

# How We Consume



Since it began in 2016, Coquitlam's House Moves initiative has helped facilitate the relocation of 36 homes, keeping them from being demolished and saving thousands of tonnes of materials from the landfill.



Photo Credit: Nickel Bros

**How we buy, use and dispose of materials, products and resources shapes the amount of waste we create and the emissions we generate. Waste that ends up in the landfill is the third-largest contributor to Coquitlam's emissions.**

The journey of many items begins with energy-intensive production, continues through long-distance transportation, and often ends in landfills. Along the way, each stage of an item's life contributes to greenhouse gas emissions. These add up and are significant when we consider the materials and products we use across our community.

Community members have told us that reducing waste and supporting a circular economy is a priority. The City is taking action in many ways including participating in regional waste planning, taking steps to improve waste diversion in City waste collection services, working with waste

collection contractors to cut emissions, continuing education and training and facilitating waste reduction and reuse initiatives like repair cafés and city-wide garage sales. These efforts are helping to reduce emissions and build the foundation for a more circular economy, but there is more to do.

Our vision is to build a city with a sound circular economy where we use less, waste less and ensure that goods and materials from building supplies and household items to appliances and food are valued, reused where possible and kept out of landfills. Together, these actions will reduce emissions, save residents money and support a more resilient community.



## Celebrating Success



Every year, the City's efforts to engage and educate the community play a key role in reducing waste and supporting a circular economy. These efforts include City-wide Garage Sales and Repair Cafés that promote reuse and repair, along with school partnerships that have brought climate and waste education to more than 50 classrooms. These initiatives aim to inspire long-term awareness and encourage positive behaviour change in the community.

## Example Actions

#	ACTIONS	TIMELINE
C1.1	Participate in the regional Integrated Solid Waste and Resource Management Plan update and leverage this work to develop, implement and promote circular economy initiatives.	Short Term
C1.2	Assess Coquitlam's building stock to identify opportunities to reduce and divert construction and demolition waste, and develop policies and approaches that prioritize the reuse, relocation and deconstruction of existing buildings, as well as the reduction of waste in new construction.	Short Term
C1.3	Explore Coquitlam's role in supporting and advocating for a sustainable, equitable and resilient food system, including improving access to local food and advancing strategies to reduce and recover food waste.	Ongoing
C1.4	Develop initiatives to reduce solid waste generation and increase diversion at all City facilities, as well as City-hosted and City-led events.	Medium Term

➤ See the full list of *How We Consume* strategies and actions at [coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction](https://coquitlam.ca/ClimateAction)

## What You Can Do

- Bring broken items (like clothes or electronics) to one of Coquitlam's Repair Cafés.
- Make it a habit to bring your own cups, utensils and reusable bags to avoid single-use items.
- Buy from local businesses and look for sustainably-produced products.

## Co-Benefits



Fosters innovation and green, clean industries



Reduces waste, optimizes resources



Promotes a circular economy