

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, 141 WEST 14<sup>th</sup> STREET, NORTH  
VANCOUVER, B.C., ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011 AT 6:00 P.M.**

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES AND STAFF**

- 17. Metro Vancouver Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management  
Plan – Implementation of Eco-Levy to Fund Municipal Actions  
– File: 0400-60-01**

Report: City Engineer, February 2, 2011.

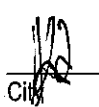
Moved by Councillor Bookham, seconded by Councillor Keating

**PURSUANT** to the report of the City Engineer, dated February 2, 2011, entitled "Metro Vancouver Draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan – Implementation of Eco-levy to Fund Municipal Actions":

**THAT** consistent with the principle that the costs of waste disposal be borne by those who generate the waste, staff be directed to prepare the necessary Financial Plan Bylaws for implementation of an Eco-levy in 2011 to recover costs for additional solid waste diversion.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



			
Section Manager	Dept. Manager	Director	City Manager

The Corporation of **THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER**  
**ENGINEERING, PARKS & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

**REPORT**

To: Mayor D.R. Mussatto and Members of Council

From: Steve Ono, City Engineer

SUBJECT: METRO VANCOUVER INTEGRATED SOLID WASTE AND RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN – IMPLEMENTATION OF ECO-LEVY TO FUND  
MUNICIPAL ACTIONS

Date: February 2, 2010 File No: 4050-02-01

*The following is a suggested recommendation only. Please refer to Council Minutes for adopted resolution.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**PURSUANT** to the report of the the City Engineer, dated February 2, 2011 entitled, "Metro Vancouver Draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan – Implementation of Eco-levy to Fund Municipal Actions";

**THAT** consistent with the principle that the costs of waste disposal be borne by those who generate the waste, staff be directed to prepare the necessary Financial Plan Bylaws for implementation of an Eco-levy in 2011 to recover costs for additional solid waste diversion.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Public Open House Survey Results on Eco-levy
2. Public Open House Display Boards on Eco-levy

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the consultation regarding the proposed Eco-levy and to seek approval for its implementation.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The overriding principle of Metro Vancouver's new draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) is the avoidance of waste through aggressive waste minimization measures and through recovery of materials and energy from the waste that remains. The ISWRMP has four goals:

Goal 1: Minimize waste generation

Goal 2: Maximize reuse, recycling and material recovery

Goal 3: Recover energy from the waste stream after material recovery; and

Goal 4: Dispose of all remaining waste in landfill, after material recycling and energy recovery.

Each goal is supported by strategies and actions in the ISWRMP which detail how each goal will be achieved. The overall target of the ISWRMP is to increase the regional diversion rate for garbage from the current 55% to a minimum of 70% by 2015.

Many of the actions detailed in the ISWRMP, particularly the actions associated with Goals 1 and 2 (waste reduction and diversion, termed the Zero Waste Challenge) fall under municipal jurisdiction and therefore require municipal action to be effective.

In November 2010 Council adopted the following resolution:

**PURSUANT** to the report of the Community Energy Manager and the City Engineer, dated October 27, 2010, entitled, "Metro Vancouver Draft Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan – Request for Endorsement of Municipal Actions";

**THAT** the specific municipal actions identified in Metro Vancouver's Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan be endorsed;

**AND THAT** consistent with the principle that the costs of waste disposal be borne by those who generate the waste, staff be directed to consult with the Chamber of Commerce and Lower Lonsdale Business Association on gradual introduction of cost recovery for waste management through an ecolevy and report back to Council with options during the 2011 utility rate process;

**AND THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the District of North Vancouver, the District of West Vancouver, Metro Vancouver, the Provincial Ministry of Environment and to the Squamish Nation for their information.

This report addresses the second active clause.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Municipal commitments**

ISWRMP implementation will require significant municipal effort particularly with respect to actions under goals 1 and 2 (minimizing waste generation and maximizing waste diversion).

Four key materials comprise significant proportions of the existing waste stream and are targeted for increased diversion: food (21%), paper (19%), wood (15%), and plastic (12%). To reach the 70% diversion target additional emphasis will be required in the following areas:

- Education and outreach to increase waste reduction and recycling across all sectors (single family residential, multifamily residential, institutional, commercial, and industrial)
- Diversion of food, wood, and other organic materials from all sectors
- Recycling for all multi-family and institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings;
- Increased reuse and recycling on demolition and construction sites; and
- Acceleration of provincial EPR (extended producer responsibility) programs.

