

**From:** "Johnston, Sadhu" <Sadhu.Johnston@vancouver.ca>

**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL" <CCDTMACDL@vancouver.ca>

**Date:** 6/9/2016 11:00:53 PM

**Subject:** Memo: Zero Waste 2040

**Attachments:** [Memo to Mayor and Council - Zero Waste 2040.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny on City of Vancouver's development of a Zero Waste Plan that aims to transform Vancouver into a 'zero waste' community. A short summary of the memo is as follows:

- With a plan to address the short term priority targets and actions of Greenest City Action Plan underway, Staff are now taking steps to develop a long term Zero Waste Plan focused on becoming a "Zero Waste" community by 2040.
- Staff will be seeking the support of an external expert Zero Waste Advisory Panel made up of 20-30 members representing key stakeholders from the academic, business and industry, and non-profit sectors
- Development of the Zero Waste Plan will involve close interaction with key stakeholders on the Plan's goals, targets and actions; communication with the general public to educate and build awareness on zero waste actions; and connecting with global leaders to collect feedback on the Zero Waste Plan and exchange knowledge
- Staff efforts will be focused on developing a Zero Waste Plan throughout 2016/2017 calendar year with a final report to Council anticipated in Q3-2017

Best,  
Sadhu Johnston  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston  
City Manager  
[Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
O. 604.873.7627  
T. Sadhuajohnston  
[www.vancouver.ca](http://www.vancouver.ca)



ENGINEERING SERVICES  
Jerry Dobrovolny, P.Eng.  
City Engineer / General Manager

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## MEMORANDUM

June 7, 2016

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager  
Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager  
Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk  
Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office  
Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications  
Mike Magee, Special Advisor, Mayor's Office  
Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Katie Robb, Director, Communications, Mayor's Office  
Emma Lee, Director, Community Relations, Mayor's Office  
Malcolm Bromley, General Manager, Park Board  
Patrice Impey, General Manager, Finance, Risk and Business Planning

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: Zero Waste 2040

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On June 1, 2016 Council approved the following motion regarding the development of a Zero Waste Strategy, referred to as Zero Waste 2040:

### WHEREAS

- 1. The Greenest City Action Plan has catalyzed a significant shift in solid waste management approaches in the city of Vancouver that have greatly increased recycling rates and innovative approaches to material recovery;*
- 2. The GCAP and associated targets only project to 2020;*
- 3. Council has passed long term goals for the Greenest City that include a long term goal of 100% material recovery, or "Zero Waste";*
- 4. Plans have been written for other aspects of GCAP where it is desirable to holistically build a long term approach such as Transportation 2040, Renewable Cities, the Food Strategy, and most recently the Rainwater Management and Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

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City of Vancouver, Engineering Services  
320-507 West Broadway  
Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 0B4 Canada  
tel: 3-1-1, Outside Vancouver 604.873.7000  
website: [vancouver.ca](http://vancouver.ca)



*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT staff be directed to undertake a Zero Waste Strategy that creates a framework to achieve the Greenest City long term goal of zero waste.*

In response to Council's direction, this memorandum provides initial information on the development of Zero Waste 2040, a strategic plan for transforming Vancouver into a zero waste community by the year 2040.

A key objective of the Greenest City Action Plan (GCAP) is to transform Vancouver into a place that creates zero waste, with an initial target of reducing solid waste going to landfill or incinerator by 50% from 2008 levels by 2020. The City is on track with meeting the 2020 target by implementing the priority actions approved by Council in 2015 as part of a refreshed GCAP, including:

- increasing the diversion of organics from all sectors;
- increasing the diversion of construction and demolition materials;
- increasing the diversion of materials accepted in the blue box program;
- implementing a comprehensive litter management strategy, including an expanded Keep Vancouver Spectacular program; and,
- supporting Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge.

While work continues on the priority actions to reach the 2020 target, staff are now also taking steps to develop a long term Zero Waste Strategy.

The project has kicked off with research into leading zero waste plans and practices across North America and internationally. Initial findings indicate that becoming a zero waste community requires cities to go beyond their traditional roles with respect to waste management and recycling services and programs. Achieving zero waste requires an expansion and shift in solid waste management priorities, with focus on eliminating waste at source through changes in policy, regulations, service delivery and overall public behavior while balancing the needs of the community, environmental stewardship, and corporate responsibility with the City's long term financial sustainability.

Beginning this month, staff will assemble and begin seeking the support of a Zero Waste Panel of external experts, made up of 20-30 members representing key stakeholders from the academic, business and industry, and non-profit sectors. These panel members will bring a holistic set of zero waste knowledge, and expertise in areas such as closed loop systems, circular economies, lighter footprint, food systems, products and packaging, construction and traditional waste management.

In addition to the Zero Waste Panel, development of Zero Waste 2040 will involve close interaction with key stakeholders on the Strategy's goals, targets and actions; communication with the general public to educate and build awareness on zero waste actions; and connecting with global leaders to collect feedback and exchange knowledge. Staff plan to hold the first stakeholder consultation session this month.

Staff will also plan a workshop with Council to obtain comments and direction to guide the development of the Zero Waste Strategy. In addition, Council members are welcome to attend any consultation sessions with stakeholders to hear and consider public input.

Zero Waste 2040 will be a significant policy initiative for the City and will demonstrate leadership towards Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Challenge. Staff efforts will focus on developing the Strategy throughout 2016/2017, with a final report to Council anticipated in Q3-2017.

If you have any questions please contact Albert Shames, Director of Waste Management and Resource Recovery, at 604-873-7300.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dobrowolny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jerry W. Dobrowolny, P. Eng., MBA  
General Manager of Engineering Services

(T) 604.873.7331

(E) [jerry.dobrowolny@vancouver.ca](mailto:jerry.dobrowolny@vancouver.ca)

