



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

# Becoming a Zero Waste Campus

- The university strives to become a **zero-waste community**, the simple act of disposing of your waste in the proper stream can have big impacts.
- UCalgary is committed to diverting **80 per cent of our waste from the landfill by this year**



Strategy 2017-22

The University of Calgary **Institutional Sustainability Strategy** is an institutional roadmap for leadership and excellence in sustainability.

Three supporting frameworks:

- 1) Education and research
- 2) Engagement
- 3) Operations and administration

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/sustainability/>



# Campus Wide Standardized Waste Bin Program

- The university strives to become a **zero-waste community**:
  - **UCalgary's target - Divert 80% of waste from landfill by this year**
- The City of Calgary implemented **new bylaw that requires public institutions to divert organic waste** in 2018.
- UCalgary installed **over 900** interior and **over 140** exterior waste bins across four campuses –
  - **Main**
  - **Foothills**
  - **Spyhill**
  - **Downtown**



**EXTERIOR BINS**



**INTERIOR BINS**

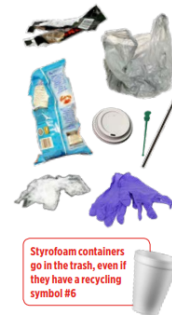


- Bins are serviced daily to meet health and safety requirements and to help eliminate odours and pests.
- To help optimize the sorting process, students were consulted on how to improve the signage on the bins as part of a **Campus as a Learning Lab (CLL)** project



## Trash / Landfill

Straws, chip bags, plastic cutlery, used pens, Styrofoam containers, cellophane, plastic stir sticks, beverage lids and plastic grocery bags



Styrofoam containers go in the trash, even if they have a recycling symbol #6

## Refundable Beverage Containers

Aluminum cans, plastic and glass drink bottles, milk cartons, juice boxes, Tetra Paks, drink pouches



Empty your containers of as much food and liquid as possible before you recycle to prevent contamination. It only takes one half-full drink to send an entire bin of recycling to the landfill.

## Mixed Recyclables

Empty coffee cups (no lid, sleeve separated), fountain drink cups (no straw/lid), yogurt containers, clear plastic bags only, paper and cardboard, magazines, plastic containers with a 1-7 symbol, tin foil



**NO STYROFOAM**

## Compostables

Compostable clamshell food containers (and compostable cutlery), coffee grinds in a used filter, fruit/vegetable scraps, cooked food scraps (including meat), tea bags



Compost your food container from Mac Hall: all vendors use compostable clamshells



## ■ Pizza Boxes

There are Pizza boxes in designated locations

## ■ Residence Services

Will get the new Standardized Four-Stream

## ■ Washroom

“Paper Only” bins for paper towels





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- So what goes where??



## Did you know?

Compostables collected at the university are used as a fertilizer in public parks and agriculture fields

## Remember

Food containers from university vendors are compostable!!

Look for the BPI compostable symbol

- Biodegradable Products Institute





## Compostables

 <b><u>YES</u></b>		 <b><u>NO</u></b>
 <p>Used paper towels/napkins</p>	 <p>Lunch leftovers</p>	 <p>Plastic cutlery</p>
 <p>Compostable clamshells</p>	 <p>Wooden chopsticks</p>	 <p>Plastic containers</p>
 <p>Pizza boxes</p>	 <p>Food scraps</p>	
 <p>Tea bags</p>	 <p>Fruit/vegetable scraps</p>	
 <p>Compostable Cutlery</p>	 <p>Plants/flowers</p>	



## Did you know?

- Coffee lids go in the garbage even if it has a recycling symbol
  - Our MRF doesn't have a vendor that will recycle coffee lids

## Remember

- Plastic straws (trash)
- Coffee cup sleeves must be separated
- Coffee lids (trash)
- **Containers and cups need to be empty!**
  - No need to wash/rinse
  - "It only takes one half-full drink to send an entire bin of recycling to the landfill"



## Mixed Recyclables

 <b>YES</b>		 <b>NO</b>
 Empty plastic containers 	 Empty tin cans	 Coffee lids
 Empty cold beverage cups	 Empty coffee cups, sleeve separated	 Straws & bottle caps
 Magazines/newspapers	 Paper/cardboard	 Plastic grocery bags
		 Black plastic containers

# Refundable Beverage Containers

- For many years, the University has partnered with Vecova for the **Refundable Container Recycling Program**.
- The University employs capable workers with disabilities to collect the recyclable containers for the entire campus and they are paid from the proceeds.
- **Remember**
  - Glass containers need to be placed in a careful manner to avoid safety problems





## Refundable Beverage Containers

 <b>YES</b>	 <b>NO</b>	
 <p>Aluminum drink cans</p>	 <p>Juice cartons</p>	 <p>Coffee cups</p>
 <p>Milk cartons</p>	 <p>Plastic drink containers</p>	 <p>Cold beverage cups</p>
 <p>Glass drink containers</p>		

## Did you know?

- The following items that are **mistaken** for recycling/compost but actually go into the trash?
  - Plastic cutlery
  - Styrofoam packaging
  - Plastic straws
  - Plastic stir sticks
  - Candy and food wrappers

 <b>Trash / Landfill</b>	
 <b>YES</b>	 <b>NO</b>
 Plastic cutlery	 Coffee cups
 Plastic grocery bags	 Styrofoam cups and containers
 Coffee lids	 Plastic stir sticks
 Candy wrappers	 Chip wrappers

## ■ Textiles

- **Yamnuska Residence Hall** and the **Dining Centre** have Textile Recycling bins.
  - Clothes
  - Stuffed toys
  - Old shoes,
  - Worn backpacks
  - Towels, bedding
  - and undergarments (cleaned)
- This feature was made possible thanks to the studies conducted through a **Campus as a Learning Lab** project.





- Batteries and Cellphones can be disposed at the following locations:

- **Main Campus**

- Chem Store
- Physical Plant
- Eng Store
- EVDS PF 2182
- Bio Store
- Hotel Alma
- Sustainability Resource Centre

- **Foothills Campus**

- HSC B808 (shipping and receiving)



## ■ Electronic Waste

- Computers, monitors, laptops, televisions, mice, keyboards, cables, printers, telephones etc.
- **Material Disposal Form** (SCM service request forms)

## ■ Furniture

- Desks, tables, chairs, and other furniture can be sold at the campus' **Surplus Sales**
- Surplus sales occur **the second and fourth Fridays of the month** and **the second Friday in December**

**Help reduce UCalgary's footprint**

 Certify your events with UCalgary's Sustainable Events Program: you'll be provided with simple tools and resources to make your next event more inclusive, environmentally conscious and socially responsible

Work with your colleagues to earn a Waste badge through UCalgary's Sustainable Offices program. You'll be provided with simple tools and resources to help your team take action to reduce and sort out your waste and contribute to UCalgary's sustainability goals

 Anyone can contact Facilities to request a desk-side recycling bin or outdoor event recycling and compost bins

Drop off worn textiles — everything from clothes and shoes to stuffed toys and used backpacks — in the textiles bin outside the Dining Centre or Yamnuska Hall to be recycled



 Construction waste from all UCalgary projects is collected and sent to materials recycling facilities, resulting in up to 90 per cent of materials being diverted from landfill