

Long-term Waste Management Strategy: Reduction and Diversion Plan Update — Phase 3

Virtual Public Meeting

February 11, 2026



Land Acknowledgement

The City of Toronto acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The City also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.



Introductions

GHD Limited

- Blair Shoniker, Project Director
- Katrina McCullough, Community Engagement Lead
- Sunil Issac, Community Engagement Specialist

City of Toronto, Solid Waste Management Services

- Charlotte Ueta, Director (Acting), Policy Planning & Outreach
- Erwin Pascual, Manager Policy and Planning
- Connie Choy, Senior Project Manager (Acting)



Agenda

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|------|--|
| 7 pm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Introductions• Webex Instructions |
| 7:05 | Presentation: Long-term Waste Management Strategy: Reduction and Diversion Plan Update |
| 7:40 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Q&A |
| 8:25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next Steps |
| 8:30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Ends |



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.

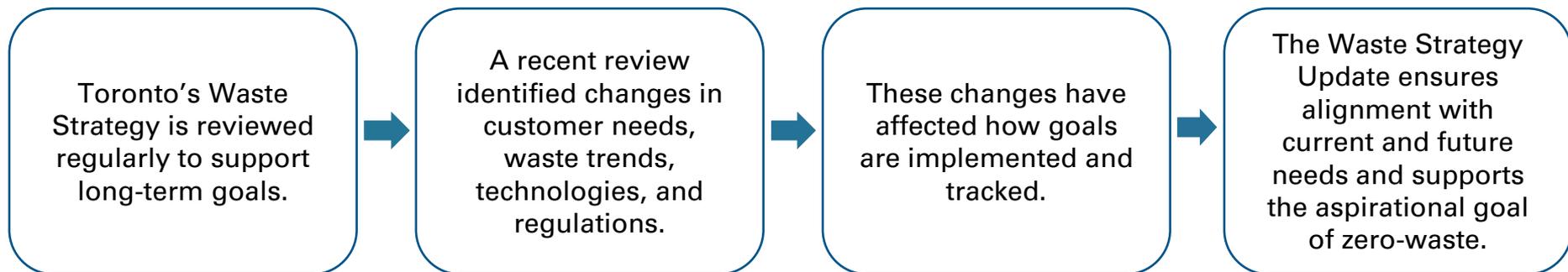


¹ Recycle refers to turning waste into a new substance or product (e.g., compost).

² Recover refers to getting additional resources from waste (e.g., natural gas from organics).



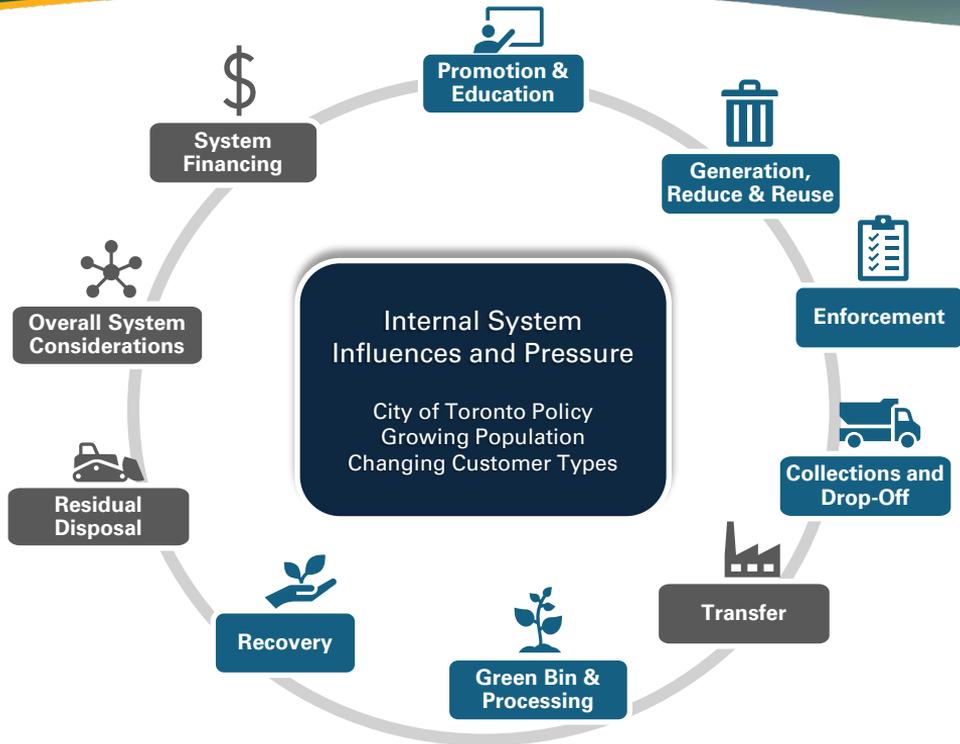
Why Update the Waste Strategy



The Update prioritizes proposed actions aimed to increase reduction, reuse and diversion of waste. While the Update does not cover Toronto's full integrated waste system (for example, collection optimization, residual waste disposal, system financing or processing capacity), it will help inform these system areas.



