RIGHT SIZING YOUR COLLECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

BUD FRASER – SENIOR PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY ENGINEER
CAMPUS + COMMUNITY PLANNING, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
UBC CONTEXT

Vancouver Campus

• 402 hectares (including market housing)
• 44,000+ students (FTE)
• 15,000+ staff and faculty (FTE)
• 20,000 residents
• 300+ buildings
• 60,000+ daytime population
TRANSITIONING TO MULTI-STREAM RECYCLING STATIONS IN PUBLIC INDOOR AREAS
EXISTING SITUATION (2013)

Approx. 70 garbage receptacles

Paper recycling near photocopiers
MULTI-STREAM RECYCLING STATIONS: LARGER CAPACITY, STRATEGICALLY LOCATED

Proposed pilot strategy: 10 stations in library, remove all single cans

Primary concerns:
• Litter
• Custodial servicing effort
• Space and appearance
• Food scraps odours & flies, impact on library food policy
PROACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS & ENGAGEMENT ARE ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS

• Develop communications plan and materials
• Engage with custodial services and building administrators
POSITIVE RESULTS

• Overall diversion increased from around 20% to nearly 50%
• Litter did not increase
• Custodial effort balanced out after adjustments in processes
• Similar process followed to expand to other buildings
Approx 185 solo garbage cans, often close together

Some serviced by ancillary departments
PUBLIC REALM ISSUES

- Overflows
- Animals -> litter
- Leaks
- “Wishful” recycling and public demand
ROLLOUT OF NEW STATIONS

• 3 or 4 streams
• Large capacity – up to 750 litres (200 US gallons)
• Replace garbage cans at approximately 3:1 or higher ratio

Concerns
• Litter
• Collection effort
• Recycling truck access
ROLLOUT OF NEW STATIONS

Results

• Much smaller number of collection locations, but support of recycling and composting
• More complex collection process but larger capacity reduces frequency
• Reduced animal issues and leakage -> less litter caused by open cans
• Food scraps contamination ongoing
NEXT STEPS

• Continue to roll out new stations over time – eventually **replace or remove** single cans
• Monitor food scraps contamination and litter
  – Make adjustments to bin configuration, signage if needed