



## Sorting-at-Source Recycling Station Pilot Study in Office Buildings

### FAQs for Building Occupants

- Q: Why is it important to undertake a pilot study at this time?
- A: The university needs to reduce the amount of waste and recyclable material that it sends to the Hartland landfill. This reduction is required in order to fully comply with the CRD Hartland ban bylaw and the provincial recycling regulation. A pilot study will help to confirm whether the sorting-at-source recycling station approach will help to achieve compliance and improve the recycling diversion rate in offices. It will also provide faculty and staff with the opportunity to provide input - a survey will be conducted near the end of the study.
- Q. It is not my job to take out my recycling.
- A. We are all responsible for the waste we generate. Studies clearly show that the overall amount of waste generated at work is reduced when conveniently located sorting-at-source recycling stations are introduced, and people become aware of the waste they generate (e.g. lunch packaging). Janitorial Services does not have the additional resources to sort out recyclable materials generated by office occupants so that the university can achieve compliance.
- UVic faculty and students are leading the way on this new approach and have successfully demonstrated that the sorting-at-source recycling system in classroom and lecture theatre buildings works well. Through this pilot study, more campus community members will have the opportunity to discover the value of this initiative.
- Q. We already have recycling stations for bottles and cans. Why not keep the desk-side service for paper?
- A: Not all offices have access to recycling stations, which are currently only available in some buildings. In addition, too many recyclables are still making their way into the Hartland landfill-destined waste stream in office buildings. We need to ensure a consistent method of collection is established in order to achieve compliance. A sorting-at-source recycling station system will encourage everyone in the campus community to place recyclable materials in the appropriate stream and help the university to comply.
- Q. What will happen to my desk-side blue bin?
- A. Office occupants will keep the blue bins and use them to take their recyclables to a nearby sorting-at-source recycling station.
- Q. I am very busy and do not have time to participate.
- A. We recognise that everyone has a very busy schedule. Waste Reduction and the Office of campus Planning and Sustainability will work collaboratively with departments to ensure that sorting stations are available in convenient locations so taking recyclables to a nearby station should not take more than a few minutes per week.