

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

TO: *MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report titled “Solid Waste and Recycling 2024 Annual Report” dated March 31, 2025, of the Environment Committee meeting, be received for information

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on March 31, 2025, received and adopted the attached report providing a summary of the City of Burnaby solid waste and recycling collection system performance.

On behalf of the Environment
Committee,

Councillor J. Keithley
Chair

Councillor M. Santiago
Vice Chair

TO: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (EC)
FROM: GENERAL MANAGER ENGINEERING
SUBJECT: **SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**
PURPOSE: To provide a summary of the City of Burnaby solid waste and recycling collection system performance.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Solid Waste and Recycling 2024 Annual Report” dated March 31, 2025 be received for information.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Environmental Management Act of British Columbia requires all jurisdictions to have an approved plan for managing waste. Burnaby is one of twenty-one member municipalities that coordinate with Metro Vancouver on the plans and initiatives shaping our regional waste management system. The regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan (ISWRMP) was approved by the Ministry of Environment in 2011. Metro Vancouver has since initiated a process of updating the ISWRMP to build off current successes while accelerating waste diversion, reducing GHG emissions, and promoting a circular economy.

In addition, the City of Burnaby waste management system is primarily supported by the following City bylaws:

- The Burnaby Solid Waste and Recycling Bylaw 2010
- The Burnaby Bylaw Enforcement Bylaw 2009
- The Burnaby Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw
- The Burnaby Consolidated Fees and Charges Bylaw

2.0 BACKGROUND

This annual report provides an overview of the City’s waste management system including an outline of the programs and service elements for the upcoming year to achieve future waste diversion goals. Single family, multi-family, commercial and institutional waste diversion (recycling/green waste collection) and disposal (garbage) volumes are shown from program inception year to 2024 to illustrate waste trends.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The City of Burnaby provides a comprehensive solid waste and recycling service for its customers. The services offered by the City include the curbside collection of various waste streams and large items, supplemented by drop-off of additional recyclables at the Eco Centre. In addition, the program devotes significant resources each year to keeping streets and public spaces clean through regular litter pick-up, streetscape receptacle servicing, and abandoned waste collection.

3.1 2024 Program Highlights

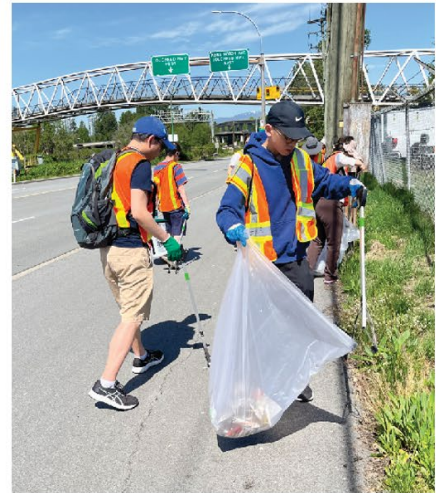
In 2024, the City's program serviced approximately 34,000 single and two-family households, as well as 41,000 multi-family households and approximately 600 Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional facilities (ICI). Growth in the customer service base was observed primarily in the multi-family sector as housing styles shifted towards increased densification. Increases in the commercial sector were also observed.

A few of the many highlights from our 2024 program included:

- The lowest-ever per capita curbside collected material figure was obtained in the single-family sector at 1,013 kg per household.
- Receiving the maximum \$128,000 in program incentive bonuses from Recycle BC for single-family recycling.
- New milestones recycling figures for appliances (8,890 units) and mattresses (9,017 units).
- Reducing GHG emissions by introducing Burnaby's first electric-powered collection vehicle.
- Hosting our first-ever Spring Clean Up (Junk Day) event, which drew 1,133 vehicles dropping off 60,625 kg of garbage and over 100 mattresses.
- Building our Adopt-a-Street program (now over 100 volunteers) and hosting 5 Community Cleanup events.
- Installing additional streetscape receptacles at bus stops and space-limited walking.
- Continuing to reduce nuisance wildlife encounters by installing bear-resistant steel container bin toppers, providing outreach and education (now in 10 different languages), and adjusting the collection program in the designated Bear Areas.
- Working closely with the Burnaby School District to help introduce their Recycling Rollout initiative at all Burnaby high schools and 7 elementary schools.
- Enhancing battery recycling options by adding receptacles to all Burnaby community centres, as well as City Hall and our works yards.



