

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

Minutes of the Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee Meeting held virtually at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Craig Hodge, Director, Zero Waste Committee  
(Co-Chair)

MacNeil, Patrick – Wescan Disposal Ltd.  
(Acting Co-Chair)

Crawford, Jeremy – Waste Control Services

Collins, James – Tymac Launch Service Ltd.

Hankins, Grant – Canada Minibins.com Ltd.

Johnston, Kurt – CleanStart Property Services

Kaminski, Jamie – HSR Zero Waste

Kawakami, Sean – Convertus Canada Ltd.

Kheyrandish, Ataollah – Richmond Steel  
Recycling

Kiani, Aiden – Lock-Block Ltd

Lannin, Mike – Super Save Group

MacFarlane, Angus – Growing City

Mallari, Achilles – Sierra Waste Services Ltd.

Moucachen, Maya – Merlin Plastics

Muir, Wesley – Veolia North America  
(Canada)

Pantazopoulos, Dimitri – Waste Connections  
of Canada

Prasad, Shad – Cascades Recovery +

Punja, Rustam – Geocycle Canada Inc.

Sigmund, Sandy – Encorp Pacific Canada,  
Return-It

Skei, Dayton – Evergen Infrastructure Corp.

Stefenelli, Nicole – Urban Impact  
Recycling Ltd.

Skoropada, Lorne – Ridge Meadows Recycling  
Society

Van Beusekom, Brent – Product Care  
Association

Vargas, Pinky – Republic Services

Zarbl, Michael – Major Appliance Recycling  
Roundtable

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bryan, Lori, Executive Director, Waste  
Management Association of BC (Co-Chair)

Abrams, Izzie – Waste Connections of Canada

Agassiz, Sam – West Coast Reduction Ltd.

Dietrich, Christian – Ecowaste Industries

Furtado, Glen – Cement Association of Canada

Johnson, Gord – Northstar

JansenVandoorn, Josh – Anaconda Systems

Janzen, Tessa – Recycle BC

Millman, David – Waste Management of  
Canada Corp.

McRae, Ralph – Revolution Infrastructure Inc.

**METRO VANCOUVER AND CITY OF VANCOUVER STAFF:**

Chris Chong, Multimedia, Metro Vancouver  
Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver  
Paul Henderson, General Manager, Metro Vancouver  
Allen Jensen, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver  
Samantha Joy, Engagement Specialist, Metro Vancouver  
Stephanie Liu, Manager, Community Engagement, Metro Vancouver  
Zeenia Mizan, Program Assistant, Metro Vancouver  
Karen Storry, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver  
Chris Underwood, Division Manager SW Planning, Metro Vancouver

**GUESTS:**

Peter Fassbender, Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Member  
Komal Fatima, Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel Member  
Lindsay Seidel-Wassenaar, Stantec  
Nathalie Marble, Stantec

**PREPARATION OF MINUTES:** Priya Kullar, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025  
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm  
Zoom Teleconference

**A G E N D A**

- 1. AGENDA**
  - 1.1 September 9, 2025 Meeting Agenda**
- 2. MINUTES**
  - 2.1 June 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes**
- 3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
  - 3.1 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Outline**  
*For information*  
*Designated speaker: Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services*
  - 3.2 SWMP Update: Residual Waste Management Options Study**  
*For plenary discussion*  
*Designated speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services Nathalie Marble, Team Lead, Senior Solid Waste Engineer, Stantec*
  - 3.3 SWMP Update: Strategies and Rubric**  
*For plenary discussion*  
*Designated speaker: Karen Storry, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Services and Stephanie Liu, Manager, Community Engagement*
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
  - 4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates**  
*For information*  
*Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services*
- 5. NEXT STEPS**
  - 5.1 Vancouver Landfill Tour**  
*For information*  
*Designated Speaker: Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services*

**5.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Update – October and November Meetings**

*For information*

*Designated speaker: Director Hodge, IAC Co-Chair*

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Regional Waste Flows**

**6.2 Correspondence from HSR Zero Waste**

**6.3 2025 IAC Work Plan**

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## MEETING MINUTES

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Co-Chair Craig Hodge called the meeting to order at 2:35 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 would be posted to the IAC webpage.

Co-Chair Hodge advised that changes are being made to the meetings, in response to feedback from the Industry Advisory Committee members. The Agenda will now include proposed timeframes for each item to support meeting facilitation. If more time is required, there is an option to continue the discussion at a future meeting or schedule a special meeting for continued discussion. It was noted that these timeframes are suggestions and are not intended to limit the discussions with the Industry Advisory Committee members.

