Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Idea Generation

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

What is Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management is the term used to describe how packaging, construction and demolition materials, food scraps, yard and garden trimmings, and other materials from residential, commercial, and institutional sources are managed when they're no longer needed. It includes the decisions we make when reducing and preventing garbage, using recycling and green bins, and the services provided by companies, governments, and non-profits to collect, transport, and process these materials. Together as a region, we need to think about how we purchase, use, reuse, recycle, and throw things away in Metro Vancouver to better manage our solid waste.

Metro Vancouver's Role in Solid Waste Management

Metro Vancouver is responsible for planning for waste reduction, reuse, and recycling, and managing and disposing of the remaining waste in an environmentally responsible manner. This work is guided by our commitment to environmental stewardship, and cost effective and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents and innovative businesses throughout the region.

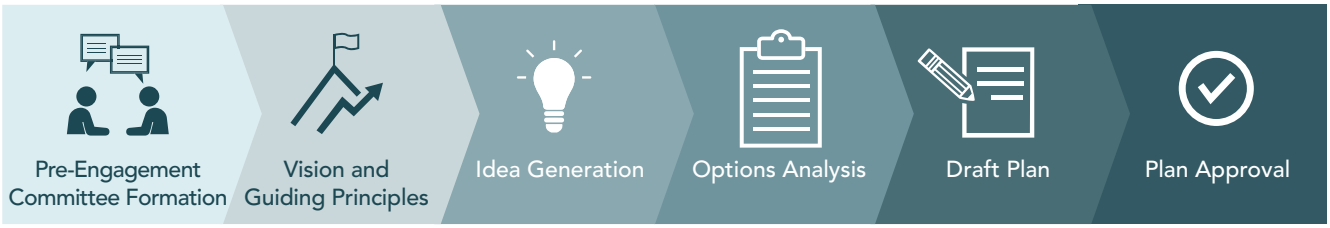
Metro Vancouver operates several recycling and waste centres in the region where residents and businesses can drop off recycling and garbage. Metro Vancouver also runs educational campaigns and initiatives to encourage waste reduction, reuse and repair, and recycling.

Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan

This important plan will guide solid waste management strategies and actions, targets, and priorities in the decade ahead. The updated plan will identify how our region can continue to reduce waste, increase reuse and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work towards a circular economy.

Project Timeline

The solid waste management plan update process is expected to take two to three years and is being supported by robust First Nations and public engagement. Metro Vancouver will engage audiences and gather feedback in the stages described below, to support the plan update. The objectives of the **idea generation phase** will be to develop a set of potential actions and strategies and help identify priority goals for the updated solid waste management plan. These ideas will then be evaluated in the next phase of engagement: options analysis.



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Vision and Guiding Principles

Metro Vancouver has established a vision statement and guiding principles for the solid waste management plan update. These will guide plan development and implementation, and were created with direct input from First Nations, member jurisdictions, adjacent regional districts, advisory committees, interested parties, and the public.

Vision

A thriving region where nothing is wasted and resources are valued.

Guiding Principles

1. A solid waste and recycling system that is affordable, convenient, and consistent across the region.
2. A solid waste system that is resilient to climate change and future challenges.
3. Accountability from residents, businesses, and governments to prevent waste.
4. Environmental stewardship and climate action.
5. Inclusive solid waste services and programs.
6. Innovation and collaboration to support a vibrant regional economy that keeps products and materials in circulation.
7. Transparency about what happens to garbage and recycling.

Idea Generation — How to Get Involved

The idea generation phase of engagement will involve gathering potential strategies and actions for inclusion in an updated solid waste management plan. These will then be evaluated in the next phase: options analysis.

To participate in any of the upcoming public engagement activities, or for more information, please scan the QR code or visit **metrovancouver.org** and search "SWMP"

There are several ways that you can participate in the public engagement process:

1. Share your feedback by completing a 5-minute online questionnaire
2. Stop by our booth at an upcoming community event
3. Register to present to the Zero Waste Committee, the Public/Technical Advisory Committee, or the Consultation and Engagement Panel
4. Sign up to receive timely information and updates by visiting the project page
5. Share your ideas and feedback by emailing **zerowaste@metrovancouver.org**

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