

# 2026 ZERO WASTE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



## SPECTRUM 4 CONDOS

### About the Building

Spectrum 4 is a 245-unit condo tower in downtown Vancouver, built in 2007 and part of the four-tower Spectrum Complex.

### The Vision

Jennifer's vision is to make recycling easy, approachable and convenient so that doing the right thing becomes second nature.



### Meet the Zero Waste Ambassador

In 2023, Jennifer, a Spectrum 4 resident, stepped up as a volunteer, partnering with the City of Vancouver's Zero Waste Ambassador program. After completing her training, she began working with building staff and the Strata Council to strengthen waste reduction efforts in her building.



**"I have always been passionate about the environment. When I moved into my new home, I saw a huge need for recycling improvements in our complex."**

**- Jennifer**

# What Changed

## Phase 1 – Recycling Room Improvements

- Recycling carts are now clearly organized and paired with bold, colour-coded signage.
- Eye-level educational signage makes it easy to see what goes where.
- New in-house collection options are available for clothing donation, refundable containers, batteries, light bulbs and more.



Yellow carts for refundable containers generate revenue for the strata.



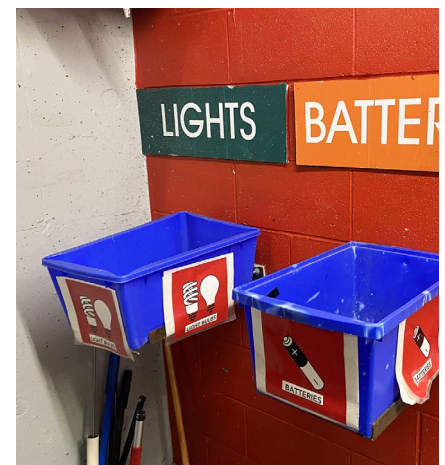
Colour-matched walls and eye-level signage make recycling easy.



Clear signage shows what food scraps are accepted and banned.



Fun posters above a stainless steel sorting table with hand sanitizer.



Light bulbs and household batteries are collected in-house.

# What Changed

## Phase 2 – Beyond the Room

The momentum didn't stop in the recycling room. Spectrum 4 now fosters reuse and community connection through:

- A buy/sell/donate marketplace on the building's new website
- A community whiteboard for services, donations, and items for sale (see photo below)



- A pre-paid recycling drop-off program
- Free battery recycling and pickup through [recycleyourbatteries.ca](http://recycleyourbatteries.ca)
- Free semi-annual electronics collection for residents
- Used clothing donation bins (see photo below)



## Costs and Benefits

Jennifer implemented her initiatives at little to no cost by sourcing donated, second-hand, and other free materials.

Diverting materials such as recyclables and food scraps from the waste stream helped reduce the building's environmental impact and garbage collection costs.

## Impact and Results

Residents report feeling more confident and take pride in diverting waste within their improved recycling room. Spectrum 4 shows how volunteer involvement and resident stewardship can foster a zero waste culture while enhancing the building's sense of community and reputation.

## What's Next

Jennifer is excited to continue the momentum by engaging her neighbours in forming a green team, enabling Spectrum 4 to expand on its success so far. A top priority is launching a supervised "Leave an item, take an item" initiative.



The room has been transformed into a clean, bright, and welcoming space residents enjoy using.



The City of Vancouver thanks Spectrum 4 residents, volunteers, and Strata Council for helping to support the goal of becoming a zero waste city by 2040.

## About the Zero Waste Ambassador Program

The Zero Waste Ambassador Program is designed to uncover waste reduction opportunities and support volunteers with the training and guidance they need to succeed. Program staff train ambassadors and provide ongoing, hands-on support.

For more information about the program and to get involved, visit: [vancouver.ca/zero-waste-ambassador](https://vancouver.ca/zero-waste-ambassador)

