

MAYOR'S REPORT

2016 RECYCLE & REFUSE ANALYSIS

An operations analysis of the [recycle and refuse facility](#) for 2016 has again provided some very interesting statistics. Last year Belcarra residents generated 170,786 lbs. (85.4 tons) of refuse and diverted 274,604 lbs. (137.3 tons) of recyclables and organic waste. This was a total waste stream of 445,390 lbs. (222.7 tons) for 2016. It is notable that Belcarra's waste stream has slowly, but steadily, declined over the past decade (see the trend line on the accompanying graph).

On a user basis, Belcarra's total waste equates to an average 1230 lbs. per household in 2016. Although 34% less than 2007 (the highest year), it is still higher than the [Metro Vancouver](#) single-family residential sector average of 1136 lbs. per household in 2015.

During 2016, Belcarra achieved an overall 61.7% waste diversion, compared to the Metro Vancouver single-family residential sector which currently achieves a diversion rate of 66%. Knowing that many Belcarra households diligently sort their solid waste for recycle, it appears that there are still some households that can do more to divert recyclable materials and to respect quantity limits on household refuse. For all single-family homes in the region to average a 65% diversion rate, we need 80% of households to recycle 80% of their waste every day.

[Organics, kitchen and food waste](#) account for an estimated 40% of all *Metro Vancouver* garbage, and starting in 2016, everything from apple cores to chicken bones, bread crusts, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags, paper towels and pizza boxes now must be separated and diverted from land fill. During 2016, Belcarra residents achieved a very credible 29.7% diversion of organic waste, but there is still plenty of scope to increase that number toward 40%.

The bottom-line is that the more we eliminate waste, and the more we recycle and divert, the better we can control the cost of solid waste disposal. However, it is important to recognise that whenever deliveries of refuse or recyclables are found to contain [banned materials](#), financial penalties are imposed. The installation of electronic site surveillance and access controls, user education, and enforcement strategies such as fines for non-permitted items, all have been necessary to take us forward in our [waste reduction goals](#).

We can only meet our waste diversion responsibilities with clear strategies and a shared commitment by the users of the system; that is, the residents of Belcarra. The cost of garbage disposal is expected to increase in the coming years, but those cost increases can be contained through our continued efforts to ***Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.***

**RALPH DREW
MAYOR**



Village of Belcarra

Recycle & Refuse Statistics