The City is already beginning to implement the Zero Waste Challenge and staff are currently working on proposed policy changes to increase diversion such as ensuring adequate space for storage of recyclables in multifamily and commercial buildings, and waste diversion provisions for demolition and construction activities. The City is also undertaking waste audits of City facilities and of street garbage and litter to identify opportunities for increased diversion. Staff are also involved in planning for food scraps collection programs from the single family and multifamily sectors and are participating in regional efforts aimed at accelerating provincial extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs.

### **Eco-levy Rationale**

#### *Litter Program*

Currently, the City's litter collection service, funded through the general property tax levy, includes the collection of illegally dumped materials, spot/special event litter, parks litter, and regular street litter routes. Staff informally attempt to separate disposal-banned materials such as refundable containers and newspapers to avoid disposing of these materials in the garbage stream.

With the various materials targeted for diversion through the ISWRMP increased effort will be devoted to segregating these materials and the City's infrastructure and operations will need to be adjusted accordingly to divert these materials from the waste stream.

Unlike other waste management operations at the City, the litter program, at a significant annual cost of \$595,000 is funded through property taxes and not through the City's solid waste utility. A number of businesses in the City generate a

disproportionate amount of waste through the sale and use of such things as disposable containers, advertising flyers, wrappers, packaging etc.

Since the cost of collection and disposal of these materials from streets, plazas and parks in the public realm is funded through general property tax its financial impact is somewhat obscured. Moreover, since these items are generally included in the garbage stream there is currently little incentive to reduce the amount generated in the first place. If the amount of banned materials exceeds 5%, Metro Vancouver could impose a 50% surcharge to the City for disposal of litter and garbage collected from the public realm. Recent litter audit surveys in the region reveal that 26-48% of street litter consists of recyclable fibers and up to 12% is plastic. The City is currently in the planning stages for a litter waste audit to determine diversion opportunities and to assist with the planning of on-street recycling facilities.

As a separate charge, the Eco-levy will reflect the cost of dedicated funding needed for public realm litter management along with all other solid waste management costs within the solid waste utility to more clearly reflect the total cost of managing this program and meet the objectives of the ISWRMP. This level of transparency will provide focus and incentive for waste reduction.

### *Recycling*

Currently, the City's recycling and waste diversion activities are funded by the residential sector through single family and multi family levies in the City's solid waste utility. However, some of these waste diversion services are currently being provided to businesses. For example, the majority of materials at the Recycling Depot are dropped off by businesses.

Waste diversion performance varies in the commercial sector, but generally, the commercial sector currently diverts only 39% of its solid waste from disposal, lagging behind the Regional diversion average of 55%.

To help improve this performance, the City must provide increased referral services and outreach for businesses to assist in managing waste. The commercial sector is a source of significant volumes of materials targeted for diversion from the garbage disposal stream.

A significant opportunity exists for commercial enterprises to avoid the impact of rapidly rising garbage tipping fees by reducing garbage volumes and diverting waste materials to less costly streams through enhanced recycling. Projections indicate tonnage costs of garbage disposal will be triple that for recycling and organics by 2015.

Under the new ISWRMP an increased emphasis is placed on diversion within the commercial sector, and the City will incur new costs over the coming years in funding services within this sector. What is needed is a method of beginning to recover these waste diversion costs.

To achieve Regional waste reduction and diversion goals, staff recommend that all solid waste functions be consolidated, managed and paid for within the solid waste utility, with funding contributed by all sectors through an Eco-levy.

## **Eco-levy Consultation Process and Results**

Through conversation with contacts at the North Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Lower Lonsdale Business Association, staff received advice to consult more widely with business and non-residential property owners regarding the Eco-levy rather than just relying on the membership of those two organizations.

Accordingly, staff

- advertised the Eco-levy in local newspapers
- advertised the Eco-levy on the City web-site
- advertised the Eco-levy on Facebook
- contacted all City business license holders and all City non-residential property owners through direct mailout (some 2900 letters)
- conducted an on-line survey seeking opinions on Eco-levy implementation
- held a public open house on the eco-levy on Thursday January 20, 2011 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at City Hall

This level of outreach resulted in

- 25 responses to the on-line survey
- 2 responses to the survey submitted in hard copy
- 6 members of the public attending the public open house

The survey response indicates:

- 12 respondent prefer phase in over 5 years
- 13 respondents prefer implementation all at once
- 5 respondents expressed some level of opposition to any eco-levy at all with the prevalent feeling that businesses do not receive garbage and recycling pickup service from the City, so they should not be charged an eco-levy.

