

“Bin-be-Gone” Waste Reduction Initiative at UFV

Coming soon to an office near you

After establishing successful trials at the CEP campus, “Bin-be-Gone” is now being promoted in offices all across UFV.

How does this improve recycling?



Case studies ranging from businesses to universities have shown that the amount of waste sent to landfills can be effectively reduced by the removal of under-desk garbage bins and the placement of sufficient and centralized recycling bins.

Many items that we handle on a daily basis can be recycled; however, having a garbage bin so conveniently close provides a temptation not to recycle. This campaign aims to raise awareness of recycling: getting us to really think about which bin an item of waste should go in.

Benefits

- More waste is being recycled effectively sending less to landfill
- Less plastic bin bags used every day thus reducing university spending
- Less contamination from waste/recycling bins standing on their own
- More efficient use of cleaning staff resources (i.e. less time spent emptying bins)
- Increased environmental awareness throughout the university

Janitorial staff currently spends much of their time emptying individual waste bins, which is an expensive and time consuming process. If offices centralized waste management, cleaning staff are able to empty bins faster, focus on other tasks at hand, and potentially be more involved in managing other recycling systems in the future.

Improvement in Health and Awareness



Not only does “Bin be Gone” actively reduce the amount of waste thrown out, it also provides the drive for staff to take a break from their desk. Occupational Health and Safety guidelines suggest that staff take a break from their desk every 30 minutes to stretch muscles and relax eyes, and by walking to a centralized waste management center in the office you can successfully fulfill those guidelines.

We don’t usually have bins next to the dining table or couch and we don’t usually have kettles and photocopiers at our desks. Getting up to use a bin and sharing facilities are both normal- this project simply combines these behaviours. Furthermore, offices that adopt this system demonstrate leadership by supporting a positive behavioural change that fosters a more sustainable environment.

What to do with our waste



Instead of just a waste bin, there will be a central recycling station that you will share with other staff members which include a recycling bin and a waste-to-landfill bin for all non-recyclables. The location of this station will be located in an area no more than a 30 second walk from any desk.

You may wish to collect recyclables at your desk (ex. In a cardboard box) and empty in when you are getting up to leave the room, or whatever works best for you. Facilities will empty/service the centralized bins on a regular basis.

Other initiatives to reduce waste

UFV is always looking for ways to improve our recycling program and create a sense of unity amongst students and staff: here are a few more suggestions to help make that a reality.

Introduce a staff common office composting bin

Students for Sustainability and Facilities Services have combined their efforts to bring Food Waste Composting to UFV. Current partners in this program are: Students for Sustainability, Facilities Services, and the Center for Sustainability, and YOU!!!

- Departments participating in composting do so at their effort.
- All compost bins shall be provided by Facilities at cost. Compost bins must be located on a kitchenette countertop or the refrigerator. Facilities are to be notified should the compost bin be relocated. This is important information as all compost bin locations throughout the University will be mapped by Facilities.
- The compost bin should be lined either with newspaper or compostable plastic or paper bags with NO metal twist ties. Liners are the responsibility of the user department.
- The office compost bin shall be emptied into the hallway bins located: in the cafeteria, in roadrunner cafe, by Tim Horton's, in U-House or Baker House. The compost bin shall be emptied the last work day of each week and as necessary throughout the week. Compost bins are to be kept clean and odor free.

Take advantage of the schools water refill stations

If you like knowing that the water you drink from bottles bought in store is more filtered than just drinking out of the tap why not take advantage of the 2 water bottle refill stations located on campus (one in the cafeteria and the other in G building) that provide cool, filtered water at no cost to you. By bringing your own water bottle and using the refill station, you actively reduce the number of water bottles that get thrown out. This will also give you an opportunity to get up and stretch your legs after being at your desk for long periods of time.

Don't throw your bottles/cans out... give them to Pathways!

Pathways are a non-profit organization that provides training and support services to individuals with developmental disabilities. The Pathways group collects all cans/bottles that are deposited in the blue bins throughout our campuses.



You can make a difference!