

MAYOR'S REPORT

2017 RECYCLE & REFUSE ANALYSIS

An operations analysis of the [recycle and refuse facility](#) for 2017 has again provided some very interesting statistics. Last year Belcarra residents generated 225,500 lbs. (112.8 tons) of refuse and diverted 253,550 lbs. (126.8 tons) of recyclables and organic waste. This was a total waste stream of 479,050 lbs. (239.5 tons) for 2017. **It is notable that Belcarra's landfill refuse (garbage) has steadily declined over the past decade which is consistent with the observations of other municipalities.**

On a user basis, Belcarra's total waste equates to an average 1270 lbs. per household in 2017. As observed with previous years, this is above the *Metro Vancouver* single-family residential sector average of 1063 lbs. per household in 2016.

During 2017, Belcarra achieved an overall 56.3% waste diversion. While there has been a marked increase in the amount of recycled materials (paper, cardboard, plastic, & glass), and it is still below the overall *Metro Vancouver* single-family residential sector which achieved a diversion rate of 66% during 2016.

[Organics, kitchen and food waste](#) account for an estimated 36% of *Metro Vancouver* single-family garbage and, as of 2016, everything from apple cores to chicken bones, bread crusts, eggshells, coffee grounds, tea bags, paper towels and pizza boxes must be separated and diverted from land fill.

During 2017, Belcarra residents achieved a very credible 30.8% diversion of organic waste, which includes yard waste. While inclusion of the latter makes a comparison difficult, we can say that the organic waste diversion rate is good.

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

