

ABC's 0% property tax increase election promise

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Additionally, the Vancouver Park Board was required to find approximately \$11 million in budget savings and revenue increases which has resulted in increased user fees and charging for parking at community centres.

Mayor Ken Sim has stated, "We will not use global economic challenges as an excuse to reach further into people's pockets." He claims that the second 0% budget is necessary to "stay focused on delivering the core services that Vancouverites expect from City Hall – investing in public safety, road maintenance, garbage pickup, and community centres."

With inflation around 2% per year, holding taxes flat for two years reduces the city's purchasing power by roughly 4% in real terms—on the order of tens of millions of dollars.

Even if costs only rise at the level of inflation but revenue doesn't increase, the question becomes how will this campaign promise effect the city's ability to deliver services people rely on every day like libraries, community centres, and parks? Should citizens expect another round of fee increases or be prepared for service cuts?



Caring for the planet can sometimes feel overwhelming, but making a difference doesn't always require big actions or major life changes. Small, everyday choices can add up, especially when we all take part.

Small everyday choices can have a big environmental impact

(NC) Here are five simple ways to make an environmental impact and support a healthier planet and ocean.

1. Host a shoreline cleanup in your community. Every year, an estimated 11 million tons of plastic enter the ocean. But you can still make a difference, even if you don't live by the coast. Shoreline cleanups can happen anywhere water meets land: along lakes, rivers, streams and even wetlands. Hosting a cleanup with friends, coworkers or classmates is a fun and rewarding way to protect local wildlife. Every piece of trash

removed helps keep your community beautiful and prevents that waste from ever reaching the ocean.

2. Say no to fast fashion. You can extend the life of your wardrobe by repairing or up-cycling old pieces and only replacing items when they're truly worn out. Consider buying most of your clothes second-hand or checking thrift stores first whenever you need something new. Hosting a clothing swap or taking a mending class with friends can be fun ways to refresh your style sustainably.

3. Cut down on single-use plastics. Only nine per

cent of single-use plastics are recycled, with most ending up in landfills or the ocean. Choosing plastic-free packaging, as well as buying in bulk, are two ways to start reducing plastic use. Another is by getting the "big four" reusable items: coffee mug, shopping bag, water bottle and straw. By switching to reusable items, people can help prevent countless disposable items from entering the environment.

4. Start a conservation project. It can be easier than you think to find a project that can inspire others and create lasting change. You could start a local cleanup club, organize an art show celebrating people's connection to nature or create a community garden that supports pollinators. There are even funding opportunities, like the Ocean Action Grant, to

help you bring your ideas to life and make an even bigger impact.

5. Support environmental causes in your community. Change often starts small and local, and simply speaking can be a powerful way to help create it. You can lend your voice to the causes that matter most to you by taking steps like volunteering with a local environmental organization, attending a community meeting about conservation initiatives or writing to local leaders to support sustainable policies.

No matter where you live or how you get started, every action counts. Together, small steps can lead to big waves of change.

You can find inspiration, resources and ways to take action for our ocean and planet at ocean.org/youth.

How to reduce household waste

(NC) Without realizing it, household waste can add up quickly. Making a few small, intentional changes can help reduce what ends up in the garbage while making daily routines more efficient. Here are three easy ways to cut down on waste at home.

Cook smarter, not harder. Having to throw out expired ingredients feels especially wasteful, since you didn't even get to enjoy them. Managing your stock and meal planning are the keys to minimizing food waste, but can be difficult to keep up with in a busy schedule. Smart kitchen appliances, like Samsung's Bespoke AI options, can help you with that. A smart fridge can scan the items inside to keep track of what you have. It can even suggest recipes based on what's there to make sure you're using what you have.

Be more critical of your packaging. Great things don't always come in small packages. When buying items, factor in how much plastic they use, and shift your decisions accordingly. Avoid buying the smallest size of an item, especially if it's a liquid that comes in plastic, like dish soap. Larger containers use less material and will last you longer. Consider using small dispensers for those items at home, and refill them from larger containers that you can store out of the way.

Reuse, repurpose. It's almost impossible to eliminate plastic packaging from your food and other home goods. But just because a manufacturer intended a container to be single use doesn't mean it has to be. There are lots of ways to give "disposable" items new leases on life. Save plastic bags for when you have something that shouldn't go in your regular garbage, like a chicken carcass or fish skin. Many takeout containers can be washed and repurposed for leftovers or even storage.

Eliminating waste comes down to building the right habits and sticking to them. When you put your waste-cutting tricks into practice, with the help of the right technology, you'll see the results add up over time.

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SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS

- June 16 – Muharram/Islamic New Year
- June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day
- June 25 – Ashura (Muslim) July 1 – Canada Day
- July 22 – Tisha B'Av (Jewish) Aug. 3 - BC Day