Zero Waste Strategy

May 2026

Saanich

Territory Acknowledgement

The District of Saanich operates within the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and xʷsepsəm (Kosapsum or Esquimalt) Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples represented by the W̱JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), BOḴEĆEN (Pauquachin), STÁUTW̱ (Tsawout), W̱SIḴEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations. The First Peoples have been here since time immemorial and continue to steward these lands today.
The District respectfully acknowledges the First Nations' long history of land stewardship and knowledge of the land and continues to look for opportunities to learn from and collaborate with First Nations to help us improve our community's resilience to a changing climate, including issues regarding consumption and waste.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to those who contributed to the development of the Zero Waste Strategy, including: Tamara Shulman and Associates, and CHRM Consulting for providing data analysis, modelling and engagement support; other District of Saanich departmental staff, partners and community representatives who provided insights, expertise and feedback in the development of the Strategy; and staff from local governments and organizations across the Capital Region who continue to collaborate so we may all achieve our goals faster.

Executive Summary

The Saanich Zero Waste Strategy provides direction on how the District will work toward zero waste over the next 10 years. It outlines a comprehensive set of actions to achieve waste-reduction targets, while also opening-up opportunities for innovation, efficiency, and local economic development.

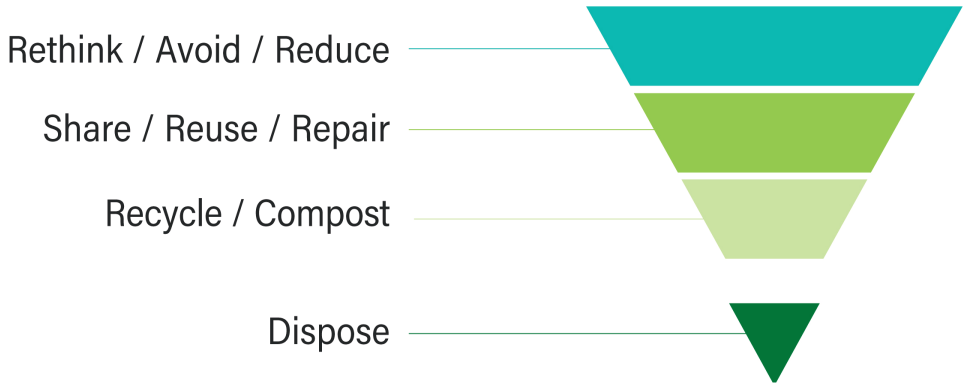
How we live, consume, build, recycle, and dispose of our waste has impacts both within Saanich and beyond our borders. Although waste is generated locally, much of our waste originates from products and materials that are designed, manufactured, and transported internationally. By better understanding how materials flow through our community, we can identify opportunities to reduce waste at its source and keep valuable resources in use for longer.

Around the world, communities are shifting toward circular systems that prioritize waste prevention, repair, reuse, and recycling. These approaches not only reduce environmental impacts, but can also create local jobs, support innovative businesses, and strengthen community resilience. Circular approaches are also important from a practical standpoint. Hartland Landfill, servicing Saanich and the Capital Region, is expected to be full by 2050. As disposal options tighten, this can increase tipping fees, hauling distances, and waste-management costs.

Achieving meaningful reductions in waste will take coordinated action by residents, businesses, institutions, community organizations, and all orders of government. By working together, we can collectively reduce Saanich's environmental footprint, reimagine how we use and consume resources and create a cleaner, healthier community for future generations.

The Zero Waste Strategy includes **16 strategies** and **54 actions** across four focus areas, designed to achieve Saanich's targets of reducing per-capita waste to **250kg/year by 2031** and **210kg/year by 2040**. The strategy's stretch target[1] is to reduce per capita waste to **125kg/year by 2050**, but actions required for this target are beyond the scope of this plan. Implementation will combine education and outreach, programs and projects, policy and regulation, advocacy, and municipal leadership.

The following focus areas and strategies outline Saanich's pathway toward a more circular, low-waste future.



1 A stretch target is an ambitious goal intended to drive the innovation necessary to solve complex problems in order to achieve the goal.

Focus Areas and Strategies

FOCUS AREA 1: Waste Prevention: Rethink, Avoid, Reduce

Strategy 1: Rethink consumption habits, transition to more circular business practices, and mobilize residents towards lighter living.

Strategy 2: Avoid single-use items and packaging.

Strategy 3: Reduce avoidable food waste and better manage food supply.

Strategy 4: Reduce textile waste and consumption.

Strategy 5: Enhance corporate sustainable procurement practices.

FOCUS AREA 2: Make Things Last: Share, Reuse, Repair

Strategy 6: Build reuse, repair, refill, and sharing infrastructure and resources in Saanich.

FOCUS AREA 3: Sort it Out: Recycle and Compost

Strategy 7: Expand mandatory waste separation across all sectors.

Strategy 8: Enhance collection programs for low-density residential homes to improve diversion.

Strategy 9: Improve multi-stream collection options for multi-unit and mixed-use buildings to improve diversion.

Strategy 10: Increase waste diversion across the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector.

Strategy 11: Improve waste diversion at municipal sites and facilities.

Strategy 12: Promote onsite organics management and small-scale community composting where service gaps exist for organics collection.

FOCUS AREA 4: Waste Reduction in the Built Environment

Strategy 13: Extend the lifespan of existing buildings and infrastructure.

Strategy 14: Include flexible and adaptable designs in new structures.

Strategy 15: Reduce the material intensity of buildings by adopting circular building practices that minimize raw material resources.

Strategy 16: Minimize the amount of construction and demolition material going to landfill.

Top 10 Things YOU Can Do as an Individual

Refuse: say no to what you don't need. Pause before you purchase.

Ditch single-use items: opt for reusable cups, bags, containers, and hygiene products when you can.

Participate in sharing: try borrowing, lending, or renting tools, appliances, books, and clothing rather than buying.

Shop in bulk: to reduce packaging waste and use reusable containers.

Buy second-hand: purchase used clothing, furniture, and electronics. Most of the things you want already exist.

Repair over replace: fix clothing, electronics, and goods to make things last as long as they can.

Choose durable goods and textiles: preferably locally made, and use them for as long as possible.

Reduce food waste: consume all the food you purchase to prevent waste. Freeze items before they spoil to use later.

Compost organic waste: place all food scraps and yard trimmings into your green bins.

Rinse your recycling and sort into the correct bins: to avoid contamination and ensure it all gets recycled.

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1.0 Introduction

As Saanich grows and consumption patterns evolve, there is a timely opportunity to rethink how materials are produced, used, and recovered. Building on our community's strong foundation of environmental leadership, the Saanich Zero Waste Strategy provides a clear, practical pathway to reduce waste generation while supporting residents, businesses, and municipal operations in the transition to a circular local economy.

The Strategy advances the District's broader environmental, social, and economic goals and climate action commitments by prioritizing waste prevention, circular solutions, cost savings, and local economic development. It outlines actions such as reducing single-use items, expanding reuse and repair, improving organics management, rethinking how construction materials are selected and used, and advocating for system and design change. Where feasible, actions also consider greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions, including the emissions savings associated with preventing waste and keeping materials in circulation. By working collaboratively with local First Nations, the Capital Regional District, neighbouring municipalities, local organizations, and the business community, we can align efforts, share solutions, and maximize impact.

This document delivers on the Saanich 2020 Climate Plan Action F2.2: Develop a community-wide zero waste strategy and Saanich Council Strategic Plan Initiative 1.3.5: Develop and implement a community wide Zero Waste Strategy that supports the achievement of the regional waste stretch goal.

1989 Saanich joins Greater Victoria roll-out of a Regional Blue Box program.

1991 Saanich opens Garden Waste Drop-off site to support regional landfill efforts and the burning ban.

2006 The CRD bans yard and garden waste from disposal as garbage at Hartland Landfill.

2014 Saanich is the first municipality in the region to offer automated curbside organics and waste collection for residents.

2015 The CRD bans food scraps from disposal as garbage at Hartland Landfill.

2020 The Saanich 2020 Climate Plan sets new targets for diverting 100% of organic waste from the landfill and creating a community-wide zero waste strategy.

2021 Saanich passes a bylaw to ban plastic checkout bags.

2024 The CRD bans clean wood, treated wood and asphalt shingles from disposal as garbage at Hartland Landfill.

2025 Saanich pilots a reusable dish program at three large public events to reduce the use of single-use items.

Saanich offers larger 360L green bins and begins incentive-based cart pricing to help eliminate organics from the garbage.

Saanich optimizes route collection services to improve efficiencies and reduce GHG emissions.

2026 Release of Saanich's Zero Waste Strategy.

2.0 How the Zero Waste Strategy was developed

2.1 Strategy Development Process

The Zero Waste Strategy was developed in a 5-phase process, incorporating input from the public, community partners and representatives, and technical experts throughout.

Phase 1:

- The scope of the Strategy was defined, and the strategy development process was created.
- A consultant was hired to help establish a strategic framework and actions to get to zero waste.

Phase 2:

- Research and analysis were completed to assess material generation, flow, and management in Saanich – as well as gaps, opportunities, and leading practices.
- A public survey was conducted to gain input from Saanich residents.

Phase 3:

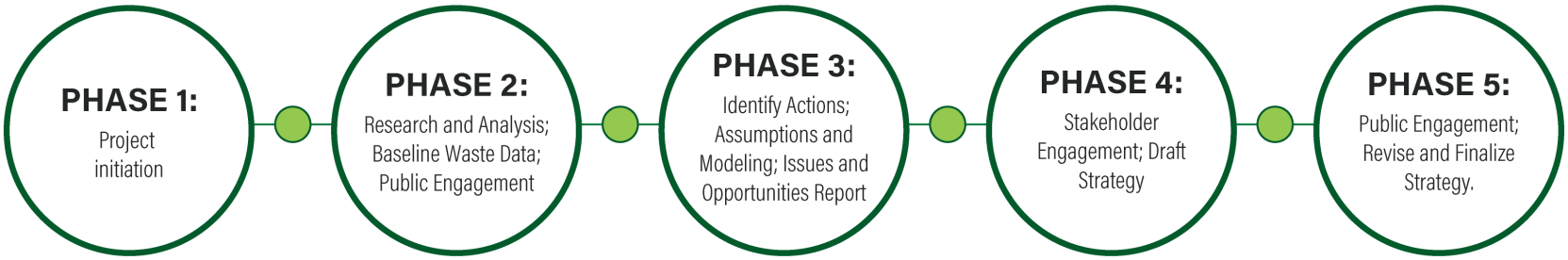
- Potential actions and priorities were identified and workshopped with subject matter experts from Saanich and the Capital Regional District.
- An Issues & Opportunities report was completed detailing current waste management practices, data, issues, and opportunities in Saanich and the Capital Regional District.
- Waste modelling was undertaken to assess the potential impact of the identified actions to reduce waste tonnage and GHG emissions.

Phase 4:

- Internal engagement workshops were held with staff across the District to gain feedback on the draft actions.
- A model and pathways report was completed to determine the best pathway(s) forward to achieving the zero waste targets.

Phase 5:

- The draft strategy was written and circulated for review to internal staff, external subject matter experts and stakeholders, and the public.
- The Zero Waste Strategy was revised to incorporate feedback and then finalized for Council approval.



2.2 Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Two phases of public engagement helped inform the Zero Waste Strategy. The first phase took place in August 2024 and included an in-depth survey. The second phase took place in March 2026 and included an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the draft Strategy. Together, these two phases garnered nearly 1,100 responses and helped shape the direction of the Strategy and ensure the final outcome reflected the needs and priorities of the community.

Key findings from the survey include:

- Most respondents **were concerned about the impact of waste** on our community and environment.
- The top three household waste materials identified as most difficult to manage were **soft plastics, Styrofoam, and textiles**.
- The main barriers to recycling depot drop-offs were **distance and inconvenience**, with many respondents calling for **more central locations**.
- Most respondents felt waste reduction would be improved by **expanding Recycle BC's curbside blue box program** to accept more materials and by stronger **provincial requirements for packaging reduction and product recycling**.
- While 92% of respondents felt they should have **access to recycling and organics disposal options outside the home**, only 50% reported having that access at school or work.
- 9 out of 10 respondents already use **second-hand marketplaces or thrift shopping** suggesting support for a circular economy.
- A keyword analysis **showed 'plastics' appeared 2471 times** and **'packaging' appeared 740 times** in survey responses, indicating that these items are a critical concern.

A full summary of the survey results is available at Saanich.ca/zerowaste.

- Recycling and organics collection in **multi-unit buildings** is inconsistent. As multi-unit and mixed-use development in Saanich increases, establishing standardized collection programs for recycling and organics will become increasingly important; otherwise, the volume of unsorted waste from this sector is likely to grow.

Additional engagement included workshops with key internal and external stakeholders, as well as a review of the draft Strategy by staff and external subject matter experts. This feedback was incorporated into the final Strategy.

2.3 CRD 2024 Solid Waste Market Research Engagement Study

The Capital Regional District (CRD) launched a 2024 Solid Waste Market Research Engagement Study which included a survey to explore residents' and businesses' attitudes and behaviours towards waste reduction and management practices. The results from this survey help validate some of the findings from the Saanich Zero Waste Strategy engagement and have been used alongside other data to help inform additional actions and opportunities to collaborate with the CRD. Some of the key results from the CRD's study include:

- Most respondents (74%) reported **positive attitudes** towards reducing waste, developing a circular economy, composting, confidence in their waste disposal knowledge and supporting community initiatives.
- 64% reported **significant barriers for recycling foam packaging and soft plastics**, including where and how to dispose of these materials and the difficulty of transporting them to drop-off depots.
- 70% of respondents visit **second hand stores and/or repair shops** to extend the life of items.
- 71% sought opportunities to **repurpose or reuse** materials from products they have purchased.

The CRD survey also provided some preliminary recommendations, including:

- Supporting residents' understanding through educational campaigns and practical tips e.g., how to reduce waste and how and where to recycle specific materials.
- Addressing the limited recycling and composting services available in multi-unit developments.
- Providing tips and strategies for how residents can deal with difficult-to-recycle materials such as foam and soft plastics.
- Supporting local businesses by developing training resources, providing detailed disposal guidelines, and updating them on changing regulations.

3.0 Government Roles and Responsibilities

Each level of government in British Columbia and Canada has a specific role in solid waste management. These are outlined below:

Municipal - has broad authority to establish, maintain, and operate waste management systems, such as residential organics and garbage collection, public-space collection, street cleaning, yard and garden debris drop off, illegal dumping removal, and litter management. These services may extend to non-residential properties where appropriate. In BC, municipalities can also influence consumption and waste reduction through policy and regulation. Under the *Community Charter and the Local Government Act,* they may regulate waste generation through zoning, permitting, business licensing, design guidelines, infrastructure standards, and nuisance regulations. With provincial approval, they may also adopt environmental protection regulations. Since solid waste impacts the environment, local governments can use these powers to further reduce waste in their communities.

Regional – develops, implements and monitors progress on solid waste management plans to help meet waste reduction targets. They oversee disposal infrastructure (including landfills) and establish regulatory mechanisms such as landfill material bans, material-specific disposal fees, and facility licensing. They are also responsible for the long-term management of solid waste residuals, i.e., materials that cannot be reused, recycled, or otherwise diverted. In some regions, regional governments provide funding for community waste reduction initiatives. Increasingly, regional governments in B.C. are taking a more proactive, regulatory role related to waste flow management. For example, in 2025, the Regional District of Nanaimo received provincial approval for policies that expanded its oversight to include waste hauler licensing and mandatory source separation, making these viable options for other regional districts to consider.

Provincial – oversees extended producer responsibility (EPR) through the Recycling Regulation, regulates disposal infrastructure, requires regional districts to update their solid waste management plans each decade through the *Environmental Management Act.* It also sets policies and targets to support waste reduction and avoidance (e.g., 350 kg per person waste generation target, organics regulations, single use items regulations, circular economy strategy) and provides some funding to support these efforts.

Federal – provides funding for infrastructure, regulates toxic materials, sets regulations for hazardous waste transportation, negotiates trade and international agreements, controls what may be imported, conducts research, sets national level policy and provides guidance.

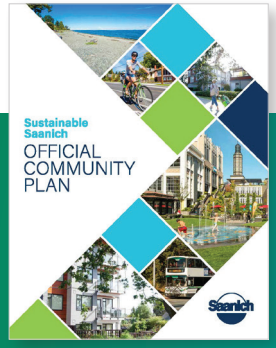
All levels of government have a role to play in providing education and information. Municipal and regional governments have closely connected roles. Regional Districts must meet waste-reduction targets, and municipalities benefit from coordinated support and collaboration through shared resources to deliver programs that help achieve these targets.

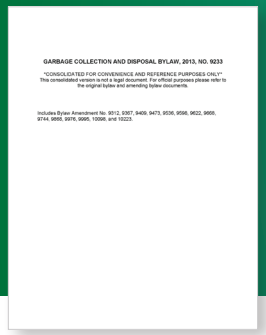
3.1 Government Plans, Programs, and Policies to Reduce Waste

This section highlights select municipal, regional, provincial, and federal plans, policies, and programs related to waste diversion and reduction. Policies and programs were chosen based on their relevance to the District and the strategies identified in this plan. When aligned and enacted together, these initiatives can have a much greater impact.

3.1.1 District of Saanich

Saanich Official Community Plan (OCP), 2024: The principal legislative tool for guiding future growth and change in Saanich, which outlines the vision for a sustainable community, including One Planet Living and policies specific to climate action and targets.

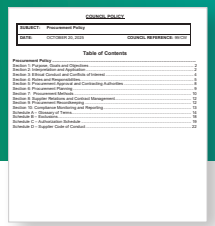



GARBAGE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL BYLAW, 2013, NO. 9233

"CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE AND REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY"
This consolidated version is not a legal document. For official purposes please refer to the original bylaw and amending bylaw documents.

Includes Bylaw Amendment No. 9312, 9387, 9409, 9473, 9536, 9566, 9622, 9668, 9744, 9865, 9976, 9985, 10098, and 10223.

Garbage Collection and Disposal Bylaw 2013, No. 9233 (and amendments), 2014: Outlines garbage and organics collection. Mandates material source separation and prohibits disposal of recyclables or organics into the garbage stream.


