

PREPARED FOR:

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**Town of Gibsons  
Curbside Organic Waste Audit  
WEEK 1**

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**EARTHWHILE SOLUTIONS**

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Contaminants present in the organic waste collected from the Town of Gibsons curbside program are bulleted below:

- Non-compostable plastic bags
- Miscellaneous hard plastics
- Coffee pods
- Produce tags and stickers
- Synthetic fabric
- Plastic-coated paper products\*

\* Plastic-coated paper products present were milk cartons, disposable drinking cups, frozen food packaging, processed food packages, coated paper plates, coated butcher paper and various plastic-lined cardboard packaging.

It can be confusing for residents to distinguish between paper and plastic-coated paper. A good way to determine whether a material is coated in plastic is to ask whether it is shiny or not. As a general rule, shiny papers are coated with plastic and not compostable. When in doubt, throw it out!

While not necessarily contaminants, there were a number of egg cartons and unsoiled paper/cardboard materials that should be recycled rather than composted. It is better to recycle these materials as producing post-consumer recycled paper extends their lifecycle considerably further than composting.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance in your educational messaging.

Sincerely,

Krysta Powers, PhD