Comments received from the public are appended herewith. Generally, the 1% survey level of response to the mailouts is in line with experience elsewhere for public outreach mailouts.

A few telephone calls and three written submissions were received from the public in response to the Eco-levy initiative. Several were in favour of the Eco-levy, some were opposed. Consistent with comments posted to the survey, of those opposed to the Eco-levy, the main theme was that the City does not provide garbage or recycling collection to business properties because they pay private haulers for this service so they are opposed to paying the City for a service they do not receive. Some of those in opposition were satisfied with Staff's explanation that the Eco-levy budget is currently a shift of existing litter costs from the general property tax to the solid waste utility to consolidate the total cost of solid waste management and make it more apparent. Some were also surprised to hear that the North Shore Recycling Drop Off Depot

receives mainly commercial materials, but that the cost for the Depot is borne only by the residential sector.

### **Eco-levy Implementation Options**

To implement the Eco-levy staff initially had proposed three options for Council's consideration and originally recommended Option 3, gradual implementation over 5 years. However, the public response indicates **Option 2 implementation all at once** without gradual phase-in is acceptable. Option 2 is also administratively less cumbersome. Accordingly, that is the new recommendation.

**Option 1. Retain the status quo.** Continue to fund recycling costs through solid waste utility levies to residential properties only, and litter management through the general property tax with the cost shared by all taxpayers. This option is not recommended because the total cost of solid waste management is not captured and made readily apparent within the solid waste utility.

**Option 2. 2011 utility rate adjustment (Recommended).** Adjust the 2011 solid waste utility rates to include a user ecolevy fee for all residents and businesses.

**Option 3. 2011-2015 gradual utility rate adjustment.** Gradually adjust the solid waste utility rates over a five year (2011-2015) period recovering a share of the costs of the litter program and recycling/diversion each year through an ecolevy fee for all residents and businesses. This option is not recommended because it is more cumbersome to administer than option 2.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

If the recommended option is implemented the general property tax cost would be reduced by some \$595,000. In turn, this cost would be shifted to the solid waste utility through an Eco-levy with the cost distributed so that 52% of revenues come from the residential sector and 48% from the non-residential sector (including the institutional, commercial, and industrial sectors). This is consistent with the current revenue split in the property tax levy. In 2011, there would be no change to the amount billed to property owners for the combined property tax and solid waste utility charges.

In future years, the Eco-levy amount along with all associated solid waste management reduction, diversion and recycling services would be considered during the annual Solid Waste Utility Rate establishment process.

The Eco-levy would vary by property class and assessed value within the class. Some illustrative examples of the Eco-levy are presented as follows:

<b>Eco-levy per Property</b>	<b>2011</b>
Residential Property	\$28
Major Industrial Property	\$367
Sample Large Commercial Property (\$20,000,000 Assessed Value)	\$1,978
Sample Small Commercial Property (\$500,000 Assessed Value)	\$49

## **INTERDEPARTMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report was prepared by the Engineering Parks and Environment Department with the ongoing assistance of the Finance Department.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The ISWRMP's overarching principle is to reducing the amount of waste generated in the first place. This goal is consistent with the City's recently adopted Community Energy and Emissions Plan. The goal is also consistent with the following policies and actions in the City's Official Community Plan:

### **8.5.5.1 Policies**


- A. To foster a "zero waste" waste minimization ethic regarding consumption and materials in order to reduce the amount of waste being generated and disposed;
- B. To work collaboratively with the community, business, industry and other levels of government to accelerate waste avoidance and diversion.

