease of access of education material
    - Signage can be overwhelming
    - Simplification can help broaden audiences and address multiple demographics
    - End of life of materials could be better communicated
    - Education needs to change as materials change
  - Highlighted that information and education can help drive change upstream (i.e. designing for recyclability) which helps with downstream management
- Continue to improve on our diversion rate
- Consider reframing/redefining the discussion to focus on materials or recycling rather than waste
  - Majority (64%) is recycled, so should we be referring to it as “waste” management?
- Consider education on the recycling industry in general
  - Many don’t understand the scope and breadth of recycling in the region

**Appendix 2: September Workshop of High Priority Topics – Survey Results**

Q1: What is your preference for the September 7, 2022 workshop?

Results:

In-person with live stream of plenary sessions: 9

All virtual: 6

Q2: Who would you prefer to facilitate the breakout room sessions at the September workshop?

Results:

Committee members: 3

Third party expert facilitator: 11

Q3: Please select the topics you want to learn about and discuss at the September 7, 2022 workshop. Please chose as many as you are interested in. Note that we have flagged topics as “Staff recommended” where we think the items provide the most potential for short-term gains. Please see the email attachment for more information on each topic.

Results by number of responses:

Metro Vancouver Disposal Ban Program – Staff recommended	12
Public education and communication regarding contamination, behaviour changes, and support for recycled content – Staff recommended	8
Waste reduction and recycling data – Staff recommended	8
Zero Waste / Circular Economy – Staff recommended	8
Construction and Demolition Waste Management	6
Extended Producer Responsibility	7
Organics Management	4
Residential and Commercial/Institutional Residual Garbage Management	3
Other	4

Responses for Other:

1. Processing capacity/opportunities (regulation/zoning – keeping the loop local ie: regional/provincial) – procurement process – private sector innovation
2. Capacity – future plans for local waste processing plants/MRF’s/CHP/Landfills
3. Moving away from using incineration of waste as a pre-treatment to disposal... Focusing resources towards more beneficial solutions
4. The elephant in the room of flow control. Topics such as a level playing field, open market, competition, and system efficiencies should be included or specified under private sector role/participation.