



Policy Promoting Waste Reduction, Recycling and Composting as Alternatives to Landfill.

Date of Adoption: November 13, 2013.

Date of Expiration: December 31, 2017.

Preamble:

Whereas Kwantlen students deserve to live, work and study in a livable region, free from undue pollution, and exposure to toxins; and

Whereas Kwantlen students demand healthy living standards that encourage the stewardship of Metro Vancouver ecosystems, where sustainability means tying together environmental, social and economic interests; and

Whereas Metro Vancouver municipalities have far from exhausted their opportunities to develop regional programs of reduction, recycling and composting; and

Whereas BC has strong and effective product stewardship laws that are continuing to be expanded and should be continued to be strengthened; and

Whereas Canada is currently amongst the last in ranks of all developed nations with regards to waste diversion rates and garbage creation per capita; and

Whereas increased waste incineration would negatively impact air quality in the Fraser Valley region and Metro Vancouver's proposal to build an incinerator has unanimously been opposed by the Fraser Valley Regional District, which includes the Mayors and Councillors from every city in the Fraser Valley; and

Whereas if an additional 500,000 tonnes of garbage is incinerated in the Metro Vancouver region annually waste incineration would become one of the biggest single sources of climate changing pollution in the Lower Mainland; and



Whereas the province of BC and Metro Vancouver are legally bound to aggressive green house gas emission reduction targets, and increased waste incineration would be an expensive step in the wrong direction; and

Whereas garbage incineration includes the burning of plastics which release dioxins, a highly toxic substance, into the air and would potentially allow dioxins to leach into the soil and groundwater, an issue that only arises from burning plastics; and

Whereas the Recycling Council of British Columbia considers waste incinerators as disincentives to recycling and seeks to phase out the need for landfills through recycling, composting and product stewardship legislation; and

Whereas Metro Vancouver's current waste management plan calls for borrowing an additional 470 million dollars to build a waste incinerator which would contribute to additional local taxes immediately and would disproportionately affect younger citizens who would be paying this project off for decades to come; and

Whereas Kwantlen students demand healthy living standards that encourage the stewardship of Greater Vancouver ecosystems; and

Whereas KPMG, a world renowned accounting firm and Metro Vancouver's auditor, has reported that there is currently insufficient detail in the AECOM report to proceed with building a new waste incinerator in the region;

Resolution:

Therefore, BIRT the Kwantlen Student Association opposes the building of new incinerators. Instead we call on the provincial and municipal governments to phase out landfills through the use of expanded composting, recycling and product stewardship legislation; and

Further resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association encourages the province of British Columbia provide support and incentives to municipalities to adopt new practices for reducing waste, as well as disincentives to allowing banned materials into existing landfills.



Further resolved that Municipalities are encouraged to provide incentives and disincentives to residents for the same reasons.

Further resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association also supports KPU moving to a higher diversion rate of garbage on all campuses towards increasing recycling and composting capabilities in order to ensure we are doing our part as a university to reduce waste.

Further resolved that the Kwantlen Student Association join the National Zero Waste Council which aims to increase landfill reduction and all recycling and composting capabilities in the country and urge KPU to do the same.