ZERO WASTE FOODWARE STRATEGY

Strategy for reduction of single use items at UBC

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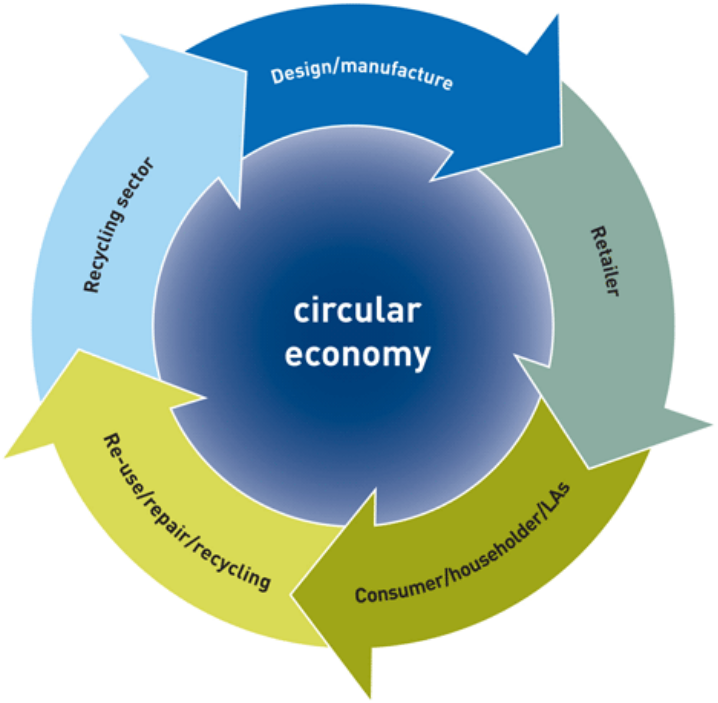
BUD FRASER – SENIOR PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEER
CAMPUS + COMMUNITY PLANNING, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

UBC'S ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN

UBC sustainability

- Supporting UBC's commitment to sustainability
- Targets: 80% waste diversion by 2020, & steadily decreasing waste sent to landfill
- Keep food out of garbage: regional government organics disposal ban



