

## **Office Recycling Program Update Feb. 24, 2016**

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### **Why is the university making these changes?**

Provincial Recycling Regulation and CRD landfill bans have evolved significantly in the last 10 years making it more complex to collect and dispose of campus waste and recyclable material. This is being done to keep pace with these changes and move the university toward compliance. Research undertaken by Waste Reduction, has indicated that sorting-at-source is an effective way of increasing our diversion rate. In 2015, UVic generated 1900 tonnes of waste. Offices account for 20% of this total. The overall university diversion rate is 68% while the offices have a 45% diversion rate. This approach is a solution for reducing this volume and increasing our diversion rate in order to meet the Sustainability Action Plan (2014-2019) target of 75%.

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### **Why can't the janitors do the sorting as they pick up garbage?**

Janitorial staff time will be focused on frequent servicing of the 238 additional recycling stations implemented as part of the program. Additionally, the new sorting-at-source recycling station system provides an opportunity for all individuals in offices to collectively take responsibility for reducing the large volume of banned recyclable material that is currently being sent to the Hartland landfill. It also raises awareness of the type of waste that is produced. Research has shown that this type of awareness can lead to significant reductions in the amount of waste being generated. Achieving our goals under the Sustainability Action Plan requires collaboration and participation of all members of our UVic community.

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### **When will this program start?**

The updated plan is to have recycling stations installed in all office buildings in March 2016. Once the stations are in place, the Janitorial staff will cease to service the desk-side landfill waste and recycling bins.

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### **How often will the central recycling stations be serviced?**

The frequency of service will depend on the location and use of the station. Stations will be serviced at least once a week and some will be serviced three times a week.

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If you have any issues with servicing or location of the recycling stations, please contact the Waste Reduction Coordinator at [wastenot@uvic.ca](mailto:wastenot@uvic.ca) to assess the situation and troubleshoot for appropriate solutions.

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Will liners be provided for our desk-side bins?

Facilities Management is currently working with vendors to find a suitable bin liner that we hope to make available, *upon request*, by the end of March

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Will I have to clean my small, black mini clip-on container?

Yes, if required. The plastic containers are small enough to fit under the tap in a kitchen sink or bathroom faucet for easy washing.

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What about the bins in lounges, kitchens, meeting rooms and reception areas?

Will the bins in these areas continue to be serviced?

Yes, the janitorial staff will continue to service bins in all lounges, kitchens, meeting rooms and reception areas.

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Will this interfere with getting work done?

Similar jurisdictions that are using the centralized recycling station model have not reported any problems with staff fitting sorting and recycling into their work schedules.

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Will managers/supervisors expect someone else to empty their containers?

The success of this program depends on the collaboration and participation of each member of our community. No one should be required to empty any waste container other than their own.

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Will food waste sitting in offices create unsanitary conditions?

We do not believe that this will result due to the implementation of this program. For several years now, janitors have provided service to single occupant offices on a weekly basis only, and unsanitary conditions have never been reported.

## **Office Recycling Program Update Feb. 24, 2016**

Who is responsible for emptying the desk-side containers in office areas shared by multiple users (i.e. Grad Student Offices)?

All occupants in shared office spaces are responsible for disposing of their own landfill waste and recyclable materials into centralized recycling stations. If there are concerns, please contact Waste Reduction, the Sustainability Office or Janitorial Services to meet at your location to review the specific needs for a particular shared office space.

What if I am physically unable to dispose of waste at the central recycling station?

For those with physical limitations that prevent them from participating, please contact a Work Life Consultant in HR who will review your specific physical limitations and work with applicable parties to facilitate alternate removal arrangements if accommodation is required.

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