

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>

To: "[Direct to Mayor and Council - DL](#)"

Date: 1/21/2025 5:00:18 PM

Subject: Council Memo to Mayor & Council - Update on Improving Access to Beverage Container Recycling in Vancouver (RTS 16314)

Attachments: Council Memo to Mayor & Council - Update on Improving Access to Beverage Container Recycling in Vancouver (RTS 16314).pdf

01a FINAL Memo Attachment- Beverage Container Recycling - 2025-01-16.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Josh White. The memo is summarized below:

- Recycling Depots are currently permitted in 31 district schedules, and allowed in commercial, industrial, and heritage zones.
- Staff have convened with Return-It / Encorp Pacific (Encorp) throughout the year to understand their goals, operations, and facilities. Staff will continue to provide early feedback related to site selection and permitting process, and are currently exploring possible Zoning and Development By-law amendments with Encorp to simplify the approval process for facilities similar in operation to the Return-It Express facilities. Staff will report back to Council by the end of Q2 2025.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Josh White (604.877.5159 | Josh.White@vancouver.ca).

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver
paul.mochrie@vancouver.ca



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x̱m̱ ḵ y̱ m̱ (Musqueam), S̱ wxw̱ú7mesh (Squamish), and s̱ lilw̱ ta̱ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

January 21, 2025

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
Doug Smith, Deputy General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
Chris Robertson, Director, City-wide & Regional Planning, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
Corrie Okell, General Manager, Development, Buildings & Licensing
Saul Schwebs, Chief Building Official and Director, Inspections & By-law Services

FROM: Josh White
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

SUBJECT: Update on Improving Access to Beverage Container Recycling in Vancouver

RTS #: 016314

This memo provides an update on the work to address the March 13, 2024 Council motion "Improving Access to Beverage Container Recycling in Vancouver".

Background

In March 2024, Council passed a [motion](#) directing staff to prepare Zoning By-law amendments to allow empty beverage container return centres in commercial, retail, and industrial zones in order to improve access to these facilities which would in turn improve recycling rates in the city of Vancouver.

Zoning By-law and Motion Update

Recycling Depots are a defined use in the Zoning and Development By-law and includes

beverage container return centres. This use is currently permitted in 31 district schedules across the City, and is accommodated in commercial, industrial, and heritage zones as shown on Attachment 2. Accordingly, no immediate zoning by-law amendments are required in response to this motion to allow this use.

Staff has met with Return-It / Encorp Pacific (Encorp) throughout 2024 in order to better understand their facilities, operations, and licensing. Encorp provided City of Vancouver staff with a tour of their facilities and staff were able to observe the daily operations and learn more about the different facility types. Three future Vancouver Return-it sites are proposed at 3170 Arbutus Street, 1460 East Hastings and 2890 Grandview Highway. Development permits have been issued for all of these locations and building permits have been issued for the East Hastings and Grandview Highway locations. A map of existing recycling depots can be found on Attachment 1.

Staff understand that a key challenge for Encorp is with site acquisitions and leasing. In response to this, staff from PDS (Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability) and DBL (Development, Buildings & Licensing) have been working closely with Encorp to provide early, high-level input on sites of interest as well as responses to permitting and regulation questions. Staff have provided Encorp with input on two recent properties and will continue to offer this assistance to Encorp as they pursue future potential sites.

On December 5th, 2024 staff met with the Encorp Executive to discuss outright versus conditional zoning. At this meeting, staff advised that the City was exploring potential amendments to the Zoning & Development By-law to simplify the approval process for facilities like the Return-It Express depots. Staff will continue to engage with Encorp as this work progresses and expect a report back to Council with results of this review and any recommended updates in Q2 2025.