COUNCIL POLICY

SUBJECT: Procurement Policy
DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2025 COUNCIL REFERENCE: 25/CP

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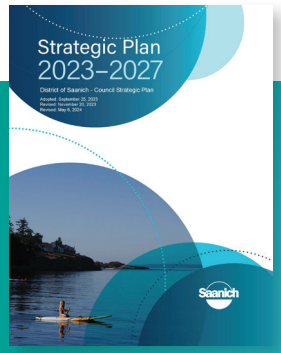
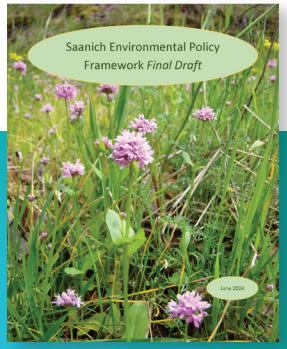
Council Procurement Policy, 2025: Expands the definition of "best value" to include considerations such as environmental sustainability, social sustainability, economic sustainability, and encouragement of diverse suppliers.

Council Strategic Plan 2023-2027: Gives direction for the Zero Waste Strategy through the Climate Action and Environmental Leadership Goal. Initiative 1.3.5 specifies developing a Zero Waste Strategy to meet regional stretch goal (125 kg per person per year).



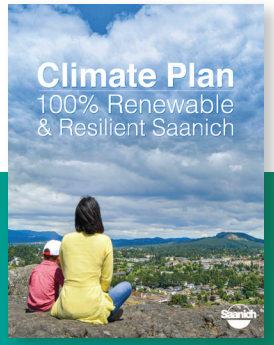
Check Out Bag Regulation Bylaw No. 9589. District of Saanich, 2020: Effective since August 20, 2021. Prohibits businesses from providing plastic checkout bags and encourages the use of reusable bags.

Saanich Environmental Policy Framework, 2024: The District of Saanich advances climate literacy through campaigns and programs in the community.



District of Saanich Economic Development Strategy, 2023: Includes actions that are supportive of green solutions and expansion of the circular economy.

Saanich Climate Plan, 2020 update: Includes direction and specific action for a Zero Waste Strategy. Reducing waste generation and disposal, curbing consumption, rethinking consumer and business patterns, and encouraging circular economy initiatives all align with the goals of the 2020 Climate Plan.



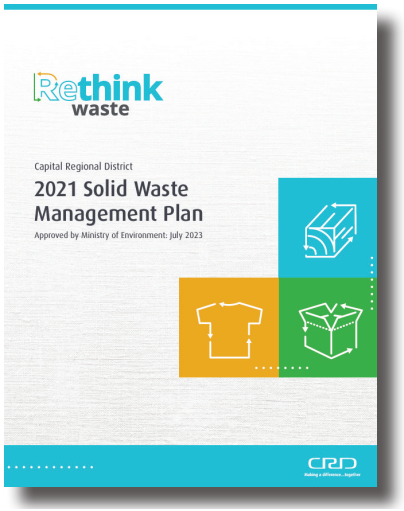
Saanich Agriculture and Food Security Plan, 2019: Provides the vision, objectives and actions to achieve agriculture and food security in Saanich. Actions include food waste reduction and composting promotion.

3.1.2 City of Victoria

Zero Waste Victoria, 2020: The City of Victoria's plan sets a goal of 50% landfill waste reduction by 2040. It proposes 40 strategies across five focus areas: single use items and packaging; built environment; food and organics; durable goods; and additional wastes (e.g., hygiene products, pet waste, cigarette butts).

Victoria's Demolition Waste and Deconstruction Bylaw, 2022: The purpose of the bylaw is to regulate, prohibit and impose requirements to ensure that waste and reusable materials from demolition are salvaged and reused to prevent these items from entering the landfill.

Victoria's Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw, 2024: The purpose of the bylaw is to reduce single-use item waste and encourage the use of reusable products by requiring businesses to provide only reusable products for dine-in service.



3.1.3 Capital Regional District

Capital Regional District's Solid Waste Management Plan, 2021: The plan contains 72 regional government actions across 15 strategies with a focus on reducing waste disposal rates, extending the life of Hartland Landfill, and educating the public on proper waste management practices, with a per capita waste generation target of 250kg/year by 2031 and a goal to surpass the provincial per capita waste disposal target of 350kg/year and aspire to 125kg/year.

Hartland Landfill Tipping Fee and Regulation Bylaw, 2025: The bylaw was updated in 2024 to introduce new building material bans. Clean wood, treated wood, and asphalt shingles are now prohibited from being accepted as general refuse. Disposal fees for these segregated materials have been reduced, while rates for general refuse have increased. The intent of the bylaw is to encourage the separation of these materials for recycling or reuse.

3.1.4 Provincial and Federal

BC Single Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, 2024: The regulation was enacted in 2024 to align related policies across the province. It is required that BC businesses follow the regulation which supports a shift to reusables and refillables and prohibits the sale and distribution of specific single-use items and plastics.

BC Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Programs: Industry-led, province-wide EPR programs which require producers to take responsibility for the end-of-life management of the packaging and products they supply to consumers (e.g., paper, cardboard, metal / plastic / glass containers, cartons and paper cups, flexible and foam packaging, beverage containers, batteries, electronics).[1]

Federal Single-use Plastics Prohibition Regulations: Prohibit the manufacture, import, and sale of six categories of harmful single-use plastics.

Federal Plastics Registry: Mandatory federal data-collection system to monitor, track, and report on plastic products and packaging.

1 For a full list of EPR programs in BC please visit: BC EPR plans and reports

4.0 Guiding Frameworks and Concepts

This section provides a summary of the three key frameworks that helped shape the development of the Zero Waste Strategy. These frameworks are critical concepts that – if followed – will move us closer to zero waste, while achieving multiple other co-benefits and strategic goals. They are applicable to policymakers, industry, and individuals and have been used as a tool to evaluate draft actions. They will also be applied in the implementation of the Zero Waste Action Plan.

4.1 Zero Waste Hierarchy

The waste reduction hierarchy (Figure 1) is a tiered system that ranks waste reduction and management options from most to least preferred, prioritizing waste prevention at the top with the least desirable outcome (i.e., landfill) at the bottom. The bulk of our efforts should be placed in strategies at the top of the hierarchy where materials are used and recirculated at their highest and best use.

Rethink/Avoid/Reduce: Stop waste from being created in the first place (e.g., design waste out of our systems, design for durability, buy less, choose unpackaged goods).

Share/Reuse/Repair: Extend the life of goods by using them multiple times and repairing as needed (e.g., mend clothing and fix appliances, use refill containers).

Recycle/Compost: Once goods reach their end of life, turn these materials into new products.

Dispose: The least desirable option, only for materials that cannot be managed any other way.

The four Focus Areas in this Strategy are aligned with the zero waste hierarchy.

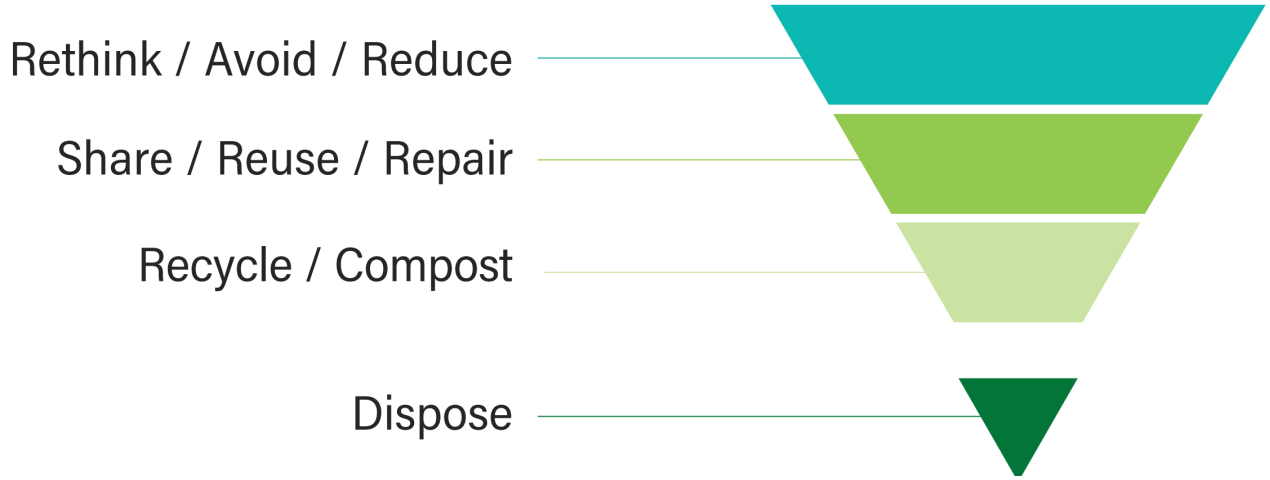


Figure 1: The Zero Waste Hierarchy

4.2 Circular Economy

A core principle of a circular economy is that **waste is a design flaw**. It is a preventable result of inefficient design and systems, not an inevitable outcome. The challenge is that waste has become so accepted and normalized, that designing it out of our systems no requires effort, ingenuity, and a broader culture shift.

While the zero waste hierarchy offers practical, prioritized steps toward achieving zero waste, a circular economy framework provides a broader model for creating a holistic, regenerative system across all sectors. A circular economy aims to eliminate waste and pollution through design. In other words, the hierarchy helps us decide *what to do with materials*, while the circular economy helps shape the systems and choices that make low-waste living easy and accessible (e.g., refill and return systems).

In a circular economy, materials are continually reintegrated back into the system, so they do not become waste. This approach tackles not only waste, but also pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change, while simultaneously presenting opportunities for local economic development and business innovation. A key concept of a circular economy is that materials are (re-)used at their highest and best use. For example, instead of taking old growth beams from a home slated for demolition and chipping them into wood shavings, these beams could be reused in the structure being built in the home's place.

Figure 2 illustrates the difference between a traditional linear economy, a recycling economy, and a circular economy. The **linear economy** follows a take–make–dispose model and relies heavily on the continued extraction of raw resources. The **recycling economy** is often characterized by *downcycling*, where materials move from higher-value uses to lower-value uses and ultimately end in disposal. The **circular economy** follows a take–make–reuse/repair/regenerate/repurpose model, keeping materials in use longer and reducing the need to extract new resources. Given that many resources are currently imported into the region, efforts to build a circular economy can also support local economic development. Local innovators can re-imagine waste as a resource, while creating local jobs. This approach helps keep more spending circulating within the local community, supporting local employment, services, and reinvestment. Locally owned businesses often retain and reinvest a greater share of revenue in the local economy than larger chain retailers.

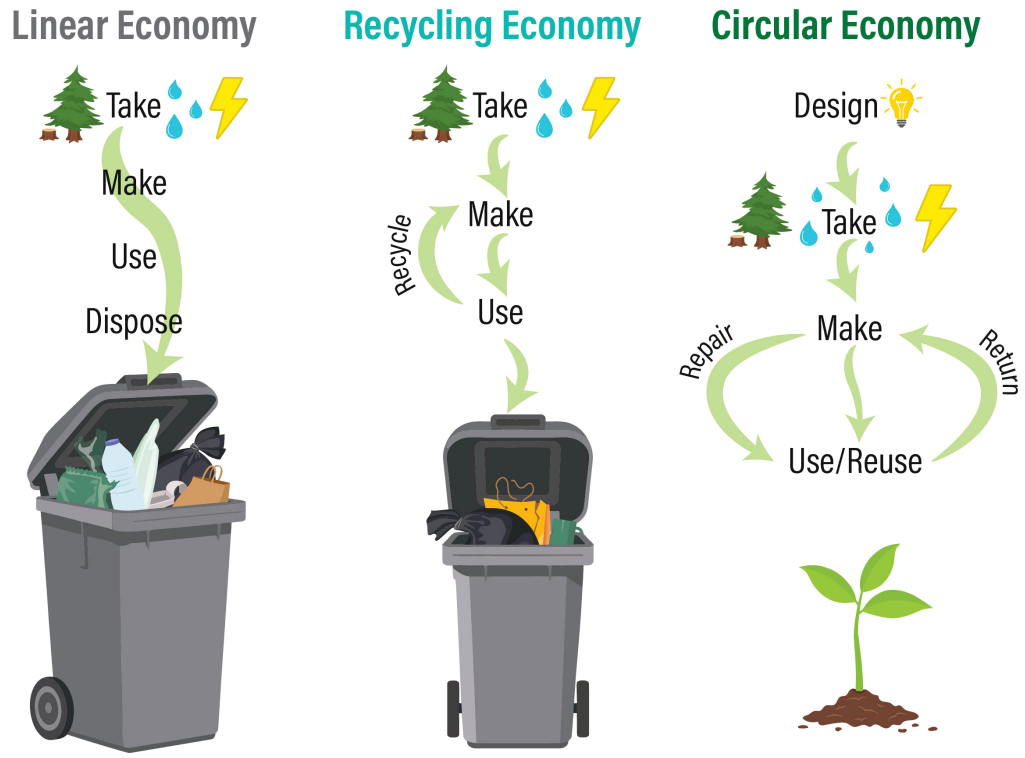


Figure 2: Linear vs. Circular Economy

Globally, the economy consumes roughly 100 billion tonnes of new materials each year, from fossil fuels and timber to food, textiles, and consumer goods[2]. In fact, in 2020, the earth reached a symbolic tipping point whereby the weight of human-made materials now exceeds the mass of all living things on earth[3]. Overproduction and overconsumption continue at unprecedented rates, such that if everyone on earth was to consume at the same rate as the average Saanich resident, we would need 4 planet earths to sustain us. If we do not begin to shift these patterns, the consequences will accelerate—environmentally, socially, and financially.

4.3 Consumption-Based Emissions

Evaluating greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impacts is an important element of a zero waste strategy. It strengthens decision-making by providing additional insight into the full climate impacts of our waste and consumption habits. It can also be used to demonstrate how waste reduction measures can yield significant reductions in GHG emissions.

When considering our consumption-based emissions, most of the climate impacts from food and materials are "upstream" rather than "downstream." In other words, most of the climate impact happens as the materials are produced, rather than when they are discarded. What we buy, how much we buy, and where we buy it from, matters. The more we buy and throw away, the more energy and resources it takes to make new stuff (and recycle/dispose of the old) and the faster climate change accelerates.

In 2021, the District completed a consumption-based emissions inventory which factors in the lifecycle emissions of all the products, services, and materials used in Saanich. This means that the full climate impact of these products and materials is factored in, from raw material extraction, to processing, transportation, use and disposal. From this work, we know that in Saanich, 31% of our climate impact from a consumption-based approach comes from our food and materials (Figure 3).

2 Circle Economy. (2025). The circularity gap report 2025.

3 Elhacham, E., Ben-Uri, L., Grozovski, J. et al. (2020). Global human-made mass exceeds all living biomass. Nature 588, 442–444.

Food accounts for approximately 20% of our consumption-based GHG emissions, and materials account for about 11%. Within the materials category, the highest-impact streams in the consumption-based emissions inventory are textiles[4] (41%), followed by plastics (21%) and household hygiene products (11%) (Figure 4). This information helps prioritize which material streams should be targeted for reduction.

A Consumption Based GHG Emissions Inventory measures the GHG emissions from all the goods and services that the Saanich community consumes, regardless of where those goods and services are produced around the world.

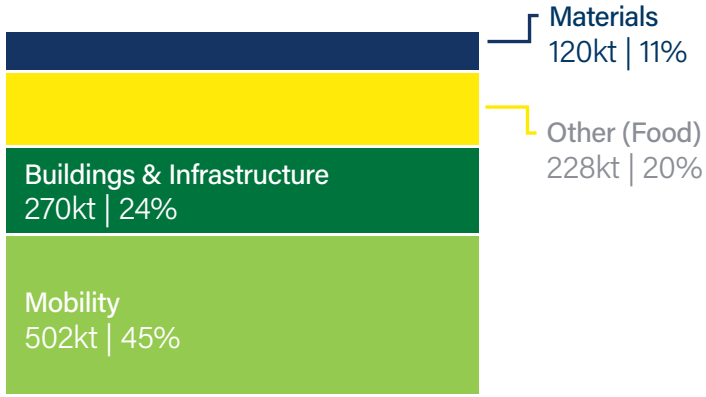


Figure 3: Saanich's 2021 consumption based emissions

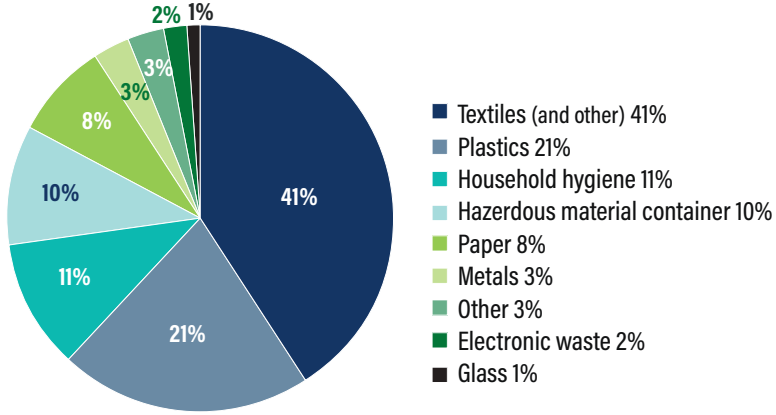


Figure 4: GHG emissions of materials and waste in Saanich (Consumption-based Emissions Inventory)

4 This category includes 80% textiles, rubber, and non-demolition wood waste.

5.0 Waste Management in Saanich

Municipal solid waste is generated wherever people live, work, shop, and gather. It is shaped by everyday decisions about what we buy, how we use it, and what we do with it at end of life.

5.1 Waste Generation by Sector

To reduce waste and improve diversion, it is important to understand where waste is generated. Figure 6 shows the four sectors responsible for waste generation in Saanich. The Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sector is the largest waste generator, followed by Construction & Demolition (C&D), low-density residential homes, and multi-unit buildings. This breakdown by sector is useful as it identifies where most landfill-bound materials originate, it helps identify priority sectors, and it also highlights the sectors which may lack the appropriate infrastructure and waste management systems to support diversion.