### **8.5.5.2 Actions**

- A. To continue to implement the regional Zero Waste Challenge, by minimizing waste generation and maximizing reuse, recycling, and material recovery;

By reducing the amount of waste requiring disposal through not creating it in the first place it is possible to reduce the energy use associated with resource extraction, product manufacture, shipping, and end use, thus impacting the city's local and global environmental footprint. Shifting the currently property tax – funded litter collection program to a more transparent, user pay utility structure is also consistent with sustainability principles. The ISWRMP marks a departure from previous waste management plans in that it emphasizes local management of waste, moving towards the City's sustainability vision.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven T. Ono, P.Eng  
City Engineer

What is your preference for implementing the eco-levy?	Are you a business owner?	Do you own the property where your business is located?	Comments?
			Al ready burdened with taxes. Do not impose extra taxes.
All at once	No	No	
All at once	No	No	
All at once	Yes	Yes	I own a small (11 unit) apartment building on East 15th Street in North Vancouver. We currently deal with the required blue box program as we are required to do. There are 6 parking stalls behind the building. If you want to implement a larger 'blue box' program, will we have to give up more parking spots? There is nowhere to park now. Fewer parking spots will cause chaos as we are across the street from the hospital and people visiting the hospital park on the street to avoid the cost of the hospital parking garage. For apartment residents to be expected to drive stuff to the recycling depot is problematic as there are a number of seniors who do not have cars. So, how are you going to help us? Obviously whatever you do, it will cost me more. Also, I'm not sure how your levy will apply. A small apartment is obviously a Residential Property. Will the levy of \$28 apply to the property on an annual or monthly basis? Will it apply on a per suite basis? I think your web page indicates application of this levy on an annual per property basis. But I don't think you are explicit enough on this point.
			I was surprised that no information was provided in terms of the revenue that would be generated from this new tax and what costs would be incurred in developing this new strategy. I would also be interested in knowing how that money would be spent and why residential property owners are having to pay it when you seem to indicate that they are already paying for recycling initiatives. Most of the suggested steps being considered seem to be directed to commercial properties in the central business core, so once again I ask why are residential property owners being asked to pay.
Phased over the next 5 years	No	No	
All at once	No	No	
All at once	No	No	
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	Yes	So any property under \$20 million will see a levy of \$49/year? What will the City provide to business too help reduce waste, composters/metal/plastic bin pick up? How do we know that the \$49/yr fee does not end up in general revenues?
Phased over the next 5 years	No		
	Yes	No	Why does the City propose taxing businesses who are not served by garbage pickup? In my business we are particularly concerned with recyling and the City provides no "blue box" pick up or other facilitation for this. We simply have to carry home all recyclable products for this purpose which can be out of the City area in many cases. The City should provide garbage and recyling pick up services to businesses, as we have the greatest need for a recyling program.
All at once	No	No	Not happy about this - the levy does not reward individuals for reducing waste. Those who create large amounts of waste pay the same as those who create little waste - surely there must be a better way?
Phased over the next 5 years	No	No	
			The majority of the unreclyed waste arises from fast food outlets that do not provide appropriate recycling garbage containers. I have no problem with a user pay process but I think the the fees should be assessed to those who create the problem. It would be ery easy for the city to collect a greater fee from the offenders via the business license approach rather than charging every retail business. Commercial property owners already pay to remove their garbage and recycling. Increase the business license fee for take out food outlets to offset the rising cost of garbage that the city is forced to deal with because these irresponsible business owners are not attending to the problem on their own.
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	No	
All at once	Yes	Yes	This levy does not seem to be very large. I would think that the administrative cost of administering the invoicing over 5 years would cost more that the levy itself! Just pay once and have it over and done with.
Phased over the next 5 years	No	No	
			Because commercial properties do not use the city's waste and recycling service and are responsible to purchase there own garbage and recycling pick we feel that commercial/industrial properties should not be billed at all for the Eco Levy Implementation.
			While I think the initiative is admirable, levying the assessment on businesses which do not use the City's collection system in any way is unfair and unreasonable. Our business has a well developed recycling program and recycles everything that is recyclable at present. Moreover, our business already pays all of the costs associated with its waste disposal because it must use a commercial disposal company which pays the region's levey on every tonne and will pay the increased rates as they are imposed by the region. From a waste collection perspective, our business costs the City nothing. The City's new levy, although seemingly modest, is yet another way by which large businesses must subsidize residents. If the City is actually serious about reducing waste, implement a user pay system based upon volume and weight and apply it equally to all users charging the same rates.
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	No	
Phased over the next 5 years	No	No	Why do we not built an incinerator? Every European city has one and the resulting energy is used to heat houses and produce energy/electricity. It is about time we move into the 21st century and not continue with an antiquated method of burying our garbage.
All at once	Yes	Yes	
All at once	No	Yes	What happens after 5 years ????
All at once	No	No	
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	Yes	More and more user fees and charges - even if called an "eco levy" will drive business costs and taxes up to unsupportable levels. Rather than implementation of a levy, the CNV must find ways to save and reduce costs to taxpayers.
All at once	No	No	Demolition waste should be recycled as much as possible. The City should compost food waste and leaves themselves.
All at once	Yes	Yes	Eco levy should be based on type of business rather property accessed value much fairer system. MacDonalds should pay more than an accountant/laywer/insurance agency.
Phased over the next 5 years	No		I think it should reflect the actual costs at the time they are being incurred. I am unsure as to why there is a residential levy, as I understand we are already paying for the service.
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	Yes	
			As agent for the owners of the following properties in the City of North Vancouver, please note that the preference would be to implement the fee over 5 years. Tenants are already bearing the increased costs of landfill dumping increases (in addition to many other additional costs incurred within the last couple of years, or proposed i.e Translink parking levy, carbon tax, BIA for Lower Lonsdale, and HST). Nell Chan - owner of 1524/1528 Lonsdale, V7M 3J3 365899 BC Ltd. - owner of 267 West Esplanade,V7M 1A5 Horizon Square Properties Ltd. - 121-127 E. 15th St.,V7L 2P7 M & S Trading Enterprises Ltd. - 100 E. 1st St./120 Lonsdale, V7M 2E8
Phased over the next 5 years	Yes	Yes	