TRANSITIONING TO ZERO WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

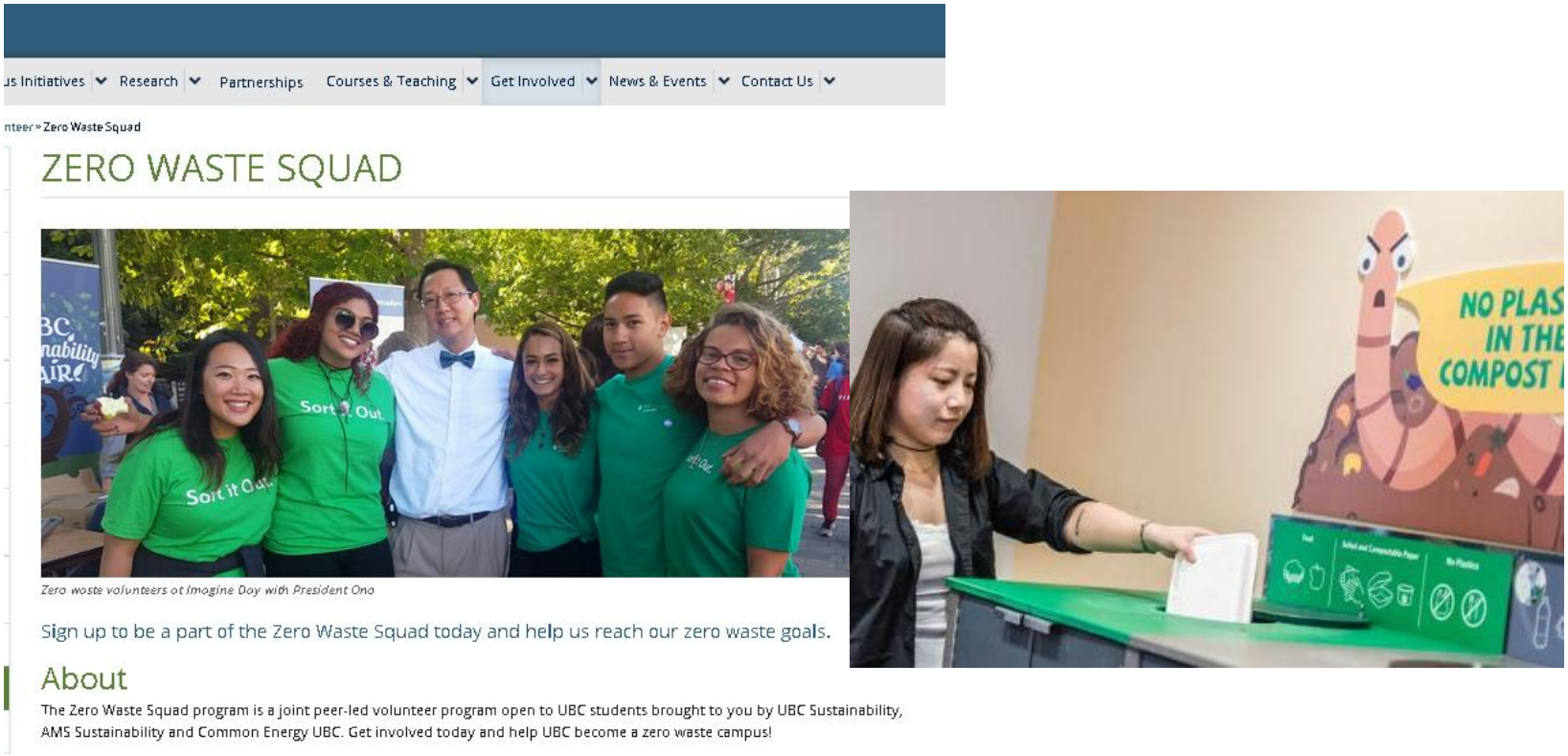
The Past: garbage cans

Now: recycling stations

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS – FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING

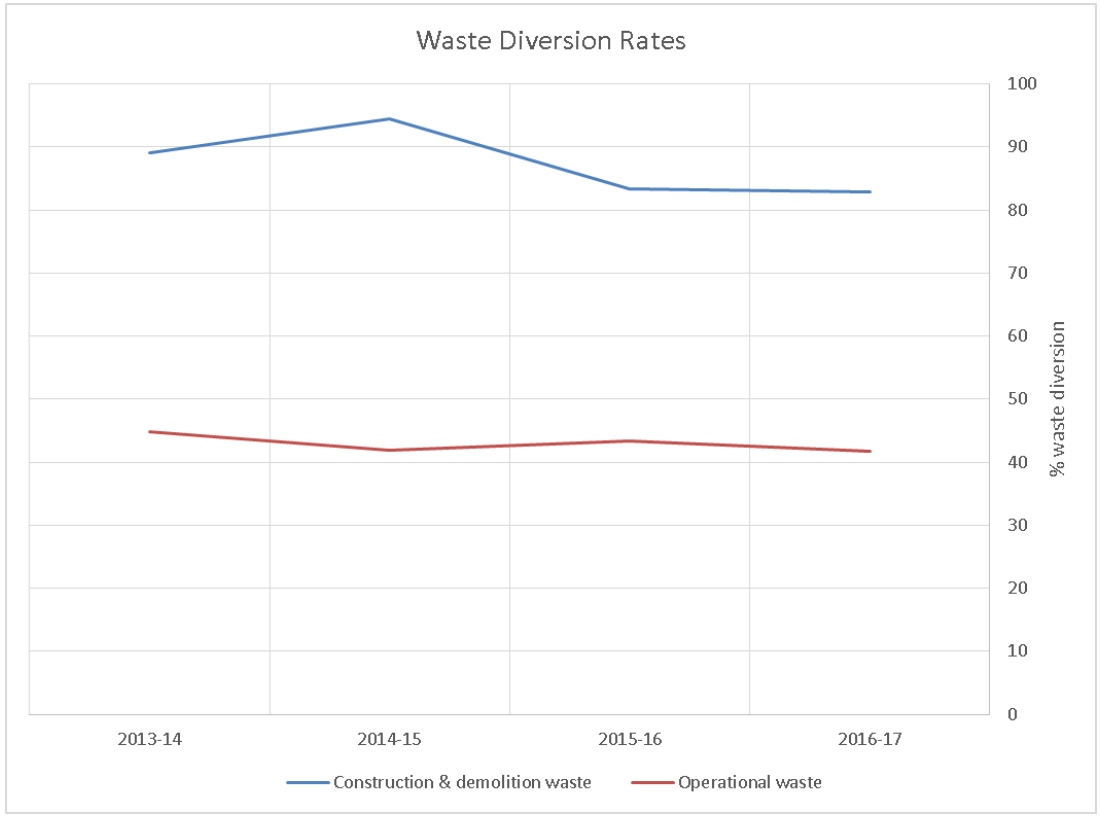
- Compost doubled to nearly 1000 tonnes/year
- Reduced solid waste GHG emissions
- Responded to regional Organics Disposal Ban

PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS – COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT



- Successful student volunteer program
- Signage system adopted by other institutions
- Strong campus support for program and recycling goals

CHALLENGES & ISSUES



- Low diversion rate for operational waste, flat over last several years
- Food scraps and related packaging is largest component of waste

COMPOSTING FACILITY IMPACTS

- Plastic bags clogging machinery

CONTAMINATION OF FOOD SCRAPS – RESULTS OF AUDIT AT COMPOSTING FACILITY

CONTAMINATION ITEM FREQUENCY

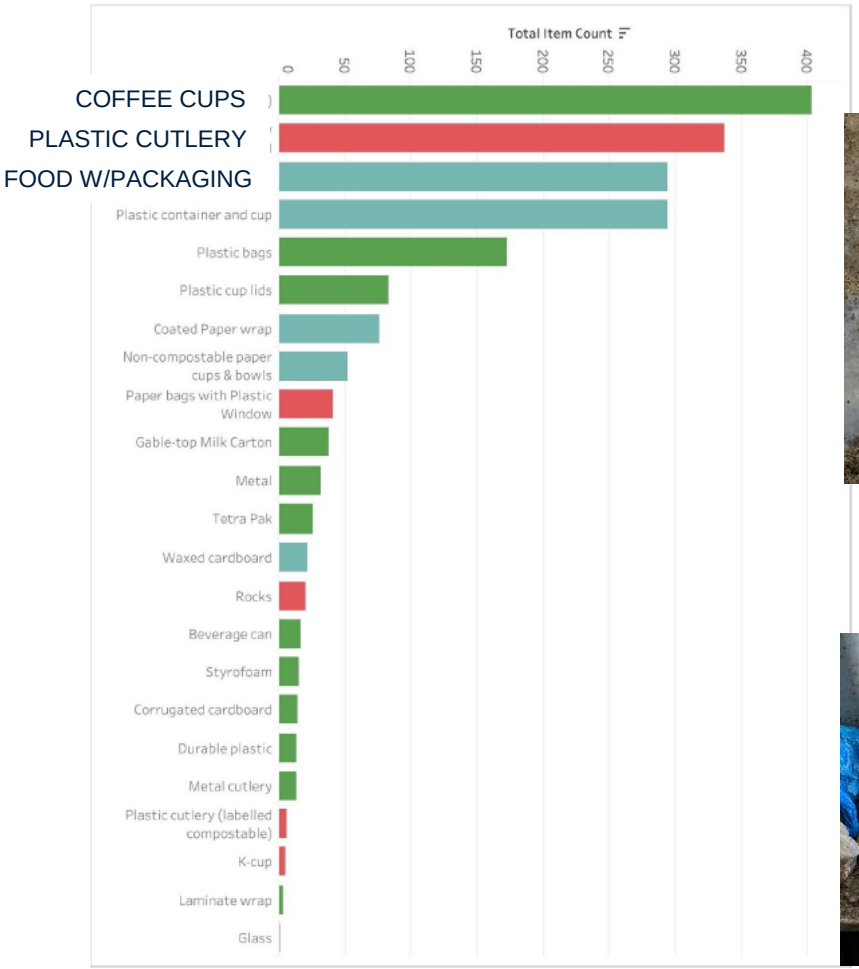
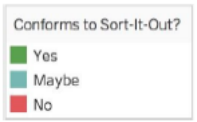
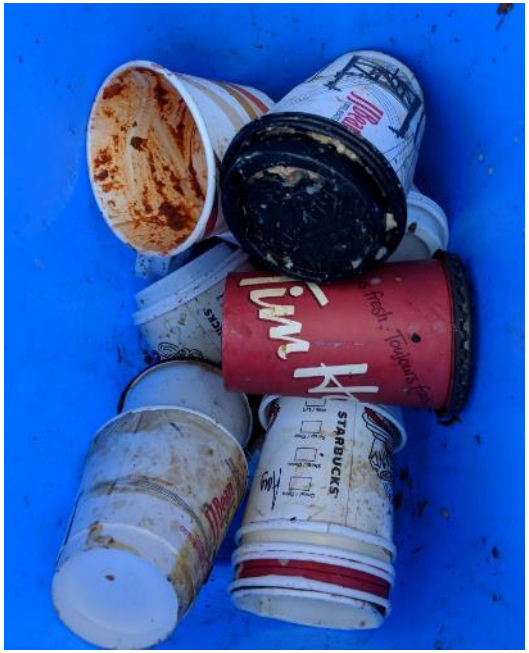