The ICI sector generates a large volume of waste in part because it is not fully-served by BC's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, it is not legislated to divert all recyclables from the waste stream, and it must independently arrange and pay for its own collection services (often through separate fees for recycling, garbage, and organics).

Another important consideration is the residential sector. While Saanich's housing stock is currently dominated by detached single-family housing (see Figure 5), multi-unit developments (i.e., apartment buildings) generate approximately 1.4 times more garbage relative to their share of the housing stock – a problem which may only be exacerbated as more development occurs in this sector (see Section 6.3). Again, this issue is due in part to the lack of adequate programs and infrastructure to support waste diversion in these buildings.

Figure 5: Saanich's housing stock as of 2025. In general, the District provides organics and garbage collection services to single-detached homes with up to 4 units (e.g., secondary suites, duplex, triplex, fourplex) and townhomes.

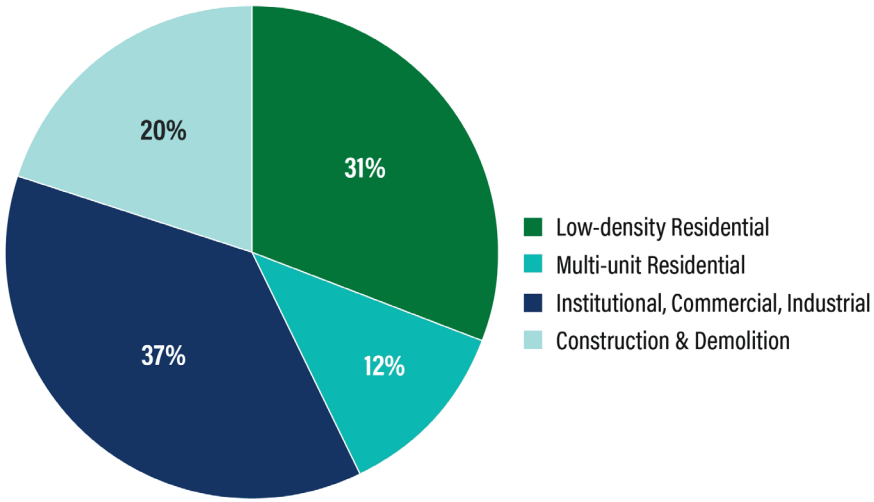


Figure 6: Waste generation per sector in Saanich

5.2 Saanich Waste Collection Services

The District of Saanich provides the following waste management services for Saanich residents:

Curbside Collection: Garbage and organics are collected for Saanich residents living in low-density residential homes (Figure 5). Collection occurs bi-weekly and residents have the option of several different cart sizes (see Figure 7). As of January 2025, the District moved towards incentive-based cart pricing to encourage the use of the organics bin and discourage disposal of non-garbage materials in the black bins (see Section 6.2 for more information). The District's Garbage Collection and Disposal Bylaw No.9233 mandates that residents separate their kitchen scraps, organics, and yard waste into green organics carts and prohibits organics, recyclables, or hazardous material from being placed in black garbage carts.

Yard and Garden Waste Drop-off: The District also operates the Saanich Yard and Garden Waste Drop-off centre year-round where residents can bring yard and garden trimmings for disposal. Starting in 2025, the District began offering larger 360L organics bins to encourage curbside organics pick-up over driving to the Yard and Garden Drop-off location. This initiative proved very popular with many households upgrading to larger bins over a 12-month period. While the program is still new, it is anticipated to help reduce service traffic and mitigate the climate impacts of driving.

Leaf Collection: The District provides a free annual leaf collection service from late October to early January where specialized trucks vacuum-up curbside leaf piles in residential neighbourhoods. Every year, about 2,500 tonnes of leaves are collected and reused as mulch for Saanich parks, gardens, and restoration projects. When available, remaining leaf mulch is offered to residents for free on a first-come, first served basis. This program helps prevent storm sewer blockages and reuses organic materials.

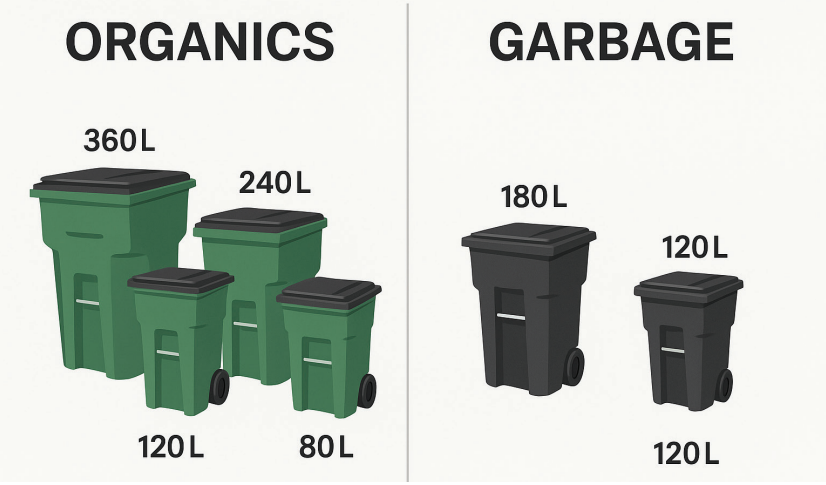


Figure 7: District of Saanich cart types and sizes

5.3 Private Waste Collection Services

Collection services for garbage, recycling, and organics for residents living in multi-unit dwellings (i.e., apartments or condos with 5 units or more) are provided by private haulers and arranged by building management. The same applies for the ICI sector (which includes schools, retail businesses, restaurants, offices, hospitals, and industrial businesses) which must independently arrange, manage, and pay for private collection services.

A critical gap is that these residences, businesses, and institutions are not subject to regulations requiring the separation of garbage, recycling, and organics at the source. As a result, they may not choose to separate recyclable materials and organics from the garbage stream. However, Hartland Landfill has a list of prohibited materials which includes food scraps and some recyclables. As a result, private haulers may require customers to keep banned materials out of garbage destined for landfill, since loads containing prohibited materials may be subject to inspection, enforcement, and fines. Alternatively, private haulers may avoid fines by hauling out of region.

5.4 Residential Recycling Services (packaging & paper products)

Curbside collection: On behalf of Recycle BC, the CRD manages the bi-weekly curbside collection of recyclable packaging and paper products from low-density residential homes across the Capital Region. Items are collected in three separate material streams: 1) paper and cardboard; 2) metal, plastic, and paper containers; and 3) glass bottles and jars. There is no limit to the quantity of materials picked-up curbside. Curbside collection is not provided for multi-unit buildings.

Drop-off depots[5]: For residents without curbside collection (e.g., multi-unit buildings) and for materials not picked-up curbside (e.g., soft plastics, foam), recyclables can be taken to three drop off locations in Saanich (see map in Figure 8). As noted earlier in Section 2.2, many Saanich residents use these depots but there remain gaps in service, such as a lack of accessible and convenient drop-off locations that can accept all recyclable materials in unlimited quantities.

Regional depots: Beyond the Saanich borders, Recycle BC partners and select private companies offer additional drop-off recycling locations but these may require Saanich residents to travel longer distances and to multiple locations.

5 This section focuses on packaging and paper products as these materials are generated in the largest quantities and are of greatest concern to Saanich residents. For other materials, such as beverage containers, batteries, and electronics, additional drop-off locations are available. Please consult the CRD's What Goes Where tool for more information.

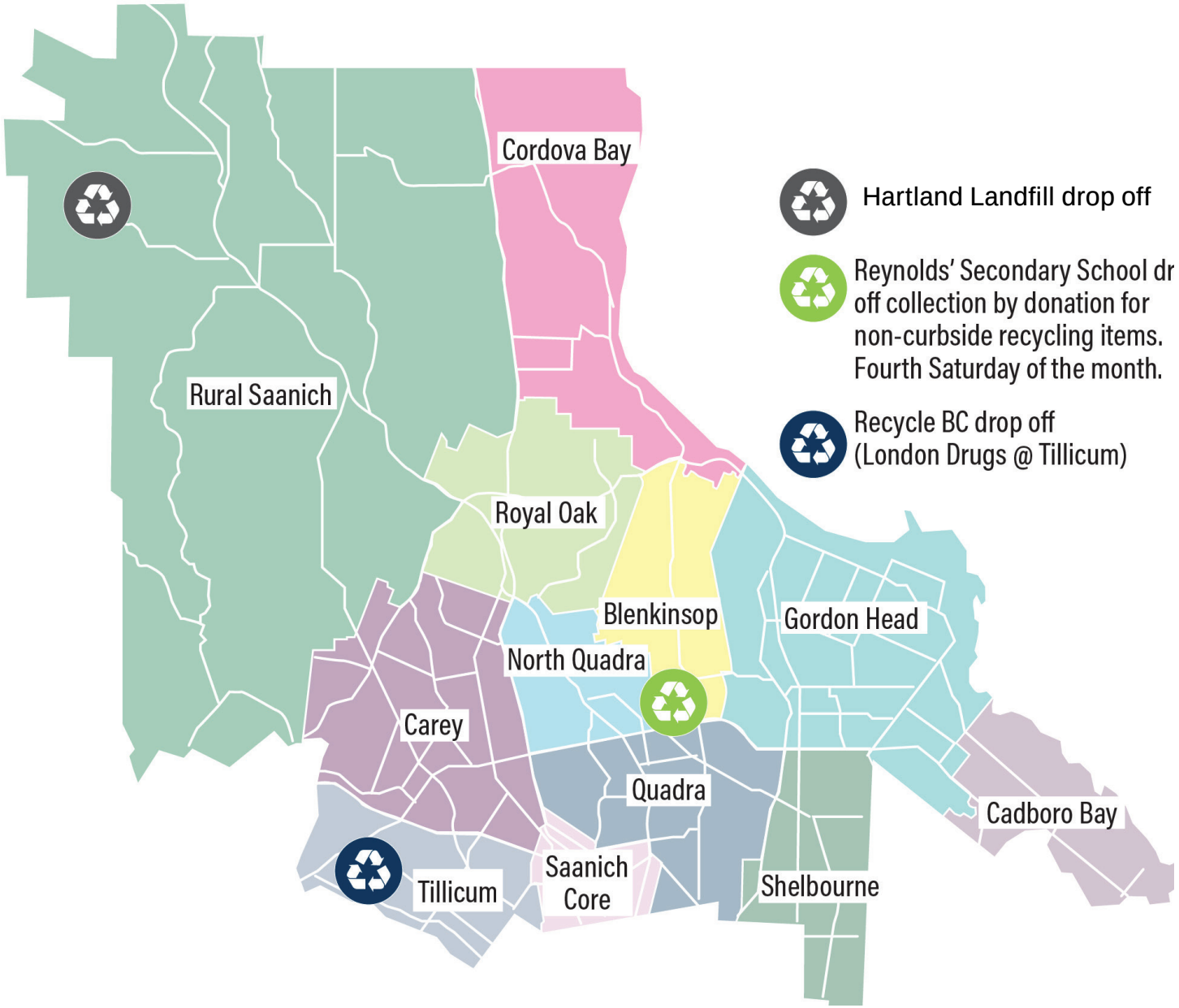


Figure 8: Saanich recycling drop-off locations for packaging and paper products

5.5 Where Does Our Waste Go?

One of the most frequently asked questions related to waste and recycling is where materials are taken after they are collected.

Organics (food scraps and yard trimmings)

Curbside organics collected by the District are currently transported to a facility in the Cowichan Valley. Organics collected by private haulers from multi-unit buildings and the Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial (ICI) sector are taken to organic processing facilities on Vancouver Island. Some haulers first take organics to a transfer station at Hartland Landfill, where the materials are temporarily stockpiled before being taken to a processing facilitup island.

Garbage

Curbside garbage collected by the District is disposed of at Hartland Landfill. As waste from multi-unit buildings, the ICI sector, and the Construction & Demolition (C&D) sector is collected by private haulers, there remains a gap in data for these areas. While most garbage from the residential and ICI sectors is disposed of at Hartland, a significant portion of C&D materials are transported to landfills elsewhere in B.C. or to the United States, where fewer material bans may apply and disposal costs are lower[6].

Recycling (packaging and paper products)

Since recycling materials fall under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs, there is more consistency and traceability regarding where these items end up – regardless of where they are generated. Most materials follow a similar pathway: after collection, materials are taken to various sorting facilities and then baled to be sold to recycling end markets (see Recycle BC's Infographic in Figure 9). Recycle BC is increasingly focused on keeping materials within British Columbia or North America whenever possible. There are local end markets in B.C. for materials such as plastic and glass, while metals and most paper products remain within Canada or North America for processing. This represents significant progress: in 2014, approximately 67% of materials collected by Recycle BC were exported to end markets outside North America, while by 2024 this had decreased to about 20%.[7]

6 Zero Waste Victoria. (2020)

7 Recycle BC 2024 Annual Report.

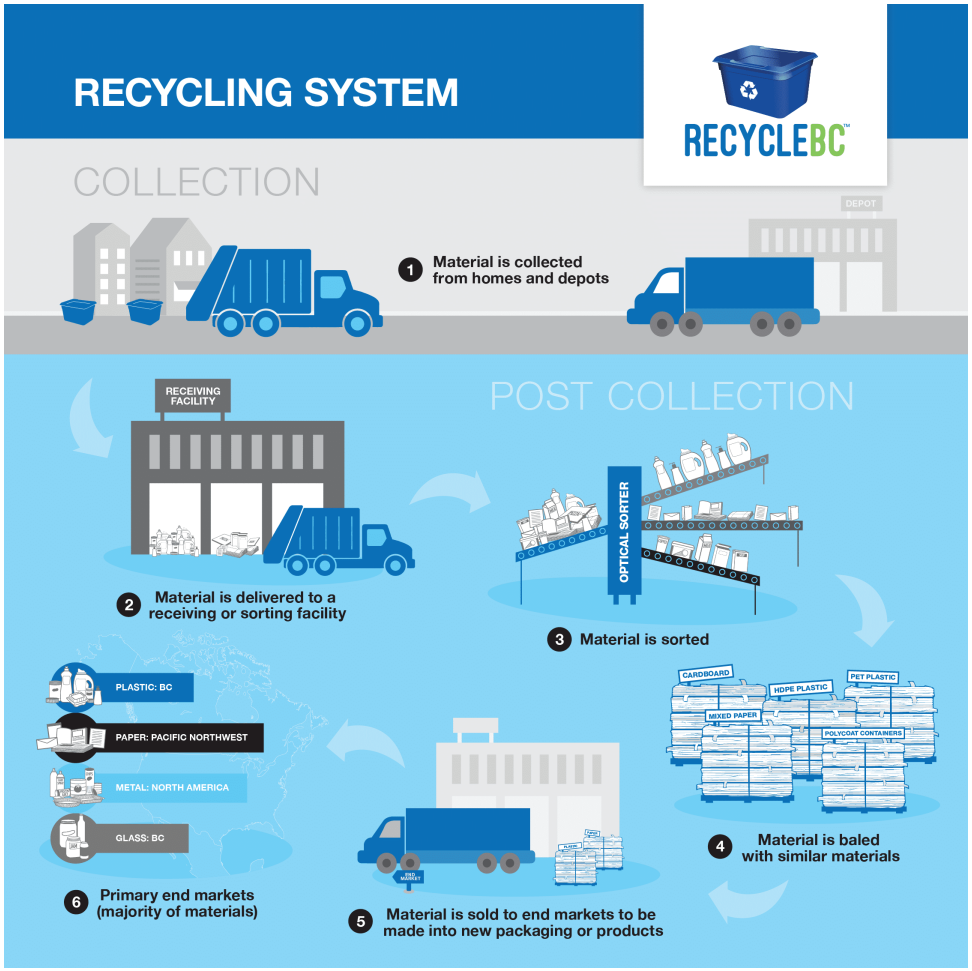


Figure 9: BC's recycling system

Is it true that only 9% of plastics are recycled?

A 2019 report published by Environment and Climate Change Canada found that only 9% of all plastics generated in Canada are recycled.[8] Two important points should be noted: 1) this is a national statistic; and 2) it applies to plastics generated across all sectors.

Globally – and nationally – plastics recycling faces significant challenges. However, in BC, almost all residential plastic packaging collected for recycling is ultimately recycled. This distinction is important, as the widely cited 9% statistic has contributed to an erosion of public trust in recycling programs that work. People work hard to sort and separate their waste at home; they want to feel confident that those efforts are making a difference.

Recycle BC's 2024 Annual Report shows that 98% of the residential plastic packaging collected through its program was recycled, and more than 99% was sent to local recycling end markets in Metro Vancouver. This means that, in BC, almost all residential plastic packaging that is collected is recycled, and most of it is processed in the Lower Mainland. The report also highlights that only 45% of purchased plastics are set out for recycling – the rest are sent to landfill. As residents, we can do our part by sorting, separating, and cleaning plastics for recycling, and by reducing plastic consumption in the first place. The most effective way to reduce plastic waste is to produce and use less of it. Reducing plastic waste starts with prevention at the source and recycling only the plastics that cannot be avoided.

8 Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2019). Economic Study of the Canadian Plastic Industry, Market and Waste.

6.0 Waste Generation in Saanich

6.1 Baseline and Material Flows

In 2024, Saanich sent an estimated 99,000 tonnes of discarded products and materials to recycling, composting, and Hartland Landfill.[9] Of these products and materials, the total amount sent to landfill as garbage was estimated at 38,000 tonnes. This means that per capita garbage disposal for Saanich residents is estimated at 318kg per year. In other words, every year, on average, each person in Saanich sends approximately 318kg of material to Hartland Landfill. By comparison, in 2024 waste disposal across the Capital Region was estimated at 338kg per person per year.

These numbers are based on the best available data at the time[10] to help establish the source, quantity, and destination of the materials generated. Note that while waste data exists for certain sectors in the Capital Region, large data gaps exist for materials collected by private haulers and especially for Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials. As such, caution around the numbers is advised, especially for C&D materials as some C&D waste may be leaving the region for disposal at landfills with fewer restrictions and/or lower tipping fees.

