

Metro Vancouver Zero Waste Committee

Residual Option Financial Analysis

Oct 9, 2025



*A just world, of vibrant, resilient,
regenerative Zero Waste communities,
in harmony with nature...*

Method

- Past waste trajectory (2010-2022)
 - Decrease of 2.2% per capita waste
- Population growth -Metro Van projects 42,500 more people per year
- Planned for 2027-2036 –Solid Waste Management Plan
- Residual options –Vancouver Landfill, Incinerator, external landfills and zero waste actions

Disposal Cost (per tonne)

Costs	Vancouver Landfill	Incinerator	External Landfill
2024 –MV corrected*	\$64/t	\$107/t (corrected)	\$171/t
MV Oct 25 ZWC numbers	\$32.8 M	\$24 M	\$25.9 M
Compared to MV actual budget numbers – operating	\$29.9 M (all landfill)	\$29.3 M	
	Debt servicing \$12.5 M, contribution to reserve \$1.3 M		
Amount of waste	509,495 t	243,169 t	151,539 t
2022 MV numbers (operating expense /tonnage)	\$38/t (overestimate)	\$78/t	\$117/t (using public RFP #)

*No data for how these were calculated; allocating costs of recycling and waste centres by tonnage inappropriate
 For scenarios increased all disposal costs increased 2% a year though 2010-2027 LF increased 2.1%/yr and incinerator 5.6%/yr

Scenarios

- Status Quo
- Close the incinerator
- Active pursuit of Zero Waste \$10 M/yr, decrease 5%/yr + close incinerator
- Active pursuit of Zero Waste \$10 M/yr, decrease 5%/yr + run incinerator

Sensitivity

- Different disposal costs per tonne
- Vary amount to Vancouver Landfill
- Capital costs for incinerator (none include District Energy and biosolids) –spread over 20 years
- Success rate for reducing waste

Scenario results -10 years

	MV 2024 \$ -5% waste \$220M incinerator capital max VLF	MV 2024 \$ -3% waste \$220M incinerator capital max VLF	MV 2024 \$ -5% waste \$120M incinerator capital max VLF	MV 2024 \$ -5% waste \$220M incinerator capital 700K t VLF	MV 2022 \$ -5% waste \$220M incinerator capital max VLF
Status Quo Costs	\$863M	\$863M	\$813M	\$863M	\$610M
Close the incinerator	-\$112 M	-\$112	-\$63M	-\$56M	-\$129M
Active pursuit of Zero Waste \$10 M/yr + close incinerator	-\$187 M	-\$82	-\$138	-\$162	-\$151M
Keep incinerator and aim for Zero Waste \$10 M/yr +	+\$121 M	+\$184M	+\$71M	+65M	+\$178M

Risks

- Consultation in operating certificate is for ALL pollutants listed, not just acid gas; if MV is to be a leader, should match best in class globally which would require more stringent limits and better testing, \$100 M ++++
- Over \$400 M in known costs for incinerator –waste water example
- 37 year old facility –has there been analysis of lifetime maintenance assessment?
- Incineration –not resilient but in fact LOCKING IN
- Tariffs -getting parts
- Inflation
- Interest –debt is a huge driver of costs and debt servicing ballooning by 288% by 2030

Consultation on budget

- People wanted
 - Affordability
 - Decreased costs
 - Focus on spending and governance
 - Improved services

Recommendations

- Plan to close the WTE facility and invest in Zero Waste instead
- Look to build and secure local organics processing

Other benefits of closing the incinerator

- 60 -70,000 GJ gas saved/yr
- 125,000 -140,000 t CO₂e prevented/yr (290,000 when include biogenic)
- Air quality improved (dioxins, NO_x, acid gases, heavy metals, PFAs, plastics, halogenated chemicals)
- Health and environment protected
- Less waste lowers risk, increases resilience
- Incentives aligned –save \$ for every tonne

Thank you