Fig 4: Contamination Item frequency (Total number counted)
***Color** according to legend ->*
***Food packaging**, including **coffee cups**, and **plastic bags** are standout contaminants*



CONTAMINATION OF FOOD SCRAPS – RESULTS OF AUDIT OF PUBLIC REALM RECYCLING STATIONS



Most Common

Second Most Common

Third Most Common

Other Contaminants

OTHER IMPACTS OF SINGLE USE ITEMS

- Est. 1.7 million cups/year at UBC; Even at 80% diversion, that's 340,000/year to landfill
- Filling up our garbage & recycling bins and trucks
- Labour & costs to clean up, collect and process

LITTER

OCEAN PLASTICS

Research report:
THE MARINE IMPACT OF UBC'S SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

(Find online at UBC SEEDS Sustainability Library)

KEY ISSUE: CUPS & SINGLE USE CONTAINERS ARE CHALLENGING TO SORT

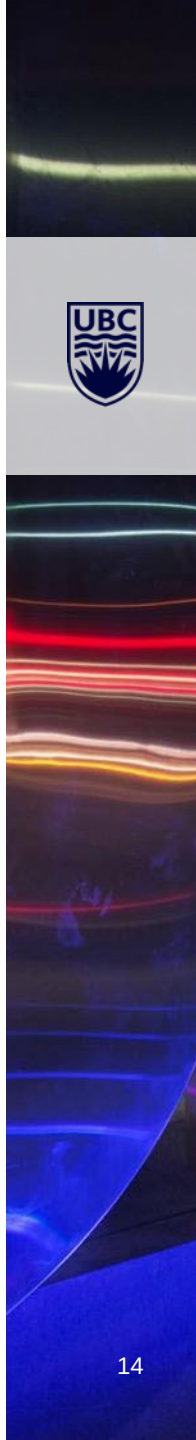
- Wide range of container types & materials, particularly composites
- Frequent changes
- Lack of labelling
- Hard to create very simple, intuitive sorting rules
- Creates problems at composting facility
- Degrades quality and value of recycling

THE OPPORTUNITY

- Waste diversion rate, contamination, and litter may all be improved with an **aligned strategy** dealing with how food is packaged and served – with participation of all businesses.

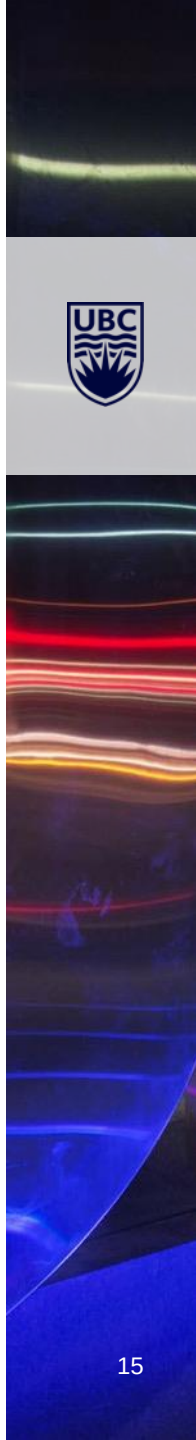
- Businesses can also play a role in implementing excellent recycling practices within their spaces.

- Students (the business customers) are asking for change.



OUR APPROACH

- Include mechanisms to ensure consistent implementation, while allowing needed flexibility
- Ensure economic viability for businesses
- Provide clear direction and expectations and level playing field as much as possible
- Align with City of Vancouver Single Use Item Strategy wherever possible
- Scope is the academic campus



PROCESS & TARGET TIMELINE

Consultation with business stakeholders
June 2018 (complete)

Draft strategy for stakeholder review
December 2018

Final updates and approvals
January 2019

Publish and launch strategy
February 2019

Implementation and communications
March 2019+