Despite these gaps, the available waste data is sufficient to establish a working baseline. From this baseline, we can better understand material flows, identify priority sectors, and set targets. Figure 10 illustrates the annual flow of materials in Saanich, grouped by the sector from which they were generated, and by how they flow through the system to be discarded as garbage, recycling, or organics. Line colours and widths indicate the relative volume of materials generated by each sector. Reuse occurs in Saanich and the CRD, but limited data means it is not shown here, though it remains an important part of material flows with potential for future tracking. With the material flow diagram, we hope to see three important shifts over time:

1. a reduction in the total amount of material generated;
2. a reduction in the amount of material going to the landfill; and
3. a new reuse stream that sees a high proportion of materials being repurposed and reused.

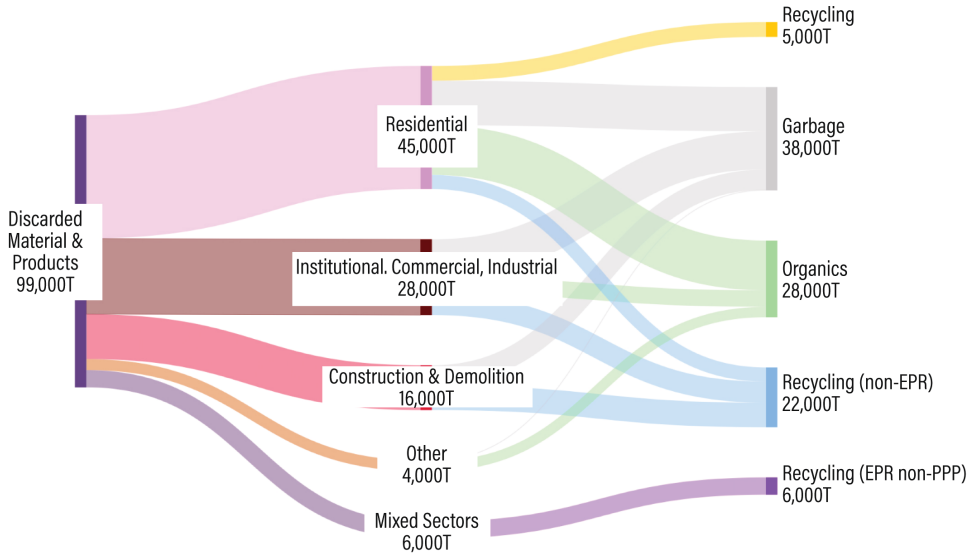


Figure 10: Saanich material flow tonnages (2024 estimates)

9 The three main data sources were: 1) Saanich data on actual collections from low-density residential organics and waste collection, yard and garden waste drop off; 2) the CRD (waste composition studies, annual reports, landfill report); and 3) Recycle BC's EPR program annual reports.

10 Data comes from three main sources: District data on actual collections, CRD (waste composition study, annual reports and landfill reports) and Recycle BC EPR program annual reports.

6.2 Waste Composition and Diversion Potential

The CRD commissions waste composition studies approximately every 5 years.[11] Waste composition studies include a systematic process of physically separating, categorizing, and weighing the different types of materials found in a waste stream. These waste audits help pinpoint priority material streams, support data-driven decision-making, and inform targets for measuring progress towards reduction goals.

The most recent waste composition study for the Capital Region was conducted in 2022. The study collected sector-specific data for low-density residential homes, multi-unit buildings, the Institutional, Commercial, and Industrial (ICI) sector, and the Construction & Demolition (C&D) sector. At that time, the District also commissioned an additional audit of the curbside waste collected from low-density residential homes in Saanich.

Figure 11 shows the material composition of household garbage collected in Saanich. By weight, the largest quantities of materials by type were household hygiene[12] at 23%, organics at 19%[13], plastics at 16%, paper and cardboard at 16%, and textiles at 8%. The diversion potential for Saanich's curbside garbage carts is summarized in Figure 12. Diversion potential represents the percentage of materials that could have been diverted through recycling (either curbside for via drop-off depots) and composting. The study indicated that 56% of what was found in Saanich's curbside black garbage carts could have been diverted. This consisted of 28% compostable materials and 28% recyclable materials. The most commonly found divertible materials were food waste, compostable soiled paper, and plastic packaging.

11 Beginning in 2026, these studies will occur approximately every 3 years.
12 Infant diapers, adult diapers, cat litter, feminine hygiene products.
13 15% of this was avoidable food waste, 9% was compostable soiled paper, and 3% was unavoidable food waste.

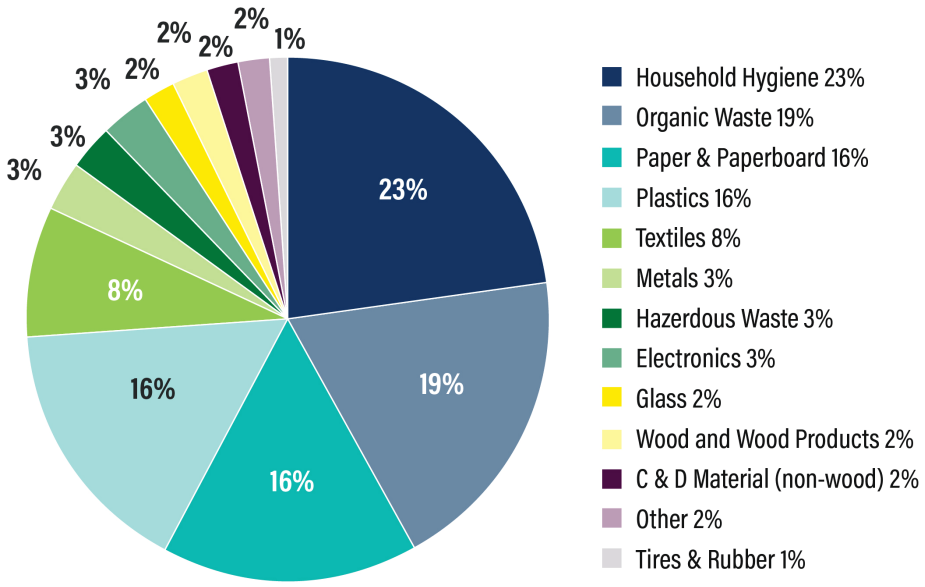


Figure 11: Saanich waste composition study results – curbside garbage (2022)

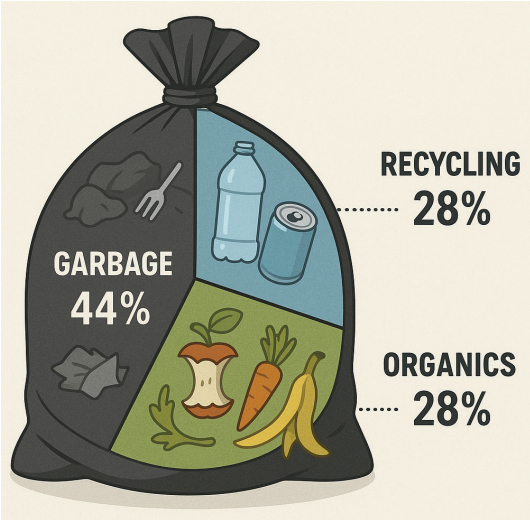


Figure 12: Saanich curbside garbage diversion potential

Similar results were found across other sectors in the CRD. Table 1 shows the diversion potential for each sector, along with the items most commonly found in the garbage stream. These findings highlight that a significant portion of the material currently sent to landfill could be diverted instead.

Another important finding was that across all sectors, organics made up at least half of the materials that could have been diverted even though they have been banned from Hartland Landfill since 2015. Organics are of particular concern as when they decompose, they produce methane which is a powerful greenhouse gas with a global warming potential more than 25 times greater than carbon dioxide.[14]

Table 1: Diversion potential by sector and top materials disposed as garbage

Sector	Total diversion potential	Portion of organics in garbage	Portion of recyclables in garbage	Top materials found in garbage
Low-density residential in Saanich	**56%**	28%	28%	Organics, plastics, paper, hygiene, textiles
Low-density residential in CRD	**62%**	34%	28%	Organics, paper, plastic, hygiene, textiles
Multi-unit homes in CRD	**64%**	33%	31%	Organics, paper, plastics, hygiene, textiles, tires
Institutional, Commercial, Industrial in CRD	**53%**	27%	26%	Organics, paper, plastics, wood and wood products, carpet and underlay, hygiene, textiles
Construction & Demolition in CRD[15]	**14%**	1%	13%	Wood and wood products, asphalt shingles, PVC pipes, insulation

District Initiatives:

In 2025, the District implemented two new initiatives to encourage residents to place organics in the correct bin. First, it introduced larger 360 L organics carts and waived cart exchange fees for 12 months to provide a financial incentive for residents to upsize at no cost. Second, it implemented a utility fee structure under which operating cost increases will only be applied to garbage cart fees until organics cart fees are 50% the cost of garbage cart fees.

14 Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2022). Faster and further: Canada's methane strategy.

15 The diversion potential for the construction & demolition sector is outdated since there are new material bans and recycling options at Hartland Landfill. This same audit today would have a much larger diversion potential.

6.3 Waste Projections and Targets

Many factors influence waste generation, including population growth, socioeconomic factors, and consumption behaviours. The 2024 Saanich Housing Needs Report estimates that Saanich will see a 9.6% increase in population over the next 10 years, with the bulk of this growth occurring in the multi-family housing sector. The report also projects that Saanich will continue to experience rapid population growth over the next 20 years. In a business-as-usual scenario (i.e., assuming conditions remain unchanged aside from population growth), Saanich can expect to increase their total garbage generation from approximately 38,000 tonnes in 2024 to about 42,000 tonnes per year by 2033. As multi-unit buildings have inconsistent multi-stream collection programs, no mandatory source separation, and a higher diversion potential, we project that our garbage stream increase will be disproportionally higher from this sector unless new waste mitigation actions are implemented.

The District of Saanich has aligned its waste reduction targets with those of the Capital Regional District, with a goal to reduce waste to 250kg/person by 2031, 210kg/person by 2040 and 125kg/person by 2050. This strategy outlines the pathway and actions to meet these targets.

Table 2: Waste reduction targets

	Targets kg/person	Current disposal rates
Saanich	250kg by 2031	318kg (2024)
	210kg by 2040	
	125kg by 2050 (stretch target)	
Capital Regional District	250kg by 2031	338kg (2024)
	125kg (stretch goal)	

7.0 Priority Materials

This Strategy identifies three high-impact materials to prioritize from both a waste and climate impact perspective. Strategies and actions to address these materials are set out under Focus Area 1 in Section 8.3.

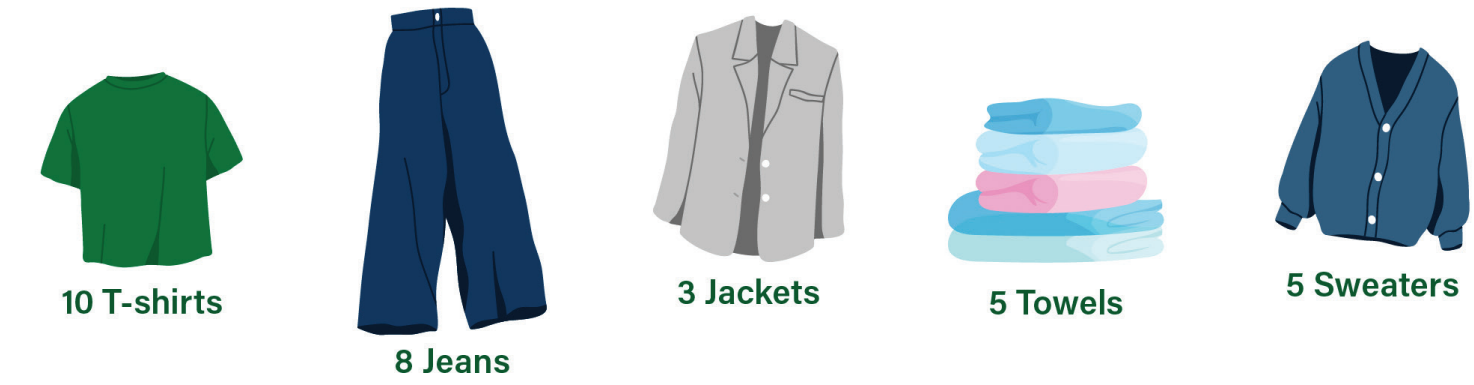
7.1 Textiles

Textiles – particularly fast fashion – is one of the most problematic material and waste streams on the planet. The current global clothing system is highly wasteful and polluting, due to intensive energy, water, and chemical use, as well as significant waste generation. It operates in an almost entirely linear way, relying on large volumes of non-renewable resources to produce clothing that is often worn briefly before being landfilled or incinerated.

Each year, an estimated 92 million tonnes of textiles are sent to landfills worldwide, equivalent to roughly one garbage truck of textiles being landfilled or incinerated every second. In Canada, an estimated 1.3 million tonnes of used and waste clothing are generated annually, and of this, about 1.1 million tonnes are sent to landfill.[16]

Locally, textiles make up about 8% of the garbage from residential homes. This is equivalent to each person in Saanich disposing of more than 13kg of textiles to landfill each year (Figure 13).

Figure 13: On average each person in the Capital Region discards approximately 13kg worth of textiles every year.



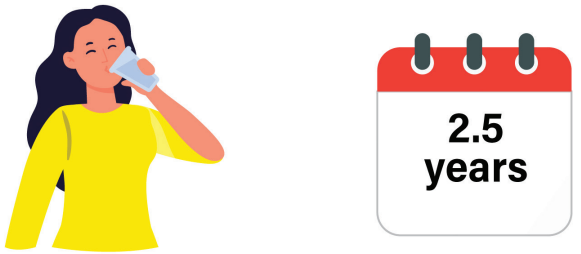
16 Cheminfo Services Inc. (2022). Characterizing reuse, recycling and disposal of textiles in Canada.

The fashion industry has changed dramatically over the past decade, a shift closely tied to the rise of fast fashion. Fast fashion relies on rapidly changing trends, producing low-cost, low-quality clothing quickly and selling it at rock-bottom prices. As a result, many garments are treated as "disposable," with consumers discarding them after being worn only a handful of times. As more people adopt a buy–use–dispose mindset, textile waste and its associated impacts continue to grow. Globally, an estimated 80 billion new garments are produced each year – about 400% more than 20 years ago. The average person now buys roughly 60% more clothing than they did 15 years ago and keeps each item for about half as long.[17]

The most environmentally friendly piece of clothing is the one you already own. The challenge with fashion is the persistent desire for "new," amplified by advertising, social media influencers, and targeted marketing. Although donating unwanted clothing is well-intentioned, it is not a sustainable solution to overconsumption. In Canada, only a fraction of donated clothing is resold or reused locally. Most donated textiles are exported for reuse, downcycling (e.g., into rags or insulation), or ultimately landfilled .[18]

It takes 2,700 litres of water to make one cotton shirt

Enough water for one person to drink for 2.5 years



Did you know?

Global GHG emissions from textile production total approximately 1.2 billion tonnes each year - exceeding the combined emissions from all international flights and maritime shipping.

17 Environment and Climate Change Canada (2024). *Addressing plastic waste and pollution from the textile and apparel sector.*

18 National Association for Charitable Textile Recycling. (2023). *Reduce, Reuse, Rewear: Part two – The textile secondary market in Canada. Summary report and key findings.*

There are many actions individuals can take to reduce their textile footprint, but effective systems are also needed to monitor and regulate textile flows and production. Separate textile collection is essential to keep textiles out of the garbage stream.[19] Many jurisdictions are also pursuing take-back or extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs to ensure stable, long-term funding for the collection and sorting of these materials. These programs place responsibility on producers to manage products at end of life – by collecting, sorting, and supporting reuse, repair, repurposing, recirculation, and/or processing once items are discarded. EPR policies can significantly improve textile management and circularity by providing the mechanisms and funding needed to establish and deliver effective programs. They can also increase transparency and traceability across material flows, enabling the industry to monitor performance and set targets for improvement. Actions 3.2 and 3.3 of the Zero Waste Strategy seek to address these issues.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

In Canada, EPR programs are primarily enacted and administered by provincial and territorial governments. The federal government can also play an important role by setting overarching policy direction, coordinating efforts, and creating nationally consistent data collection and standards for specific material streams.

In BC, the Province has direct authority to implement EPR requirements. It can pass legislation to require producers (e.g., manufacturers, brand owners, or importers) to be both financially and operationally responsible for managing their products and packaging at end of life. They can also look to Europe for data, research and leadership on EPR and material toxicity (e.g. related to the impacts of microplastics) legislation.

19 Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2024). Pushing the boundaries of EPR policy for textiles.

The Capital Region is the resale capital of Canada!

Did you know? The Capital Region has the highest number of resale businesses per capita in Canada! According to a study by Destination Greater Victoria, the region is leading the way by making reuse retail both a trendy and responsible choice for shoppers. From secondhand toy stores to shops specializing in pre-loved furniture, outdoor gear, linens, books and clothing, residents and visitors have many options for purchasing high-quality used items. [20]

20 Destination Greater Victoria. Canada's Resale Capital

Tips for Reducing your Fashion Footprint:

- ☐ Shop your closet first.
- ☐ Buy second-hand clothing.
- ☐ Host or attend a clothing swap.
- ☐ Avoid impulse shopping and online shopping.
- ☐ Disrupt the digital temptation: unfollow and unsubscribe from fashion influencers or brands, remove shopping apps, remove saved credit card details, and limit (or remove) social media.
- ☐ Invest in durable quality clothing made from natural fibres and increase use-time.
- ☐ Prioritize timeless over trendy.
- ☐ Reduce washing and drying to extend the lifespan clothing.
- ☐ Prioritize mending, repurposing, and upcycling garments before donating or downcycling.

Learn More and Take Action:

Check out third-party websites such as Good On You to find out how clothing brands are rated for sustainability.

Check out the Textile Exchange to learn more about sustainable fiber choices you can make.

Check out Love Your Clothes– a bilingual campaign aimed at empowering Canadians to 'love your clothes for longer' by embracing the 7R's of circular fashion: Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Repurpose, Resale, Rent, and Recycle.

The Rule of 5

The Rule of 5 is a simple way to shop more sustainably: aim to bring no more than five new clothing items into your wardrobe each year, including gifts.

