

September 11, 2025

File: PE-13-01

Mayor Nathan Pachal and Council
City of Langley
20399 Douglas Crescent
Langley, BC V3A 4B3
VIA EMAIL: npachal@langleycity.ca

Dear Mayor Nathan Pachal and Council:

Options Analysis Engagement: Metro Vancouver's Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Metro Vancouver is updating its solid waste management plan, a long-term strategic plan that guides our region's policies, priorities, targets, and collective actions over the next decade and beyond. Metro Vancouver is launching engagement on the options analysis phase — gathering feedback and creating opportunities for dialogue around draft strategies and actions to include in the updated solid waste management plan. As a Metro Vancouver member jurisdiction, City of Langley is invited to provide input during all phases of the plan's development.

Metro Vancouver is a North American leader in waste reduction and recycling, achieving a 65% recycling rate — twice the Canadian average. However, while progress has been made, there is still considerable work to be done. Evaluating potential strategies and actions during this phase will be fundamental in developing the draft components of a plan that can enable our region to advance its zero waste and climate goals.

Background and Timeline

Regional districts are required by the Province to develop, and submit for approval, plans for the management of municipal solid waste and recyclable materials. Building on the strengths of the current *Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan*, approved by the Province in 2011, Metro Vancouver is developing an updated plan that identifies opportunities to accelerate waste reduction and recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote a circular economy.

While the plan is being updated, work to advance waste reduction and recycling in the region continues to progress.

77812297

Work to update the solid waste management plan began in 2021 and is nearing completion, with a draft plan expected in 2026. A vision statement, guiding principles, goals, and a waste hierarchy were developed following research and engagement (Attachment 1). Idea generation research and engagement in 2024 resulted in the development of potential strategies and actions for an updated plan. During the upcoming options analysis phase, these potential strategies and actions will be considered using a set of evaluation criteria informed by feedback to date, the vision and guiding principles, and the Metro Vancouver Board Strategic Plan. Engagement will contribute to further refinement of the draft strategies and actions. Below is a timeline graphic of the solid waste management plan update.



Metro Vancouver is committed to actively engaging with governments — including First Nations and member jurisdictions — the waste and recycling industry, waste producers, businesses, communities of interest, and Metro Vancouver residents to guide updates to the plan. An [Independent Consultation and Engagement Panel](#) supports the development and implementation of the engagement program, and two advisory committees provide ongoing advice and input.

The [engagement webpage](#) contains information on previous and current phases of engagement (visit [metrovancover.org](#) and search 'swmp').

Seeking Your Feedback – Options Analysis

The objective of this phase of engagement is to evaluate ideas from the previous phase by applying decision-making criteria and gathering feedback to decide which strategies and actions will be included in the draft plan. This phase of engagement marks the final step before the new plan is drafted.

In spring 2025, Metro Vancouver staff held preliminary discussions with member jurisdiction staff at advisory committee meetings to explore potential member priority actions for inclusion in the updated plan. Metro Vancouver will continue to work with member jurisdiction staff to refine the member priority actions. In addition, a full list of potential strategies and actions will be made publicly available on the [project webpage](#). A workshop on options analysis for member jurisdiction staff has tentatively been scheduled for early October, and Metro Vancouver will continue to bring relevant updates to the regularly scheduled member staff advisory committees. In addition to receiving feedback through these channels, Metro Vancouver is pleased to engage with City of Langley at its preference. Please submit any feedback on the options analysis phase by **October 31, 2025**.

If you have any questions or comments about the review and update of Metro Vancouver's solid waste management plan, require additional information, or wish to schedule a meeting or presentation, please contact Paul Henderson, General Manager, Solid Waste Services, by email at paul.henderson@metrovancover.org.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Hurley
Chair, Metro Vancouver Board



Sarah Kirby-Yung
Chair, Zero Waste Committee
Metro Vancouver

MH/SKY/PH/sl

Attachment 1: Metro Vancouver Solid Waste Management Plan Update – Options Analysis
Backgrounder

77812297

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 affordable and accessible waste management services. It would not be possible without the continued efforts of committed residents and innovative businesses across 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, 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. 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.

Previous Work

Metro Vancouver has established a vision statement and guiding principles, as well as goals and a waste hierarchy, 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 and Guiding Principles

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.

Hierarchy and Goals

Goals	Components	
1. Enable circular systems that preserve resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design waste-free systems Transition to a circular economy 	Rethink
2. Minimize waste generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent Use less 	Reduce
3. Keep materials in use as long as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share/Donate Repair/Refurbish Repurpose 	Reuse
4. Make it easier to recycle effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycle into new products Compost and anaerobic digestion 	Recycle
5. Recover resources from non-recyclable materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recover materials from the waste stream Create alternatives to fossil fuels 	Recover
6. Dispose only as a last resort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landfill and mass burn waste-to-energy 	Dispose

Project Timeline

The solid waste management plan update process is being supported by robust First Nations and public engagement. Work began in 2021 and is nearing completion with a draft plan expected in 2026.



Options Analysis

The objective of the current phase – options analysis – is to evaluate ideas that were generated in the previous phase by applying decision-making criteria that are grounded in the vision and guiding principles for the updated plan. The feedback we receive in this phase will help to decide what actions and strategies are included in the draft plan. This is the final step before the new plan is drafted.

How to Get Involved

Provide your feedback on the potential strategies and actions to include in the updated solid waste management plan by October 31, 2025.

For more information, please scan the QR code or visit metrovancover.org and search “SWMP”

