



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

November 28, 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What is ICI?

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) waste comes from businesses and organizations—not households.

Examples include:

- Offices and retail stores
- Restaurants and hotels
- Schools, hospitals, and other institutions

It includes, aquaculture industries like fish farms, commercial businesses like offices, hotels, retail stores, and restaurants, as well as institutions like hospitals, schools, and local government office building waste.

Why are the changes coming?

- **Rising Costs:** The West Coast Landfill faces increasing operational expenses and limited revenue.
- **Unequal Impact:** ICI generators produce more than twice the waste of residential users yet pay the same tipping fee.
- **Tourism Surge:** Over 600,000 visitors annually increase waste volumes during peak seasons.
- **Tourism = More People = More Waste**





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What is the main goal of the project?

- To ensure large waste producers contribute fairly and support long-term landfill sustainability.
- To promote fairness and encourage waste reduction.

How much of the waste at the West Coast Landfill comes from ICI or non-residential?

- 22% residents
- 49% ICI (not including construction and demo) it's a separate waste source

This means the ICI sector generators produce more than twice the waste of residential users.

How do you know the breakdown of waste coming to the landfill?

We know how much waste is from residents versus ICI because the landfill scale house weighs and tracks where the in-coming mixed waste is coming from.

Is there more commercial waste generated during the summer months?

Tourism and summer weather for building/deconstruction, affect waste disposal. The tourism season brings more than 600,000 visitors to the West Coast annually.

That's why waste composition studies are conducted in more than one season to get an accurate overall picture.

What's Changing?

WCL will implement a phased tipping fee increase for ICI waste loads over 83 kg.

Currently, the disposal for residents and ICI is the same - \$150/tonne.

Starting January 1, 2026, tipping fees for ICI waste will increase:

- **2026:** \$172/tonne
- **2027:** \$191/tonne
- **2028:** \$212/tonne

Residential fees remain \$150/tonne.



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Why it's important:

- Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) waste generators produce more than twice the waste of residential users (49+%)
- Seasonal tourism brings more than 600,000 visitors to the West Coast each year, significantly contributing to the region's overall waste generation.
- This change will encourage high-volume users to contribute fairly, supporting financial sustainability, critical infrastructure upgrades, and long-term environmental stewardship.

What are the benefits:

- Fair cost sharing between residents and businesses
- Supports landfill upgrades (power, leachate collection, operations)
- Promotes responsible waste management and environmental sustainability
- Strengthens financial stability for continued operations

What will the impact on businesses be?

- Businesses will be encouraged to **divert waste** to avoid higher fees.
- Program will be **simple, accessible, and cost-effective**, helping local businesses transition to sustainable practices.
- A portion of the additional revenue will create grant to help businesses reduce waste going to the landfill, including:
 - Setting up waste sorting stations
 - Providing staff training
 - Offering signage and carts
 - Encouraging participation in recycling and composting

Organics drop-off at the West Coast landfill is \$130/tonne vs \$172/tonne for waste mixed with organics.

Will this help with operational costs at the WC Landfill?

In 2024, operating costs for the WCL were \$1.52 million. Only \$761,000 were recovered through tipping fees. Residents are currently essentially subsidizing the ICI sector's waste disposal.

By increasing tipping fees for higher-volume users, we will help fund the costs to dispose of that sector's waste. There are also needed infrastructure upgrades and environmental monitoring required at the landfill.



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What will this mean to or financial status at the ACRD?

Operating costs for WCL in 2024 were \$1.52 million, with only \$761,000 recovered. Increasing tipping fees for high-volume users will help fund infrastructure upgrades and environmental monitoring

Are we at risk of filling up the West Coast Landfill?

The landfill can't take waste forever – it will eventually fill up. At current rates, the landfill will reach capacity by 2062. Reducing waste and improving airspace use could extend its life to 2070 or beyond.

What could we do to extend the life of the landfill?

If we change our disposal habits, we can greatly extend the life of the landfill. By separating organics from waste), we can extend the life of our landfill by up to 35 years!

The Sort'nGo curbside program has really helped reduce residential waste. Since 2021, by using our curbside recycling and organics carts, residents have reduced the West Coast's residential garbage by 34%. (Stat from 2021 23%...from 2023 57% diversion).

The non-residential or ICI sector is the next major opportunity for the West Coast to reduce the waste it is sending to the landfill. This is because a lot of the West Coast waste comes from the ICI sector, not residential homes.

What is in industrial waste? Do you track that?

We know what's in waste from different sectors because we conduct waste composition studies.

Waste composition studies involve setting aside in-coming mixed-waste from all the typical sources (curbside pick-up, commercial drop off including hotels and restaurants, and institutions like schools) over the course of about a week. The waste is tracked according to its weight, its source (residential or commercial), and then it is also separated into categories of what could have been:

- Recycled
- Composted locally
- A few other categories (eg: textiles, building materials, household hazardous wastes))
- Actual garbage (mixed waste)

All that to say, that as of the last study in 2019, the business / industrial (ICI) sector is



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- 31% organics
- 38% recyclable (paper, plastic, metal, glass, electronics)
- (17% textiles) Some donatable?

That means that 69% of the materials in the ICI waste at the time of this 2019 study, could have been composted or recycled. And likely some of the textiles could have been donated.

How much of the waste at the landfill is ICI?

Commercial Waste Is the largest contributor of solid waste to the WCL.

In 2024, commercial sources accounted for 78% of all waste landfilled at the West Coast Landfill (WCL), compared to 22% residential and waste. This is largely due to high tourism volumes.

Why doesn't the ICI sector participate in organics and recycling programs as much as residents?

They aren't required to, and it isn't as convenient for them.

Businesses would need to pay a hauler or self haul, and there are additional costs, because their recycling isn't subsidized.

85% of the cost of residential recycling is subsidized by [Recycle BC](#), which is a not-for-profit organization that manages the residential recycling program for **packaging and paper products** throughout British Columbia. It operates under an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model, where the businesses (producers, manufacturers, retailers) that supply these materials to residents are financially and operationally responsible for their end-of-life management. This shifts the cost of recycling away from local governments and taxpayers

Why isn't there a commercial recycling program?

The Province is looking at ways to include commercial recycling similar to the residential Recycle BC program, but this is taking time to plan for. They haven't committed to a launch date yet. Regional Districts in BC have been working hard to advocate for this to be implemented since 2019.

What can ICI recycle?

ICI can pay to recycle:



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- Cardboard
- Mixed containers recycled.
- Organics
- Mattresses (same cost as for residents)
- Ocean plastics (rope, netting, etc)
- Tires

ICI can access free recycling for:

- Scrap metal
- Car batteries
- Major appliances
- Electronics & small appliances
- And several other recyclables (light bulbs, used paint...)

How can I find out more?

You can learn more by visit: www.acrd.bc.ca/WCL

Email: sortngo@acrd.bc.ca