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Canada united in the achievement of zero waste, now and for future generations

## **National Zero Waste Council**

### **Food Working Group**

#### **Terms of Reference**

##### **Background**

The National Zero Waste Council is a cross-sector leadership initiative bringing together governments, businesses, and non-government organizations to advance a national waste prevention and reduction agenda in Canada. Founded by Metro Vancouver in collaboration with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, its mission is *to act collaboratively with business, government and the community, at the national and international level, as an agent of change for waste prevention and reduction in the design, production and use of goods.*

Much of the Council's priority areas of work will be undertaken through the formation of Working Groups such as *the Food Working Group*. Working Groups are endorsed by the National Zero Waste Council Collaboration and Management Boards.

Food represents a significant portion of the waste generated globally and is a growing focus of waste prevention efforts. Food that has been discarded falls into three general categories:

- Surplus food that is still suitable for feeding people or animals
- Food that is not suitable for feeding people or animals due to spoilage
- Food waste such as trimmings, peels, cores, bones and similar residual scraps

The Food Working Group will focus primarily on policies, actions and harmonized approaches at the national level that increase the donation of edible food, address "avoidable" food waste, and that support municipal choices for collection and processing programs.

##### **Purpose**

To advance national, cross-sector partnership initiatives with potential to significantly reduce the waste of food, with a focus on opportunities that will help deliver on the Council's second Priority Area of Work – i.e., advancing policy development.

Should initiatives be pursued that better deliver on the Council's two other Priority Areas of Work, they will be developed in collaboration with the relevant working groups, and the input and guidance of the Collaboration Board.

## **Strategic Alignment**

**Strategic Directions:** Since the Food Waste Working Group is addressing a specific waste stream, there is a potential to advance both of the Council's Strategic Directions depending on the project(s) pursued.

*Design Change: To catalyze change in the design of products and packaging to reduce material intensity and allow them to be more easily reused, recovered and recycled.*

*Behaviour Change - To catalyze change in behaviour, among all stakeholders and sectors of society, with the goal of reducing the amount of waste entering the waste stream.*

**Strategic Approaches:** The Working Group will give consideration to projects that "advocate for the enhancement of government policy and other innovative approaches that encourages manufacturers and retailers to make product and packaging design changes".

**Priority Areas of Work:** The Working Group has the potential to align with, and deliver on, all three Priority Areas of Work, depending on the focus defined; however priority will be given to projects with potential to advance policy development.

## **Membership**

Membership in the Working Group is under the guidance of the *Working Group Co-Leads*

- *Co-Lead:* Shelley Carroll, Councillor, City of Toronto
- *Co-Lead:* Allen Lynch, International Representative, SWANA
- Michael Goeres, Executive Director, Canada Council of Ministers of the Environment
- Gord Helm, Manager, Solid Waste Resources, and Laurie Lewis, Diversion Planning Coordinator, Solid Waste Resources, Halifax Regional Municipality
- Andrew Marr, Senior Engineer, Solid Waste Services, Metro Vancouver
- Christian Shelepuk, Waste Reduction Program Manager, Wal-mart
- Maryam Mofidpoor, Environmental Management Officer, Waste Prevention Section, Environmental Standards Branch, BC Ministry of Environment

## **Goal/Objectives**

1. To identify the factors contributing to food waste and loss, including barriers to preventing the waste of food; and
2. To advance measures to reduce and prevent the waste of food, that can be best influenced or driven at a national scale.

## **Budget and Resources**

A budget and resources for the working group will be determined through the development of a work plan to be endorsed by the National Zero Waste Council Collaboration Board. Included will be anticipated financial support and resources from working group members and their staff, including in-kind support of time and expertise.

Additional in-kind support by members could include graphic design, web development and multi-media support, as well in-house technical and subject matter expertise. Requests for project funds from the National Zero Waste Council budget will be made to the Management Board using the project proposal guidelines (forthcoming).