Electric-powered collection vehicle

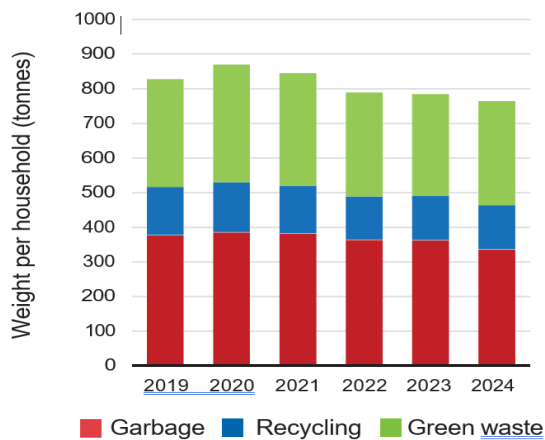


Community Cleanup event

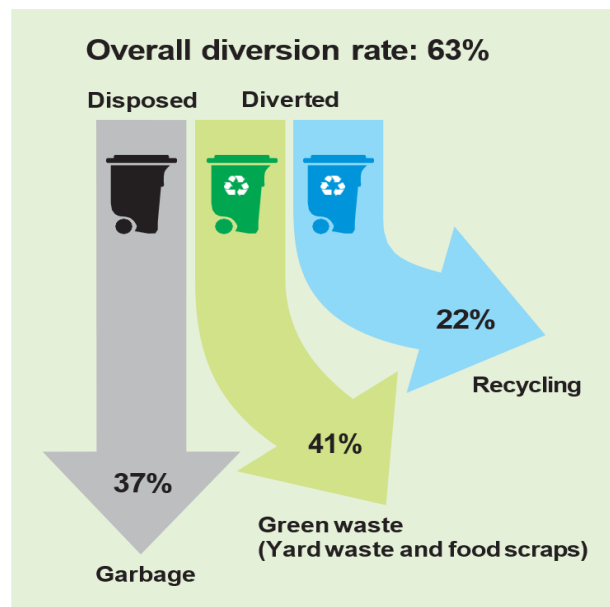
3.2 2024 Performance and Trends

In 2024, the volume of garbage collected continued to reduce year-over-year while the volume of both recycling and green waste continued to increase, reflecting a steadily improving rate of diversion. The City collected approximately 68,658 tonnes of total material (garbage, recyclables and green waste) generated by Burnaby residents and businesses. This represents a 2% (1,273 tonnes) overall decrease from the previous year and can be attributed to a significant decrease in garbage stream collection combined with an increase in green waste collection. The City's overall diversion rate increased from 61% in 2023 to 63% in 2024.

Total customer household garbage, recycling and green waste per household serviced, 2019-2024



