

**Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee
Key Topic Discussion Feedback Summary – October 8, 2024**

At the October 8, 2024 Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting, committee members participated in a discussion idea generation for the solid waste management plan update. A summary of feedback received is presented below.

This feedback will be considered as part of the idea generation phase of engagement on the solid waste management plan update.

Discussion Topic	Feedback
<p>Leverage knowledge and expertise through collaboration</p>	<p>Information Sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration on reporting out and tracking where materials are going: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve data sharing ○ Proprietary information can make it challenging for private industry to share information • Metro Vancouver needs to be able to listen and act on feedback of committees such as Industry Advisory Committee. • Continue the conversation past the solid waste management plan update. • Bring all advisory committees together to discuss issues (Public/Technical Advisory Committee, Regional Engineers Advisory Committee Solid Waste Sub-committee, Industry Advisory Committee) <p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver can fund non-profits to take on education role, non-profits can build trust • More public education (for example for reducing contamination) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborate with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) agencies on education ○ Collaborate with provincial and federal government ○ Need more education on materials not included in EPR programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priority items - lithium batteries, potentially hazardous waste in recycling bins ▪ Difficult to get hard-to-recycle items through regulation and into programs because this is provincial jurisdiction - Metro Vancouver advocacy needed ○ Outreach to businesses, property managers

	<p>Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private sector could demonstrate where innovative technology is in place, for example AI sorting technology in Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No appetite for collaboration if you are competing with regulator• Consider collaboration on mixed solid waste recovery facility<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Example: Durham Regional District• Entrepreneurial workshop - getting people together to solve problems. Information sharing. <p>Circular Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage expertise from potential users to connect products to users• Mandated post consumer recycled content through bylaws <p>Industry Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Industry representation on Zero Waste Committee• Make space for all voices (non-profits, women, underrepresented groups)• Connect executive chairs of waste industry associations (SWANA, WMABC, etc.) other executive chairs<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Will help to represent the waste industry in multi-sector situations (organics management, construction and demolition)○ Metro Vancouver could provide centralized location, make the connections, break down silos <p>Shared Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborate on emerging legislation from other orders of government<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ For example the Federal plastics registry• Collaboration with adjacent regional districts/province for inter-jurisdictional issues <p>Regulation and Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incentivize/encourage private industry<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Generator levy dis-incentivizes collaboration• Consider results-based regulation• Have a private utility to manage waste (e.g. BC Utilities Commission)
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Discussion Topic	Feedback
<p>Promote confidence in recycling system</p>	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use social media to get facts out. • Auditing and reporting are done but not known by the public – increase transparency and inform. • Identify the public’s main concerns and address them. • Honesty builds trust: Be honest with the public and show the limitations, what we’re doing, and how we’re trying to improve – start with the definition of recycling. • Simplify: focus on tangible examples of recyclable products. • Show true stories of circularities happening in the region. <p>Data and Tracking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how much is residual waste and how much is being recycled – set a reasonable target to improve. • Have good metrics to track and report. Combine with public tours and media, key influencers, etc. • Eliminate performative recycling • Grow recycling through reduction (e.g. plastic ban) <p>Consider Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have inspectors at the generators and issue tickets/fines
Discussion Topic	Feedback
<p>Plan for future waste management and infrastructure systems</p>	<p>Best Practice Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our problems are not unique we can consider other countries’ best practices when considering solutions to our own waste management challenges in the region. • Improve systems to ensure the utility of outputs (end-use markets). Explore funding from a variety of sources including provincial/federal grants, solid waste fees, private sector partnership, innovation fund, etc. • Look to tested solutions, such as organics in Edmonton, for solid waste infrastructure strategies. <p>Regulation and Incentives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline regulations and shorten decision-making processes to facilitate private investment in infrastructure. • Improve permitting and licensing programs to move more quickly and be more accessible to a wider range of service providers. • Processing capacity for different streams; multiple years for permit approvals: preventing solutions being implemented. • Efforts to be compliant do not seem to reap any rewards in terms of moving through permitting processes any easier.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the public-private partnership (P3) model; can be challenging, but need to consider all options. The profit motive cannot be a disincentive for a successful system. • Look to the province, and other levels of government, to help provide more support in searching for solutions to various problems. • Develop markets and identify investment opportunities; lack of certainty discourages private sector from taking on opportunities. • Look to results-based regulation • Improve engagement between government policy makers and industry – currently feels like government is out of touch with how the industry functions. • Consistency is needed for regulatory regimes, processing and permitting/licensing to allow for cost-effective infrastructure investment and operation (cross country/provincially/regionally). For example: public shingle recycling options at private landfills. • Foster opportunities for more private investment.
Discussion Question	Feedback
<p>Enhance accountability for eliminating waste</p>	<p>Governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the point of view of haulers: Provide companies with some kind of certification that is acknowledged by industry or government. • Protect and incentivize the best actors and players. • Prioritize licensing programs for businesses that are actively investing in new technology – help protect businesses willing to take financial risk. • Orders of government to implement procurement policies. There should be industry mandates to produce and use recyclable materials. • Recognize that shifts in the industry and manufacturing may not be within the scope and control of Metro Vancouver. Some changes and shifts are global. • Focus on simplifying the materials that are put into the market, especially plastic. • Recycling definition should be more clear (there is a misconception that energy recovery is the same as recycling) • Enhance clarity and transparency of what materials go through Metro Vancouver and other facilities. <p>Waste and Recycling Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve monitoring policies and incentives to ensure proper recycling and disposal and reduce contamination, otherwise no investment will be made.