## Overview

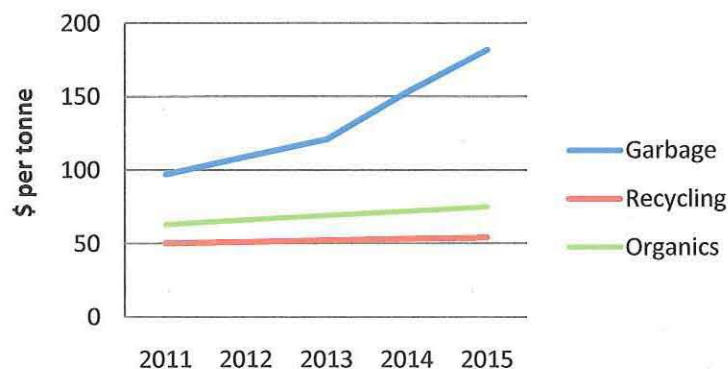
North Shore residents and businesses currently recycle just over half of the 200,000 tonnes of garbage, or solid waste, generated each year. Recycling programs, product stewardship (electronics and beverage container return programs) and composting currently divert 55% of the waste from disposal. The remaining 45% goes to the Cache Creek or Vancouver landfills or to the Burnaby waste to energy facility for disposal.

## Eco-Levy

### The Solid Waste Management Plan



### Projected Regional Disposal Costs: 2011-2015



Impending closure of the Cache Creek Landfill means garbage disposal costs will rise significantly. Costs can be mitigated by reducing the amount of garbage we throw away.

## The Solid Waste Management Plan

Metro Vancouver has recently submitted the region's **Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan** for approval by the BC Minister of Environment. The plan aims to increase the amount of recycling and waste diversion from the current 55% to **70% by 2015**.

- The City is obligated to manage waste in accordance with the Metro Vancouver plan.
- Regional costs for recycling and composting will be lower than garbage.
- There is a significant penalty for disposing of recyclable materials in the garbage. A 50% surcharge is charged at the North Shore Transfer Station for loads containing more than 5% recyclable materials.

On November 1, 2010, City Council endorsed the municipal actions in the regional Solid Waste Management Plan and directed staff to consult with key sectors on the gradual introduction of cost recovery for waste management through an eco-levy for all residents and businesses. The City is currently seeking feedback from the non-residential sector.

# Metro Vancouver's zerowaste CHALLENGE

The Solid Waste Management Plan focuses on **reducing waste** and **managing the disposal of waste remaining after recycling**. A key part of the plan is the Zero Waste Challenge, which aims to dramatically reduce the amount of waste generated and to divert waste from the landfill.

## Eco-Levy

Reducing Garbage

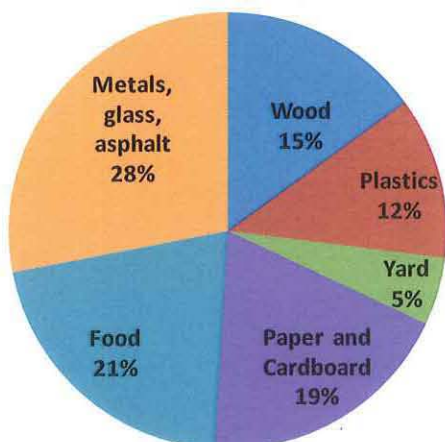


## What is diversion?

Anything to prevent items from ending up in the landfill. Diverting waste is achieved by any combination of:

Reducing  
Reusing  
Recycling  
Composting

## What's in our Waste?



Wood, paper, cardboard, plastics, batteries and electronics are all items that can be recycled.

