

# ZERO WASTE FOODWARE STRATEGY

Strategy for reduction of single use items at UBC

November 2018

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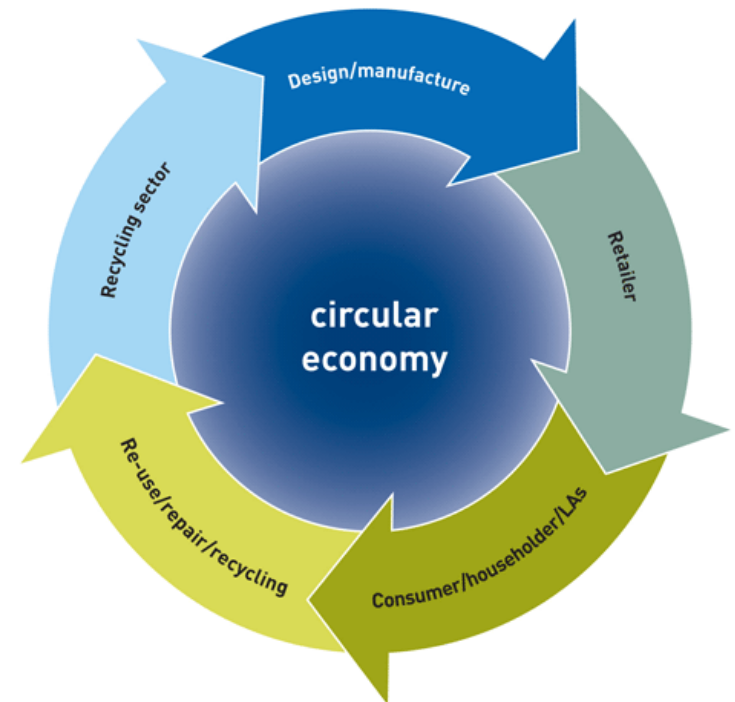


# UBC'S ZERO WASTE ACTION PLAN

## 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

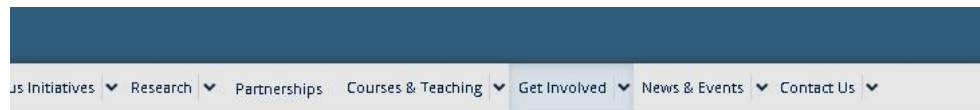


# PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS – FOOD SCRAPS COMPOSTING



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

# PROGRESS TOWARD GOALS – COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT



nteer » Zero Waste Squad

## ZERO WASTE SQUAD



Zero waste volunteers at Imagine Day with President Ono

Sign up to be a part of the Zero Waste Squad today and help us reach our zero waste goals.

### About

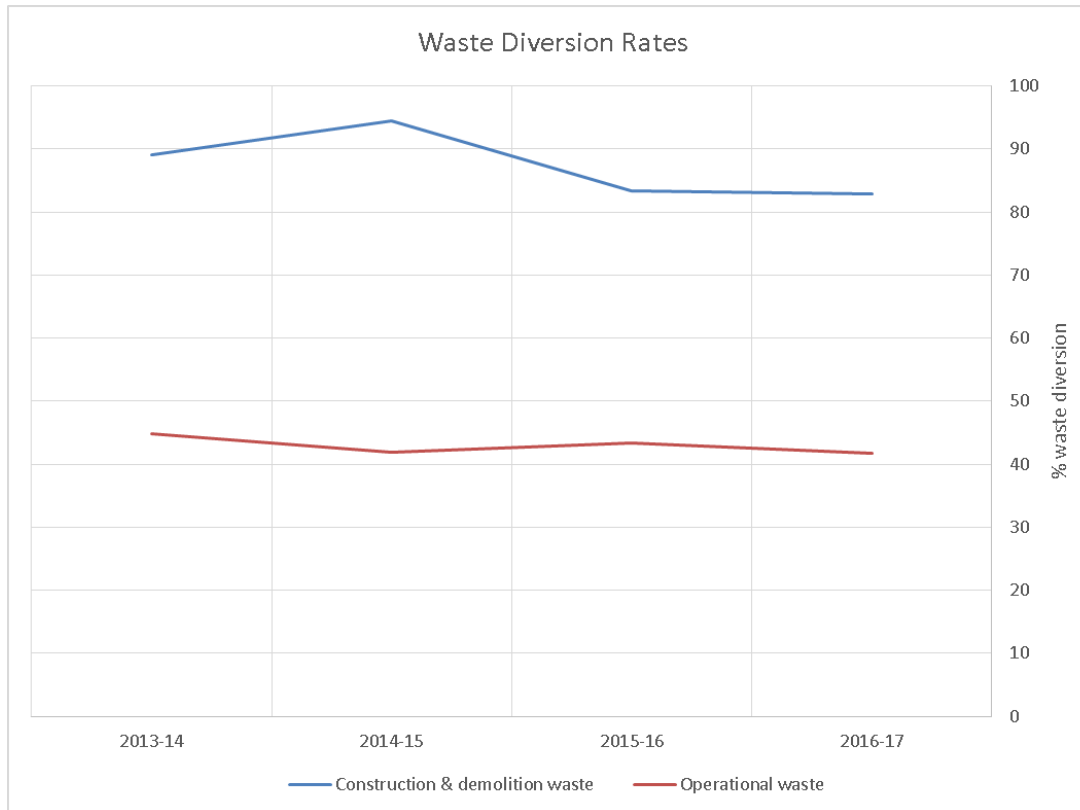
The Zero Waste Squad program is a joint peer-led volunteer program open to UBC students brought to you by UBC Sustainability, AMS Sustainability and Common Energy UBC. Get involved today and help UBC become a zero waste campus!



