

Waste Reduction and Recycling Spotlight: Bellevue Businesses Shine Bright



Check out these 2021 success stories of businesses reducing waste, recycling, and composting in your community.

Blazing Bagels



Blazing Bagels initially requested assistance from the City of Bellevue Utilities to decrease contamination in their recycling cart due to its location in a busy parking lot. The City worked with them to increase recycling, add compost collection, and reduce contamination. Beyond recycling, the City also worked with Blazing Bagels to move higher up the resource conservation hierarchy by focusing on waste prevention. In their efforts to reduce waste, Blazing Bagels had long engaged in selling bags of "day-olds" from its over 35 varieties of bagels. Still too many edible bagels ultimately had to be composted. Composting is certainly better than sending bagels to the landfill, however an even greater good is achieved by diverting edible food to human consumption. To help manage their situation, while also addressing the bigger issue of local food insecurity, the City connected this business with local food bank Hopelink. **Thanks to the cooperative spirit of everyone involved, Blazing Bagels staff and Hopelink volunteers now "rescue" over 500 bagels per week to help feed local residents!**

Crossroads East

Crossroads East Shopping Center is a small commercial property adjacent to Crossroads Mall with 12 business tenants. The City worked with the property manager to facilitate the relocation of their outdoor compost carts to ensure they are accessible to the hauler and business tenants. The City team then conducted outreach to all tenants, as well as set up two food-generating restaurant tenants, So Tasty and Dominoes, with supplies for their kitchens to begin composting food scraps. By working with their waste hauler to ensure this location's two existing compost carts be reliably serviced and used by restaurant tenants, this shopping center was able to increase composting by 77 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 13 tons of organics per year.**



Bellevue Gun Club

The Bellevue Gun Club is a shooting range located in Factoria. The business already has recycling systems in place for targets and other unique materials, but the City was able to provide recycling containers and signage for their lobby area so that customers can recycle more effectively. In addition, by adding additional recycling capacity for customer use, the City was able assist this business with increasing their recycling by 112 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 18.5 tons of recycling per year.**

Highland Covenant Church & Renewal Food Bank



The City worked with Highland Covenant Church, as well as neighboring Renewal Food Bank which shares their outdoor solid waste containers, to provide assistance setting up indoor solid waste systems for success. The City's team was able to provide containers

and signage, develop a plan for training food bank volunteers on waste sorting, and explore potential food recovery partnerships. The City's team was also able to work with the waste hauler to identify and address compost contamination that was preventing the church and food bank from composting reliably. By reducing contamination and ensuring their two existing compost carts are reliably serviced, these locations were able to increase composting by 29 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 5 tons of organics per year thus far.**

Hindu Temple & Cultural Center:



Bellevue Utilities worked with the Bellevue Hindu Temple & Cultural Center to improve indoor waste sorting and reduce contamination. By providing indoor recycling and composting containers and signage for both indoor and outdoor containers, the City's team was able to help the Hindu Temple's community members sort waste more effectively and reduce contamination. Their recycling increased by 57 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 9.5 tons of recycling per year.** The Center's composting increased by 115 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 19 tons of organics per year.**

Funtastic Playtorium

The owner of the Hindu Temple & Cultural Center also manages the Funtastic Playtorium, an indoor playground located in Factoria Mall. In response to the owner's accounts of contamination, the City provided posters and stickers for the Playtorium's indoor recycling & garbage containers to help visiting parents and children sort waste more effectively.

Hurry Curry of Tokyo:

Hurry Curry of Tokyo is a Japanese restaurant located in Kelsey Creek Plaza. The City team assisted the restaurant with adding compost service, increasing recycling capacity, and provided supplies to facilitate successful composting by business patrons. By increasing their recycling dumpster from a 1-yard container to a 2-yard container, **they were able to divert approximately 57 tons of recycling per year.** By setting up compost service for this business, the business was able to increase composting by 94 gallons per week, **resulting in a diversion of approximately 15 tons of organics per year.**

Kelsey Creek Center

Kelsey Creek Center, managed by PMF Investments, is a shopping center bordering Kelsey Creek in Bellevue. The property boasts a combination of national anchor businesses like Walmart, LA Fitness, and Starbucks, as well as smaller local businesses such as Japanese and Korean restaurants, jewelry and shoe stores, and Sound Credit Union. The City worked closely with PMF Investments to identify recycling issues. City staff conducted site visits to every business, offering staff training, signage in multiple languages, indoor containers, and education encouraging the flattening of cardboard to provide more recycling capacity. The City also helped Walmart with ideas for and scrap metal recycling.

