

# Long-term Waste Management Strategy Update — Phase 2

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Public Event

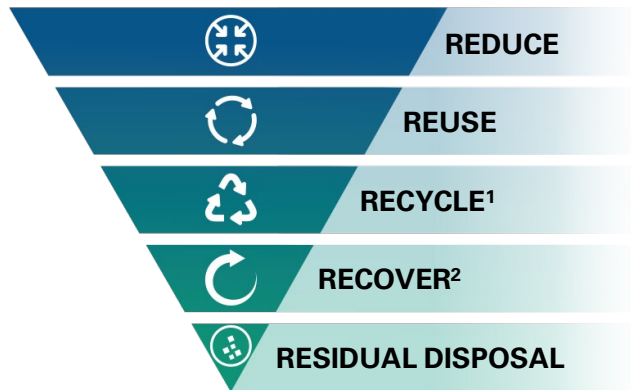
June 10, 2025



# Overview of the Long-term Waste Management Strategy

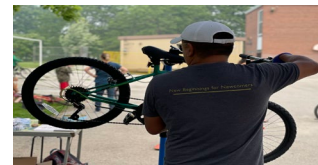
The Waste Strategy was approved by City Council in 2016 and guides the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable, socially acceptable and cost-effective waste management policies and programs.

The Waste Strategy adopts the waste hierarchy.



<sup>1</sup> Recycle refers to turning waste into a new substance or product (e.g., compost).

<sup>2</sup> Recover refers to getting additional resources from waste.



# Waste Strategy Update Process

## PHASE 1

### Build the Foundation

- Update baseline information to reflect current state
- Status of 2016 Waste Strategy recommendations
- Jurisdictional review of best practices
- Review of targets, goals, and vision
- Share information on landfill capacity challenges and options for disposal

#### What we asked

- Waste Strategy vision and guiding principles
- Ideas to reduce and divert waste from landfill

## PHASE 2

### Evaluate Possibilities

- Identify options to address needs and opportunities
- Identify and evaluate the most appropriate and feasible options
- Outline potential policies and programs to manage waste

#### What we want to hear from you on

- Options to consider to achieve long-term waste management goals
- Criteria for an evaluation framework
- Perceptions on energy-from-waste (incineration)

WE'RE  
HERE.

## PHASE 3

### Create a Roadmap

- Updated 10-year Waste Strategy
- Present final Waste Strategy Update to Toronto City Council

#### What we want to hear from you on

- Draft 10-year Waste Strategy Update

# Understanding Our Waste System and Needs

The Waste Strategy Update focuses on understanding the City's waste management history, current state, successes, challenges, and identifying opportunities for continuous improvement.



## Current State

Overview of current waste management programs, policies, processes, assets, tonnages, and revenues to establish a baseline for **continuous** improvements.



## System Review

Evaluated progress of 2016 Waste Strategy recommendations, identified key learnings and performance metrics, examined challenges and opportunities, and reviewed policy changes.



## System Needs

Defined vision for long-term goals, completed a jurisdictional scan to identify best practices and emerging policies, and set waste diversion and reduction targets.

# Waste Strategy Progress since 2016

The 2016 Waste Strategy recommended over 30 actions that prioritize reduction, reuse, and improved participation in waste diversion programs. The City took a collaborative approach to make programs accessible, convenient and user-friendly.

## Implemented & Ongoing Planning

- Sharing libraries and repair spaces
- Textile reuse and repair
- Community Waste Reduction Grant Program (pilot)
- Neighbourhood-based swap events (pilot)
- Food waste reduction campaign
- Circular Economy unit
- Mechanisms to mandate reduction and diversion
- Long-term residual waste disposal options

## Not implemented

*Some options were studied but not pursued*

- Mixed Waste Processing Facility with Organics Recovery
- Reverse vending machines
- One-side of the street collection
- Mobile drop-off depots
- Disposal ban of Construction, Renovation and Demolition waste



# What We Heard in Phase 1 Consultation



Support new waste programs and services while boosting participation in existing ones



Strong interest in community health, environmental protection, and reducing greenhouse gases to mitigate climate change



Desire for stronger enforcement and accountability through inspections, bans, and producer responsibility



Interest in enhancing communication and education through more direct interactions and partnerships



# Program Options

Options were developed considering industry trends and best practices, policy landscape, learnings from the 2016 Waste Strategy recommendations, and feedback received during Phase 1.



