



New Zero Waste Stations Introduced into Public Spaces

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The first installation of our New Zero Waste stations went in today on the corner of Government and Humboldt. In the coming months they spread across downtown, urban villages and parks will reduce waste going to landfill by improving composting and recycling options.

“Over one tonne of waste is generated every day in Victoria’s streets and parks, costing us more than \$5 million a year to manage. With the proliferation of takeout, it’s our responsibility as a city to ensure we have modern infrastructure that allows people to do the right thing – for our community and for the environment,” said Mayor Lisa Helps. “Providing folks with options to recycle or compost materials that don’t belong in a landfill is an important step in creating a sustainable city.”

The placement and design of the new fully colour-coded bins is informed by research and best practice in waste management. Three bins in each station represent three waste streams: green for organics, blue for recyclables and black for garbage. The City of Victoria is part of a group of leading communities adopting this consistent design standard. Decals placed on the stations ask users to scrape their food into the green bin and sort their recyclable items. These small efforts are expected to make a big impact in decreasing the amount of food and recyclables going to landfill.

The Zero Waste stations not only make it easy for residents and visitors to sort their waste, but also require less contact and lifting for City workers. While the current downtown waste bins are emptied twice a day and require manual lifting, the new designs incorporate larger wheeled containers and effectively double their capacity. This saves time and money.

In 2018 City Council directed staff to develop a comprehensive zero waste strategy. A waste audit, completed in 2019, provided an analysis of waste, such as more than 13,000 paper coffee cups going into Victoria trash cans every day, and showed high contamination rates, meaning many items were placed in the wrong bins or still contained food within them. Introducing these stations is just one way in which the city plans to increase recycling and composting rates.

ATTACHMENT: Photo of new Zero Waste Stations

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For More Information:

Bill Eisenhauer

Head of Engagement

250.858.1061

beisenhauer@victoria.ca