

## **Draft Liquid Waste Management Plan Goals, Strategies and Action Categories**

---

### ***Goal 1: Protect public health and the environment***

#### **Strategy 1: Minimize liquid wastes at their source**

This strategy enhances regional wastewater treatment and municipal stormwater management. By minimizing liquid wastes at their source, pollutants that cannot be efficiently removed at treatment plants or would impair sewerage system performance are controlled at their source. This strategy also includes reducing stormwater by managing rainwater runoff at the site level which reduces quality and quantity impacts.

- Metro Vancouver actions to be directed at improved enforcement of the Sewer Use Bylaw and updating outreach and education programs
- Important municipal actions to focus on managing stormwater at its source—the site level.

#### **Strategy 2: Further reduce wet weather overflows**

Reducing the amount of rainwater and groundwater in sewage is vital to ensuring that existing sewerage system capacity is maintained and that wastewater overflows are minimized. Inspection, maintenance and replacement of sewer systems are essential activities to ensuring cost effective operation and preventing overflows.

- Municipal actions to eliminate sewer overflows and reduce the risk of spills: 1) by improving sewer inspection and rehabilitation programs to keep rainwater and groundwater out of sanitary sewers; and 2) by separating the remaining combined sewers in Burnaby, New Westminster and Vancouver.

#### **Strategy 3: Minimize impacts from liquid wastes and their management on the environment—water, land and air**

Monitoring of treatment plants performance, the health of receiving environment and characteristics of sewage and rainwater runoff are fundamental to this strategy. The success of this strategy requires Metro Vancouver and municipalities to identify and reduce risks to the environment.

- Metro Vancouver: 1) to continue with environmental monitoring programs; and 2) provide secondary level treatment for all Metro Vancouver sewerage areas (upgrading North Shore and Vancouver wastewater treatment from primary to secondary).
- Municipal and regional actions on stormwater monitoring and quality.

## ***Goal 2: Manage liquid wastes affordably and effectively***

### **Strategy 4: Examine and use innovative approaches and technologies**

Innovation is 'about bringing change' through local research and development and by adapting successes from elsewhere. It is essential to addressing new pollutants of concern, improving wastewater treatment, and sustainable stormwater management. Innovation is also important to reducing long-term financial burdens of maintaining and rehabilitating the approximate 15,000 kilometres of regional, municipal and private sewers in Metro Vancouver.

- Metro Vancouver and municipalities to explore and apply innovation to liquid waste collection, treatment, infrastructure management and environmental monitoring in order to improve liquid waste program effectiveness and value.

### **Strategy 5: Recover resources and value from liquid wastes**

Liquid wastes and stormwater are sources of nutrients and green energy and can be an alternative source of water. Opportunities exist to reduce, reuse, recycle, and recover value from all materials—including liquid waste. This strategy is to access and recover new uses and value from liquid waste.

- Metro Vancouver actions to maximize water, energy and nutrient recovery from the liquid waste system.
- Municipal actions to recover use and value from rainwater and recover value from the renewable heat energy in sewer systems.

### **Strategy 6: Provide resilient infrastructure to address risks and long-term needs**

Key to resiliency is providing adaptable infrastructure to increase opportunities and flexibility for its future uses. Success of this strategy requires integration of liquid waste management with other plans and objectives both within and between Metro Vancouver and its members.

- Metro Vancouver and municipalities: 1) to provide resilient and adaptable infrastructure to maximize options for its future use; and 2) collaborate on finding common solutions and strategies for sewer system management.