Waste Reduction  
and Reuse



Waste Management  
Services



Implementation Tools and Considerations

- Promotion, Education and Outreach
- Advocacy
- Carbon Reduction
- Innovation



Multi-Residential  
and Non-Residential  
Sector



Residual Waste

# Waste Reduction and Reuse



## Waste Reduction and Reuse

Reduction and reuse helps to decrease the amount of waste requiring management. Activities like repairing, sharing, or buying less helps to conserve resources by making the most of what we have.

Up to 60 per cent of what is thrown in the garbage could instead go in the Blue Bin or Green Bin. Diversion activities like recycling packaging materials and composting organic waste helps to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

## Options for Consideration:

- Explore textile and curbside donation days, and sharing events
- Review opportunities for collaboration and funding models to support programs that encourage share, repair and reuse culture
- Support food rescue and food waste reduction
- Explore policies that promote diversion of Construction, Renovation and Demolition materials
- Explore curbside and multi-residential bin inspections to improve sorting and diversion
- Continue working towards a Circular Economy and implement the Single-Use and Takeaway Items Reduction Strategy





# Waste Management Services



## Waste Management Services

To increase convenience, access and participation we will explore ways to enhance core waste management services such as Drop-off Depots and Community Environment Days.

### Options for Consideration:

- Enhance access at Drop-off Depots
- Review items accepted at Drop-off Depots
- Enhance the access and convenience of Community Environment Days



# Multi-Residential and Non-Residential Sector



## Multi-Residential and Non-Residential Sector

Waste from multi-residential buildings and non-residential sources are among the biggest opportunities for increasing waste diversion.

### Options for Consideration:

- Provide support and resources for local businesses and multi-residential buildings
- Review building design guidelines and how existing multi-residential infrastructure can be used to prioritize diversion
- Explore ways to reduce and recover organic waste from non-residential customers
- Expand waste audits and gather data to support non-residential diversion
- Explore alternate collection methods and technologies for multi-residential buildings to increase the collection of Green Bin organics and other divertible materials



# Implementation Tools and Considerations - Part 1



## Promotion, Education & Outreach

Promotion, education and outreach needs to focus on addressing behaviour change, making it easy for residents and businesses to reduce and divert more.

Strengthening partnerships with community organizations and schools can help broaden our reach.

## Options for Consideration:

- Collaborate with schools and universities to run programs and workshops, and promote careers in waste management
- Engage with faith-based, newcomer, and Indigenous organizations to spread information and co-develop education efforts
- Enhance strategies to increase engagement in waste reduction and diversion
- Develop ways to track and measure waste that is diverted, reduced, or reused
- Enhance engagement at community events and workshops
- Engage multi-residential and non-residential customers through waste management workshops



# Implementation Tools and Considerations - Part 2



## Advocacy

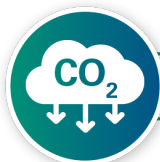
Advocacy efforts to other levels of government are crucial for driving systemic change and inspiring action across all levels of government to support a sustainable and inclusive future.

## Options for Consideration:

- Advocate for policy and legislative changes (advancing the Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement)
- Extended producer responsibility for new materials such as mattresses, textiles, and compostable products
- Advocate for policies and regulations that support repair and reuse



# Implementation Tools and Considerations - Part 3



## Carbon Reduction

Waste contributes to almost 10 per cent of Toronto's emissions. To reach net zero by 2040, we need to reduce and divert more waste from landfills.

### Options for Consideration:

- Establish Key Performance Indicators to measure greenhouse gas emissions tied to waste reduction and diversion
- Continue assessing the carbon impact of the City's waste management activities to identify opportunities for reducing emissions



# Implementation Tools and Considerations - Part 4



## Innovation

Toronto is a leader in waste diversion. To remain at the forefront, we need to continue exploring emerging technologies and innovative approaches.

## Options for Consideration:

- Monitor the latest technologies, emerging research and best practices
- Monitor the prevalence of compostable products and new and emerging packaging in our waste streams
- Track City-collected waste metrics per household and geographically





# Evaluation Methodology: Triple Bottom Line Approach

Options will be assessed using the criteria below:



## Environmental Benefit/Impact

- Diversion / support for a circular economy
- Alignment with rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling, recovering waste
- Greenhouse gas emissions and climate change mitigation



## Social Benefit/Impact

- Collaboration
- Convenience, access and equity
- Complex approval processes
- Community safety
- Public health impact



## Financial Benefit/Impact

- Cost effectiveness
- Health care costs
- Financial risk
- Economic growth
- Local jobs creation
- Flexibility in implementation and timeline

# Have Your Say



Provide feedback by June 29, 2025



Learn more and take the survey:

[toronto.ca/WasteStrategy](https://toronto.ca/WasteStrategy)



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