



SURFRIDER TRANSPARENT WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Commercial Sector

With simple improvements made to waste management practices in our homes, we can greatly decrease the waste being sent to the West Coast Landfill, ensuring more materials are composted and recycled. In Canada, only 9% of plastics are recycled, and so this country ends up emitting 1.8 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gases (GHG) to replace lost material. 22% of material going into the West Coast Landfill is recyclable, and a majority of this is plastic. We all can improve our waste habits to keep materials in use and support the mitigation of the climate crisis.

80% of the material being sent to the West Coast Landfill is from the Commercial Sector. Below are common waste mishaps and solutions:



- 01 All recycling needs to be cleaned.**
All recycling, namely, glass, plastic and metal, need to be washed and dried before being picked up or brought to the depot.



- 04 Compostable and biodegradable plastics cannot be taken by the Tofino or Ucluelet depots.** Other plastics with resin code #7 can be.



- 02 Soiled or wet cardboard and paper products, like pizza boxes, cannot be recycled, they must be landfilled.**
To ensure your paper and cardboard can be recycled, keep it in a dry covered area while awaiting pick-up or delivery to the depot. Wax cardboard also needs to be landfilled. Do not put tetra packs, coffee cups, ice cream containers in with the paper, they need to be cleaned and added to plastic.



- 05 Caps can be left on items like bottles and tetra paks.** Keep the caps on, and this will lower the likelihood that they will go missing.



- 06 Do not mix garbage in with recycling, as it contaminates entire recycling loads, which will then be sent to landfill.**



- 03 A plastic product that has a triangle recycle code does NOT mean it's recyclable.** Check with your recycler to ensure that the products you're giving them are in fact recyclable.
Learn more at recyclebc.ca



- 07 Choose foil-lined packaging rather than packaging that has a paper outside with clear plastic lining, as the foil-lined can be recycled and the clear plastic cannot.**



- 08 Set up composting on your property to divert this waste stream, or contact Tofino Urban Farm Co. to pick up your compost.**