

Imagining Greater Victoria as a Zero Waste Region

Conversations for a One Planet Region
October 11th, 2018 Conversation Overview

Summary

The October 11th Conversations for a One Planet Region conversation was held on our region current, and future relationship with zero waste.

The instigating content for the subsequent conversation was generously provided by: the CRDs new Love Food, Hate Waste program, Kayla Siefried of the Compost education centre, Leanne Gallagher of West Coast Refill, and Paul and Nairn McPhee of the Zero Waste Emporium.

What Happened

The presentations given by Kayla and Leanne, as well as the thoughts passed on by Paula and Nairn varied in scope. The overall range of topics covered displayed the fact that every factor of society has a link to zero waste.

Here are some of the main trunks of thought that were brought up during the conversation:

- **Zero Waste and Business**
 - Keeping small businesses profitable while implementing zero waste measures
 - Highlight business that are being zero waste leaders, and hear their thoughts.
 - Use the cumulated data of talking with businesses to build a framework for forming bylaws
 - Stores only carry packaging that can be recycled in the region they are selling in.
 - Partnering with companies in victoria like (landscapers) using existing anchors to build on.
- **Zero Waste and Mindset**
 - Redefining what waste is? Everything that is thrown away is labeled “waste” when not everything that is thrown away is waste.
 - Zero Waste is not about being perfect. It is about a shift in mindset. “I live within the realms of our society.”
 - A tax on waste.
- Zero Waste Generalities:
 - Make the phrase, “Waste free is convenient,” a common one.
 - Reduce over down-cycling

- “If your sink was over flowing with water would you take a bucket and collect the water and pour it back in the sink, or would you turn the tap off first?”

Conclusion

This talk covered the topic that it set out to. The voices given to this component of your sustainable future were strong and passionate. Zero waste practices in my opinion are ready to be accepted on larger scales.

Thank you for your interest.