Keeping these items out of the garbage stream will reduce the amount of North Shore garbage going to the landfill or waste to energy facility by 30,000 tonnes.

Source: Zero Waste Challenge: Goals, Strategies and Actions. Zero Waste Challenge Management Plan, Metro Vancouver, 2009



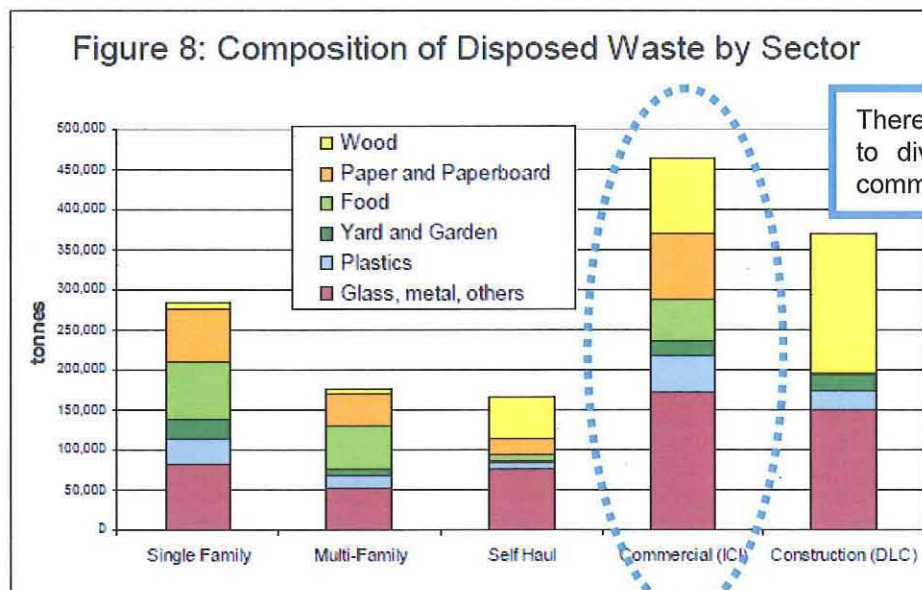
## Eco-Levy

Improving Waste Management



## Improving Waste Management

- Currently Metro Vancouver bans recyclable materials such as newspaper from garbage disposal, and other materials such as food scraps will be banned in the coming years.
- The City will increase services to assist the commercial sector in meeting the 70% waste diversion target. The City is improving management of street garbage, beginning to provide recycling for newspapers and beverage cans. With the eco-levy, on-street garbage container servicing is being integrated into the City's solid waste utility.
- In the future, the City will gather information on how various materials are disposed of by businesses and what services the City could provide to assist with waste reduction.



Source: Metro Vancouver Discussion Document, Strategy for Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan, February 2008 (Revised March 2008)

