



Compost and Recycling Diversion in Squamish - Proposed Bylaw Information Package

Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Businesses & Properties

The District of Squamish is committed to reducing solid waste and diverting recyclable and compostable materials out of the landfill waste stream. This package provides information about:

- The proposed waste reduction bylaw
- Support available to reduce waste
- Community waste goals
- Expected impacts to the community, businesses, institutions and properties



1. Proposed bylaw:

The District of Squamish (DOS) is developing a bylaw requiring commercial, institutional and multi-family buildings to separate and dispose of their waste into multiple streams (recycling, organic material and garbage), by banning recyclable and organic material from the landfill and requiring the use of clear garbage bags by everyone in the community. The proposed bylaw will be enforced for any loads that contain materials that should be in the other streams (garbage, recycling or organics).

Overview of Changes:

- Collect and divert organic material and recyclables – they will no longer be accepted in garbage
- Provide multi-stream waste collection (recycling, organics and garbage) in all businesses, commercial and institutional properties
- Utilize clear bags for all garbage
- Provide written information for employees and tenants and post information on how to separate into multiple streams (garbage, organic and recycling).

Proposed Changes

Multi-Stream Separation:

- Properties will be required to have facilities for garbage, organics and all recyclable materials (glass, paper, cardboard, etc.) that are produced on site, to be separated.
- It is the responsibility of the premises owner or occupier to ensure that generated solid waste streams are appropriately separated prior to pick up by the waste hauler.

Education:

- Provide written information to new residents, tenants, employees and contractors, and at least annually to all existing residents, tenants, employees and contractors, on how to separate and deposit garbage, organics and recyclables into appropriate receptacles.
- Post signage with information on separating the multiple streams on the premises and in the waste room of buildings.

Clear Bags:

- Garbage must be placed in clear, non-coloured, transparent plastic bags.
- A privacy bag can be included with disposal. There will be size restrictions around the privacy bag (ex. grocery store bag size).

2. Timing:

A transition period will allow for changes in infrastructure, systems and training that may be needed by businesses, institutions and properties.

Transition phases:	Date:
Outreach for feedback on the proposed bylaw changes	Now until end of June
District staff present draft bylaw to Council	July 2017
Bylaw adoption	July/Sept 2017
Education & support period to help plan for operational changes: Bylaw infractions reported; Property owners required to remedy them	July 2017 - TBD
Enforcement through fines begin	TBD

This approach was adopted by Metro Vancouver. Their ban of organic materials started January 1, 2015, and is consistent with best practices from other communities.

3. Transition support:

To help businesses, institutions and commercial properties find ways to maximize organic waste diversion, minimize food waste and separate recyclables, the District is working with Whistler's environmental non-profit organization, AWARE to offer support to identify and work through implementation challenges.

Support is available to assist with signage, training staff and implementing logistics. Support will be offered through the following methods:

- A Solutions Guide providing advice on items such as waste separation methods, set-up, and more;
- 'Train the Trainer' workshops and training materials (workshops will be offered in Fall 2017);
- Guidance on waste room sizing, location and access; and
- Signage to be posted in waste rooms and informational material that can be provided for new and existing tenants, employees and contractors;
- Assistance with food recovery programs and opportunities.

Join these free support programs by contacting the District of Squamish at zerowaste@squamish.ca

4. Community waste reduction:

Improving solid waste separation will affect everyone in the community and energize a shift towards sustainability and responsible waste management.

- Once in effect the new bylaw is expected to divert between 4,000 and 6,000 tonnes of garbage to either compost or recycling each year.
- In 2016, Squamish had an average garbage disposal rate of 676 kg per person (643 kg in 2015). The provincial target is 350 kg by 2020.
- Reducing the amount of garbage will extend the landfill lifespan, which will be full in 2028, even with the current work on the vertical expansion.

A 2016 audit of commercial and multi-family home garbage found that over 65% of the garbage stream could have been diverted for recycling or composting.

80% of the total waste that arrives at the landfill comes from commercial, institutional and industrial businesses and multi-family homes.



5. Potential impacts:

The proposed waste diversion bylaw will impact properties, businesses and individuals in a variety of ways.

Infrastructure and waste system impacts:

The proposed changes mean that your business, organization or property will:

- Install compost and recycling bins in central kitchens and garbage rooms;
- Reduce the size of the current landfill garbage bins;
- Adjust waste pick-up schedule to effectively accommodate garbage, recycling and organics bins,
- Update signage and send out diversion information to staff and tenants; and
- Purchase clear garbage bags.

Economic impacts:

Everyone living in, visiting or doing business in Squamish creates waste. Reducing and diverting waste from the landfill makes economic sense.

- Food waste costs the North American food service industry an estimated \$15 billion annually and sends millions of tonnes of valuable materials to be landfilled.
- Landfill tipping fees will continue to rise, especially the Mixed Waste rate, which is when a load of garbage is contaminated with >5% recyclable or organic material in it.
- Many recyclable items have no associated tipping fee at the landfill (e.g. Styrofoam, cardboard, metal, glass, etc.).

Social impacts:

Surveys have shown a strong support for waste reduction in Squamish.

- Participation in food recovery systems (when possible) instead of composting, contributes to the health of the community.
- Participation in a landfill diversion program is a clear commitment for a greener future. Green actions build customer loyalty and enhance your brand.
- Participation in waste diversion encourages other environmentally sustainable behaviour.

Environmental impacts:

Food and recyclables in the landfill represent wasted resources that went into producing those products (e.g. land clearing, energy, natural resources, and fuel for transport). Diverting your recyclables and food waste helps:

- Minimize methane emissions, one of the powerful greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.
- Reduce your landfill footprint as the Squamish Landfill requires decades of management, is expensive and encroaches on the natural places we love.
- Close the nutrient cycle, ensuring that nutrients from food waste are able to enrich soils for future growth.

This Information Package was developed by: the District of Squamish and the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE).

For inclusion in the support workshops contact zerowaste@squamish.ca.