- 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

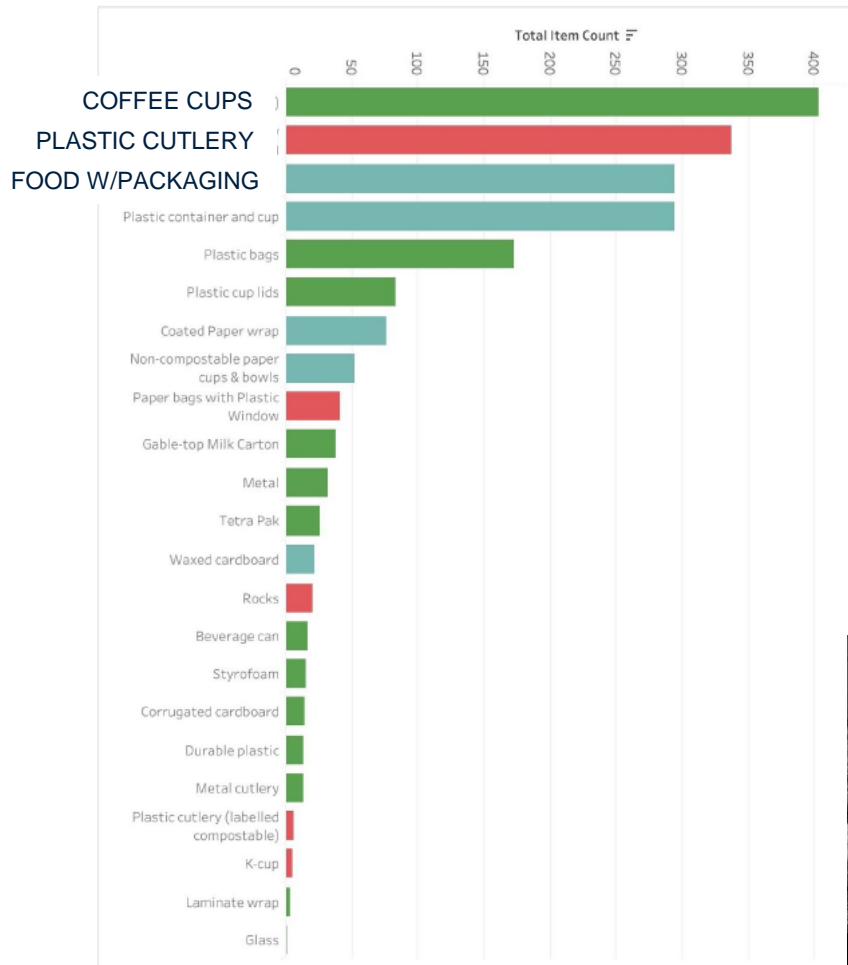
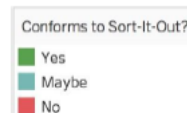


Fig 4: Contamination Item frequency (Total number counted)  
 Color according to legend ->  
**Food packaging, including coffee cups, and plastic bags are**  
**standout contaminants**





# 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

## UBC PLASTICS: A SHORT PATH TO THE OCEAN

Last year, UBC's food sector and bookstore consumed **OVER 11.3 MILLION SINGLE-USE PLASTIC ITEMS**. These could enter the ocean sometime after we use them and cause severe harm to marine life. The top items included:

 **2.3 MILLION  
PIECES OF CUTLERY**

Out of all plastic items, cutlery is considered to pose the **most severe ingestion risk** for seabirds, sea turtles and marine mammals

**1.7 MILLION  
COFFEE CUPS**

The plastic lining and lid accumulate **huge amounts of pollutants** from the water that can be toxic to the animals that eat them



 **690 THOUSAND  
PLASTIC BAGS**

Plastic bags pose a very **high entanglement and ingestion risk for marine animals**. They can strangle seals and clog the stomachs of whales, manatees and turtles



## 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+

