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## **BUSINESSES IN THE RDOS URGED TO REDUCE THEIR WASTE**

**A lack of recycling is putting pressure on landfills and impacting carbon reduction goals**

The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen would like to see businesses doing more to recycle paper, plastic, and other materials, and are working on new regulations and programs. But businesses say they are facing multiple obstacles; lack of service, confusion about what is recyclable, and high costs, to name a few.

“When we speak to businesses they all agree that recycling is important,” states Cameron Baughen at the RDOS. “Their individual reasons why they don’t recycle more are unique. The RDOS is committed to help businesses and multi-family units divert waste from landfills. Learning more about their issues is the first step.”

To help understand these barriers, the RDOS hosted workshops for businesses in August to understand their barriers to recycling and ask for ideas on how to overcome them.

“We have heard some interesting feedback from businesses about why they aren’t recycling more. Issues they are facing include cost, space and storage issues, lack of service, inconvenience, and lack of education”, says Andrea Mackintosh, who has been consulting directly with the business community. “They also have some creative ideas on how to overcome these barriers, and we want to hear more from businesses all across the RDOS.”

The RDOS is now encouraging businesses throughout the region to participate in an online survey to ensure that the voice of the business community is heard in advance of any new bylaws, policies, or programs being created for both recycling and potentially composting.

“The Downtown Penticton Association is in agreement with reducing the amount of waste being sent to the landfill and to do this we need a workable and cost-effective waste/recycle program in place,” says Lynn Allin, Downtown Penticton Association Executive Director. “We look forward to being part of the solution to create expanded efforts towards creating and maintaining cleanliness in all public places of the downtown core.”

Businesses that would like to voice their concerns with regards to business recycling and composting are asked to visit [www.recyclesurvey.ca](http://www.recyclesurvey.ca) to complete a 10-minute survey and enter to win a one-night stay and dinner for two at Watermark Beach Resort, OR a \$100 gift card from the local business of their choice. The Regional District is also looking to hear from managers and residents of multi-family buildings. Businesses that are interested in a waste audit can contact Andrea Mackintosh at 250-212-5523 or [andrea@greenstep.ca](mailto:andrea@greenstep.ca).