## Eco-Levy: Introduction

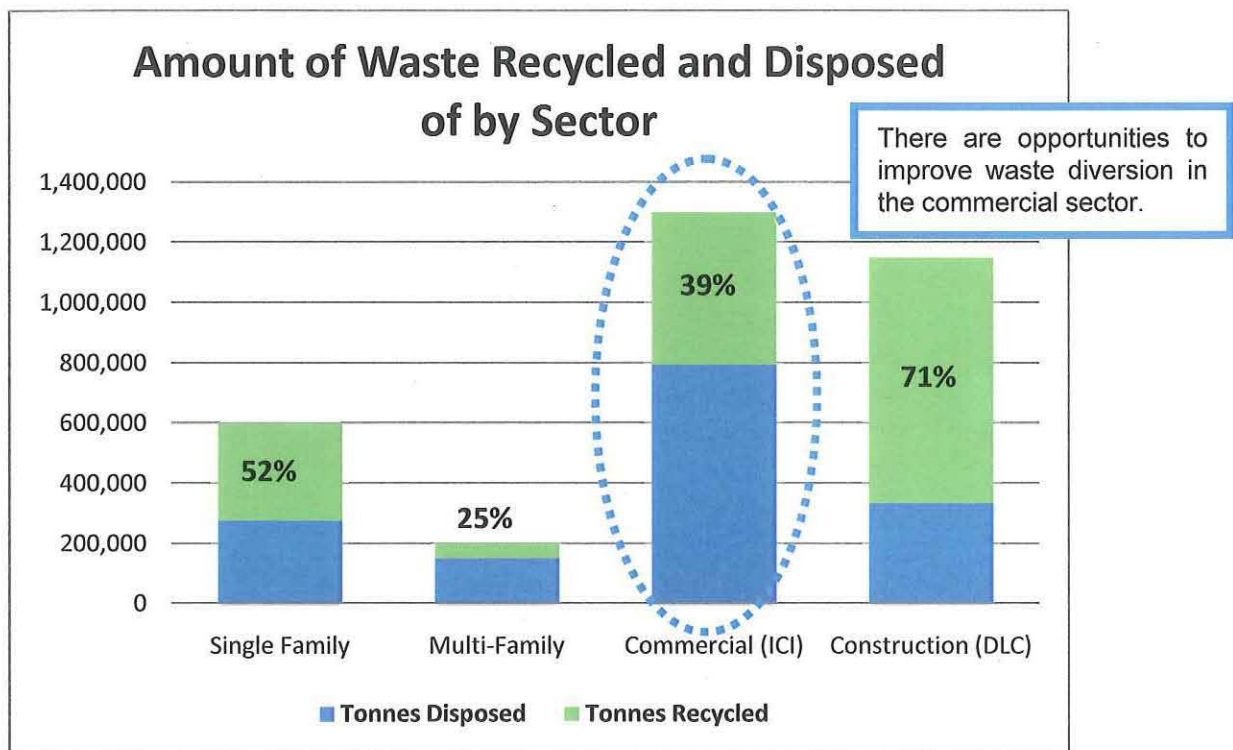
Currently, the solid waste utility is funded exclusively through residential levies although some waste diversion services (for example, the recycling depot) provide services to the non-residential sector. **The Solid Waste Management Plan emphasizes waste reduction and diversion in all sectors including the industrial, institutional and commercial sectors.**

## Eco-Levy

### Eco-Levy Introduction



Public realm garbage collection and litter management is currently funded through the general property tax levy, but materials collected include significant recyclable materials such as paper and beverage containers. To achieve 70% waste diversion, the City will need to adjust its operations to recover these materials for recycling and the cost of this program will increase over the coming years. What is needed is a method of beginning to recover a portion of these costs concurrent with a move towards managing all solid waste costs within the solid waste utility.



Source: Figure 5, Metro Vancouver Discussion Document, Strategy for Updating the Solid Waste Management Plan, February 2008 (Revised March 2008)

## Eco-Levy Implementation

The eco-levy will be charged to both residential and non-residential property owners to ensure both sectors share costs associated with services that are available to them, such as the North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot.



## Eco-Levy

Eco-Levy  
Implementation



The eco-levy may be implemented all at once or through a phased approach over the next 5 years. The following chart illustrates the estimated annual eco-levy for these options based on an average property in the City of North Vancouver. Costs are based on current costs of service delivery and costs may change if services change over time.

Sector	Eco-levy Per Year (Implemented All at Once)	Eco-levy Per Year (Range First Year of 5 Year Phase In)
Residential Property	\$28	\$6
Major Industrial Property	\$367	\$76
Sample Large Commercial (\$20,000,000 assessed value)	\$1,978	\$408
Sample Small Commercial (\$500,000 assessed value)	\$49	\$10

## Feedback Requested

Paper copies of the questionnaire are available, and there is also an on-line questionnaire available:

<http://www.cnv.org/EcolevyImplementation>

The questionnaire is open until January 30, 2011.

## Eco-Levy Cost Overview

Implementing the eco-levy will shift the waste management functions for litter and garbage collection from the general property tax levy (currently funded by all taxpayers) to the solid waste utility. This will provide greater transparency and offset future property tax increases. Overall, the eco-levy will enable the City to consolidate all waste management functions within the solid waste utility.