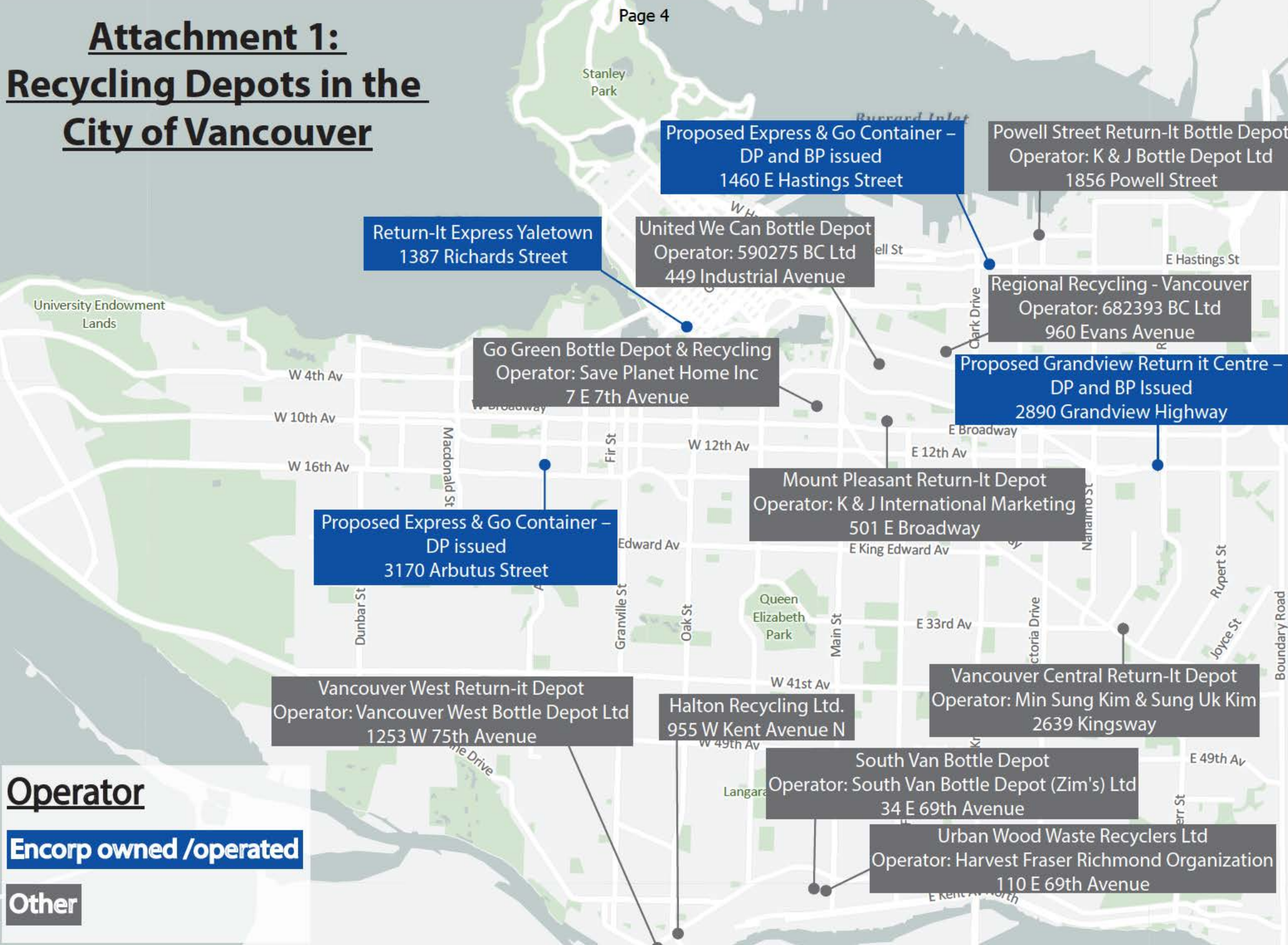
Please contact me directly if you have questions.



Josh White
General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability
604.877.5159 | Josh.White@vancouver.ca

Attachment 1: Recycling Depots in the City of Vancouver
Attachment 2: Zones Where Recycling Depots are Permitted

Attachment 1: Recycling Depots in the City of Vancouver



Operator

Encorp owned /operated

Other

This map is for illustrative purposes only and may not accurately represent the scale, exact locations, or precise boundaries of the depicted features.

Recycling Depots in the City of Vancouver



Go Green Bottle Depot & Recycling Operator: Save Planet Home Inc
7 E 7th Avenue



Return-It Express Yaletown
1387 Richards Street



Proposed Express & Go Container – DP and BP issued
1460 E Hastings Street



Proposed Express & Go Container – DP issued
3170 Arbutus Street



United We Can Bottle Depot
Operator: 590275 BC Ltd
449 Industrial Avenue

Operator

Encorp owned /operated

Other



Recycling Depots in the City of Vancouver



Powell Street Return-It Bottle Depot
 Operator: K & J Bottle Depot Ltd
 1856 Powell Street
 *Lacks current business licence



Regional Recycling - Vancouver
 Operator: 682393 BC Ltd
 960 Evans Avenue



Mount Pleasant Return-It Depot
 Operator: K & J International Marketing
 501 E Broadway



Proposed Grandview Return it Centre
 – DP and BP Issued
 2890 Grandview Highway

Operator

Encorp owned /operated

Other



Recycling Depots in the City of Vancouver



Halton Recycling Ltd.
955 W Kent Avenue N



Vancouver Central Return-It Depot
Operator: Min Sung Kim & Sung Uk Kim
2639 Kingsway



Vancouver West Return-it Depot
Operator: Vancouver West Bottle Depot Ltd
1253 W 75th Avenue



South Van Bottle Depot
Operator: South Van Bottle Depot (Zim's) Ltd
34 E 69th Avenue



Urban Wood Waste Recyclers Ltd
Operator: Harvest Fraser Richmond Organization
110 E 69th Avenue

Operator

Encorp owned /operated

Other

2/13/2025

Attachment 2: Zones Where Recycling Depots are Permitted

Legend

- Commercial
- Historical Area
- Industrial

This map is for illustrative purposes only and may not accurately represent the scale, exact locations, or precise boundaries of the depicted features.

