

---

## Background

- In 2015, the City of Calgary Council approved a revised target of 70 per cent waste diversion by 2025 averaged across all four sectors – single and multi-family residential, business and organizations, and construction and demolition<sup>7</sup>
- GHG emissions from waste accounts for ~1% of Calgary's total direct emissions<sup>5</sup>
  - These emissions come primarily from organic waste, which produces methane when it decomposes in anaerobic conditions associated with landfills.
- Waste and the linear economy are significant contributors to Calgary's Scope 3 emissions.
  - Scope 3 emissions are currently neither tracked nor accounted for.
- Circular Economy (as opposed to Linear Economy) refers to systems which divert waste away from landfills to recover as much value as possible via activities like reusing, refurbishing, repurposing, recycling and more<sup>6</sup>
  - This will reduce Scope 3 emissions associated with producing and transporting the raw materials that otherwise end up in landfills.
- The construction and renovation industries are major sources of solid waste. As more buildings are retrofitted, we will need a good plan to deal with construction waste.
- Calgary will be at risk for increased severe weather events such as floods, hailstorms, wind storms and tornadoes. Damaged homes and other buildings will contribute to the waste stream unless waste is included in disaster response.

---

## Focus

- Work toward a 'zero organic waste' target to eliminate all Scope 1 methane emissions from landfills.
- To reduce Scope 3 emissions, Create policy, and a plan with aggressive interim targets, to advance a Circular Economy. This will result in waste reduction that supports the goal of Zero Waste
- Further implementation of the reduce, re-use, repair, and recycle principles are basic to outcome attainment

---

## Actions

- **Work closely with the Recycling Council of Alberta to incorporate their suggestions into city planning for facilitating a circular economy**
- Educate citizens to make conscious consumer decisions using a climate impact lens.
- Engage champions, community associations, non-profits, and businesses to support the efforts.
- Adopt leading-edge circular economy procurement for the City of Calgary.
- Develop partnerships with businesses to improve building performance regarding energy, water, and waste reduction.
- **Require the measurement, and public reporting, of commercial waste while implementing an incentive plan to foster its rapid reduction.**
- **Create policy to support diversion of construction and demolition material from all landfills (public and private).**
- Expand sharing opportunities: e.g. underutilized spaces, tool libraries, recreational supplies, etc.
- Promote repair opportunities.
- Increase food waste reduction, community gardens, and promotion of local food production.
- Encourage further waste reduction through the implementation of curbside incentive and regulatory based programs such as variable sized carts or decreased garbage collection frequency
- Regulate single use items and other products that have no or low recycling levels.

# Sources

1. Miller, David. Solved: How the World's Great Cities Are Fixing the Climate Crisis. University of Toronto Press, Scholarly Publishing Division, October 2020
2. <https://recycle.ab.ca/city-of-calgary-circular-cities-roadmap/>
3. <https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/zero-waste-vancouver>
4. [https://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/engagement\\_files/sfe\\_cc\\_ClimateActionStrategyUpdate2013.pdf](https://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/engagement_files/sfe_cc_ClimateActionStrategyUpdate2013.pdf)
5. Calgary Climate Resilience Strategy, page 25, figure 2
6. [canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy.html](https://canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/sustainability/circular-economy.html)
7. <https://www.calgary.ca/waste/goals.html>