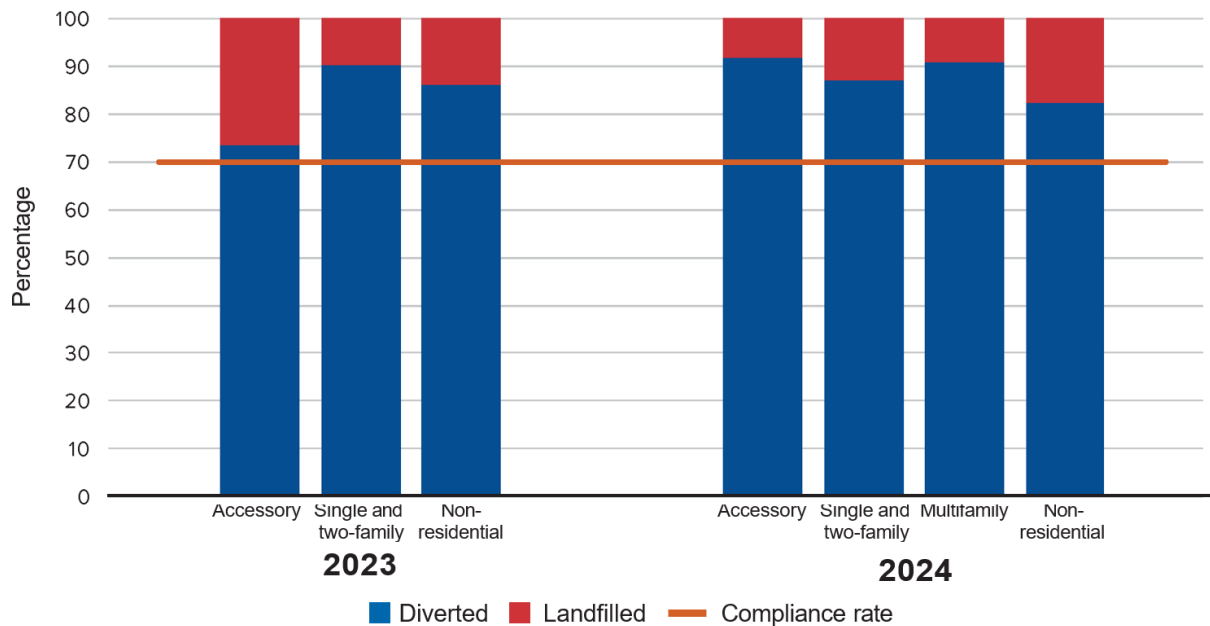
2024 Breakdown of Disposal/Diversion Achieved by the City System (Single-family, multifamily and industrial/commercial/institutional)



Since adoption of the Construction and Demolition Waste Diversion Bylaw, a total of 17,620 tonnes of C&D waste was diverted from the landfill.

In 2023, accessory buildings achieved a diversion rate of 73%, while in 2024 these buildings achieved a 91% diversion rate. The diversion rate for single and two-family and non-residential buildings remained consistent despite an increase in the number of demolitions of these buildings. An overall diversion rate of 87% was achieved across all building types for 2023 and 2024, exceeding the compliance rate of 70%.

Percentage of materials diverted and landfilled by building type



3.3 Looking Ahead to the Future

The City has successfully met environmental challenges over the years through developing innovative solutions while maintaining its commitment to environmental protection. Looking ahead to 2025 brings forward enhancements to Burnaby’s waste reduction programs that will further strengthen our waste reduction goals.

Commencing in 2025, we’re planning to:

- Completing the switch to 100% renewable diesel alternative fuels for the remaining combustion engine vehicles. This simple supply change can provide over 70% reduction in GHG emissions alone with any additional equipment or adjustments.
- Completing installation of additional DC fast charging and Level 2 charging infrastructure at our Still Creek Works Yard to support SWR collections and Parks Operations.
- Hosting a second annual Spring Clean Up Event.
- Adapting and optimizing service delivery to reflect new customers in Small Scale Multi-unit Housing (SSMUH) developments.

- Collaborating with the City’s Parks and Information Technology departments to create a new Burnaby Wildlife Reporting App and to pilot wildlife-resistant enclosures at Barnet Beach in support of additional food scraps and recycling diversion.
- Continuing to install additional streetscape receptacles throughout the network while at the same time exploring designs that will allow for flexibility in limited spaces and provide recycling options.
- Leveraging waste composition audit data to set priorities for education, contamination and diversion programs.
- Building enhanced community engagement with the Adopt-a-Street program and cleanup events.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In keeping with the goal of reducing waste, only a limited number of hard copies of the 2024 Annual Solid Waste and Recycling Report will be printed. An electronic copy of this report, as in previous years, will be available on the City website for viewing.

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This report is provided for informational purposes only. There are no financial considerations at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

May Phang, P.Eng., General Manager Engineering

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Solid Waste and Recycling 2024 Annual Report

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Zac Der, Environmental Services Officer and Alex Tonin, Communication and Marketing Coordinator. Construction and Demolition Waste diversion program information was provided by Tracey Tobin, Climate Action and Energy Specialist. Reviewed by Erik Schmidt, Director Public Works.