

Recycling Contamination Reduction – Pilot Results

Committee of the Whole

April 11, 2024

1450 K.L.O. Road
Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
rdco.com



Overview of Recycle BC

- Agreement with Recycle BC until 2026
- Agreement: contamination level (<3%)
- Current Contamination: 5% to 9.5%

Contamination Remediation Plans

- Required annually
- Goal: 25% reduction in contamination
- Includes: education, monitoring, enforcement and tracking
- Likely required until 2026 (Direct Service)

Monitoring Initiatives

- **Historically:**
 - Truck mounted camera's
 - RFID tags
 - Driver identification
 - Physical cart inspections
- **This Pilot:**
 - Automated
 - Smart cameras



Pilot Program

- Partnership:
 - RDCO & member municipalities
 - Recycle BC
 - Environmental 360 Solutions (E360S)
- Pilot program (Nov 2023 – March 2024)
 - Cost: \$67,350 (half funded by Recycle BC)
 - 4 trucks on dedicated recycling routes
- Education phase ended Feb 29

Contamination Examples

**On February 28th
we found items in your cart
that are NOT acceptable**

Only include accepted items to help ensure materials can be effectively recycled



**On February 28th
we found items in your cart
that are NOT acceptable**

Only include accepted items to help ensure materials can be effectively recycled



Dashboard

 Truck Street View

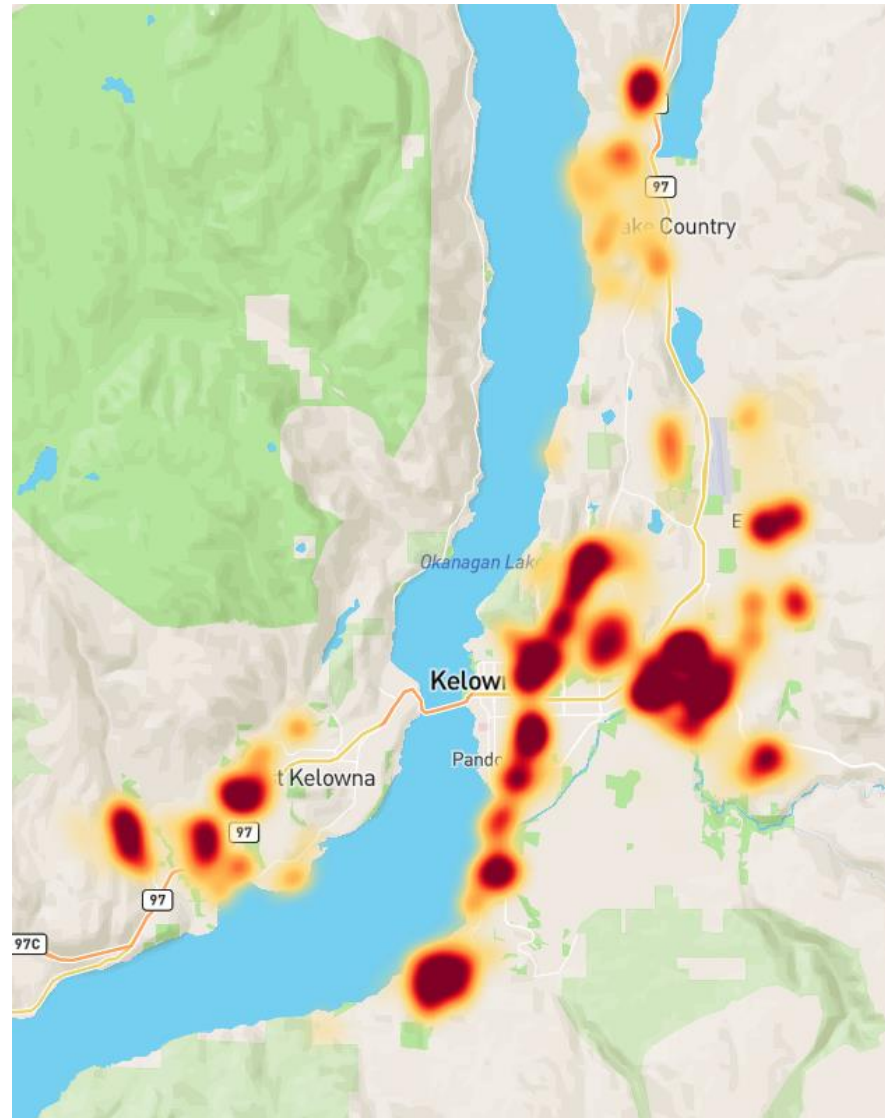


 Clean Load



Previous Collections:

