



**June 2024**

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## Upcoming Events

### City Hosted and Chinatown Cleanups

We host 1 to 2 cleanups per month across Vancouver neighbourhoods from spring to autumn. For more information on upcoming cleanups and to sign up, visit [Join a cleanup](#) and make sure to register early.

Saturday, June 1, 10am to 12pm - City Hosted Cleanup - Olympic Village

Saturday, June 8, 9am to 12pm - Chinatown Cleanup Event (with Chinatown BIA and Chinese CPC)

Saturday, July 13, 10:15am to 12:15pm - Chinatown Cleanup

### Share, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle

The events below assist Vancouver residents with participating in circular practices that help keep resources out of the landfill.

#### **Reuse and Recycling Drop-off Events**

For more information and list of accepted items, click on [Drop-off Events](#)

Sunday, June 23, 10am to 1pm at Hillcrest Community Centre

Saturday, July 27, 10am to 1pm at King George Secondary School

Saturday, August 24, 10am to 1pm at Magee Secondary School

#### **Repair Cafes**

Visit [Repair Cafes](#) and [SPEC](#) to learn more about upcoming repair cafes or to find out how to volunteer.

## Free Swaps

Saturday, June 22, 11am to 3pm at Hillcrest Summer Festival

Saturday, August 24, 10am to 1pm at Magee Secondary School parking lot

Saturday, September 7, 11am to 1:30pm at VPL Fraserview Branch

Saturday, September 21, 10am to 1pm at Killarney Community Centre parking lot

For more information, event guidelines and list of accepted items, go to [Free Swaps](#)

## Rethink Waste Webinar

Join Diversion Coordinator, Phil Dubrulle for a one-hour webinar **Wednesday, August 21**, 6:30pm to 7:30pm where we'll gain insights about common challenges along with opportunities to improve recycling and composting in multi-unit buildings. To register, email [wastediversion@vancouver.ca](mailto:wastediversion@vancouver.ca)

## Vancouver Landfill open house



Join us for a fun-filled day at the

## VANCOUVER LANDFILL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10 am to 2 pm

[vancouver.ca/landfill](http://vancouver.ca/landfill)

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## Summer Odds and Ends

### Recap of 2024 Kickoff Event

We had a very successful Neighbourhood Cleanup Kickoff Event on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Approximately 90 volunteers participated despite the weather and lots of garbage was collected.

