

**Waste Management | Sustainability Services**

# **Waste to Resource Assessment - Summary**

**Prepared for:**

**University of Victoria  
3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, Victoria, British Columbia  
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

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## **Assessment Findings and Goal Alignment**







## Plastics

Plastic materials account for 17.5% of your waste stream composition. 94.30 tonnes of plastic materials will be sent to landfill this year from your university. In 2014, plastic materials made up 69% of the landfill waste and accounted for 42.39 tonnes.

The most predominant plastic material identified in the audited landfill sample was #4 LDPE Film Bags accounting for 45% of the plastic materials destined for the landfill from your university. Polystyrene food packaging was the main plastic contributor which represented 29% of all plastics audited or 2% of all materials overall in the 2014 waste audit.



## Textiles

Textiles materials sent to landfill accounted for 1.8% of your total waste, nearly 9.70 tonnes of Textiles will be sent to landfill annually. In 2014, 0.9% of your landfill waste were made up of textile materials, nearly 5.56 tonnes were sent to landfill.

There is currently a program in place to capture some of these materials, a clothing donation program. Some textiles identified in the landfill waste stream are not currently recyclable.



## Glass

Glass materials sent to landfill accounted for 1.6% of your total waste, nearly 8.63 tonnes of Glass will be sent to landfill annually. In 2014, the same materials sent to landfill accounted for 0.9% an estimated 4.86 tonnes of glass was sent to landfill.

Glass bottles are all recyclable materials, clearly labeled and easily accessible recycling receptacles are key to ensure that employees, contractors, and students can participate.

## **Diverted Opportunities**

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**Increased diversion opportunities represent the largest potential cost savings and landfill diversion opportunity for University of Victoria. While diversion programs are currently in operation, the audit shows that they are not working at their optimal efficiency. Based on the diversion program currently in place 71% of the material sent to landfill is recyclable or divertible. Therefore, there is room for improvement within the diversion program where most staff, contractors, and students at the university handle their waste.**

**The following tables outline the materials captured through the facilities recycling program. The largest increase in recycling volumes was seen in the cardboard recycling program, from**

## Recommendation Overview

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Several options have been identified that can help University of Victoria make its operations more sustainable. Each option should be carefully reviewed for operational, financial, social, and strategic fit.

### Increase Awareness of Current Recycling Programs

#### Papers

It is recommended that the facility regularly check with their waste hauler to confirm recyclability of some paper materials like courier/ shipping packages, label paper, and other papers. As some of these materials may be integral to the operations of the facility, it is recommended that they regularly review opportunities to reduce or substitute these materials in their operations.

Awareness should be increased around less recognizable recyclables such as Boxboard

#### Organics

Food service staff who work on campus should be made aware of the program requirements through signage and targeted education to ensure that the program will be successful. Increased education and employee/ student awareness would be essential for the program to succeed. Moreover, the facility could develop relationships with local shelters or charities to donate leftover foods if health and safety provisions are met.

Operations should always ensure that appropriate bins are used in key areas where these materials are generated such as food prep areas in kitchens and cleaning areas in cafeterias.

#### Plastics

All plastic material will be marked with a number indicating the type of plastic that was used to make the item. This number can be used to determine if recycling programs exist for that item. Most commonly, recycling programs will exist for #1, #2, & #5. Limited recycling programs exist for #3, #4, #6, and #7 plastics. Education and promotion is important for employees and students in the facility so that they are aware of all recyclable materials, especially those which are less commonly handled.

Food vendors should be encouraged to provide recyclable or compostable options for the products they bring into the campus.

#### Textiles

There is currently a program in place to capture some of these materials, a clothing donation program. Some textiles identified in the landfill waste stream are not currently recyclable. Ensure janitorial staff are trained to fully use all resources such as mop heads and rags prior to disposal.