Additionally, two members from the Solid Waste Management Plan Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel are observing this meeting to improve the panel's understanding of the feedback and viewpoints expressed during committee meetings, and how this feedback is being considered by staff. The Engagement Panel was established to ensure the engagement process for the solid waste management plan update is transparent, inclusive, and informed with diverse perspectives during all phases of the project. Peter Fassbender and Komal Fatima introduced themselves and reiterated their role as panel members to ensure all voices are heard.

It was noted that Peter Fassbender and Komal Fatima were appointed by the GVS&DD Board to the Engagement Panel. Their role is to provide guidance on the engagement process. Co-Chair Hodge advised that Engagement Panel members were invited in response to concerns expressed by Industry Advisory Committee members about engagement.

Co-Chair Hodge requested a volunteer to act as Co-Chair during their absence from part of the meeting. Patrick MacNeil, Wescan Disposal Ltd., volunteered and was supported by a consensus.

### **1. AGENDA**

#### **1.1 September 9, 2025, Meeting Agenda**

Co-Chair Hodge reviewed the September 9, 2025, meeting agenda. No additions were made.

### **2. MINUTES**

#### **2.1 June 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

Co-Chair Hodge called for any additions or changes to the Minutes of the June 10, 2025, Industry Advisory Committee meeting. No additions or changes were made.

### **3. REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1 Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Outline**

Terry Fulton, Senior Project Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled “Draft Solid Waste Management Plan Outline” and informed that ideas shared in the Idea Generation phase were considered, and the next step included developing options for strategies and actions. The table of contents shows the potential sections for the solid waste management plan.

Terry Fulton spoke to various components and advised that the vision, guiding principles, and goals were completed. Potential strategies and actions are being developed in consideration of feedback from the idea generation phase, and will be shared on September 18. Potential metrics and targets will be shared in November 2025. Additional sections in the solid waste management plan include overview, strategic approach, planning implementation, glossary, and maps. There are also three related strategic approaches (regulatory, recycling and waste centres, and residual management options).

The draft plan outline has been provided to the Industry Advisory Committee for feedback. When the draft plan is developed, there will be opportunities to provide additional comments and feedback.

Co-Chair Hodge invited members to share related questions and/or comments. The following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses* (R) were captured:

**Q/C:** It seems like the solid waste management plan is set for Metro Vancouver, and the Industry Advisory Committee members’ input regarding infrastructure is not getting through. There was a recent application to BC Hydro for an extension of the electricity purchase agreement for the Waste-to-Energy Facility. This topic was not brought to the Industry Advisory Committee. We want to ensure everyone is working in good faith and bringing all considerations to the table for discussion. Additionally, a federal grant was recently awarded for the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy project, but the money could have gone towards something else, and other grants could have been applied for, for projects that do not involve having the Waste-to-Energy Facility continue operating long-term. The Industry Advisory Committee is investing a lot of energy and time, and there needs to be greater transparency. These decisions lock us in before we actually finalize a solid waste management plan.

**R:** *The existing Metro Vancouver solid waste system continues to operate while we update the plan. The Waste-to-Energy Facility produces 21 MW of electricity, and with the electricity purchase agreement expiring, Metro Vancouver entered into a new agreement for sale of the electricity. The Metro Vancouver Board position is that the Waste-to-Energy Facility is a long-term waste management facility for the region.*

Q/C: Metro Vancouver brings different items to the Industry Advisory Committee, and this was never raised. The Industry Advisory Committee is here to provide information and guidance from industry experts, yet decisions are made without hearing from us.

R: *It is important to differentiate between long-term planning and operational elements. The BC Hydro agreement is part of the ongoing operations of the facility.*

Q/C: One option would have been an interim agreement while the solid waste management plan is being updated. People passionately support this work, and it is starting to feel like a waste of effort. The focus should be on forward thinking and not backwards thinking.

Q/C: The intent of the Industry Advisory Committee was supposed to go beyond the solid waste management plan update, into the implementation stage. We receive many presentations on mundane and uncontroversial topics, that are backwards looking, and few conversations about controversial subjects looking to the future that members of this committee will have opinions on.

Co-Chair Hodge thanked everyone for their comments.