KGIP:

KG Investment Properties (KGIP) is a commercial real estate company that manages a number of properties in Bellevue, including the Bellevue South development with retail tenants such as Target, PCC, Virginia Mason, and others. The City's team provided resources to distribute to tenants, including best practices guides for recycling and composting as well as information on F.O.G. (fats, oils, and grease) for their food-generating tenants.

Jing Jing Asian Market

Jing Jing Asian Market had started compost service on their own in 2019 but their effort to recycle food waste paused when faced by the challenges of the pandemic. In late 2020 the City reached out to a number of grocery stores to offer assistance.



Upon receiving this prompt, Jing Jing

Market's manager agreed that 2021 would be a good time to restart compost collection. Jing Jing's food waste is primarily vegetable cuttings from food preparation for the produce section of the grocery store, as well as some fish and meat scraps. The City was able to provide indoor composting containers and posters highlighting do's and don'ts for recycling, composting, and garbage in multiple languages to serve their diverse team. The store now uses five compost carts and fills them weekly, **amounting to over 90 tons of food waste diverted from the landfill in one year.** The manager expressed great appreciation for the support he received from the City of Bellevue, noting "At Jing Jing we really want to do more to practice and promote

sustainability, so receiving guidance, education materials, and supplies from the City was a huge boost and really helped us with our follow through."



SAP Concur



SAP Concur occupies 13 floors in Key Center—managed by Kilroy Realty - in downtown Bellevue. The City of Bellevue’s recycling specialists first assisted SAP in 2019 by conducting a staff “lunch-and-learn”, participating in a building-wide Earth Day Event, meeting with their staff Green Team, designing personalized posters for recycling/compost/garbage in kitchens, providing signage for building-wide paper towel collection in bathrooms, and coordinating with Cedar Grove Composting for increased organics collection. The City continues to support SAP in their internal waste reduction and recycling efforts, including their company-wide goal to eliminate single-use plastics. While assistance with waste prevention is ongoing, it is estimated that **within a year Key Center increased recycling by at least 170 cubic yards, diverting over 3.5 tons from the landfill.**

To increase the quality of recyclable items, SAP eliminated garbage and recycling containers from under individual staff desks and created centralized recycling stations installed on each floor. The City provided starter sets of green compost and blue recycling containers, along with personalized signage. This streamlining of recycling stations also meant that the original under-desk containers needed to be disposed of, **so City staff connected SAP with Habitat for Humanity who was able to utilize 1,500 of the deskside containers for resale/reuse.**

Tower-333 Building (Amazon, The Poke Bar, NY Deli)

Bellevue Utilities’ business recycling team engaged with the Amazon’s Tower-333 office building property manager, Urban



Renaissance Group (URG), to support the building’s recycling infrastructure and tenant education. The City’s work with URG focused on right-sizing solid waste containers and service levels, and planning signage and recycling container stations designed for highest use. In anticipation of Amazon employees’ return to work after the pandemic, common area recycling stations are being refreshed with large signage throughout the building.

Additionally, the City’s team worked with food service businesses in the building including The Poke Bar and NY Deli, to encourage proper use of the recycling compactor and best recycling practices related to flattening cardboard boxes. The City provided posters for the loading dock, kitchen area signage, and recycled-content EZ Box Openers to aid staff in flattening cardboard boxes.

Wide Format Company:

The Wide Format Company is a local, independent provider of printing equipment, supplies, and services. City of Bellevue Utilities assisted Wide Format with setting up composting service for their small office, as well as providing resources to assist them with wood pallet composting and metal recycling. By adding one compost cart collected weekly, **this business was able to increase composting by 47 gallons per week, resulting in a diversion of approximately 8 tons of organics per year.**