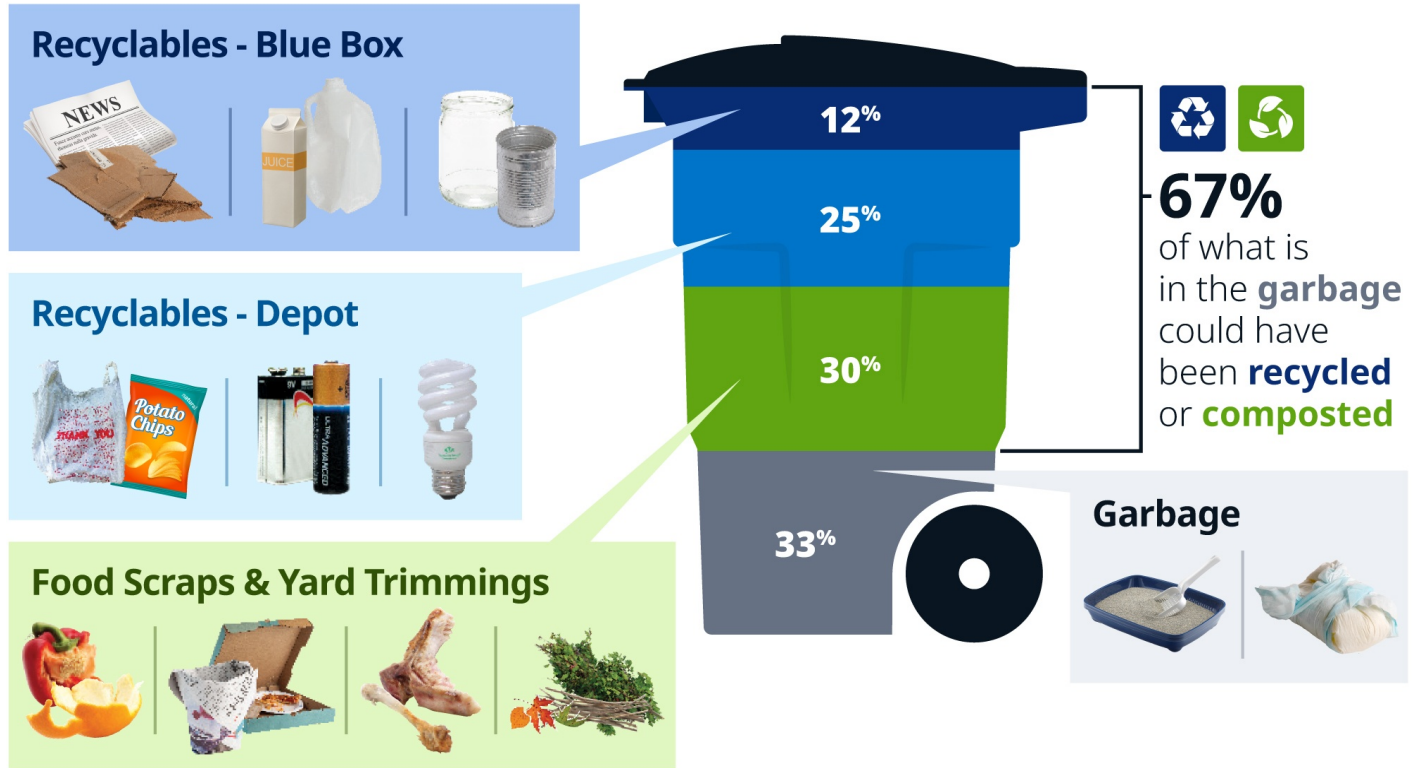
Thank you to everyone who took part! If you weren't able to make it, we hope to see you at one of our upcoming City Hosted Cleanups!



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## Getting to Zero Waste – What’s in our garbage?

Our 2023 waste audit shows that 67% of items found in single-family household garbage don’t belong there and could have been recycled or composted! Multi-family buildings performed slightly worse. More than 30% of the garbage is made up of food scraps and yard trimmings which should be placed in the green bin. Another 37% of garbage could have been recycled, either in Recycle BC’s blue box program (e.g. paper, plastic containers, glass jars) or at a recycling depot (e.g. soft plastics, batteries, light bulbs).



### What you can do

Before you throw anything in the garbage, ask yourself if the item can be recycled or composted. If you don't know, ask our [Waste Wizard](#). For items that you cannot recycle at home, visit the [Zero Waste Centre](#) or come to our community [reuse and recycling events](#) held at the end of each month to donate items such as textiles and books, and recycle items such as batteries, lightbulbs, small appliances and more! Keeping compostable and recyclable items out of the garbage will save valuable resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and extend the life of the landfill.

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## Cigarette Litter Challenge





The City of Vancouver's inaugural Cigarette Litter Challenge is being held from **June 1 – 8, 2024** in celebration of Ocean Week Canada. We can all do our part and collect as many cigarette butts as possible to help raise awareness of litter and microplastics in our oceans.

Cigarette butts are the #1 littered item in Vancouver. Every day, approximately 450,000 of them are tossed out on our streets, beaches, and parks. During rain events, many of those butts get washed into waterways and oceans, negatively impacting the environment and marine life.

Here are three ways to get involved in the Cigarette Litter Challenge from June 1 – 8.

1. Join an organized cleanup event, where cleanup kits will be provided
2. At your leisure use a cigarette litter kit between June 1 and 8 from any of our participating locations
3. Host your own cigarette litter cleanup

For a downloadable poster and more information on getting involved in any of these opportunities, please check out the [Cigarette Litter Challenge webpage](#).