This encourages a shift toward buying fewer items, and choosing higher-quality, longer-lasting pieces. Essentials like socks and underwear don't count, and second-hand or thrifted items are encouraged since they don't add to new production.

You can also refresh your wardrobe by renting, swapping, repairing, or passing along items. For children, hand-me-downs and thrifted clothes make it easy to follow the same approach while keeping costs low.

7.2 Food Waste

Food waste is another top material of concern. Food loss and food waste occur across the entire supply chain – from production and processing to retail, and ultimately to post-consumer disposal (Figure 14). While the overall amount of food waste in Canada has declined, avoidable food waste has increased, mainly associated with field crops (e.g., grains, flour, bread, and other baked goods), produce (e.g., fruits and vegetables), and dairy products (e.g., milk, yogurt, and cheese).[21]

More than 46% of food in Canada is wasted each year. This represents approximately $58 billion in lost value, 26 million tonnes of CO_2e emissions, and enough food to feed 17 million people annually.[22] Equally concerning, an estimated 96% of surplus edible food in Canada is neither rescued nor redistributed; instead, it is discarded or diverted to lower-value uses such as animal feed or biofuel.[23]

The most recent Canadian study on food waste shows that, compared with five years ago, a greater share of food waste is now occurring upstream rather than in households.[22] However, households still account for 15% of total food waste[21], which costs the average Canadian household an estimated $1,300 per year.[24]

Canada's food system is complex, and reducing food waste will require collaboration across the entire value chain. Preventing food waste in the first place (through source reduction first, followed by recovering surplus food to feed people and animals) delivers far greater benefits for food equity, climate outcomes, and waste reduction than composting food after it has already been wasted (Figure 15).

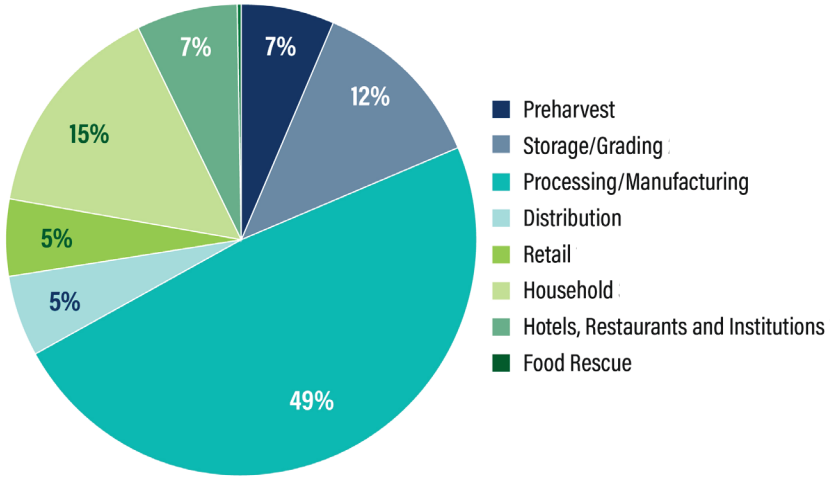


Figure 14: Where food waste occurs in Canada

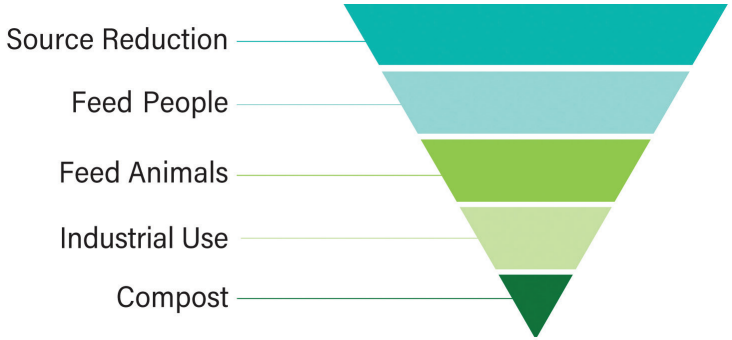


Figure 15: Food waste hierarchy

Avoidable household food waste refers to edible food that is discarded due to over-purchasing, poor storage or preparation, or confusion about "best before" dates. **Unavoidable household food waste** refers to inedible parts generated during food preparation, such as eggshells, fruit peels, or coffee grounds. In the 2022 Saanich waste composition study, 15% of the organic material found in low-density residential home garbage carts was avoidable food waste.

21 Second Harvest. (2024). The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste: Technical Report Update.
22 Second Harvest. (2024). The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste: The Roadmap Update.
23 Second Harvest. (2022). Wasted Opportunity: Rescuing surplus food in a throwaway culture.
24 Food Waste in the Home - Love Food Hate Waste Canada. (2026).

Learn More and Take Action:

Love Food Hate Waste Canada has practical tips, recipes and strategies to reduce household food waste.

Second Harvest is Canada's largest food rescue organization, working with businesses across the supply chain to redirect unsold surplus food to those in need.

Too Good To Go is a mobile app that connects users with local restaurants, cafes, and bakeries selling surplus, unsold food at significant discounts.

FoodMesh reduces food waste by connecting businesses with surplus food to those in need.

Odd Bunch provides subscription food boxes that delivers imperfect surplus fruits and vegetables at lower costs.

Check out the South Island Farm Hub and Savour Saanich to connect to local farms, markets, and food producers.

7.3 Single-Use Items and Packaging

Every year, billions of single-use items (SUIs) are discarded in British Columbia. The City of Victoria estimates that more than 220,000 SUIs are thrown away in their community every day. SUIs are products designed to be used once and then discarded as waste or placed in recycling or compost. They are often made of plastic and are commonly used in the food service sector (e.g., cutlery, takeout containers, bags, straws, stir sticks, cups, lids, and condiment packaging) and health sector (e.g. single-use cups and spoons for pill dispensing, gowns, masks, prescription vials, etc.). SUIs are inexpensive and are often marketed as convenient, but their environmental and human-health costs are significant, and they can be substantially more costly over the long term. Impacts occur across the full lifecycle of these products, including production, distribution, littering, and end-of-life disposal.

Globally, more than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced each year, and a substantial portion is used for single-use applications.[25] The 2022 Saanich waste audit also found that household hygiene products made up the largest share (23%) of waste by weight from low-density residential homes. This highlights household hygiene as another important single-use material stream and underscores the need to promote sustainable alternatives, such as cloth diapers, reusable menstrual products, and washable incontinence underwear.

Single-use items are particularly problematic because considerable energy and material inputs go into products that may be used once and often for a matter of minutes. Recycling is not an optimal solution, as it still requires energy and additional materials to process items and manufacture replacements. The most effective approach is to transition to reuse systems and phase out unnecessary items. Regardless of the material, reusable options generally have a lower overall impact than single-use alternatives, including single-use "compostable" products.[26] Figure 17 shows a practical example of the four reuse models depicted by the Ellen MacArthur

Figure 16: The benefits of reuse: reusable vs. disposable cutlery (infographic from Upstream)

Foundation. In practice, circular models can be competitive and resilient because they reduce reliance on raw material inputs and create new revenue streams, such as repair services, refurbishment, resale programs, washing services, and product rental or leasing. The Ellen MacArthur Foundation has estimated that replacing 20% of single-use plastic packaging with reusable alternatives represents an opportunity worth at least USD 10 billion . This presents a considerable opportunity for local economic development in the Capital Region.

To address issues related to SUI's, the Province of BC and Federal government have introduced programs and regulations to phase out the sale and distribution of some single-use items. At the federal level, regulations prohibit the manufacture, import, sale and export of several single-use items on a national scale. In BC, provincial regulations align with and build on the federal requirements by establishing a consistent, province-wide approach to further reduce plastic use, plastic waste and support the use of reusable alternatives.

25 United Nations Environment Programme. (2025). World Environment Day | United Nations

26 Upstream. (2021). *Reuse Wins: The environmental, economic, and business case for transitioning from single-use to reuse in food service.*

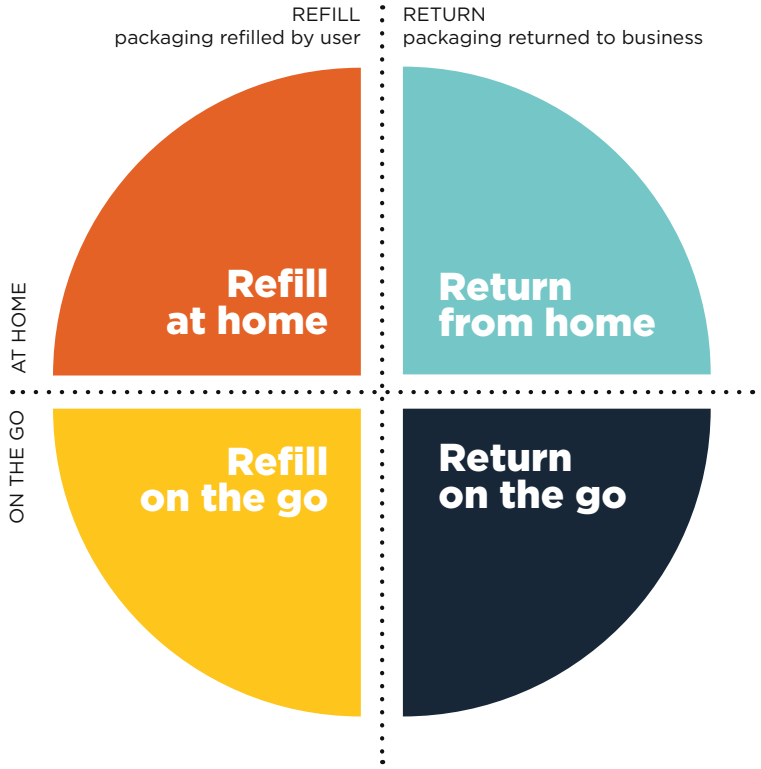


Figure 17: The four reuse models from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation

The four reuse models

Business-to-consumer reuse models differ in terms of packaging 'ownership' and the requirement for the user to leave home to refill/return the packaging.

Refill at home
users refill their reusable container at home (e.g. with refills delivered through a subscription service)

Return from home
packaging is picked up from home by a pick-up service (e.g. by a logistics company)

Refill on the go
users refill their reusable container away from home (e.g. at an in-store dispensing system)

Return on the go
users return the packaging at a store or drop-off point (e.g. in a deposit return machine or imailbox)

However, action at the local level is often needed to drive change at the Federal and Provincial level and can sometimes be more appropriate to implement at the local scale. To support this, the Province amended legislation to allow local governments to regulate specific single-use and plastic items (e.g., plastic checkout bags, food service accessories) without requiring ministerial approval. This change enables municipalities to take local action, including the ability to implement and enforce stricter single-use bylaws where appropriate.

Local governments play a critical role by addressing specific, local needs and bridging potential gaps in provincial policy coverage. They can also act immediately without needing to wait for provincial legislative processes, allowing for a quicker transition to a circular economy. While many municipalities in BC have enacted bans on single-use items to varying degrees, the City of Victoria is the first municipality in the province to introduce a Single-Use Items Reduction bylaw[27] that requires food and beverage businesses to only use reusable products for dine-in services. This highlights a valuable example of local governments being attuned to the specific needs and environmental concerns of their community and being empowered to take meaningful action.

27 For more information see the City of Victoria's Single-Use Items Reduction Bylaw

Strawberry Festival is the District of Saanich's largest and longest running festival, drawing more than 10,000 visitors each year. The festival is widely known for its legendary servings of strawberries and ice-cream and will often serve as many as 4,000 bowls at each event. In 2025, the District received grant funding from the CRD Rethink Waste Grant to help support the purchase of stainless-steel bowls to replace the use of single-use paper and compostable bowls. Using these bowls year after year is a big step towards reducing the amount of waste generated at each event as well as the event's carbon footprint.

Learn More and Take Action:

- The most effective action is to avoid single-use items whenever possible. Bring your own mug, container, and cutlery when dining out and choose items that come with little to no packaging.
- Buy items in bulk at your local grocery store or stores specializing in bulk and/or refill.
- Apply for a CRD Rethink Waste Grant to replace single-use items with reusable alternatives at your public event or other community project.
- Check out Tap into Local – a reusable water bottle program and water-refill map for visitors and locals in Greater Victoria.
- Join the Surfrider Foundation at their monthly beach cleanup, where most of the litter collected consists of single-use items and plastics.
- Did you know? The District of Tofino is the first municipality in Canada to ban the sale of single-use plastic water bottles 1L and less.

Reuseable gowns launched at Island Health:

Single-use items in the health care industry can be more difficult to replace due to stringent health requirements and regulations. However, Island Health is making strides towards sustainability with its launch of the Reusable Level 2 Isolation Gowns Program. These gowns are worn by staff when there are risks of infection transmission, such as when patients are on isolation precautions. They exceed industry standards for wearer protection and are up to 80% more cost effective than their single-use counterparts. The new reusable gowns also generate 30% less GHG emissions, consume 41% less blue water, and create up to 99% less solid waste over their life cycle comparatively. Usage is tracked with RFID chips that count the number of times each gown is washed, and they are recycled after 100 uses. The reusable gowns will replace over 650,000+ single-use gowns used annually by Island Health in the South Island region.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SINGLE-USE & PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION REGULATION

Provincial Phase Out of Single-Use and Plastic Items

December 20, 2023

PROHIBITED

Plastic utensils*

AVAILABLE BY REQUEST

Wooden utensils

Drink cup lids and sleeves

Straws

Condiments

Napkins and wet wipes

Garnishes (e.g., plastic sushi grass, drink umbrellas)

July 15, 2024

PROHIBITED

Plastic shopping bags (new reusable and paper bags have minimum fees)

Food service ware (excludes polystyrene foam trays for raw proteins only)**

Biodegradable plastic / PVDC film wrap

All oxo-degradable plastics

RESTRICTED USE

Compostable plastic food service ware and film wrap

July 1, 2028

PROHIBITED

PVC film wrap

July 1, 2030

PROHIBITED

Polystyrene foam trays (used for raw proteins)

* Utensils include spoons, forks, knifes, chopsticks, stir sticks and drink splash plugs.

** Made of biodegradable plastic, polystyrene foam, PVC or PVDC including bowls, boxes or cartons, cups, containers, plates, platters and trays (excludes polystyrene foam for raw proteins)

Additional information and resources

For more information and resources on BC's Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation: gov.bc.ca/reuse

The regulation supports BC's efforts to prevent single-use and plastic waste, divert more waste from landfills and keep what we do use working for us longer – creating a cleaner, better future for everyone.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

8.0 Action Plan

The Action Plan outlines the focus areas, strategies, and actions necessary to support the transition to zero waste in our community, while also supporting progress on the Saanich 2020 Climate Plan commitments. The Action Plan builds upon existing initiatives and provides a pathway for shifting beyond traditional waste management's linear 'take-make-waste' approach, to a focus on waste prevention and developing a circular economy. Achieving this transformation requires a collective effort to rethink and redesign our processes, reduce our contribution to the production of unnecessary and non-durable goods and ensure that valuable materials are kept in use rather than sent to the landfill. Importantly, by prioritizing strategies and actions at the top of the zero waste hierarchy, we can also significantly shrink our carbon footprint.

The Plan contains 16 strategies and 54 actions organized into four focus areas to align with the zero waste hierarchy.

Table 3: The 4 Focus Areas of the Zero Waste Action Plan

Focus area 1 Waste Prevention: Rethink, Avoid, Reduce	Inspire and enable residents and businesses to choose durable, reusable, and low waste solutions that support a vibrant circular economy and one planet lifestyle.
Focus area 2 Make Things Last: Share, Reuse, Repair	Foster share, reuse, and repair activities, systems, and programs to extend product life.
Focus area 3 Sort it Out: Recycle & Compost	Ensure multi-stream recycling and composting collection programs are in place and optimized across all sectors.
Focus area 4 Waste Reduction in the Built Environment	Adopt a whole building lifecycle approach and reduce, reuse and recycle building materials during all phases of construction.

Top 10 Things YOU Can Do as an Individual

Refuse: say no to what you don't need. Pause before you purchase.

Ditch single-use items: opt for reusable cups, bags, containers, and hygiene products when you can.

Participate in sharing: try borrowing, lending, or renting tools, appliances, books, and clothing rather than buying.

Shop in bulk: to reduce packaging waste and use reusable containers.

Buy second-hand: purchase used clothing, furniture, and electronics. Most of the things you want already exist.

Repair over replace: fix clothing, electronics, and goods to make things last as long as they can.

Choose durable goods and textiles: preferably locally made, and use them for as long as possible.

Reduce food waste: consume all the food you purchase to prevent waste. Freeze items before they spoil to use later.

Compost organic waste: place all food scraps and yard trimmings into your green bins.

Rinse your recycling and sort into the correct bins: to avoid contamination and ensure it all gets recycled.

8.1 Pathway to Zero Waste

A waste modelling approach was used to estimate the contribution of each strategy towards meeting the plan's targets to reduce per capita waste generation to 250kg/year by 2031 and 210kg/year by 2040. Strategies were assessed for both garbage tonnage reduction and GHG emissions reduction to help identify high impact actions and priority areas.

Modelling results indicate that Focus Area 3 (Figure 18) presents the greatest potential for the District to support waste-tonnage reductions. However, significant reductions are also possible in Focus Areas 1, 2, and 3 through shifts in consumption, extending the life of goods, and advancing circular-economy initiatives.

Reductions in waste tonnage do not always align with reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. For example, Focus Area 4 shows comparatively smaller tonnage reductions, but its strategies are projected to deliver substantial GHG emissions reductions (Figure 19), underscoring their importance from a climate perspective.

A pathway to achieve the zero waste targets was developed based on the modelling results. As part of this approach, strategies and actions from each focus area are grouped into Phase 1A and Phase 1B.

Phase 1A includes the strategies and actions expected to deliver the highest near-term impact in waste reduction and/or GHG emissions reductions. Completing Phase 1A is projected to enable the District to meet a disposal target of 250 kg/capita/year by 2031. Phase 1B strategies and actions will be required to achieve the District's 2040 target of 210 kg/capita/year.

Achieving 125 kg/capita/year by 2050 (Phase 2) will require broader system-change measures beyond the scope of the current Action Plan.

