

Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Goals, Strategies and Action Categories

Goal 1: Minimize Waste Generation

Strategy #1: Foster a Zero Waste Ethic through Metro Vancouver information, education, communication and community-based social marketing programs.

The amount of waste we produce is directly linked to how many goods and services we consume. The public and businesses must be made aware of the consequences of unsustainable behaviour and be provided with tools and incentives to change.

- Metro Vancouver actions centre around Zero Waste messaging, leading by example and being an on-line resource for the public.
- Member municipalities to support the Zero Waste Challenge.

Strategy #2: Advocate that senior governments transfer additional waste management responsibilities to producers and consumers.

The costs and responsibilities of waste management are borne by local governments and taxpayers. The costs and risks to manage end-of-life should be the responsibility of manufacturers of goods and the consumers that use them – not the local taxpayer.

- Metro Vancouver to be a strong advocate and participate in forums relating to these issues.

Goal 2: Maximize Reuse, Recycling and Material/Energy Recovery

Strategy #3: Reduce wood waste being disposed

Increase the opportunity and incentives for wood waste recycling by changing the demolition and building permit process and providing wood waste drop-off facilities at the transfer stations.

- Metro Vancouver to provide wood waste recycling facilities at upgraded transfer stations pursue opportunities for other drop-off locations.
- Member municipalities to work with Metro Vancouver to develop and then implement a new system for demolition and building permits that requires recycling.

Strategy #4: Reduce Paper and Paperboard Being Disposed

14% of the disposed waste stream is made up of paper and paperboard, much of which should be included in the existing recycling programs. Contaminated paper which cannot be recycled can be composted along with other organics to produce a reusable and beneficial product.

- Metro Vancouver to develop composting facilities that can accommodate contaminated paper and work to reduce paper consumption.
- Member municipalities to enforce disposal bans, develop organics collection and target programs to recycle more paper and paperboard.

Strategy #5: Target Organics for Recovery

Food waste comprises 13% of the waste disposed. This, along with yard and garden waste and some paper and paperboard can be composted together in a source separated stream to produce a beneficial and marketable product.

- Metro Vancouver to build composting facilities that will accommodate commercial, then single family residential and then multi-family residential.
- Member municipalities to develop an organics collection system for single family residents and work to develop systems that can capture multi-family food waste.

Strategy #6: Target Plastics for Increased Recycling

Expand the collection of recyclable plastics from residential customers and encourage more plastics recycling from the commercial sector.

- Metro Vancouver to enforce disposal bans and review options for a reduction in plastic bag consumption.
- Member municipalities to expand their residential recycling collection to capture all plastic types.

Strategy #7: Target Multi-family and ICI Sectors to Improve Diversion Rates

Multi-family residences along with the commercial sector are under-performing with respect to recycling, in part because many premises do not have adequate facilities to accommodate recycling.

- Metro Vancouver to work to make commercial and multi-family recycling mandatory and develop programs to encourage recycling.
- Member municipalities to implement new programs targeting multi-family and commercial recycling.

Goal 3: Extract maximum benefit from the disposed waste stream**Strategy #8: Expand the Waste-to-Energy Infrastructure**

Build new waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities within Metro Vancouver so that the disposal stream is treated locally in a sustainable manner that provides benefits in the form of energy and district heating to the region.

- Metro Vancouver to build WTE facilities such that by 2020, no unprocessed waste will be disposed of in landfills.

Strategy #9: Develop a system for recycling bottom ash.

It has been determined that bottom ash, following crushing, sizing and screening and the removal of metals and other debris, can be recycled into a uniform, consistent aggregate product.

- Metro Vancouver to develop opportunities for the utilization of bottom ash as a beneficial aggregate product.

Strategy #10: Dispose of any remaining residuals to landfill and minimize the environmental impact.

- Metro Vancouver to seek the best option for interim disposal capacity and ultimately use a designated landfill only for the disposal of processed waste that have no further beneficial use.