## Eco-Levy

### Cost Breakdown



## Cost Breakdown

The costs for the eco-levy is based on costs for litter and garbage container service, as follows:

Street Litter and Container Collection	\$297,500
Park Litter and Container Collection	\$273,700
Random Dumping Cleanup	\$23,800
<hr/>	
Total	\$595,000

Up to 2010, these costs were funded by the general property tax levy charged to all residential and non-residential properties. These costs would now be funded by the solid waste utility through the new eco-levy.

The funding from the proposed eco-levy will be combined with funding from the solid waste utility residential recycling levy. Together, these monies will be used to pay for:

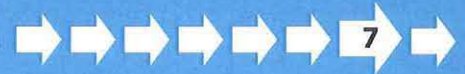
- the costs of litter and garbage collection service in the public realm
- improved garbage management in the public realm including on-street recycling
- waste reduction outreach programs for all sectors
- the operation of the North Shore Recycling Depot (a \$400,000 per year cost)

The Solid Waste and Recycling Utility budget for 2011 includes provision for public outreach and education programs to reduce waste and increase diversion. This budget also provides the City's share of funding for the operation of the North Shore Recycling Drop-Off Depot. Funding from the proposed eco-levy and the Solid Waste and Recycling utility would be blended in order to pay for these services as well as improved street waste management.

## Frequently Asked Questions

## Eco-Levy

### FAQs



#### 1. Why is the City implementing the Eco-Levy?

Rising garbage volumes and dwindling disposal options are driving changes to waste management in the Metro Vancouver region, further emphasizing waste reduction and recycling. Implementing the eco-levy will shift some waste management functions (litter and garbage collection) from the general property tax levy to the solid waste utility, consolidating all waste management functions in the City's solid waste and recycling utility.

#### 2. Why doesn't the City provide commercial recycling service collection?

There are already a number of private-sector recycling service providers who offer these services.

#### 3. When will the City start collecting food waste?

The City is currently in the planning stages for food waste collection for single family residences, working with Metro Vancouver and the Districts of North and West Vancouver. Implementation is scheduled to occur later in 2011.

#### 4. What is currently banned or prohibited from the garbage?

Banned items include paper, blue box recyclables and yard waste. Prohibited items include gypsum, pharmaceuticals, paints, and tires. Loads containing these materials are charged a 50% penalty over the regular disposal fee at the North Shore Transfer Station. For more info call Metro Vancouver at 604.432.6200.

#### 5. If I already have a garbage removal contract am I exempt from the eco-levy?

No, the eco-levy does not cover garbage removal from individual properties. The eco-levy, together with the residential recycling levy charged to all residential properties will cover the cost of litter and on-street garbage collection throughout the City, the North Shore Recycling Drop-off Depot, and public education and outreach to all sectors to improve waste reduction and diversion.

#### 6. What does the City provide for businesses?

The Recycling Depot on Riverside Drive operates with no user fees and accepts large amounts of recyclable materials from non-residential customers. The City is improving management of on-street garbage collection, providing additional on-street recycling opportunities in the public realm. The City will also be assisting businesses in accessing programs and services to recycle and reduce waste. Many businesses have realized substantial cost savings through increased waste management and recycling, and savings will increase over time as garbage disposal rates continue to rise.

## Benefits of Reducing Waste

Several businesses have already improved waste management and are seeing **significant savings, increased staff morale** and a **better company image** as a result.

- **London Drugs** implemented a comprehensive recycling program resulting in over 60% savings in tipping fees. One store reduced from **seven garbage bins per week to just two**.
- **Clark Wilson LLP** engaged employees in an office supply amnesty day, allowing them to redistribute and reuse 3 months worth of materials instead of buying new – and **saved \$2,000**.
- **Mountain Equipment Coop** pays \$154/tonne to send garbage to the landfill, but only \$39/tonne to recycle. By performing a waste audit, setting targets and educating staff, they were able to drastically reduce the amount of garbage they created, resulting in **\$63,000 annual savings**.

## Eco-Levy

Benefits of Reducing Waste



## Services Available

Several services are currently available to help businesses achieve their waste management goals:

- City-wide on-street garbage container service and recycling
- North Shore Recycling Drop-Off Depot
- North Shore Recycling information resources
- City-sponsored waste reduction programs including ClimateSmart for Businesses
- Metro Vancouver's SmartSteps program, including on-site walk-through assessments and business-specific how-to guides
- Metrovancouverrecycles.org – online map of recycling options throughout the region
- The Recycling Council of BC's staffed hotline: 604-RECYCLE

The City is committed to supporting commercial sector efforts for waste reduction and recycling.