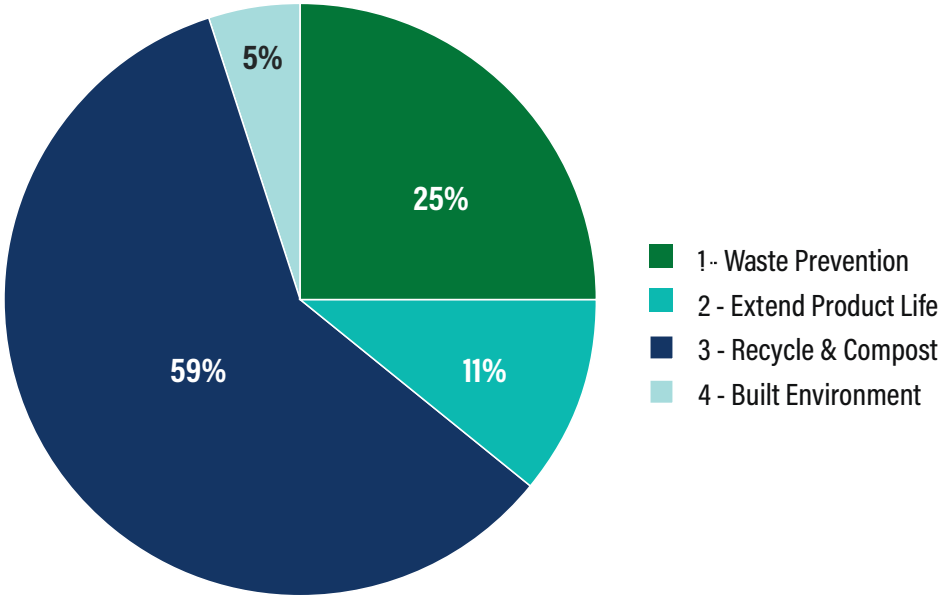


Figure 18: Potential garbage tonnage reduction per focus area.

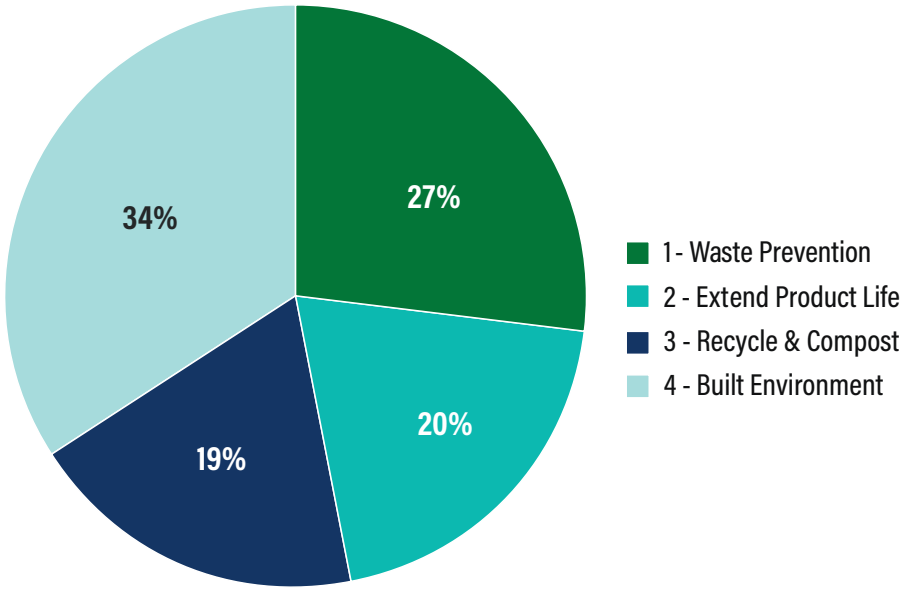


Figure 19: Potential GHG emissions reduction per focus area.

Table 4: Waste reduction targets by year

Year	Target kg/capita/year	Phase	Description
2025	318	Business as usual	Assumes status quo based on current disposal rates per person.
2031	250	1A	Focuses on high impact strategies first. Prioritization is based on diversion potential and emissions reduction, alongside community engagement, and regional priorities.
2040	210	1B	Prioritizes strategies for continued impact to meet the next target; their start date aligns with Phase 1A, but some may need more time to show a garbage reduction impact[28] – as reflected in Figure 20 below.
2050	125	2	Measures needed to reach this Phase's target include system change policy, innovative product design and shift to circular economy; as well as addressing other top materials not yet being addressed in diversion programs (e.g. hygiene products, textiles, harder to recycle plastics and wood materials). Provincial and federal policies and programs are also necessary to enable us to meet these targets.

The pathway illustrating how Saanich may achieve its zero waste targets for 2031, 2040, 2050 and beyond is illustrated in Figure 20. The orange line represents a 'business-as-usual' scenario, which assumes current practices and conditions remain unchanged. The blue line illustrates the expected progress toward the District's targets as strategies and actions are implemented.

Initiating the full suite of strategies within the first five years of implementation is important to achieve measurable outcomes within the 10-year Strategy timeframe and to keep the District on track to meet its targets. Depending on legislative drivers, available resources, synergies across initiatives, market conditions, and other factors, it can take three to five years for strategies to produce significant impacts.

28 Some strategies, such as those related to Share, Reuse, and Repair, textiles, hygiene, and the Institutional, Commercial, Industrial sector, may take more time given the current market and regulatory and/or policy realities.

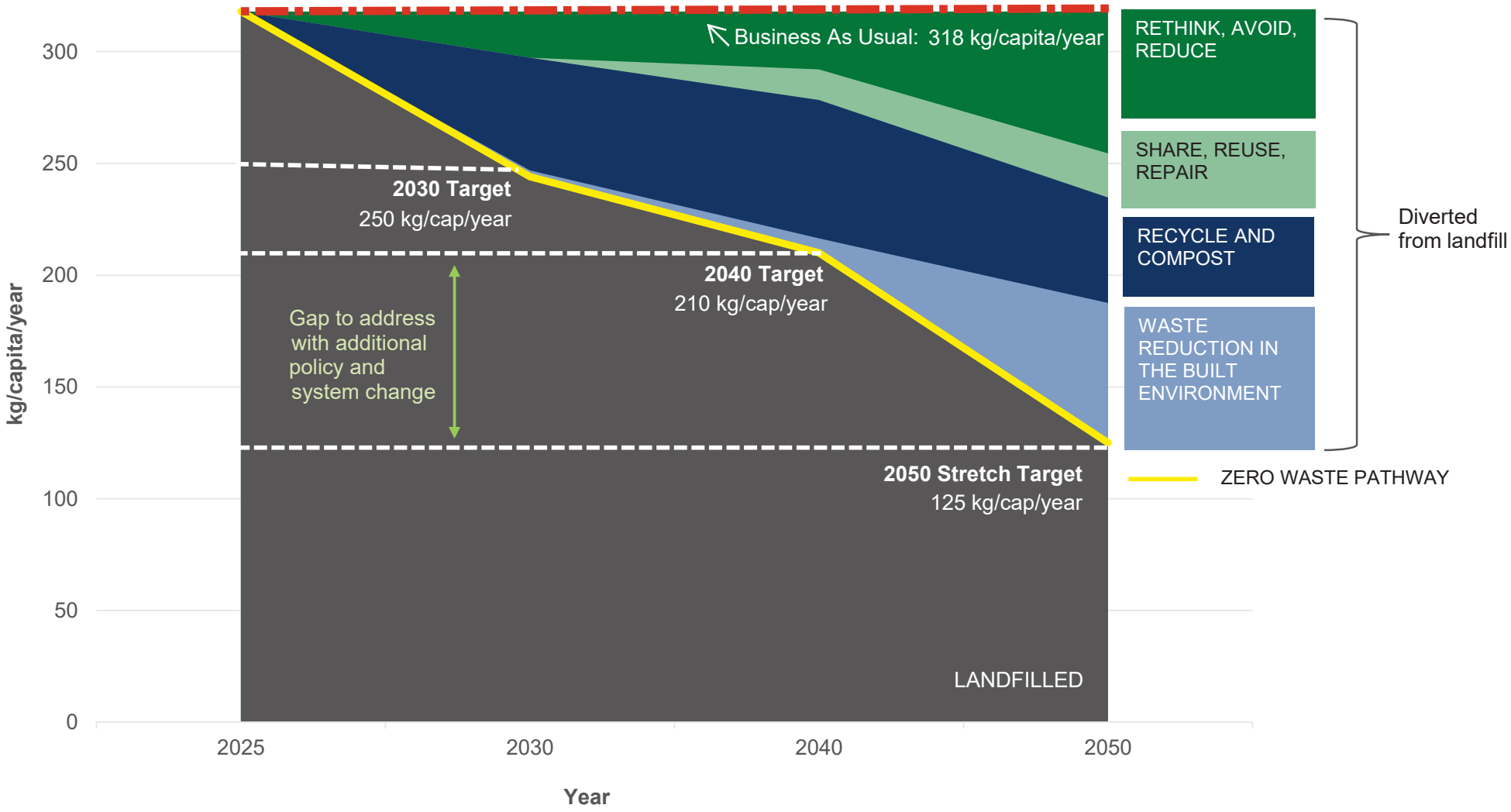


Figure 20: Pathway toward zero waste

8.2 Focus Areas, Strategies, and Actions

The strategies and actions across the four focus areas are designed to prioritize the waste reduction hierarchy and upstream solutions, while also addressing waste avoidance and diversion priorities across sectors. A symbol beside each strategy indicates its potential garbage tonnage reduction and GHG emissions reductions, based on the ranges and colours shown in Table 5 below. Each strategy is also identified as Phase 1A or Phase 1B to align with the modeling analysis and roadmap in Figure 20.

Table 5: Potential tonnage and GHG emissions reductions

Potential tonnage reduction (tonnes)	Potential GHG reduction (MT CO^2E)
>500	>-1000
101 to 499	-350 to -1000
1 to 100	-1 to -349

Priority Actions

Each action includes a description, an implementation timeline, and a rating of whether it is low, medium or high priority. Priority ratings align with the waste modeling analysis: actions are rated highest when they offer the greatest potential to reduce or divert waste and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or when they advance broader goals such as economic development, regional growth, supporting Climate Plan priorities and other regional objectives.

The main tools that will be used for plan implementation, include:

- Education, awareness & capacity-building
- Incentives
- Bylaws, policies, and regulations
- Advocacy to higher levels of government
- Leading by example
- Pilot projects

8.2.1 FOCUS AREA 1 – Waste Prevention: Rethink, Avoid, Reduce

Goal: Inspire and enable residents and businesses to choose durable, reusable, and low waste solutions that support a vibrant circular economy and one planet lifestyle.

Opportunity: Saanich has a powerful opportunity to strengthen community well being, support local innovation, and advance climate goals by embracing circular design, mindful consumption, and waste prevention. By beginning at the top of the zero waste hierarchy, and avoiding waste before it occurs, we can achieve sustained long term benefits.

Strategies and actions in this area focus on rethinking and reimagining products, services, and systems: clarifying needs, reducing unnecessary consumption, and choosing lower-impact alternatives. They encourage a shift in mindset, moving away from a "use and dispose" approach towards circular approaches. It means creating or finding products that are durable, easy to repair, upgrade, or dismantle for reuse or recycling, maximizing their lifecycle and minimizing environmental impact. This approach also greatly supports business innovation and local economic development. A circular economy keeps materials, products, and capital within communities rather than wealth leaking out to pay for imported goods from distant manufacturers. It also relies on local expertise and infrastructure, which generates local employment. This shift helps create a community where living well aligns with living within one planet limits.

Potential Impact: Acting in this opportunity space has the potential to significantly reduce environmental pressures and consumption-based emissions. Today's linear systems encourage high levels of consumption and quick disposal. Impacts are extensive, and often hidden, including biodiversity loss, water stress, pollution, and climate change. An estimated 45% of global GHG emissions are associated with the production of goods for human consumption (Figure 21).[29]

29 Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2021). Completing the picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change.

To date, many carbon pollution reduction efforts have focused primarily on operational emissions; however, there are critical actions that only a circular economy can address. In the years ahead, climate action will increasingly need to address the 45% of emissions generated by how we make, use, and dispose of food and products. Circular systems can no longer be treated as a supplementary component of climate action – they need to be central to achieving climate goals.

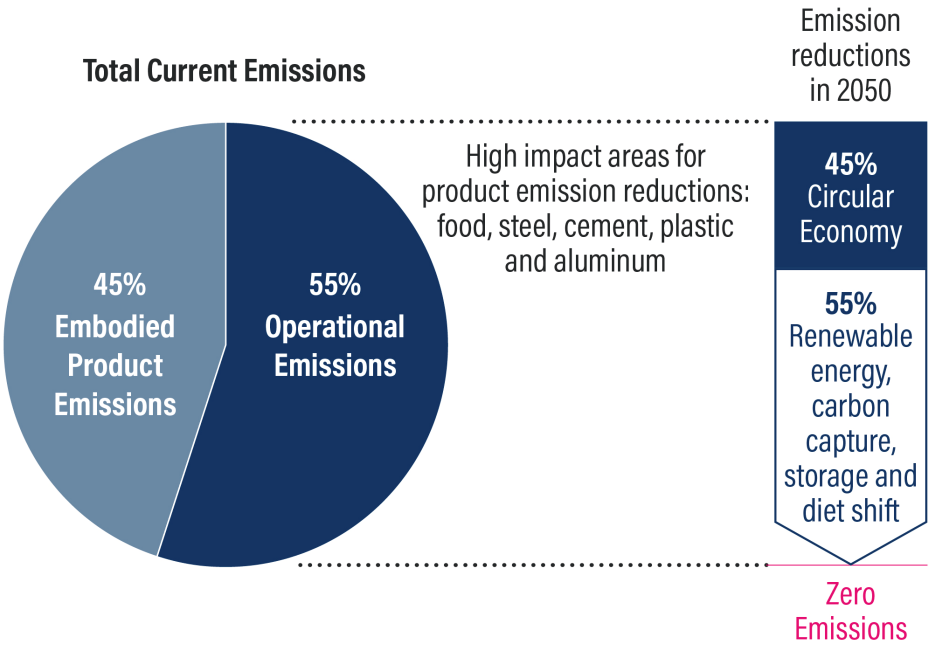


Image credit: Ellen MacArthur Foundation

Figure 21: Breakdown of current global emissions

In Saanich, food accounts for about 20% of local consumption based emissions and materials another 11%, highlighting the potential for circular food systems and low waste material flows to deliver measurable climate benefits. High impact material streams - such as textiles, plastics, single-use items, and electronics - also offer significant potential for improvement when redesigned for durability, repairability, and reuse.

By addressing these upstream impacts, Saanich can reduce waste, cut emissions, lower costs, and improve environmental health while supporting a more resilient and resource efficient community.

Gap to Close: To fully realize these benefits, communities need stronger tools and systems that support waste prevention and circular practices. Many upstream impacts remain out of sight, and current market dynamics, such as aggressive marketing, low-cost production, and rapid delivery, encourage overconsumption. Locally, some zoning bylaws and use definitions do not yet reflect emerging circular business models. Retail take back options for clothing remain limited, and textiles are not yet covered by extended producer responsibility (EPR) programs. Closing these gaps will enable residents and businesses to participate more easily in circular systems and unlock the full potential of waste prevention.

Actions: The following strategies and actions outline how the District will avoid and reduce waste, including eliminating single-use items, preventing avoidable food waste, and reducing textile waste and consumption – while supporting a thriving circular economy.

"We will not recycle our way out of the plastic pollution crisis: we need a systemic transformation to achieve the transition to a circular economy" – Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme

STRATEGY 1: Rethink consumption habits, transition to more circular business practices, and mobilize residents towards lighter living.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
1.1	**Promote a culture shift towards lighter living and reduced consumption**	Develop dynamic and accessible behaviour change program(s) that reduce consumption and promote a culture shift towards lighter living, potentially in collaboration with the CRD and other local governments. Include communications campaigns – particularly for youth – to increase awareness of circularity and communicate the benefits of responsible consumption and waste avoidance.	2025 (ongoing)	High
1.2	**Help businesses and institutions transition to a circular economy**	Work with regional partners to develop or support programs (e.g. micro-grants, training, certifications, inter-business collaborations, or tailored guidance programs) to help businesses and institutions reduce waste, transition to more circular business practices, and identify waste-to-resource business opportunities.	2027 (2029)	High
1.3	**Attract and retain circular economy businesses**	Identify and implement policy tools (e.g., zoning bylaw revisions, permitting requirements, regional programs) and partnerships to retain existing circular-economy businesses in Saanich and attract new ones to support our community's transition to a circular economy.	2027 (2029)	High

STRATEGY 2: Avoid single-use items and packaging.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
2.1	**Reduce unecessary single-use items**	Develop and implement programs and regulatory tools (e.g., a dine-in requirement for reusable food service ware bylaw), supported by community-wide education, to eliminate the use of unnecessary single-use items and packaging.	2027 (2030)	High
2.2	**Advocate for stronger single-use item and packaging regulations**	Advocate to Provincial and Federal governments to better regulate and enforce single-use items and packaging restrictions, drive design change, and phase out hard to recycle plastics and other materials that cannot be reused or recycled.	2027 (ongoing)	High
2.3	**Transition to reusable food service ware at District facilities and events**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - by developing programs, policies and catering guidelines that focus on reusable food service ware, eliminate single-use items and work towards zero waste at office kitchens, public events and festivals.	2025 (2030)	Medium
2.4	**Reduce household hygiene waste**	Undertake a feasibility study to identify actions (e.g., programs that support switching to reusable cloth diapers, washable incontinence underwear, etc.) that will help decrease household hygiene items in the waste stream. Implement recommendations.	2030 (2032)	Low

STRATEGY 3: Reduce Avoidable Food Waste & Better Manage Food Supply

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
3.1	**Reduce avoidable food waste**	Build on existing Love Food Hate Waste campaigns to develop and deliver hands-on behaviour change programs alongside community partners that reduce avoidable food waste throughout the food system (e.g., food waste reduction challenges for institutions, retailers, and households).	2028 (2030)	High
3.2	**Increase food rescue**	Partner with existing food rescue organizations to identify resources and needs to further optimize and destigmatize food rescue and redistribution efforts. This may include but not be limited to: a) facilitating business-led problem solving focused on dairy and produce waste prevention and working with retailers to track food waste and measure progress; and, b) supporting food surplus recovery across the food supply chain, including on-farm gleaning, secondary processing using commissary kitchens, and promoting food rescue-related initiatives.	2028 (2030)	High
3.3	**Track food waste**	Work with partners to develop a regional or local program that requires large food businesses to track food waste and have a waste diversion plan, potentially as part of business licence requirements.	2029 (2031)	Medium
3.4	**Advocate for improved food labelling**	Advocate to Health Canada to adopt labelling standards that clearly differentiate between quality-based and safety-based date labels (e.g., use by and best before).	2028 (ongoing)	Low

STRATEGY 4: Reduce textile waste and consumption

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
4.1	**Promote sustainable, durable, and circular textile use**	Develop and deliver hands-on behaviour change and business support program(s) to reduce the consumption of clothing and textiles, increase repairs, and promote the creation and purchase of durable textiles over less durable 'fast fashion' items. Include the promotion of rental fashion, especially for non-routine clothing uses.	2029 (ongoing)	Medium
4.2	**Advocate for EPR programs for textiles**	Advocate to the Province and Federal governments for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements that drive design change for textiles (e.g., a durability score), penalize fast fashion, and ethically manage textile flows after use. Advocate to the CRD, Provincial and Federal governments for textiles to become a separate waste material in the waste stream.	2027 (ongoing)	Medium

STRATEGY 5 - Enhance corporate sustainable procurement practices

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
5.1	**Update sustainable procurement policies and tools**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - Update District of Saanich sustainable procurement policies, guidelines, and tools for staff to ensure the District is using its purchasing power to minimize waste and consumption and increase efficiencies.	2025 (2026)	Medium
5.2	**Identify zero waste purchasing opportunities**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - Collaborate with departments across the District to identify product and service categories where purchasing options and alternatives (e.g., sharing, reuse, standardization) can be implemented to extend product life and minimize waste and embodied emissions. Consider areas like furniture and office supplies, maintenance of fleet vehicles, electronics, and event catering.	2027 (2028)	Medium
5.3	**Launch internal asset sharing platform**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - Establish a central online platform for internal asset sharing (e.g., equipment, furniture, office supplies) to reduce costs and extend product life.	2027 (2028)	Low

8.2.2 FOCUS AREA 2 – Make Things Last: Share, Reuse, Repair

Goal: Foster share, reuse, and repair activities, systems, and programs to extend product life.

