

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming meetings I will attend:

Metro Vancouver Board

Friday, May 15, 2015

Climate Action Committee

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

**Intergovernment and Finance - Electoral Area
Sub-Committee**

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

[Metro Vancouver Board and Committee Agendas & Minutes](http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/)<http://www.metrovancouver.org/boards/search/>

Issues and News

Multi-Family Recycling Toolkit

Metro Vancouver has developed an online tool to help owners, stratas, managers and residents improve recycling in their multi-family buildings.

Apartments, condos and townhomes typically have low recycling rates. In 2013, the regional multi-family recycling rate was only 28%, compared to 60% for single-family. Part of the challenge is that recycling systems vary between municipalities and individual buildings, so there's no one-size-fits-all solution.



The **Multi-Family Recycling Toolkit** asks users to identify their municipality, amount of units and type of collection system. It calculates an estimate for how many garbage, recyclable and food scraps bins are required and provides the appropriate downloadable handouts, posters and signage. These supporting materials account for variations in municipal recycling systems, including UBC, the University Endowment Lands and University Neighborhood Association.

Next, users are presented with waste reduction resources like how to avoid unwanted newspapers and phone books, plus links to MetroVancouverRecycles.org, to recycle non-blue box items like electronics or mattresses.

Finally, the Toolkit provides building managers and motivated residents with guidance and templates they can use to build a recycling team within their complexes. Research shows that the most successful multi-family programs have an engaged community and recycling champions. Recycling can become a cause for like-minded residents to rally around, leading to improved recycling and a stronger sense of community.

The resources in the Multi-Family Recycling Toolkit were developed based on pilot studies at five Metro Vancouver-operated multi-family housing complexes, signage efficacy research [from Brain and Attention Research Lab](#) of the UBC Department Psychology, and in collaboration with municipal staff.

<http://barlab.psych.ubc.ca/>

Multi-family residents and management are encouraged to take advantage of Metro Vancouver's implementation of the organics disposal ban as an opportunity to make improvements to their buildings recycling situation.

[Multi-Family Recycling Toolkit](http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/apartments-condos/apartment-recycling-toolkit/) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/apartments-condos/apartment-recycling-toolkit/>

Love Food Hate Waste

On May 7, Metro Vancouver will launch its behavioural change campaign, **Love Food Hate Waste**, to reduce avoidable food waste.

Metro Vancouver's **Love Food Hate Waste** campaign is modelled on WRAP United Kingdom's successful initiative of the same name. Since its launch in 2007, avoidable household food waste was cut by 21 per cent over five years, saving UK consumers £13 billion.

Over half of all food waste in Metro Vancouver is avoidable – meaning it was purchased but never eaten. Common examples include bread that goes mouldy, vegetables that wilt, spoiled fruit, and expired dairy products.

The three-year campaign will allow Metro Vancouver residents to contribute to an ongoing, solutions-based dialogue regarding avoidable food waste, and will feature simple, practical steps that residents can take to reduce avoidable food waste, including:

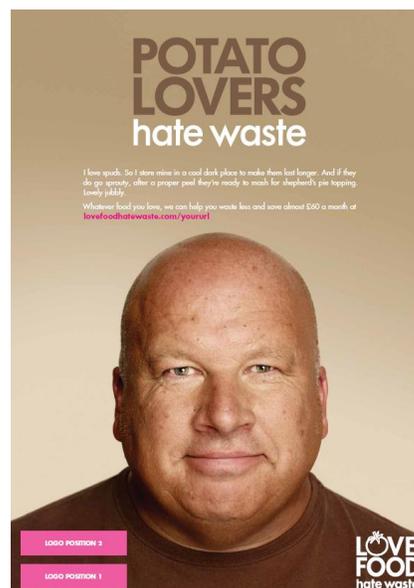
- Tips on food storage and how to keep it fresher longer
- Five-day menus with shopping lists to enable residents to practice the behaviour of buying only the food that they will use
- Portion planning to avoid excess leftovers
- Incorporating leftovers in meal planning
- Education about product labelling and what 'Best Before' really means

To prepare for the campaign, Metro Vancouver conducted baseline research to determine the extent of waste as well as people's attitudes toward food. This research included detailed kitchen diaries from 500 representative households around the region, and 80 random compost bin inspections.

In addition to reducing food waste in the region, Metro Vancouver also hopes to educate residents and businesses about the damage and costs incurred from using our drains like garbage cans.

Follow the [#nofoodwasted](https://twitter.com/search?q=nofoodwasted) hashtag on social media for updates.

