

Valley Waste-Resource Management Operating Policy

Policy Name	Public Waste Policy
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Public Waste-Resource Policy

(modified by Denise for simplicity and public distribution April, 2000)

Definition of "Public Waste-Resources": waste-resources generated in locations accessible to the general public and not directly controllable by the staff of a given business or enterprise.

Guidelines for Managing Public Waste

1. In any staff controlled area all waste-resources must be source-separated.
2. Where waste-resources are not under staff control, the business must provide source-separation options to the public: receptacles for recyclables, compostables, and residual waste must be conveniently available for the public to use.
3. Labels and signage must be provided indicating what materials should be placed in each container. This will help the public know where to correctly place their waste-resources.
4. Public washroom waste is considered residual waste. There is no requirement to sort public washroom waste.
5. Clear bags should be used only for recyclable materials. (Unless special arrangements are made with your hauler).
6. All materials delivered to the Waste-Resource Management Centres are subject to inspection and compliance measures.

Tips for Controlling Public Waste

It may be difficult for a business to control the actions of the public that visit a place of business. Further, changing the habits of both staff and the public is a major challenge. The following list identifies some ideas to help you achieve sorting requirements.

1. It is helpful to have a written policy and plan which staff can refer to. This helps to reinforce to staff that waste-resource management is mandatory and that there is a system in place to correctly deal with waste.

2. The more waste staff can control the better. For example: public waste receptacles can be removed from the public areas of a restaurant and staff can clear tables and trays to ensure that materials are placed in the correct containers.
3. For tourism operators, check-in time is an excellent opportunity to give guests instructions on waste sorting requirements.
4. Campers can be provided with a re-useable organics collection container (such as an ice cream container) which the camper can use to transport organics to a central collection point.
5. Haulers play a crucial role in successful source-separation programs. Haulers can help to set up source separation programs and provide ongoing feedback on how well you and your staff are doing.
6. Responsible, effective waste-resource management programs can be a valuable marketing asset for businesses, particularly for tourism businesses. Environmentally conscious visitors will return and tell their friends.

Education and cooperation between the public, the business operator, the staff of the business, the waste hauler and Valley Waste-Resource Management are keys to the success of the Valley Region source separation program. It is especially important for businesses to communicate effectively with their waste hauler. Businesses or institutions needing further assistance may contact Valley Waste-Resource Management.