- 2024-02-29
- 2024-02-01
- 2024-01-18
- 2024-01-05



Keep In Postcard

**On February 22nd
we found items in your cart
that are NOT acceptable**

Only include accepted items to help ensure materials can be effectively recycled



✓ Keep These In

 Shredded Paper (put in paper bag or box and add to your cart)	 Boxboard Cartons	 Aluminum Pie Plates	
 Paper & Magazines	 Metal Cans & Empty Aerosols	 Foil Wrap & Containers	
 Plastic Cups	 Spiral Wound Cans	 Paper Cups	 Cardboard
 Single Use Plastics	 Hard Plastic Containers	 Plastic Clamshells	



rdco.com/recycle

✉ recycle@rdco.com

☎ 250-469-6250

🌐 rdco.com/recycle

**Be a better recycler with Recycle Coach
Download the app for free today**



Keep Out Postcard

On January 24th
we found items in your cart
that are NOT acceptable

Only include accepted items to help ensure materials can be effectively recycled



⊗ Keep These Out

- **No Clothes, Shoes or Textiles**
- **No Glass**
- **No Books**
(soft or hardcover)
- **No Styrofoam**
(or foam packaging)
- **No Flexible Plastics**
(crinkly wrappers, stretchy plastic, etc.)
- **No Batteries**
(or hazardous containers)
- **No Metal Products Not Packaging**
(scrap metal, automotive parts, pots & pans, etc.)
- **No Mixed Materials**
(bags or garbage, mixed recycling, dirty material)
- **No Plastic Products Not Packaging**
(plastic toys, tarps, storage containers, etc.)



rdco.com/recycle

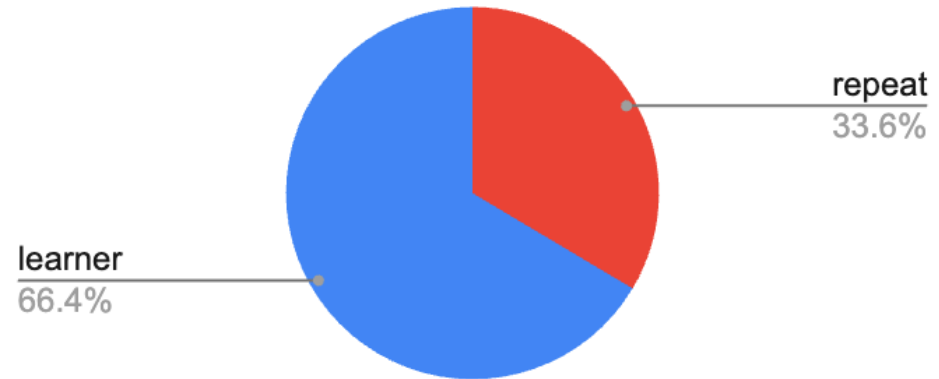
- ✉ recycle@rdco.com
- ☎ 250-469-6250
- 🌐 rdco.com/recycle