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## Volunteer Profiles

Every newsletter we like to feature a few of our dedicated volunteers. This issue we would like to introduce Ashik and the Chinese Community Policing Centre. If you (or your business, family, group, school etc.) would like to be profiled in an upcoming newsletter, please email us.

### Ashik

*What made you interested in becoming a volunteer with us?*

I was initially drawn to volunteering with the City of Vancouver because I've always had a personal goal of doing at least one good deed every day. Living in such a stunning city like Vancouver, I felt a strong desire to contribute to its beauty and cleanliness. Volunteering for neighbourhood cleanup programs seemed like the perfect way to give back to the community that I call home.

*What do you enjoy most about volunteering?*

What I enjoy most about volunteering is the sense of fulfillment that comes from knowing I'm making a positive impact. There's a special joy in seeing tangible results from our efforts, whether it's a cleaner street or a happier neighbour. Additionally, volunteering has introduced me to a diverse group of people who share a common goal, and the friendships and connections formed along the way make the experience even more rewarding.

*Are you involved in any other volunteer activities?*

Yes, I'm actively involved in several other volunteer activities within the community:

At the Carnegie Community Center, I serve as a kitchen assistant, contributing to the preparation and distribution of meals for those in need.

With the Vancouver Public Library, I've had the privilege of being a library champion, advocating for literacy and community engagement. I also give introductions for the library champions program, an initiative by Vancouver Public Library in sharing my passion for reading, learning and promoting the library with others.



At Vancouver General Hospital, I volunteer as a customer service volunteer at the gift shop, providing support to patients, visitors, and staff members.

Additionally, I'm committed to giving back through regular blood donations with Canadian Blood Services, knowing that each donation has the potential to save lives and make a meaningful difference in the community.

### *Any interesting stories you would like to share with other volunteers*

While volunteering at one of the Free Swap events, where residents can donate, swap or pick up small portable items, I stumbled upon a pair of brand new binoculars nestled among the donations. It was amazing and brought a smile to my face. Little did I know that those binoculars would become a wonderful companion on my outdoor adventures, allowing me to explore Vancouver's stunning natural beauty with a new perspective. It's a reminder that even in the midst of cleaning up our neighbourhoods, there are unexpected treasures waiting to be discovered, adding a touch of joy and excitement to our volunteering efforts.

### **Chinese Community Policing Centre (CPC)**



Chinese CPC, along with our partners at the Vancouver Police Department and the City of Vancouver, runs volunteer programs from cleaning up the streets to patrolling and even removing graffiti to revitalizing Chinatown and Gastown. Our community cleanup events bring together volunteers to spruce up neglected areas, not just to make them look good, but to also prevent crime and vandalism. And guess what? You can join in too! We had a blast at the 2024 Neighbourhood Cleanup Kickoff Party co-hosted with the City of Vancouver on Saturday, March 23, where 90 amazing volunteers came out to help make our community sparkle. We're keeping the momentum going with summer Chinatown cleanups every second Saturday and in-house monthly cleanups on the first Saturday of each summer month.

At Chinese CPC, we've got some amazing volunteers who are passionate about making our community cleaner and safer. Just listen to what Deepika has to say: "Participating in cleanup events is incredibly fulfilling for me. I believe in maintaining the cleanliness of our city, as it's where we live, work, and play. Joining these efforts allows me to actively contribute to making Vancouver a cleaner and more enjoyable place for everyone."

And here's what Elaine had to share about her experience volunteering with us: "I had the pleasure of volunteering with the City of Vancouver for multiple cleanup events, and they were all incredibly meaningful experiences. The team was well-organized, and everyone worked together seamlessly to make a positive impact on the community. Every time, we collected a big stack of garbage."

With dedicated volunteers like Deepika and Elaine on board, we're making a difference in Chinatown and Gastown! Come join the fun at the neighbourhood cleanups and make a difference with us!

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If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for a story, please contact us at [cleanup@vancouver.ca](mailto:cleanup@vancouver.ca)