### **3.2 SWMP Update: Residual Waste Management Options Study**

Paul Henderson, General Manager, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled, “SWMP Update: Residual Waste Management Options Study”, and highlighted the purpose and connection to the solid waste management plan, which includes:

- Understanding the current national and international practices for managing residual waste
- Identifying the economic and regulatory drivers, successes, and challenges that have led to the residual waste management option for each region
- Developing technical criteria for potential incorporation into the solid waste management plan to assist with decision-making if new residual waste disposal capacity is required in the future.

The review was completed by Stantec Consulting Ltd., and the study was focused on Canada, the United States, the European Union (with a focus on Scandinavian countries and Germany), Australia, and Japan. The two main residual waste management approaches that have been adopted across the five countries/regions are mass burn waste-to-energy and landfilling. There are thousands of mass burn waste-to-energy facilities worldwide, and alternative technologies have not demonstrated commercial-scale viability.

The findings of the study stated that in the United States, Canada, and Australia, only a small proportion (20%, 3% and 2% of the residual waste, respectively) is managed through waste-to-energy, with mass burn waste-to-energy systems accounting for almost all installed waste-to-energy capacity. Landfilling is used to manage the rest of the residual waste in those countries. Countries like Japan, Sweden, and Germany treat most of their residual waste in

mass burn waste-to-energy facilities, with landfilling being used for less than 1% of the municipal solid waste generated in some areas.

Key drivers to the selected approach to managing residual waste include land availability, landfill tipping fees, transportation logistics, policy and regulatory framework, public perception, energy prices/availability, and incentives.

Draft technical criteria for evaluating residual waste management options were shared.

Acting Co-Chair Patrick MacNeil invited members to share related questions and/or comments. The following questions and comments (Q/C) and *responses (R)* were captured:

Q/C: When considering incineration and landfill, it's not an either-or conversation. Incineration is a pretreatment process, but you still need a landfill for the ash. There other pretreatments available to stabilize the material that don't release toxins (contrary to incineration), before the material is landfilled.

R: *The report provided in the package will offer additional details on the study, and we are open to feedback. The study is not about landfill or waste-to-energy vs. reducing waste – it is recognizing that within the expected term of the updated plan, as hard as we work to reduce waste there is still material to be disposed of, and as a result we need to consider options.*

Q/C: Just want to emphasize that an incinerator is not a replacement for landfills, as incineration still requires landfills. It is also important to know reasons for pre-treatment – for example you can pre-treat to stabilize it so it doesn't create toxins, or pre-treat it to reduce the volume and create energy, while still creating a by-product that is a toxin. You need to weigh those effects. These are the types of conversations this group should be involved in.

R: *Metro Vancouver is looking for feedback, and the goal is to have a technical analysis of options.*

Q/C: After the Industry Advisory Committee reads the study, what would happen if we decided that incineration is not an appropriate option? Will Metro Vancouver be willing to change their perspective and direction on this?

R: *The goal is to ensure the Board has all the accurate and available information to make an informed decision. There are examples where feedback from this committee and others have assisted in the information we provide the Board. An example is the in the recent Zero Waste Committee agenda where we provided cost comparisons between waste-to-energy, landfill, and remote landfill.*

Q/C: Is Belkorp's new landfill included in that comparison?



*R: We have three contracts – with GFL, Republic, and Waste Management, as a result of competitive procurement processes. The GFL contract is using the Campbell Hill Landfill in Cache Creek and the costing is incorporated in the information was provided to the Zero Waste Committee.*

**Q/C:** Is there an analysis on the carbon footprint of the various options?

*R: There was an information item included in the September Public/Technical Advisory Committee agenda that provides information on the carbon footprint related to garbage currently being disposed of. This can be shared with the Industry Advisory Committee. The study shows that greenhouse gas implications are important and need to be considered in deciding options for any particular community.*

**Q/C:** Is there an analysis on incinerators that have opened and closed within the last 20 years? What is the trend?

*R: Yes, the report notes that in the United States, there were many waste-to-energy facilities opened in the 1980s to the early 1990s. Currently, there are fewer facilities than 10 years ago. However, the decline in overall capacity, measured by energy production, is not as dramatic as the reduction in number of facilities. This is because while some facilities closed down, other facilities were upgraded or expanded.*

**Q/C:** Are there considerations for risks related to cost, since incinerators require waste while we are looking to reduce waste?

*R: Waste-to-energy carries high initial capital cost, which is a consideration. The study notes this.*

**Q/C:** What is the outcome of this study?

*R: The goal is to outline the different criteria to consider, if new capacity is required over the term of the solid waste management plan. Any future decision on additional capacity would require further discussion and engagement at that time.*

**Q/C:** Have there been considerations for the impact of risk to taxpayers, in comparison to letting industry decide what the best and most competitive approach is?