Opportunity: Share, reuse, and repair are practical approaches that allow individuals to prolong the lifespan of products and optimize their utility. These practices support a more circular economy while reducing waste and carbon emissions, and can also lower household and organizational costs. For local governments, expanding share, reuse, and repair systems is a concrete way to build community resilience, reduce disposal pressures, and support local economic development. By buying less "new stuff" we extend product lifespans and significantly reduce the demand for virgin resources.

Establishing the infrastructure and systems in Saanich whereby reuse, repair, and share become the norm will make it easier for more people to participate. Building a circular economy will introduce new business models that can drive growth through innovation, job creation, and increased efficiency. Opportunities include shifting from product ownership to "product-as-a-service", the "sharing economy", extending product life through repair and refurbishment, designing for circularity, and focusing on economic growth without waste.

Potential Impact: Transitioning to a circular economy will not only reduce waste, but will also protect natural resources, reduce pollution, cut GHG emissions, connect communities, and spark innovation. A more circular approach keeps materials in use longer, getting more value from what we already have.

This shift is achievable, but it requires addressing the real-world factors that shape choices. In many cases, low manufacturing costs make replacement feel easier than repair. Some products are designed with short lifespans or are difficult (or costly) to fix due to limited access to parts, tools, or repair information. Convenience also matters: repair and reuse options can take time to find, and consumer culture often promotes buying new. Finally, many people have not had access to clear, practical information about the impacts of the linear model or the everyday benefits of circular options such as saving money, reducing waste, and strengthening local services. Embracing circularity will require making new choices. For residents, this may mean repairing rather than replacing. For businesses, it may mean developing new business models, prioritizing product durability, or expanding repair and take-back services.

Gap to Close: Opportunities to share, reuse, repair, and refill exist locally, but they are not yet connected or visible enough to make circular choices easy and routine for most people. As a result, these options can be perceived as "niche" due to a mix of systemic, cultural, and economic barriers. Local infrastructure – such as community repair hubs, lending libraries, and refill systems – needs to be more widespread to support convenient, day-to-day participation.

Closing this gap will require building accessible local infrastructure and aligning policies and funding with higher-value actions such as repair and reuse. Progress would also be accelerated by provincial and federal standards that support product durability and the "right to repair," and by standardizing packaging so reuse systems can scale.

Actions: The following strategy and actions specify how the District will build and improve on the share, reuse, repair infrastructure and systems within our community.

Saanich sponsors businesses to complete a Circular Economy Accelerator Program

In 2024-2025, the District sponsored 12 Saanich businesses to complete the Synergy Circular Economy Accelerator Program. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of the circularity of a company's business practices and provide recommendations on actions they can take to improve their circularity. If all 12 businesses implement the suggested actions from their assessments, they could divert a cumulative 33,739kg from the landfill and save $98,980 annually.

STRATEGY 6 - Build reuse, repair, refill, and sharing infrastructure and resources within Saanich

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
6.1	**Advocate for the right to repair**	Advocate to Provincial and Federal governments to develop design standards and regulations that ensure the durability of products and the right to repair, as well as the standardization of packaging sizes and materials to enable reuse e.g. the 2025 Quebec "Right to Repair" law.	2026 (ongoing)	High
6.2	**Assess, support, and grow circular businesses**	Conduct a scan and needs assessment of share, repair, reuse, and/or refill businesses. Identify and recommend strategies to support business retention and growth (e.g., prototypes to implement refill or reuse systems, to sell used products alongside new ones, and low-barrier-to-entry models such as vendor stalls).	2028(2031)	High
6.3	**Scale-up community sharing and repair**	Work with community partners to establish, maintain and scale-up community-led lending libraries, repair cafes, and sharing initiatives. Develop and initiate an implementation strategy, and advocate for the regional connectivity and promotion of these services.	2029 (2032)	Medium
6.4	**Grow the reuse and repair economy in Saanich**	Identify programs and initiatives that can grow Saanich's reuse and repair economy, such as partnering with educational or vocational training institutions to develop or expand repair skills, implementing a repair voucher scheme, and/or providing incentives to businesses.	2030 (2032)	Medium
6.5	**Make reuse, repair, and share the norm**	Normalize reuse, repair, refill, and share through education, awareness raising, and the development of user-friendly online platforms, interactive maps, and promotional materials.	2030 (2032)	Medium

Did you know?

Men's Sheds is a grassroots volunteer organization found in communities across Canada. It provides a welcoming and friendly environment for men - particularly those in retirement or experiencing social isolation - to come together, socialize, and engage in meaningful activities. Men's Sheds often serve as hubs for skill exchange, where members learn new repair and fabrication techniques through informal, hands-on mentoring with activities ranging from woodworking and metalworking to repairing bicycles and electronics. Men learn repair skills by collaborating with experienced peers on maintaining tools or fixing items, engaging in community-supported projects like tool-lending libraries or "repair cafés," and working on personal projects that help restore, repurpose, or mend household objects.

8.2.3 FOCUS AREA 3 - Sort it Out: Recycle and Compost

Goal: Ensure multi-stream recycling and composting collection programs are in place and optimized across all sectors.

Opportunity: Achieving community-wide participation in waste diversion is a practical, high-impact step toward reducing Saanich's overall waste tonnage and associated GHG emissions. Policy tools such as mandatory source separation, minimum recycling/organics space requirements, and clear-bag programs (where appropriate) can make it easier for residents and businesses to participate and help establish consistent, community-wide diversion practices. These measures are most effective when paired with education and behaviour-change programs, including clear and consistent signage to increase participation and reduce contamination.

Optimizing existing collection programs for low-density residential properties and strengthening sorting requirements and collection services for other building types, are important steps to improve diversion rates. While multi-unit buildings currently represent a smaller share of Saanich's building stock[30] , most new development is expected to be multi-unit or mixed-use.[31] At present, there is limited guidance and few regulations to ensure these buildings support effective waste diversion. This creates a timely opportunity to establish multi-stream collection requirements and building design standards that provide adequate space, access, and layouts for safe, efficient recycling and organics collection.

Another key opportunity is to work with businesses and organizations to improve diversion rates in the ICI sector, which currently generates the majority of Saanich's waste stream.

Potential Impact: Advancing these opportunities could reduce waste in Saanich by more than 9,000 tonnes per year, representing the highest potential impact for waste diversion and reduction of any focus area in this strategy. Waste composition studies indicate that across all sectors, more than half of what is being sent to landfill is compostable or recyclable – a leading contributor to Saanich's per capita waste disposal rate.

Public engagement by both the District and CRD indicates strong community support for improved recycling and organics services, providing a solid foundation for implementation.

Gap to Close: Achieving community-wide participation in waste and recycling diversion programs is the most critical gap to close. Mandatory waste separation across all sectors would create a shared, structured, and legally required goal that fosters collective responsibility, reduces environmental inequities, and prompts the development of the systems and infrastructure needed to support diversion. In the interim, additional policies and programs can be implemented to improve diversion rates and advance progress towards this goal.

Actions: The following strategies and actions outline how the District will improve recycling and organics diversion rates across the community.

30 Single-detached homes and low-density residential up to 4 units represent approximately 78% of Saanich's housing stock, with apartments representing about 22%.

31 To deliver on BC provincial housing targets and to support housing diversity and affordability, the District is expected to see a minimum of 4,610 new units completed by 2028 – primarily in the form of multi-unit housing.

STRATEGY 7: Expand mandatory waste separation across all sectors.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
7.1	**Require waste and recycling storage areas in all buildings**	In collaboration with the CRD and other local governments in the Capital Region, develop and implement design guidelines, engineering standards, bylaw updates and regulations to ensure new and existing multi-unit, mixed-use and Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) developments include adequate storage, access, and space requirements for centralized waste and recycling sorting areas.	2025 (2027)	High
7.2	**Advocate for mandatory waste separation**	Advocate to the CRD and Province, to develop and implement policy and legislation to require waste source separation so that all residents and businesses (residential and ICI developments) are required to divert and separate their waste into recycling and organics.	2026 (ongoing)	High
7.3	**Advocate for expanded EPR programs**	Advocate to the Province for additional and expanded Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs and more convenient access to EPR programs.	2026 (ongoing)	High
7.4	**Expand land-use support for recycling and circular economy opportunities**	Identify additional opportunities for light industrial and other uses in Centre, Corridor and Village land use plans that would support recycling collection, sorting, processing and other waste related circular economy opportunities in Saanich both as standalone facilities or accessory to other uses.	2026 (2028)	High
7.5	**Enable new recycling collection services in Saanich**	Review best practices and leading-edge design/technologies for recycling facilities and update the District's zoning bylaw accordingly to enable recycling collection businesses to expand services in Saanich and fill the current gaps in public drop off locations.	2026 (2028)	High
7.6	**Clearly communicate waste sorting requirements**	To foster compliance with existing and future waste source separation requirements, develop and implement clear and consistent communication programs. Advocate for regional consistency in signage and messaging.	2026 (ongoing)	Medium
7.7	**Consider a clear bag policy**	Investigate the use of clear bags for garbage and recycling collection to encourage proper sorting of materials, including any recommendations for implementation.	2028 (2029)	Low

STRATEGY 8: Enhance collection programs for low-density residential homes to improve diversion.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
8.1	**Implement incentive-based cart pricing**	Adjust cart-based pricing and cart options to incentivize diversion and eliminate organic materials from the landfill.	2025 (ongoing)	High
8.2	**Launch curbside monitoring programs**	Strengthen curbside monitoring and enforcement with improved truck technology systems and on-site auditing programs.	2026 (2028)	High

STRATEGY 9: Improve multi-stream collection options for multi-unit and mixed-use buildings to improve diversion.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
9.1	**Standardize waste diversion and collection for multi-unit and mixed-use buildings**	Complete a feasibility study, including a cost-benefit analysis to determine the best option(s) to improve waste diversion and multi-stream collection in multi-unit and mixed-used buildings. Implement the recommendations.	2026 (2028)	High
9.2	**Expand education and outreach programs for multi-unit buildings**	In collaboration with the CRD and Recycle BC, expand education and engagement efforts for multi-unit property managers, strata councils, and residents to reduce contamination and improve diversion.	2026 (ongoing)	Medium

STRATEGY 10: Increase waste diversion across the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) sector.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
10.1	**Establish waste diversion and reduction support for businesses and organizations**	Establish a zero waste on-site technical assistance program for businesses and organizations to assess waste reduction and diversion potential and provide recommendations on setting up effective systems.	2028 (ongoing)	Medium
10.2	**Incentivize large generators to reduce waste**	Develop a program that requires businesses generating high waste volumes to submit a waste diversion and management plan, supported by incentives to encourage early participation.	2028 (ongoing)	Medium
10.3	**Pilot zero waste projects with local institutions**	Work with key institutions in Saanich, such as post-secondary institutions, Island Health, and the Greater Victoria School District, to pilot and showcase waste reduction and diversion initiatives. Encourage the expansion and replication of successful initiatives.	2027 (2030)	Medium

STRATEGY 11: Improve waste diversion at municipal sites and facilities.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
11.1	**Update signage across District facilities**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - Update waste and recycling signage and communications at all District of Saanich facilities to improve diversion rates.	2026 (2026)	Medium
11.2	**Ensure waste diversion at District facilities and events**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE – Implement and require waste diversion at all District facilities and events, including large public events held at Saanich parks and facilities.	2026 (ongoing)	Medium
11.3	**Explore direct collection across District facilities**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE - Explore the provision of direct collection (or direct oversight) across all District-owned/operated sites by standardizing material streams, infrastructure, service levels, and accountability.	2028 (2029)	Low
11.4	**Expand streetscape and park multi-stream collection programs**	Identify and implement new standards (e.g., right sized infrastructure, service design, contamination controls) for all public waste receptacles and phase-out garbage-only with multi-stream receptacles - starting with highest-use locations and in collaboration with potential partners (e.g. School Districts, BC Transit, local businesses).	2028 (2030)	Low

STRATEGY 12: Promote onsite organics management and small-scale community composting where service gaps exist for organics collection.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
12.1	**Support local composting education programs**	Support existing composting workshops, events, and school programs that showcase the benefits of small-scale onsite composting (e.g., source reduction, carbon sequestration in soil, local food production).	2028 (ongoing)	Low
12.2	**Support businesses and organizations to pilot on-site composting**	Where organics collection is not possible, work with businesses and organizations to explore and potentially pilot the management of their organic materials onsite via composting, mulching, grass cycling, and other methods.	2030 (2032)	Low

8.2.4 FOCUS AREA 4: Waste Reduction in the Built Environment

Goal: Adopt a whole building lifecycle approach and reduce, reuse and recycle building materials during all phases of construction.

Opportunity: There are many opportunities to rethink how we design, build, use, and manage structures at end-of-life in our community. The District can strive to prioritize and make it easier to:

- Design new buildings for adaptability and disassembly
- Increase the use of salvaged and recycled-content materials in projects
- Support adaptive reuse and renovation instead of demolition
- Relocate buildings where feasible
- Encourage deconstruction (careful dismantling) over machine demolition for eligible buildings

These approaches conserve resources and reduce waste and embodied carbon. Designing for adaptability and future uses, procuring salvaged materials, selecting low-embodied-carbon, high–recycled-content products, and reducing overall material intensity (e.g., using less steel or concrete, or using space more efficiently) can significantly lower embodied emissions and construction/renovation waste.

From 2019 – 2025, the District of Saanich approved an average of 60 housing demolition permits per year. This presents an opportunity for Saanich to pilot and showcase building relocation, material salvage and reuse, and other circular economy practices. While some demolitions yield limited salvageable material, landfilling high-quality, usable housing should not remain the default approach. Many structures can be relocated or repurposed, and materials can be recovered for incorporation into new construction or other uses.

Because each structure is unique, buildings should first be assessed on their individual merits. Beyond waste and carbon reductions, the actions in this focus area can support local economic development by expanding deconstruction and salvage services, strengthening markets for refurbished and modular components, and advancing "product-as-a-service" models for building materials. As the District owns, procures, and maintains public infrastructure, there is also an opportunity to lead by example by piloting and scaling these approaches through municipal projects and procurement.

Potential Impact: Saanich can help build the pathways needed to transform the building industry. The construction sector is one of the most resource-intensive industries and a major generator of waste. In Canada, construction and demolition (C&D) activities send approximately 4 million tonnes of waste to landfills each year.[32] In the Capital Region, C&D waste accounted for 23% of the regional tonnage going to Hartland Landfill in 2022[33] (up from 16% in 2019) and in Saanich it represents approximately 20% our community's waste. With Saanich's population expected to grow[34] , coupled with the Provincial housing targets, development-related waste is likely to increase. Saanich is therefore well positioned to support and benefit from a regional push to strengthen markets for salvaged and reused building materials.

The primary C&D materials currently disposed of at Hartland Landfill include wood and wood products, asphalt shingles, PVC pipe, insulation, carpet and underlay, and plastic packaging. With the right systems, many of these materials could be recovered, reused, or recycled. Key challenges include limited on-site space for multiple bins; the time and labour required for sorting; hazardous, contaminated, and/or otherwise difficult-to-separate materials; limited end markets for used building materials; and a lack of local infrastructure to process, store, or recycle materials.

32 Environment and Climate Change Canada. (2024). Opportunities for Circularity of Wood in Construction, Renovation and Demolition in Canada.
33 Capital Regional District. (2022). Solid Waste Stream Composition Study.
34 Increasing by about 9.6% by 2033 – Saanich Housing Report

Hartland Landfill's new building-material bans and pricing adjustments are already delivering positive diversion results: in the first year of operation, approximately 7,600 tonnes of asphalt shingles, 17,000 tonnes of treated wood, and 1,700 tonnes of clean wood were diverted. However, significant volumes of C&D material are transported out of region to jurisdictions with lower tipping fees and fewer material bans[35] . Improved data tracking would help quantify the full extent of this "leakage" and stronger local action could help build a viable diversion market.