<https://twitter.com/search?q=nofoodwasted> / www.lovefoodhatewaste.ca



Snow Pack and Water Supply

The snowpack on the North Shore mountains is lower than normal for this time of year because of the unseasonably warm weather. However, there is no cause for concern – Metro Vancouver's water supply does not depend solely on the snow pack. Overall precipitation in the form of rain through the fall, winter and spring contributes to abundant water levels in the Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam reservoirs that serve the region. Plus, there are three high alpine lakes that provide backup water storage, all of which are currently at capacity.



It is worth noting that since 2010, water use has been decreasing by about two percent per year, exceeding the Metro Vancouver Board's reduction target of one percent per year by 2015. Despite a growing population, total average day water use in the region has remained roughly constant in recent years.

Revised lawn sprinkling regulations implemented several years ago have resulted in significant reductions in peak summer water demand. Please continue respecting these seasonal regulations that will come into effect in June. At this time, there are no plans to implement additional restrictions, but Metro Vancouver encourages people to conserve water at all times.

Howe Sound Community Forum

The Howe Sound Community Forum took place on Friday, May 1st on Bowen Island. The Forum brings together representatives from government, First Nations and various stakeholder groups to discuss issues and projects of interest to Howe Sound communities. Highlights from May's Forum include:

- The David Suzuki Foundation has recently published [Sound Investment: Measuring the Return on Howe Sound's Ecosystem Assets](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/SoundInvestment-HoweSoundEcosystemAssets.pdf). The report estimates the economic value of ecological services from Howe Sound's watersheds to be \$800 million to \$4.7 billion each year. Find out which ecosystem provides the highest value per hectare on page 8. <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/publications/downloads/SoundInvestment-HoweSoundEcosystemAssets.pdf>
- A representative from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations provided more details on the Cumulative Effects Assessment and Monitoring Project for the Howe Sound Area. The two year project will compile baseline data on key ecological values in the region with expected completion in spring 2017.
- The Marine Life Sanctuaries Society gave a presentation on glass sponges, their importance to the ecosystem and reefs found in Howe Sound which are unique in the world. [Learn more](http://mlssbc.com/programs/sponge-research/) about sponge research done by the Society. <http://mlssbc.com/programs/sponge-research/>

- The [Sea to Sky Clean Air Society](http://seatoskyairquality.ca/) provided an overview of their work in Howe Sound. The Society organizes and participates in projects and programs designed to protect and improve the air quality within the Sea-to-Sky/Howe Sound Airshed. <http://seatoskyairquality.ca/>
- The new Sea to Sky Marine Trail, which aims to link the Sea to Sky Corridor with the Lower Mainland as part of the Trans Canada Trail, will kick-off with an opening ceremony in Squamish on June 14. [More info:](http://www.squamishchief.com/news/local-news/new-sea-to-sky-marine-trail-being-created-1.1818678) <http://www.squamishchief.com/news/local-news/new-sea-to-sky-marine-trail-being-created-1.1818678>

Upcoming Events



Emergency Management in the Region - Sustainability Community Breakfast

May 20, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, 7311 Westminster Hwy

May 27, 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.,

BCIT, 555 Seymour Street, Vancouver

Coordination and collaboration between all levels of government and key stakeholders is crucial to ensure an effective response to emergency situations in our region.

Join us to learn about provincial, regional and municipal strategies for managing regional emergencies and disasters, and the importance of cross-agency teamwork and communications.

[Register:](http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/community-breakfasts/) <http://www.metrovancouver.org/events/community-breakfasts/>

For More Metro Vancouver News and Updates

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/metroudate/>

Links & Connections

[Metro Vancouver](http://www.metrovancouver.org/)

www.metrovancouver.org/

[Maria Harris, Electoral Area A Director](http://www.mariaharris.ca)

www.mariaharris.ca

[@EADirector Twitter](https://twitter.com/EADirector)

twitter.com/EADirector

[Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation](http://mayorscouncil.ca/)

mayorscouncil.ca/

[Union of BC Municipalities](http://www.ubcm.ca/)

www.ubcm.ca/

[University Neighbourhoods Association](http://myuna.ca)

myuna.ca

[University Endowment Lands](http://www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca)

www.universityendowmentlands.gov.bc.ca

[UEL Community Advisory Council](http://uelcommunity.com)

uelcommunity.com

[Metro Vancouver Media Releases](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/)

www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/

[Metro Vancouver Videos](http://www.metrovancouver.org/media-room/video-gallery/)

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