Integrated Waste Management System



DID YOU KNOW? Residential Blue Box Program is delivered by producers under provincial Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations and is no longer operated by the City of Toronto.

Areas of focus within the 2026 Waste Strategy Update

Broader waste system components that are part of the integrated system but are outside the scope of this Update

Waste Strategy Update Process

PHASE
1

Build the Foundation

- Update baseline information to reflect current state
- Review the 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

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

PHASE
3

Create a Roadmap

- Long-term Waste Management Strategy: Reduction and Diversion Plan Update
- Present Waste Strategy Update to Toronto City Council

WE'RE
HERE.

Waste Strategy Update Development

The City of Toronto used a structured process to update the Waste Strategy—reviewing the current system, identifying future needs, exploring options, and proposing actions based on public input and analysis.

Current State

Reviewed current programs, policies, processes, assets, and tonnages to establish a baseline for tracking performance and guiding improvements.

System Review

Assessed progress on 2016 recommendations, identified key learnings, and reviewed challenges, metrics, and policy changes.

System Needs

Defined long-term goals, completed a jurisdictional scan, and considered waste reduction and diversion targets.



Waste Strategy Update Development (Cont.)

The City of Toronto used a structured process to update the Waste Strategy—reviewing the current system, identifying future needs, exploring options, and proposing actions based on public input and analysis.



Option Identification

Identified waste solutions based on Toronto's needs and global best practices, and shared options with the public for feedback.



Screening and Evaluation

Assessed options using public input and City priorities, and evaluated them against environmental, social, and financial criteria.



Proposed Actions

Selected key actions for potential implementation over the next 10 years, designed to meet Toronto's waste needs for the next 30–50 years.

Engagement Activities and Questions Asked

WE'RE
HERE.

PHASE 1 Tactics Used

Public Events, Survey, Public Opinion Research, Interest Group Workshops

What We Asked

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

PHASE 2 Tactics Used

Public Event, Survey, Public Opinion Research, Interest Group Workshops

What We Asked

- Options to consider to achieve long-term waste management goals
- Criteria for an evaluation framework
- Perceptions on energy-from-waste (incineration) - part of concurrent consultations on the Residual Waste Management Work Plan

PHASE 3 Tactics Used

Public Event, Survey, Public Opinion Research, Interest Group Workshops

What We Want to Hear from You On

- Do the proposed actions help to meet the needs of the community to reduce and divert more waste?
- How should the City prioritize these actions over the next 10 years?

What We Heard During Phase 1 and 2



Consider long-term sustainability, climate and public health



Improve Infrastructure and Access to Diversion Programs in Multi-Residential Buildings



Enhance Outreach, Education and Partnerships



Strengthen Enforcement and Accountability



Balance Environmental, Social, and Financial Considerations Equally



Support Reduction and Reuse Programs

Proposed Actions Categories – Phase 3

Proposed Actions were developed considering industry trends and best practices, policy landscape, learnings from the 2016 Waste Strategy recommendations and feedback received during consultation.



Waste Reduction,
Reuse & Diversion



Waste Management
Services



Multi-Residential
& Non-Residential
Sector



Implementation Tools & Considerations

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

Evaluation Methodology: Triple Bottom Line Approach



Environmental Benefit/Impact

- Local, Regional and Global Environmental Impact/Benefit
- Public Health Impact/Benefit
- Potential to Increase Diversion
- Waste Hierarchy



Social Benefit/Impact

- Approvals Complexity
- Potential for Land Use Conflicts/Community Interruption
- Collaboration
- Complexity
- Convenience
- Community Safety
- Equity
- Behaviour Change



Financial Benefit/Impact

- Cost
- Health Care Cost Implications
- Risk
- Economic Growth
- Local Job Creation
- Flexibility

Proposed Actions – Scoring Example

| Category | Proposed Action | Environmental Benefit/ Impact | Social Benefit/ Impact | Financial Benefit/ Impact | Overall Score |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Waste Reduction, Reuse and Diversion | Continue to engage on opportunities to keep small-scale home renovation and demolition materials from landfills. | High | Medium-High | Medium | Medium-High |
| | Engage with City-serviced customers to properly use and participate in the Green Bin program by completing spot checks. | High | Medium | Medium | Medium-High |



Waste Reduction, Reuse and Diversion Evaluation Results

| Proposed Action | Overall Score |
|--|---------------|
| Continue to engage on opportunities to keep small-scale home renovation and demolition materials from landfills. | Medium-High |
| Engage with City-serviced customers to properly use and participate in the Green Bin program by completing spot checks. | Medium-High |
| Enhance food waste reduction promotion and education including food label literacy. | Medium-High |
| Promote clothing and household goods diversion at drop-off sites or working with not-for-profits or charities for events such as clothing swaps. | Medium-High |
| Support organizations or programs that promote sharing, repair, and reuse of household items and identify new collaboration opportunities | Medium-High |

Slido Activity

- Slido is built into Webex for those joining from the web, the app, laptop or smartphone and will appear on the side of the screen
- For those calling into the meeting, you can join the activities on the web:
 - **Slido.com**
 - **Event code:** hnunqn



Waste Reduction, Reuse and Diversion



Proposed Actions



Select one proposed action you believe the City should prioritize to help reduce, reuse, and divert waste.

