



SURFRIDER TRANSPARENT WASTE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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.

Below are common waste mishaps and solutions:

Tips for Residents.

- 01** All recycling needs to be cleaned. Glass, plastic and metal, need to be rinsed and dried before being put out to the curb or brought to the depot. Soiled or wet cardboard and paper products, like pizza box bottoms, cannot be recycled.
- 02** 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.
- 03** Polystyrene, glass and soft plastics cannot be taken at curbside by our local contractor. These materials need to be brought into the depot.
- 04** Foil plastics, used to package items like chips, granolas, and other snack foods, can be recycled. This material needs to be cleaned and brought to the depot. Please see signs at the depots for proper sorting.
- 05** Labels can be left on recyclables, like soup cans and soap bottles.
- 06** Compostable and biodegradable plastics cannot be taken by the Tofino or Ucluelet depots. Other plastics with resin code #7 can be.
- 07** Compostable and biodegradable plastics cannot be recycled. Other plastics with resin code #7 can be.
- 08** Wax cardboard is not recyclable, do not put at curbside or bring to the depot.
- 09** Ask questions! If you're not sure about an item's recyclability, visit SonBird Recycling Depot and ask them or visit the Recycle BC website.
- 10** Just because an item has the triangular recycling symbol doesn't mean it's recyclable, check with the depot if you're unsure!
- 11** Learn what's recyclable and what isn't. Any item that is paper with a plastic lining is garbage.
- 12** Common items people "wish-cycle" are latex gloves, tissue paper, paper towels, toilet paper, tissue, paper napkins, laminated paper, parchment paper, children's painted artwork, plastic toys, compostable coffee cups or take out containers, glassware and dishes, used tea lights, toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, polystyrene packing peanuts, cigarette packs with the foil liner/plastic wrap still on them, any form of garbage bag.
- 13** Do not put tetra packs, coffee cups, ice cream containers in with paper at the depot, they belong with the plastic. They can also be taken at curbside.
- 14** Give yourself enough time to separate everything properly both at the depot and for the curbside. This process should take some time.
- 15** Do not put your curbside recycling in plastic or biodegradable bags, as it will not be picked up.