

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

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting held via Zoom teleconference from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Hodge, Director, Zero Waste Committee
(Co-Chair)
Bryan, Lori, Executive Director, Waste
Management Association of BC (Co-Chair)
Baker, Todd – Ecowaste Industries Inc.
Charles, Terry – Empower/ Northstar
Collins, James – Tymac Launch Service Ltd.
Drissi El-Bouzaidi, Nabil – Ecowaste Industries
Ltd.
Hankins, Grant – Canada Minibins.com Ltd.
Hoffman, David – Republic Services
Kheyrandish, Ataollah – Richmond Steel
Recycling

Kiani, Aiden – Lock-Block Ltd
L’Heureux, Lindsay – Recycle BC
Ligumsky, Alan – Peak Disposal Services Inc.
Mac Neil, Patrick – Wescan Disposal Ltd.
Canada Corp.
MacFarlane, Angus – Growing City
Millman, David – Waste Management of
Canada Corporation
Pantazopoulos, Dimitri – Waste Connections
of Canada
Skei, Dayton – Evergen Infrastructure Corp.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Abrams, Izzie – Waste Connections of Canada
Hakimé, Maya – Merlin Plastics
Johnson, Gord – Empower/ Northstar
Kaminski, Jamie – HSR Zero Waste
Kawakami, Sean – Convertus Group
Lannin, Mike – Super Save Group
Lotzkar, Jacqueline – Canadian Association of
Recycling Industries (CARI)
Mallari, Achilles – Sierra Waste Services Ltd.
McRae, Ralph – Revolution Infrastructure Inc.

Muir, Wesley – Veolia North America
(Canada)
Punja, Rustam – Geocycle Canada Inc.
Sigmund, Sandy – Encorp Pacific Canada,
Return-It
Stefenelli, Nicole – Urban Impact Recycling
Ltd.
Watson, Jason – JW Recycle-IT Inc.
Zarbl, Micheal – Coast Waste Management,
Board member

METRO VANCOUVER STAFF:

Henderson, Paul – General Manager, Solid
Waste Services
Chong, Chris – Multimedia
Du, Kelly – Project Engineer, Solid Waste
Planning
Fulton, Fulton – Senior Project Engineer, Solid
Waste Planning
Joy, Samantha – Engagement Specialist, Solid
Waste Community Engagement

Liu, Stephanie – Program Manager, Solid
Waste Community Engagement
Mizan, Zeenia – Program Assistant I, Solid
Waste Community Engagement
Storry, Karen – Senior Project Engineer, Solid
Waste Planning
Underwood, Chris – Division Manager, Solid
Waste Planning
Vidler, Lynne – Lead Senior Engineer, Solid
Waste Operations

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Tuesday, June 9, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Zoom Teleconference

A G E N D A

- 1. AGENDA**
 - 1.1 June 9, 2026 Meeting Agenda**
- 2. MINUTES**
 - 2.1 May 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes**
- 3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - 3.1 Waste Composition Study**
For information and Q&A
Designated Speakers: Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver
 - 3.2 Solid Waste Management Plan: Detailed Items**
For discussion
Designated Speakers: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates**
For information
Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services
- 5. INFORMATION ITEMS**
 - 5.1 Regional Waste Flows**
 - 5.2 IAC 2026 Work Plan**
 - 5.3 IAC Meeting Action Tracker**

MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Director Craig Hodge, called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting.

Housekeeping reminders were provided, including that the meeting was being live-streamed and the recording would be posted to the Industry Advisory Committee webpage.

Co-Chair Hodge announced that Michael Zarbl, will continue as an Industry Advisory Committee member, now representing Coast Waste Management Association, noting that the Terms of Reference state reapplication is not required when a previous Industry Advisory Committee member joins a new organization.

1. AGENDA

1.1 June 9, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Co-Chair Hodge reviewed the June 9, 2026, meeting agenda. No additions were made.

2. MINUTES

2.1 May 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Hodge called for any additions or changes to the Minutes of the May 12, 2026, Industry Advisory Committee meeting. No additions or changes were made.

3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Waste Composition Study

Kelly Du, Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled, “2025 Full-Scale Waste Composition Study Results”. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Despite an overall downward trend in compostable organics since 2021, there has been a slight increase since 2025
- Plastics have shown a consistent upward trend since 2022, and paper has seen a slight increase since 2023
- For items with a low weight proportion in the waste stream, such as single-use items, sample data from a small number of loads can be sensitive to data variability, making consistent annual tracking important to understand overall trends
- Single-use disposal is 3.3% of the waste stream by weight in 2025
- Plastic checkout bags, foam takeout containers, and foam cups are declining, while paper and plastic cups and plastic takeout containers are increasing or elevated since 2021
- Trends for straws and utensils influenced by the commercial/institutional sector cannot be clearly determined at this time.

Discussion ensued, and the following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses* (R) were captured:

Q/C: What is the percentage of single-use items in the overall waste stream?

R: Single-use items make up 3.3% of the waste stream by weight.

Q/C: What is the action from this study? There was an assumption that moving towards reusable bags and compostable straws was the direction, and it is unclear what we are supposed to do with these findings. It's also unclear what this data has to do with regional waste planning in general.

R: This study and the resulting data shows trends over time and areas where we could focus. Specifically, it's looking at where large quantities of material in the waste stream might align with actions identified in the Solid Waste Management Plan. The study gives us data that supports in the development and implementation of programs and initiatives. The study is also important because we rely on consistent data to understand the challenges of our system and to see areas where we can make the most significant impact.

