

WHAT WE HEARD – WASTE & THE CLIMATE: A STRATEGIC CONVERSATION SUMMIT

TOP CHALLENGES - Why isn't waste talked about often in the context of climate change?

1. Different Viewpoints

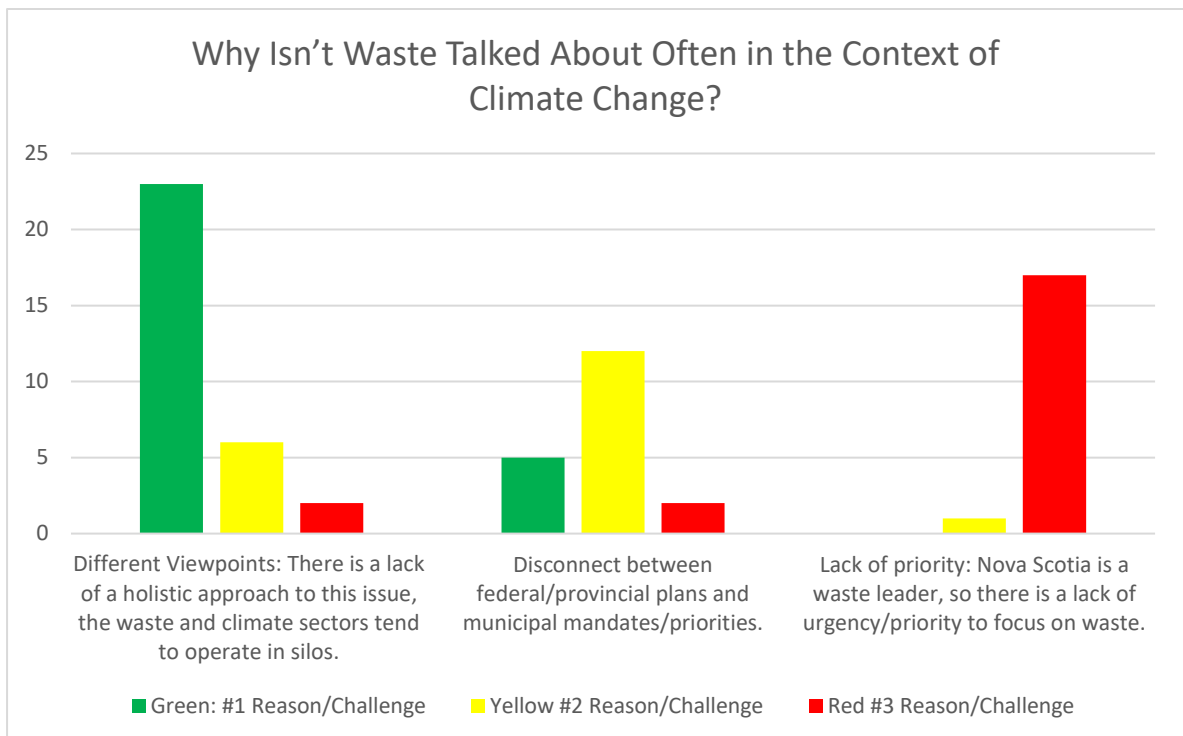
Typically, conversations about climate change are centred around energy and waste isn't widely considered when talking about climate adaptation or mitigation. There is also a lack of a holistic approach to this issue which results in the waste and climate sectors operating in silos. Further, there is a lack of work on life cycle analysis resulting in a limited ability to capture the full scope of impact that waste has on the climate, instead the focus is typically only on end-of-life impacts. Finally, measurement was also reported as a barrier as it can be challenging to calculate the energy savings and financial impact of waste reduction and diversion.

2. Disconnect Between Climate & Waste Programs

There is a disconnect in the establishment of climate and waste programs, i.e. federal and provincial plans versus municipal mandates and priorities. Additionally, waste is often excluded from climate action plans.

3. Waste Isn't Considered a Priority in the Context of Climate Change

Nova Scotia is considered a leader in waste management. As a result, there is a lack of urgency/priority to focus on waste, especially when we are lagging in other areas (energy, etc.).



TOP SOLUTIONS - How do we better link waste management to the broader issue of climate change?

1. Education & Engagement

- Integrate climate change education with waste education to demonstrate the linkages between the two topics.
- Use engaging and accessible storytelling to highlight waste and climate connections effectively.
- Encourage dialogue rather than preaching to promote engagement on the topic.

2. Government Policy

- Advocate for government policies that acknowledge and investigate the connections between waste and climate change.
- Ensure that new documents like Nova Scotia's Climate Plan include a waste section and discuss the advantages of EPR as a strategy to address climate change.

3. Accessible Data

- Focus on reliable methods of increasing data accessibility to break down silos between levels of government and climate change organizations.
- Ensure that the language used and the data that is shared is clear and easily understood by the public.

