

GREENEST CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM - 2014 PROJECT

Project title

Greening the waste management practices of Vancouver Police Department's Property and Forensic Storage Services

Greenest City goal(s) supported

Zero Waste: Become a world leader in eliminating solid waste from operations.

Zero Carbon - Become a world leader in eliminating dependence on fossil fuels and minimizing the release of greenhouse gases.

Project context, scope, and value to City

Assess and review current waste management practices of the VPD Property and Forensic Storage Services to help identify solutions that will help advance and contribute to Vancouver's Greenest City goals.

Scope of Project: A comprehensive analysis will be conducted of the VPD Property and Forensic Storage facility, as it relates to the reduction of landfill waste material and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

The 87,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility receives and stores all public property that comes into the possession of the Vancouver Police Department. This facility currently stores over 400,000 items consisting of evidence, exhibits, and items for safekeeping and found property. For instance:

- Bicycles recovered and the owner is unable to be located (1,000 bikes received yearly).
- Vehicles or vehicle parts seized as part of investigations into stolen auto rings or "chop shops"
- Clothing left at a crime scene.
- Electronics recovered after an arrest but not identifiable.
- Found property: backpacks, clothing, identification and other miscellaneous personal property

Significant storage space is needed to receive and process over 240,000 items every year; to ensure this space remains viable and adequate, a large portion of the property is purged regularly. The property is disposed of depending on a number of criteria such as privacy issues, legal implications, safety (some items are contaminated with pests) or public interest/safety concerns. Purging of property involves:

- Burning of property
- Landfill
- Recycling
- Sale/Auction
- Return to owner

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The successful candidate will examine aspects of disposing of property that has no value to aid in identifying solutions to improve our current goals of becoming a greener police department. Albeit the study will naturally focus on the disposition of property, of equal importance will be the development of efficient processes or strategies that will make these goals attainable.

Value and benefit to the City: It is expected that the study will bring forward recommendations that will provide immediate value to the City in the form of:

- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through less property incinerated
- Increase diversion rates from landfill sites by improving recycling program
- Identify salvage alternatives that may be income generating
- Reduction in operating expenses

Deliverables

- Research and examine approaches from other police agencies and world-wide best practices
- Summary of interviews with stakeholders and staff
- Report of detailed analysis of current process and recommendations
- Develop training and messaging for staff to support implementation of recommendations
- Develop means of capturing measurable successes

Mentor department

Vancouver Police Department

Candidate skill set/background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in green initiatives and recycling programs

Note: Successful candidates must be able to obtain and maintain and enhanced security clearance.