3.2 Solid Waste Management Plan: Detailed Items

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled, "Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Detailed Items". Highlights of the presentation included:

- The draft Solid Waste Management Plan is published, and the additional comment period is open until August 1, 2026
- Comments collected during this time will be submitted to the Minister of Environment and Parks along with the draft plan.
- The focus areas of the plan include increasing access to organics and recycling services for multi-family residents, businesses, and institutions, as well as expanding efforts to prevent the disposal of valuable food in organics
- The regulatory strategic approach does not specify which specific regulatory initiatives would be implemented. It emphasizes that any initiative being considered in future would be accompanied by a transparent and meaningful engagement process
- within the draft plan related to encouraging the development of new recycling infrastructure, enhancing approaches to Metro Vancouver's disposal ban program, and exploring additional long-term disposal capacity if required were shared
- Additional comments on the draft plan can be provided in the following ways: completing the online feedback form, emailing comments to zerowaste@metrovancouver.org, or scheduling a meeting with Metro Vancouver staff.

Co-Chair Hodge reiterated that all feedback received during the various stages of the Solid Waste Management Plan's development will be included in the submission package, including feedback received during this additional comment period.

Discussion ensued, and the following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses* (R) were captured:

Q/C: Specific words in the draft Solid Waste Management Plan, such as advocate, participate, collaborate, and facilitate, these don't seem like actionable items.

R: *We heard feedback after the initial draft plan was published that the language around the actions in the plan needed to be stronger and more specific. For this draft we revised the wording wherever possible to be more action oriented. The challenge is that Metro Vancouver does not have authority or control over all activities. In areas where we would need to rely on others, we have used wording that allows us to prioritize collaboration and advocacy.*

Q/C: Page 32 of the draft Solid Waste Management Plan mentions the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy and speaks to reducing waste and transitioning to zero-emission vehicles. How is that connected to the Solid Waste Management Plan?

R: *The draft Solid Waste Management Plan notes how our regional goals align with other levels of government. The Federal government has a Sustainable Development Strategy that identifies one goal related to both reducing waste and zero-emission vehicles. Although the draft Solid Waste Management Plan doesn't contain actions specifically related to zero-emission vehicles, the draft plan aligns with the components of the federal goal related to reducing waste.*

Q/C: The Industry Advisory Committee would like an update on the waste tracking program that was mentioned previously and would like to hear if there were any significant impacts or findings that impact the plan.

R: *The Smart Waste Program has been in place for a couple of years, and two annual reports are available online. The annual testing program involves placing approximately 20 devices into multi-family residential and commercial/institutional garbage containers. Company or organization names on garbage containers are not recorded as part of the annual device testing program. The most recent report showed that all units deployed ended up at a Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver facility. The intent of the annual testing program is to provide information on technical capability of the devices.*

The smart waste program implementation plan (available on the Metro Vancouver website) outlines procedures Metro Vancouver could follow if it had concerns that a particular company is disposing of garbage at a facility other than a Metro Vancouver or City of Vancouver facility, and not remitting the generator levy as required.

Q/C: What is the purpose of hauler licensing and what kind of conditions would be imposed?

R: Hauler licensing is not being considered at this time, but is listed in the plan as an example of a potential regulatory initiative. If it is determined that hauler licensing could be considered (or other potential regulatory mechanisms), extensive engagement would take place before implementation. There is currently no work happening on the development of hauler licensing.

Q/C: Having the mention of a hauler licensing program in the plan without any specific details creates some uncertainty. More information on this would be appreciated.

Q/C: Metro Vancouver's engagement process could benefit from improvements.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Metro Vancouver, provided the following Zero Waste Committee and other updates:

- The next Zero Waste Committee meeting is on Thursday, June 11, 2026, and the following reports will be shared:
 - Biennial Report, which is a requirement under the 2011 Solid Waste Management Plan and will provide a two-year update on the progress of the plan
 - Full-Scale Waste Composition Study
 - A series of Manager's Report items including
 - The British Columbia Utilities Commission granted an exemption between the City of Burnaby and Metro Vancouver on the sale of energy for the District Energy System
 - A Waste-to-Energy Facility particulate study concluded that particulate accumulation on a neighbouring warehouse roof is not the result of air emissions from the Waste-to-Energy Facility, and that metal and dioxin and furan concentrations in nearby environmental media are not significantly influenced by the facility's air emissions.
 - As part of a pilot initiative, the Langley Recycling and Waste Centre is now accepting pane glass, windows, and mirrors.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5.1 Regional Waste Flows

5.2 IAC 2026 Work Plan

5.3 IAC Meeting Action Tracker

Co-Chair Hodge noted that this was the final meeting before the summer break. Steady progress has been made on the items identified for the first quarter, and some timelines were shifted to ensure appropriate attention is given to all areas of work. It was noted that the group will shift to more operational topics once reconvened in the fall of 2026.

Industry Advisory Committee members were encouraged to submit issues or topics of interest to the Co-Chairs for future discussions.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting will be held on September 15, 2026.

Co-Chair, Lori Bryan, confirmed that all feedback on the draft Solid Waste Management Plan from the Industry Advisory Committee will be included in the submission to the Province and encouraged members to provide additional feedback before August 1, 2026. They expressed their appreciation for members and wished everyone a good summer.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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