

January 25, 2025

A circular economy keeps materials and products in circulation for as long as possible.

Why is the Circular Economy important? - Reducing our consumption matters. Extraction and processing of resources – think fossil fuels, metals and biomass – account for over 55% of planetary greenhouse gas emissions. The average Vancouver resident consumes more than 10 times more "stuff" than their counterpart in Bangladesh.

Curbside Recycling - The City does a good job of basic recycling at curbside so you can feel good about that. Unfortunately, they expect you to drop off your other recycling at the recycle depot. This is rarely convenient.

Free Expanded Recycling - The City does not pick up plastic bags or film, batteries, light bulbs, electronics, and small appliances or styrofoam (electronic packaging and clean meat trays). Normally, these items will need to be deposited at a recycle depot, but Build Local Communities is setting up free pop-up recycling stations for neighbourhoods. When we work together we make it easier for everyone. To find a station near you or to help set up a station, email Wally Kunz at build.local.communities@gmail.com, 604 817-4727.

Clothing swaps, donations, and vintage consignment clothes - Commercial Drive has many shops: My Sister's Closet at 3rd Ave, Mintage at 1st Ave and Turnabout at Parker. Check out shops in your neighbourhood. Donate good used clothes

Community Yard Sales - Encourage neighbours to hold joint yard sales. Champion your own group in the two block area around your residence.

Fix It Cafes - Fix things rather than throw them out. Fix It Cafes are very popular but are too infrequent.

Reducing Food Waste - Can you support efforts to ensure that food is not discarded, but given to people in need? You can volunteer or donate to efforts like Quest Food Exchange on Powell Street.

Help the government understand required changes in policy - Use our templates of letters you can customize to raise the awareness of your MLA/MP of the need for serious regulations. Will you help?

Require manufacturers to take End of Life responsibility for their products - BC already takes consumer deposits on some products, such as electronics and tires. Should we require the manufacturers to take a lead in recycling or is it better to have a separate organization take responsibility?

Planned Obsolescence and the Right to Repair - Would you work to make laws against planned obsolescence (like in France) and to support the Right to Repair (like in the EU)