*R: The study is only focused on technology options.*

**Q/C:** Did this study look into the risk of potential future changes in air quality standards set by the Ministry? Or if there is a malfunction that causes an impact to the region, and the associated liabilities? What if the facility cannot operate due to not meeting future standards of air quality or testing.

*R: This would fall under the environmental considerations identified in the study, that are part of a future decision making process.*

Q/C: Would it be possible to get an update on the complaints related to the Burnaby incinerator and toxic ash?

*R: There is a nearby property owner who has concerns about material accumulating on their rooftop. Metro Vancouver is working directly with the owner and is confident that the material they are observing is not from the facility. However, we are working with a third-party consultant on a study to investigate, and the results of that study will be shared publicly.*

Q/C: Is Metro Vancouver looking into other properties in the same area to see if there are similar issues? The level of contamination seems to be high. Will the study determine where the materials are coming from?

*R: Metro Vancouver is looking more broadly than just the one warehouse. The purpose of the study is to determine whether the observed particulates are coming from the Waste-to-Energy Facility. The question on what the source is if it's not from the facility, is a much broader question, and not a subject of the study.*

Q/C: Metro Vancouver is also responsible for air quality in the region.

Q/C: Is there soil testing in the area?

*R: There was soil and plant testing from 1987 to 1992 as part of the initial development of the facility, to test whether the facility had an impact. There was a decision made by a multi-jurisdictional overarching committee that concluded it was not necessary to continue with the testing. Since then, the focus has been on emission and ambient air monitoring.*

Q/C: In recent news, some waste from a facility was being dumped on an unauthorized site in the Fraser Valley. Would like to get some information on that.

*R: With respect to the story on organics in the Fraser Valley – it's not a Metro Vancouver facility but we can see what information we can provide. We don't have any other information at this time.*

### **3.3 SWMP Update: Strategies and Rubric**

Karen Storry, Senior Project Engineer, Metro Vancouver, shared a presentation titled, “SWMP Update: Strategies and Rubric” and highlighted that all ideas were consolidated and measured against criteria. It was noted that some ideas that did not align with the vision, guiding principles, or direction for the Metro Vancouver Board were flagged as not recommended.

On September 18, 2025, the draft strategies, action options, and supporting materials will be published and shared with Industry Advisory Committee members for their feedback, which will be organized by hierarchy level and strategy. Industry Advisory Committee members are invited to review this information prior to the October 7, 2025 meeting, where a fulsome discussion will take place. There will also be additional opportunities to provide feedback outside of that meeting.

## **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates**

Paul Henderson shared a presentation titled, “Zero Waste Committee and Other Updates”, which highlighted the following:

- Multi-family waste reduction initiatives
- Site preparation for the Waste-to-Energy Facility District Energy System starting soon
- With respect to the turnaround cul-de-sac on Riverbend Drive, a new turnaround was built ahead of this (partially on the waste energy site)
- Programs and policies for waste reduction at public events, and encouraging reusables to reduce waste
- The Extended Producer Responsibility Action Plan – Province has advised they are not intending to bring mattresses and foundations to the EPR program this year. Metro Vancouver will continue to advocate for the importance of including mattresses and foundations.
- Second annual Smart Waste Program report is published.
- Solid Waste Climate 2050 Primer is published – shows total greenhouse gas emissions related to disposal of waste in the region, and current programs working to reduce those emissions.
- Langley and North Surrey recycling depots – construction is expected to begin in 2026
- Metro Vancouver’s analysis does not show significant impacts on the solid waste system of the tariffs.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

### **5.1 Vancouver Landfill Tour**

Samantha Joy, Engagement Specialist, Metro Vancouver, stated that the Vancouver Landfill tour will take place on September 18, 2025. Members participating in the tour will meet at the Annacis Research Centre (1400 Lindsey Place, Delta). All participants should wear long pants and long sleeves, and sturdy footwear is a requirement.

**5.2 Solid Waste Management Plan Update – October and November Meetings**

Samantha Joy advised that the next in-person meeting will be on October 7, 2025, and the next virtual meeting will be on November 4, 2025.

**6. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**6.1 Regional Waste Flows**

**6.2 Correspondence from HSR Zero Waste**

**6.3 2025 IAC Work Plan**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Solid Waste and Recycling Industry Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

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