In addition to waste reduction, there is substantial potential to reduce GHG emissions. Embodied emissions (also called embodied carbon) are the GHG emissions released across the full life cycle of building materials: from extraction and manufacturing through transportation, installation, maintenance, and end-of-life disposal. Most of a building's embodied emissions occur before construction begins ('upfront' emissions), largely due to fossil fuel use during extraction, manufacturing, and transportation (see Figure 23) – making early design decisions especially important. In Saanich, buildings account for 24% of community consumption-based emissions and about 14% of building-related emissions are attributed to the embodied emissions of construction materials (Figure 22). As operational emissions decline through electrification and energy-efficiency improvements, embodied carbon will account for an increasing share of building-related climate impacts, heightening the importance of low-carbon materials, material reuse, and design for adaptability.

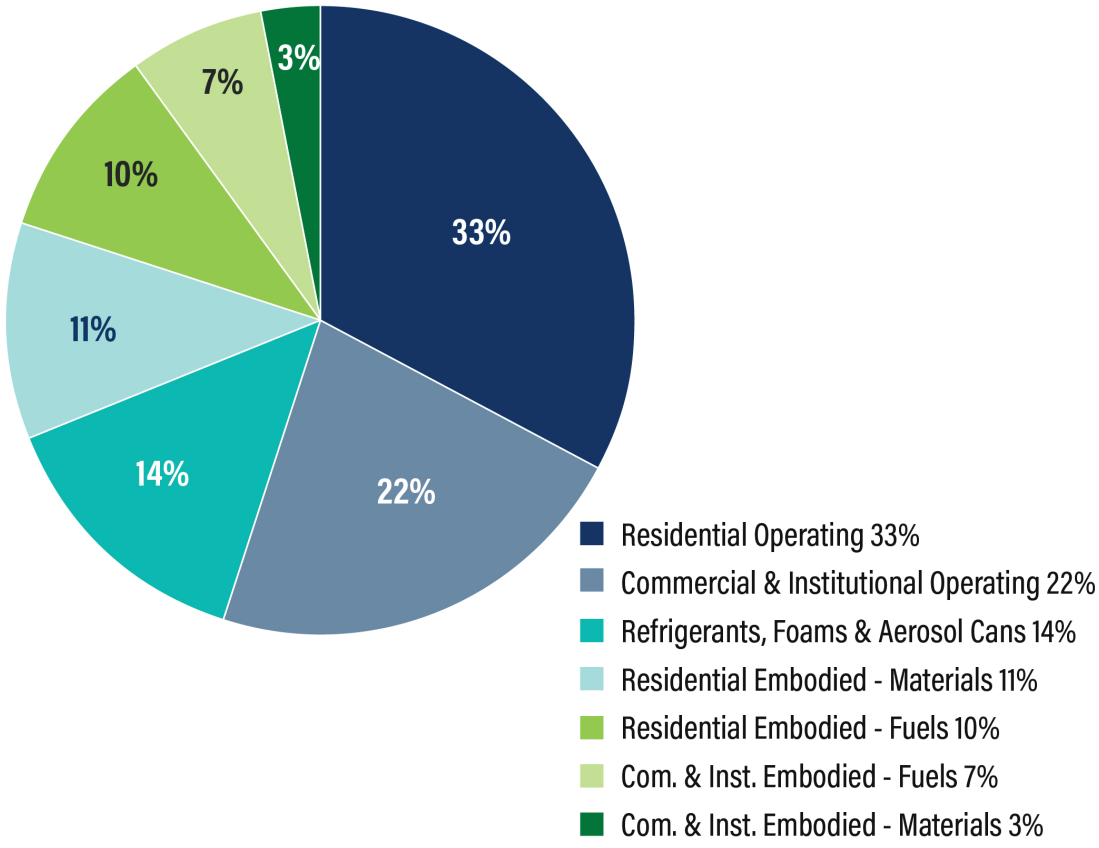


Figure 22: Consumption-based Emissions Inventory of Buildings for the District of Saanich, 2021

35 Zero Waste Victoria (2020).

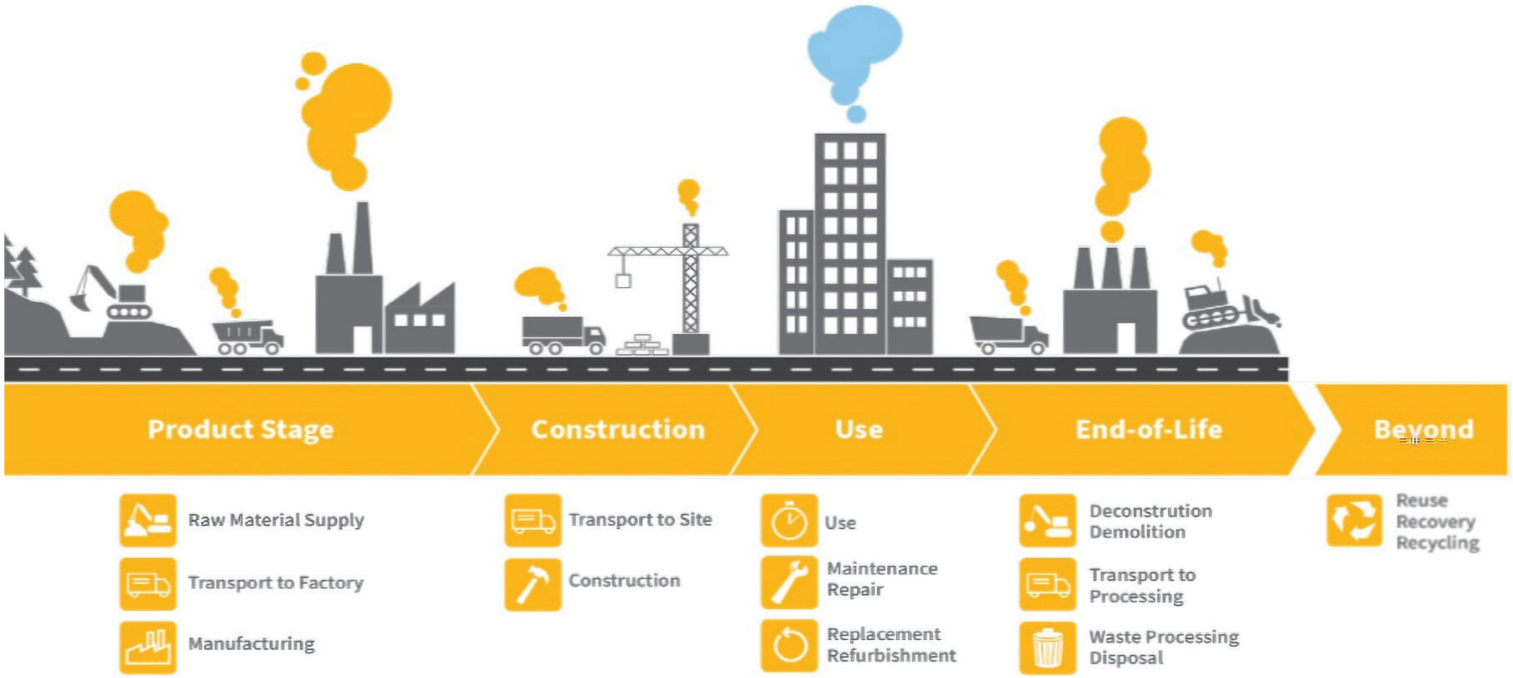


Figure 23: Emobdied carbon across the life cycle of a building

Gap to Close: Next steps include strengthening regional and Saanich-specific programs so low-waste, low-carbon C&D becomes the easy, cost-competitive choice. Priority gaps include:

- Regional infrastructure to sort and process salvaged C&D materials and support reliable supply and demand.
- Removal of unintentional permitting barriers (e.g., added time, cost, and logistical complexity) for building relocation, reuse, and material salvage.
- Coordinated action by other orders of government through stronger building codes, procurement leverage, and enforceable waste management regulations.

Closing these gaps will help shift the sector from a linear "take-make-waste" model to a circular economy.

Actions: The strategies and actions in this focus area are intended to implement policies, programs, and legislation that support homeowners and developers in ensuring the highest and best use of buildings and building materials, from both existing and future buildings.

STRATEGY 13 - Extend the lifespan of existing buildings and infrastructure.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
13.1	**Support building reuse and relocation**	Make it easier to keep existing buildings in use by reducing avoidable permitting barriers and improving early notice and coordination for relocations. This may include clearer guidance, pre-application support, and a "relocation-first" decision pathway where feasible.	2025 (2027)	High
13.2	**Repurpose buildings and structures**	Develop policies and practical tools to support repurposing existing buildings or structures for modern needs, where feasible and aligned with land use policies (e.g., converting underutilized office spaces into residential or mixed-use, enabling vertical additions, and supporting 24-hour buildings to maximize asset utilization).	2027 (2028)	Medium

STRATEGY 14 - Include flexible and adaptable designs in new structures.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
14.1	**Update the District's Sustainable Building Policy**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE – by updating the District's Corporate Sustainable Building Policy to include sustainable building practices that emphasize a whole building lifecycle approach for municipally owned and operated buildings. Develop tools (e.g., templates and checklists) to support its implementation.	2025 (2026)	High
14.2	**Design guide for flexible/ adaptable structures**	Develop a design guide for flexible and adaptable construction (e.g., design for disassembly, modular design, durable assemblies, renovation-friendly layouts). Where applicable, also update the Saanich Development Permit Area Guidelines.	2028 (2029)	Medium
14.3	**Adopt policies and incentives for offsite prefabrication**	Develop policies and provide support for construction practices that incorporate offsite prefabrication processes.	2028 (2029)	Medium
14.4	**Advocate for BC code and policy changes**	Work with partners to advocate to the Province for changes that support low-waste, low carbon construction (including clearer pathways for modular and prefabricated construction and stronger consideration of embodied emissions).	2027 (ongoing)	Low

STRATEGY 15 - Reduce the material intensity of buildings by adopting circular building practices that minimize raw material resources.

Phase 1B

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
15.1	**Help build a regional market for salvaged materials**	Collaborate with the CRD, neighboring municipalities, and industry to support the development of a clear pathway and regional market for salvaged building materials by identifying needs and options for regional storage space(s) and distribution of salvaged building materials. Conduct a local market scan to understand demand for high-potential items (e.g., lumber, windows/doors, fixtures, etc.).	2028 (2030)	High
15.2	**Support reuse of building materials**	Encourage the use of salvaged and recycled-content materials through incentives, programs, education, and collaboration with the CRD and industry (e.g., highlighting local suppliers, projects, standard specs, and procurement-ready product options). Include supporting new and existing businesses; e.g., through service expansion, training, and capacity-building.	2029 (2032)	High
15.2	**Pilot circular municipal construction projects**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE – by piloting municipal construction projects that reduce waste and utilize materials with lower embodied emissions (e.g., a higher percentage of recycled asphalt pavement (RAP), salvaged or recycled content materials, and optimized designs that reduce overall material use). Identify opportunities to scale existing circular initiatives across the District's construction, planning and infrastructure work.	2027 (ongoing)	Medium

STRATEGY 16 – Minimize the amount of construction and demolition material going to the landfill.

Phase 1A

#	Action	Description	Timeframe (completion)	Priority
16.1	**Deconstruction-first on municipal projects**	LEAD BY EXAMPLE – on all municipal building removals, prioritize deconstruction over demolition wherever feasible, and maximize reuse and recycling through project specifications, contractor requirements, and post-project reporting.	2026 (ongoing)	High
16.2	**Advocate for better recycling, circularity, and EPR programs for construction packaging**	Advocate to the Provincial and Federal government for stronger construction packaging standards which follow design-for-circularity principles, including material labeling, embodied carbon labelling, recyclability standards, and product design standards to ensure easy disassembly, return, and reuse. Include expansion of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) programs to include construction and demolition materials where appropriate.	2026 (ongoing)	Medium
16.3	**Require waste planning and reporting for large projects**	Pilot a requirement for large construction and demolition projects to submit a C&D Waste Management Plan when applying for permits. The plan would show how materials will be prevented, separated, reused, and recycled, and would include post-project reporting to confirm outcomes. The pilot will be evaluated before scaling up.	2028 (2030)	Medium
16.4	**Develop disaster debris plans that optimize material recovery**	Develop a disaster debris management plan for Saanich that aligns with the CRD's Disaster Debris Management Plan.	2027 (2028)	Medium

9.0 Implementation & Monitoring

Implementation and monitoring of the Zero Waste Strategy will be led by the District of Saanich's Sustainability division, working in collaboration with both internal staff and external organizations. This will require support from several departments and will be achieved by using a multitude of practical and creative solutions, both upstream and downstream, via government led policies and community-centred programs.

Information on any additional funding requirements will be presented to Council and brought forward through annual budget requests and capital plans. Staff will also seek to offset costs through grant funding and by collaborating on program delivery with other local, regional and provincial governments and partners whenever feasible.

Progress on implementation of the Zero Waste Strategy will be reviewed annually and reported publicly as part of the Climate Plan Report Card. Table 6 lists the metrics that will be used for monitoring and reporting on progress, and these metrics may be adjusted as new data becomes available.

Table 6: Monitoring and reporting metrics and data sources

Metrics	Unit	Data Source
Total waste generation for all of Saanich	kg	Saanich and CRD
Per capita annual waste disposal rates: ▪ Saanich ▪ Capital Region	Kg/person Kg/person	Saanich curbside collections data CRD Annual Tonnage Report
Waste diversion / contamination rates - Community: ▪ Saanich Overall Diversion Rate (%) for low density residential, multi-unit residential and ICI	% of waste diverted	CRD and Saanich waste audits
% of Preventable Food Waste sent to Hartland Landfill ▪ For all Saanich ▪ For low density residential homes	%	CRD and Saanich waste audits
Preventable Construction & Demolition waste sent to landfill (in or outside the region)	Kg % of all C&D waste	CRD and other sources TBD
Waste diversion / contamination rates - Corporation: ▪ Saanich Corporate Buildings Overall Diversion Rate by material type	% of waste diverted	Saanich data

Metrics	Unit	Data Source
Waste Diversion Services - Community ▪ # and % of Multi-Unit Residential buildings (MURBs) and ICI buildings in Saanich that have full diversion services provided (waste, organics and recycling equivalent to blue box) for all units	# and % of buildings	TBD
Waste Diversion Services - Corporate ▪ # and % of Corporate Facilities that have full diversion services provided (waste, organics and recycling equivalent to blue box)	# Facilities % Facilities	Saanich data
Zero Waste Events ▪ Number of single-use items replaced by reusables for District-funded and District-led events ▪ Total weight of all waste materials produced including garbage, recycling, compost ▪ Percentage of total waste diverted from landfills through recycling, composting, or reuse	# Single Use Items Kg % of waste diverted	Saanich data

The Zero Waste Strategy will be reviewed and updated every five years by the Sustainability Division to ensure it remains relevant, responsive to global and local changes and takes advantage of new opportunities and advancements in waste reduction or management.

10.0 Glossary and Acronyms

Glossary

Circular Economy	A regenerative, whole-systems approach that eliminates waste and pollution by keeping materials in their highest and best use through reuse, repair, return/refill, repurposing, and regeneration.
Construction and Demolition Sector	The sector involved in building, renovating and tearing down structures and infrastructure, including the generation, handling, reuse, recycling and disposal of associated materials.
Consumption-Based Emissions	The GHG emissions from all the goods and services that the Saanich community consumes, regardless of where those goods and services are produced around the world.
Diversion Potential	Represents the percentage of materials that could have been diverted through recycling (either curbside for via drop-off depots) and composting.
Downcycle	Using a product or components to produce a different product of lesser value.
Embodied Emissions	The greenhouse gas emissions produced in creating and delivering a particular material (e.g., infrastructure or consumable goods), including the energy used for extraction of raw materials, manufacturing and transportation of the end product.
Global warming potential	A measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere compared to carbon dioxide (CO_2) over a specific time period, expressed as CO_2e (carbon dioxide equivalent).
ICI Sector	Refers to non-residential organizations and facilities, including schools, retail businesses, restaurants, offices, hospitals, and industrial businesses.
Linear Economy	A take–make–waste model that relies on ongoing resource extraction to produce goods for short-term use, then discards the product and materials as waste at end of life.
Low-density residential building	Single-detached home with up to 4 units, duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes.
Material Flow	The movement of discarded products and materials from where they are generated (by sector) to where they end up.

Multi-unit residential building	Apartment or condo building with 5 units or more.
Product-as-a-service	A model where items or products are offered through subscriptions, leasing, or pay-per-use, rather than rather than sold as one-time purchases. The provider retains ownership and responsibility for maintenance, repair and end-of-life management.
Recycling Economy	A system where materials are collected for recycling but are often downcycled from higher-value to lower-value uses and ultimately end in disposal.
Repurpose	The process of taking a product and modifying or adapting it so it can be used for a new function or purpose different from its original intended use.
Reuse	The use of a product multiple times in its original form, for the same purpose or for a different purpose.
Single-use item	Products designed to be used once and then discarded as waste or placed in recycling.
Stretch Target	An ambitious goal intended to drive the innovation necessary to solve complex problems in order to achieve the goal.
Waste Composition Study	An analysis of a representative sample of the waste stream to determine the types and proportions of materials present (e.g., organics, paper, plastics, textiles).
Waste Diversion	Materials redirected to other uses or processes instead of being landfilled; e.g., materials that were recycled, composted, or reused.
Waste Modelling	The process of using available data and assumptions to estimate future waste generation, composition, and disposal.
Zero Waste	A set of processes and practices to prevent waste at the source and keep materials in use through reduction, reuse, repair, recycling/ composting so no materials are disposed of.
Zero Waste Hierarchy	A tiered system that ranks waste reduction and management options from most to least preferred, prioritizing waste prevention at the top with the least desirable outcome (i.e., landfill) at the bottom.

Acronyms

C&D - Construction and Demolition

CO^2e - Carbon Dioxide Equivalent

CRD - Capital Regional District

EPR - Extended Producer Responsibility

GHG - Greenhouse Gas

ICI - Institutional, Commercial and Industrial

SUI - Single-use Items

OCP - Official Community Plan

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