

July 25, 2011

## GARBAGE PLAN FOR METRO VANCOUVER APPROVED

Following are comments from Lois Jackson, Chair of the Metro Vancouver Board of Directors, in regards to provincial approval of a new waste management plan for the region.

- Thank you very much for joining us today as we welcome provincial approval of Metro Vancouver's new plan to deal with our garbage
- In approving the plan, Minister Lake identified a number of conditions that Metro Vancouver will be expected to meet. I am happy to report that the conditions help strengthen the plan and reflect Metro Vancouver's ongoing commitment to collaboration with our neighbours and partners.
- As a result of provincial approval, we now have in place the building blocks needed for a progressive, environmentally sound and economically responsible long-term plan for the management of waste in our region
- Based on years of public consultation, the plan is founded on the overriding principle of waste avoidance
- We already recycle or divert from disposal some 55 percent of the garbage produced in our region – that's far better than the 22 percent average Canada wide.
- And we intend to do much better. Our new Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management plan identifies initiatives to achieve even higher waste diversion rates – we intend to divert 70 percent by 2015 and have set a goal of 80 percent by 2020
- But even with high diversion rates, we still need to deal with the more than one million tonnes of waste we cannot recycle, and the new plan does that by focusing on the recovery of materials and energy from the garbage that remains
- Most of our so-called garbage is a resource that we should not waste by burying it in the ground, and the plan will help us preserve non-renewable resources, save energy, generate revenue, protect the environment and reduce greenhouse gases
- A thorough and independent analysis made it clear that additional waste to energy capacity that includes district heating is our best option. When we look at lifecycle costs, air quality impacts and greenhouse gas issues, reduced reliance on landfills and more waste to energy capacity is the clear winner
- The plan will allow the region to consider a wide-range of technologies for additional waste-to-energy capacity, and a more detailed examination of options is our next step in that regard
- In sum, our new plan deals with the waste that people want to forget when they throw it in a trash can. It treats waste as an untapped resource.
- This is a plan that protects the environment and also generates revenue that will help pay for the things we need to safely and responsibly manage our garbage.



- And it is a plan that makes the reduction and recycling of waste our first priority
- Thanks for your attention, and the panel will be happy to respond to questions.

***For more information, please contact the Information Centre at 604-432-2600.***