Be a better recycler with **Recycle Coach**
Download the app for free today

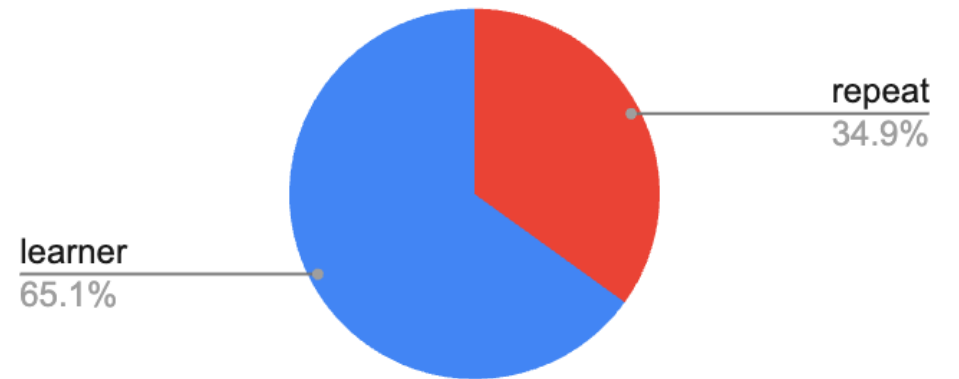


Different Messaging

RDCO Keep In Performance



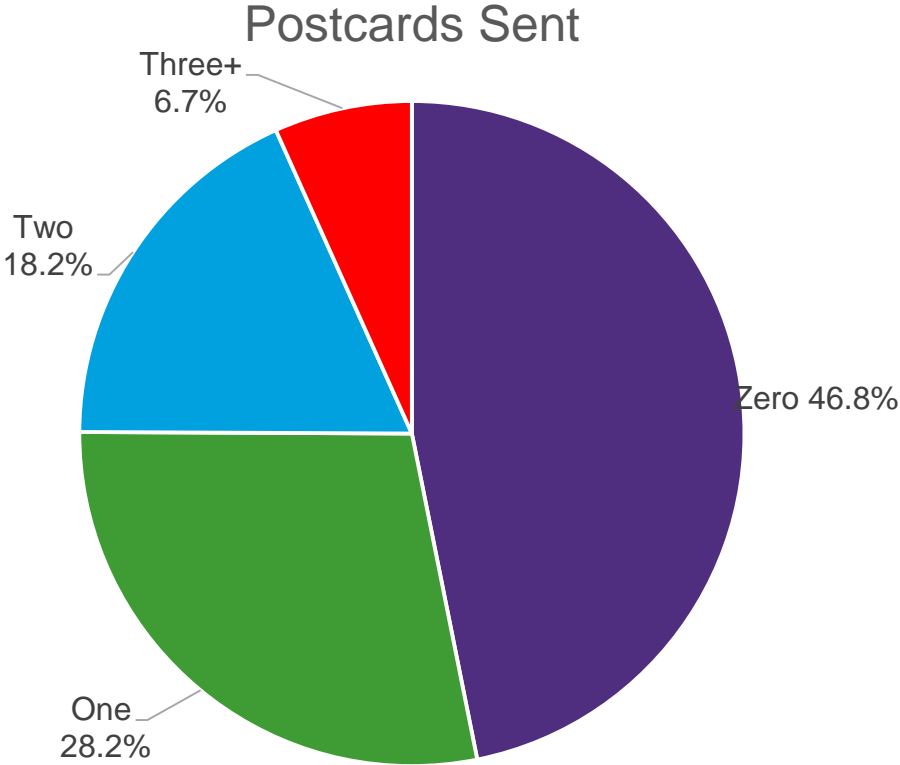
RDCO Keep Out Performance



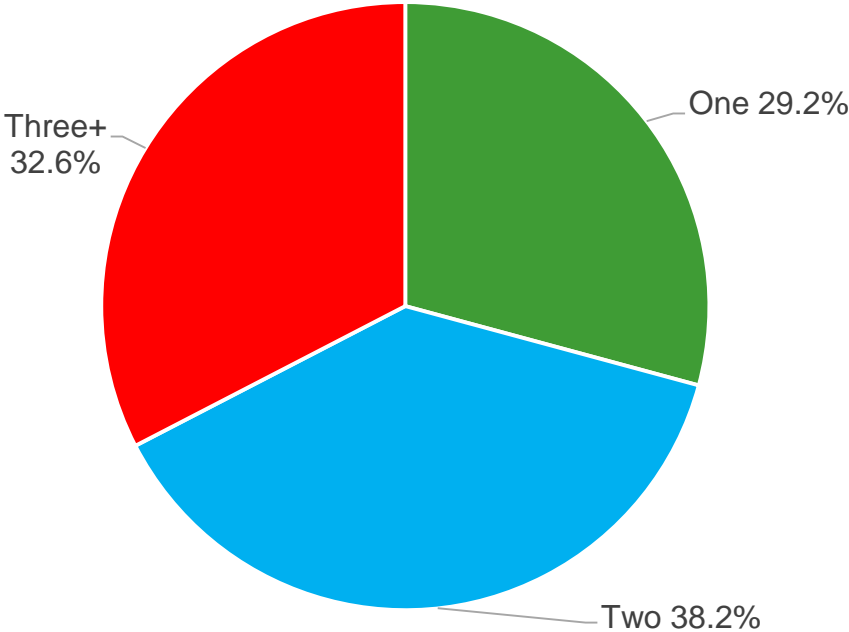
Results:

23% reduction
in recycling contaminants

Results – Post Cards Sent



% Contribution to Contamination (Grouped by # of postcards sent)



Results

Good:

- 45.9% had no contamination
- 35.6% had no contamination after their first postcard

81.5% of households learned, or already know how to properly recycle

Results

Bad:

- 6.7% of households contribute **32.6%** of contamination

Top Contaminants

- Flexible plastics (plastic bags, wrappers)
- Garbage
- Styrofoam
- Bagged recyclables



Next Steps

- Target physical inspection on high contamination households
- Lead with education, and work with local bylaw officers when enforcement becomes necessary
- Continue to assess this system or similar as a tool for reducing contamination

Recommendation

THAT the Committee of the Whole receives the Recycling Contamination Reduction Pilot Report from the Associate Director of Development and Engineering Services, dated April 11, 2024 for information.