- Keep small-scale renovation and demolition materials out of landfill
- Improve sorting through curbside Green Bin participation checks
- Enhance food waste reduction promotion and education
- Promote reuse of clothing and household goods
- Support sharing, repair, and reuse programs



Waste Management Services Evaluation Results

| Proposed Action | Overall Score |
|---|---------------|
| Explore opportunities to enhance Drop-Off Depots and Community Environment Days by reviewing accepted materials and improving access and convenience for residents. | Medium-High |
| Explore options to increase recovery and diversion of oversized items currently collected as garbage, including collaboration with other municipalities to develop markets and joint solutions. | Medium-High |
| Support clean public spaces by targeting areas with high litter or illegal dumping and strengthening anti-litter campaigns to support litter reduction and clean-up. | Medium-High |



Waste Management Services



Proposed Actions



Select one proposed action you believe the City should prioritize to help reduce, reuse, and divert waste.

- Make Drop-off Depots and Community Environment Days easier to use and review accepted items
- Increase recovery and diversion of oversized items through reuse or waste sorting
- Support cleaner public spaces through litter reduction and clean-up programs



Multi-Residential and Non-Residential Sector Evaluation Results

| Proposed Action | Overall Score |
|--|---------------|
| Encourage apartments and condominiums to reduce waste and use Green Bins through more outreach, education, and enforcement. | Medium-High |
| Reduce food and organic waste from non-residential customers through targeted education and programs | Medium-High |
| Make it easier to use Green Bin and other diversion programs by considering building design requirements, testing new infrastructure, and reviewing policies. | Medium-High |
| Collect data on non-residential participation in diversion programs, such as the Green Bin, and use this information to develop tools to increase waste diversion. | Medium-High |



Multi-Residential and Non-Residential Sector



Proposed Actions



Select one proposed action you believe the City should prioritize to help reduce, reuse, and divert waste.

- Support apartments and condos to reduce waste and use Green Bins through outreach, education, and engagement
- Reduce food and organic waste from non-residential customers
- Make waste sorting and composting easier through building design, infrastructure, and policies
- Collect and use data to improve waste-diversion performance in non-residential properties



Proposed Actions Categories under Implementation Tools and Considerations

The City's implementation tools will help to deliver on the proposed actions. These tools and considerations are grouped into four categories.



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



Promotion, Education and Outreach



Proposed Actions

Proposed actions to encourage behaviour change, make waste reduction and diversion easy and accessible, and strengthen community partnerships

- Collaborate with schools and universities to run programs and workshops, and promote careers in waste management
- Engage with community groups such as faith-based, newcomer, and Indigenous organizations to distribute information and co-develop education efforts
- Enhance engagement strategies to increase public participation in waste reduction and diversion programs such as through community events and workshops
- Renew proactive and intentionally planned and resourced engagement with multi-residential and non-residential customers to help prioritize waste diversion efforts

Advocacy, Carbon Reduction, and Innovation

Proposed Actions



Advocacy

- Continue to advocate for:
- Policy and legislative changes such as advancing the Food and Organic Waste Policy Statement.
 - Extended Producer Responsibility for additional materials such as textiles, mattresses, and compostable products.
 - Policies and regulations that support repair and reuse



Carbon Reduction

- Continue assessing the carbon impact of the City's waste management activities to identify opportunities for reducing emissions



Innovation

- Continue to:
- Monitor the latest technologies, emerging research and best practices
 - Monitor the prevalence of compostable products and new and emerging packaging in waste streams
 - Explore ways to track and share waste data and metrics for public awareness and education such as using accessible dashboards

Implementation Tools and Considerations



Feedback Activity

Which community groups, institutions, or other organizations should be involved in the City's outreach and education efforts on waste reduction?



Discussion

- How can the City best support residents, buildings, and businesses in reducing waste and increasing diversion across all sectors?
- What new partnerships, tools, or ideas should the City consider to help carry out the proposed actions over the next 10 years?
- Do you have any thoughts on how the City can reduce and divert waste in your community?



Next Steps

- After Phase 3 public consultations are completed, all feedback received will be reviewed and summarized to be used to refine the proposed actions and priorities.
- The following items will be confirmed for the proposed actions:
 - Budget needed
 - Proposed timing for planning and implementation
 - Metrics and performance measures identified
- The draft Waste Strategy Update is planned to be presented to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee (IEC) and City Council.



Have Your Say



Provide feedback by March 8, 2026



Learn more and take the survey:

toronto.ca/WasteStrategy



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