

April 2007

Integrated Waste Management Pilot Program at City Hall

VICTORIA, BC — Staff at the City of Victoria have been active in creating an environmentally clean and friendly workplace. For years, the City ran a successful in-house mixed paper recycling program and a beverage deposit program.

In September 2006, the Engineering Department implemented its Integrated Waste Reduction Pilot Program, which ran until the end of March 2007. The aim of this new program was to reduce and recycle as many organic materials as possible and divert waste from the landfill.

During the implementation phase of the program, staff separated and disposed their organic, recyclable, and non-recyclable materials into colour-coded bins labelled with appropriate instructions and graphics, thereby minimizing what went into the garbage bin. The custodial staff then ensured that the recycling process was adhered to and provided regular feedback into the process.

Staff were also encouraged to use their own cloth napkins, plates, cups, and cutlery and to support establishments that use recycled or recyclable products for City sponsored meetings and activities.



As a result, not only did the City receive positive feedback about the pilot program, it also saw a reduction of waste going to the landfill by 50%. The cost savings realized through the Integrated Waste Reduction Pilot Program will enable the City to implement the program in other City Hall's adjoining buildings, as well as Garbally Public Works Yard and the Beacon Hill Parks Yard.

“Municipal governments have an important role to play in promoting waste reduction, recycling and other conservation measures and we want to keep as much waste as we can out of the landfills,” said Mayor Allan Lowe. “I am pleased that City Hall staff themselves have stepped up to the plate to help create an environmentally clean and friendly workplace. “

We would also like to send out a special thanks to the following individuals:

- Councillor Sonya Chandler and Katie Josephson, Manager, Corporate Communications for initiating the idea of recycling organic waste.
- Alan Summers, Manager, John Craveiro, Assistant Manager, and Wendy Dunn, Solid Waste Initiative Technician at the CRD for their support in assisting the City with its pilot project and for the education materials they provided.
- Jason Adams, Owner of reFUSE, our local organic waste collection company, provided the excellent service for collection and composting of our organic materials.