- Private market can handle recycling if right infrastructure and incentives are in place. For example, there is a huge composting program in Nova Scotia. They have expansive use markets (e.g., landscaping) and there are no market shortages
- There is not enough infrastructure capacity and incentives for recycling. An example of limited processing capacity is the organics processors
- Work to level the industry playing field and facilitate healthy competition. Big manufacturers should not be allowed on the board of RecycleBC, as this is potentially a conflict of interest.
- Competition issues can be solved by shifting the responsibility to the generator.

Business and Manufacturing

- Design for reparability and recyclability
- Encourage or regulate manufacturers to reduce their footprint and minimize consumer packaging.
- Encourage redesign and enhance accountability for future manufacturing and construction.
- Celebrate and look to larger companies that have already started working at reducing footprint, materials, and packaging.
- For construction and demolition waste (C&D), support innovative ideas and focus on marketing C&D waste.
- Incentivize use of more recyclables at the procurement stage.
- Think more globally and focus on moving up the waste hierarchy.

Waste and Recycling Generators

- Point of view of generators: Create regulations to encourage mandatory three containers for businesses.
- Education is more of a natural process as people naturally eliminate waste and harmful products when they learn and find out about them.
- Multi-family buildings show the lowest accountability for their waste (high contamination) – increase education and focus on these demographics.
- A solution to the multi-family sector could be clear bags for everyone.
- Need high enough surcharges to cover for increased costs of contamination.
- Enforce EPR: The stewardship program is there, but is not being enforced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accountability should go back to the generator (not the haulers). • Focus on the compactors and record footage in multi-family buildings, this could raise privacy concerns. • Waste audits and inspections can help, especially in the Industrial Commercial Institutional (ICI) sector. But who would be held accountable in multi-family sector? Strata corporations?
<p>Additional Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will we see the practical infrastructure solutions being considered/implemented as part of this solid waste management plan update process (for all waste streams)? • Planning for capacity – need clear solutions for long-term solid waste streams • Need to look at infrastructure planning and using the existing system as a foundation • There is a need for advanced processing solutions • There will be operational challenges with some of the “big-ideas” solutions • Planning needs to consider logistical challenges for tighter geographic constraints and lack of industrial land continues to be an issue. • Real need for Industry Advisory Committee members to see how input is going to meaningfully impact outcomes (i.e., influence new solid waste management plan) • Disposal bans have been effective, however, there should be technology and infrastructure to process the diverted material at a reasonable cost. • Recycler's point of view for certain materials: In some cases, up to 95% of diverted material goes to landfills.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Izzie Abrams, Waste Connections of Canada

Rob Cooney (alternate for Glen Furtado),
Cement Association of Canada

Jeremy Crawford, Waste Control Services

Christian Dietrich, Ecowaste Industries.

Grant Hankins, Canada Minibins.com Ltd.

Josh JansenVandoorn, Anaconda Systems Ltd.

Gord Johnson, Northstar

Jamie Kaminski, HSR Zero Waste

Sean Kawakami, Convertus Canada Ltd.

Aiden Kiani, Lock-Block Ltd.

Leanne Koehn, Ridge Meadows Recycling
Society

Mike Lannin, Super Save Group

Angus MacFarlane, Growing City

Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd.

Achilles Mallari, Sierra Waste Services Ltd.

David Millman, Waste Management of
Canada Corp.

Maya Moucachen, Merlin Plastics

Dimitri Pantazopoulos, Waste Connections of
Canada

Shad Prasad, Cascade Recovery +

Ken Schultz (alternate for Fabio Scaldaferrri),
Pacific Mattress Recycling Inc.

Sandy Sigmund, Encorp Pacific Canada,
Return-It

Dayton Skei, EverGen

John Turner, BC Biocarbon Ltd.

Jasper Van de Wetering, Heidelberg Materials
Canada Ltd.

Michael Zarbl, Major Appliance Recycling
Roundtable