

GARBAGE DISPOSAL 101

Your takeout container could be made out of one of these materials – reusable or not!



METALS

We've been recycling metal for a long time.

The overall annual recycling rate for steel is nearly 88%. Each year, more than 70 million tons of steel are recycled. That is more than aluminum, paper, glass and plastic combined.

Energy conserved by recycling instead of making new steel would be enough to electrically power about 20 million homes for one year.¹

1. American Iron and Steel Institute: Industry Fact Sheet



PAPER

We've been recycling paper for a long time, too!

Current estimates state that over 50% of all paper manufactured in the US comes from recycled product. That percentage could be even higher in Canada.

The United States paper recovery rate rose from 46% in 2000 to a record high 63.4% in 2009.

In Canada, the reported paper recovery rate in 2009 was 66%.²

2. Paper Recycling Association [US]: The State of The Paper Industry: 2011



PLASTIC

Plastics recycling hasn't yet reached its potential.

Despite demand from plastic recyclers, plastics have a mere 20% recycling rate, down from 40% in 1994.

Around 636,000 tons of PET plastic beverage bottles were recycled nationwide in 2006 (USA), but more than 3 times as much PET was wasted: 2,000,000 tons.³

Plastics are a whole 'nother story!⁴

3. Container Recycling Institute [CA, USA]

4. Michael Biddle - MBA Polymers CEO/Founder TED Talk: "We Can Recycle Plastics".



ORGANICS

Composting is evolving at a healthy pace in Vancouver, but has trouble still with multi-family buildings.

Despite its ascent, local industry experts like Louise Schwarz are concerned that this process's associated infrastructure is not ready to handle what 100% organic waste diversion from the City of Vancouver will mean.

Also - even with our rising investments in urban agriculture - will Vancouver be able to sell this proposed volume of processed organic products?

Support for this project does not necessarily imply endorsement of the findings or content of this report.

Vancity

