



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Coast residents divert four humpback whales-worth of organics from landfill

It's time to celebrate! Since launching on the West Coast in November 2022, the new Sort'nGo organics collection service has already diverted more than 130 tonnes (or 290,000 lbs) of organics from the landfill. That is equal to the weight of more than 90 beluga whales or around four humpback whales.

By rerouting this amount of organic waste to the compost program, West Coast residents have reduced the amount of curbside waste going to the landfill by 30.37 per cent – a great accomplishment in six months. While previously just less than 20 per cent of waste was being diverted from the landfill, West Coast residential homes are now diverting more than 50 per cent of their household waste.

"It's great to see the community involvement and commitment to the program this quickly into launch. It is an incredible success everyone can be proud of," said Debbie Haggard, vice-chair of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) Board. "Together, we're increasing diversion on the West Coast and as a result extending the life of our landfill."

In spring 2023, the ACRD completed a waste composition study for the West Coast, focusing on single-family residential homes with curbside collection. Materials from 100 households were sampled over two weeks. The study gives good insight into how the service is being used – and where there is room to continue to increase diversion. For example:

- **Organics and recyclables are still found in garbage carts:** In fact, nearly 40 per cent of the material in garbage carts was organics, and 19 per cent was recyclable (curbside or depot).
- **Increasing participation will further support goals:** While garbage and recycling collection have participation rates of 66 and 70 per cent respectively – the organics collection service is at a 40 per cent participation rate.

"We're thrilled to see the way this has kicked off on the West Coast," said Jodie Frank, solid waste project coordinator with the ACRD. "West Coast residents have really stepped up to make this program a success – we've already come so far, and it's exciting to see how a little bit more effort can further our goals even more!"

For more updates on the program and to learn more follow along at letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast or follow us at www.facebook.com/ACRD.recycles.

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