

# SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT ON SSI

FINDINGS AND SUGGESTIONS

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GISS EARTH CLUB

# IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

- Conserving limited natural resources
  - Reducing GHG emissions
  - Saving energy
  - Waste and pollution reduction
  - Protecting the land for future generations
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# WHAT EARTH CLUB HAS DONE



## Bought Bins

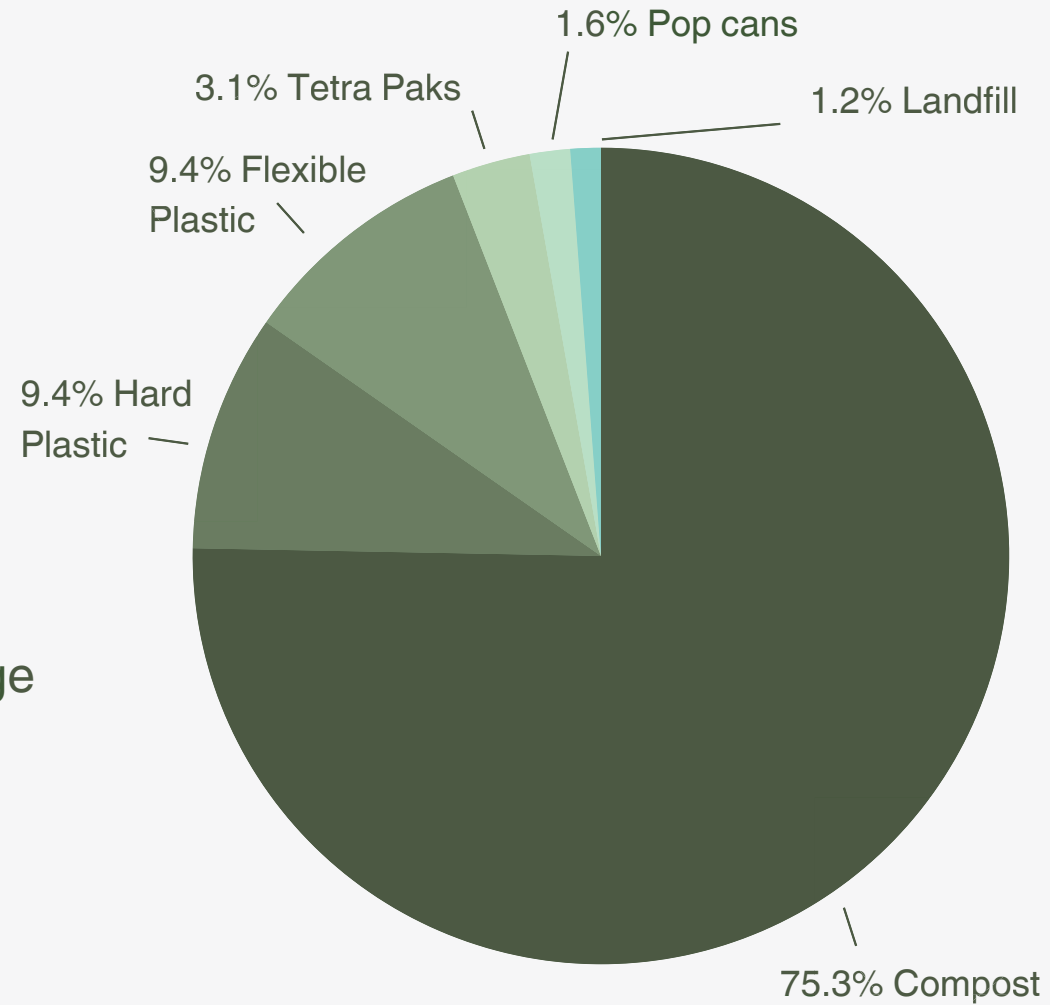
- We have 69 bins around the school for plastic recycling
- We are renting totes from Emterra

## Started Educating Students

- Talking to classes
- Announcements
- Recycling jeopardy
- Trash display/ waste audit

# GISS WASTE AUDIT FINDINGS

- Average of 10.65 bags per day
- The vast majority of our “garbage” is actually recycling and compost
- There was virtually no paper in the garbage - students are well trained
- GISS has the potential to send very little waste to the landfill!



# BUDGET AT GISS



- \$9 per month for bin rental
  - \$15 per 65 gallon tote of hard plastic, aluminum and tetra packs
  - \$10 per 65 gallon tote of flexible plastic
  - Travel fees etc...
  - Increasing custodian pay
  - Overall, roughly \$275 per month (\$2,750 annually)
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# TALKING WITH BEN CORNO

- We have spoken with Ben Corno
  - Recycling is an island-wide issue
  - School board teaming up with the CRD (funding, policy support)
  - Lack of recycling /compost in the parks system
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Making a difference...together



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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- Chamber of Commerce
- Salt Spring Seniors for Climate Action
- Student Council
- 5 local businesses



# STUDENT SUPPORT

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“I think that educating students on how to live a sustainable lifestyle is probably more important than a lot of the things we learn in class”

-Donna DeRoo

- The importance of having a comprehensive waste disposal system at their school was 8.5 out of 10
- The average rating for our current system was only 5.5 out of 10.

# HOW IT WOULD WORK AT GISS

## Who Would Take Recyclables Off-Island?



DID YOU  
KNOW?

- Currently our “garbage” including compost/recycling is shipped to Washington State
- Emterra Environmental
- On-Island every Thursday
- Emterra is reliable & transparent with their disposal process



# IMPORTANCE OF COMPOSTING

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- Reduces GHG emission (25x less potent gasses emitted)
- Helps develop soil
- Prevents erosion
- Saves water
- Creating compost on-island = boosting local economy





# COMMITTING TO COMPOSTING

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- The majority (75.3%) of GISS “garbage” is compostable
- The abattoir composter wants our organics
- Abattoir composter is screened so no need to worry about contamination
- Committing to changing regulations
- May 13?



# WHAT WE ARE ASKING FOR

01

**Funding Recycling**

02

**Local ICI service/facility**

03

**Committing To Composting**

# Sources

- - Transition Salt Spring
- - Salt Spring Island Foundation (specifically the Jacqueline Booth Memorial Fund for the Environment)
- - The Raffi Foundation
- - Salt Spring Island Institute for Sustainability Education and Action
- - Building Services at School District 64 (Duane Little)
- - Director of Operations at School District 64 (Colin Whyte)
- - Laurie's Recycling and Waste Services (Nancy)
- - Salt Spring Island Garbage and Recycling Services (Karen)
- - Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce (Chris)
- - Emterra (Anna)

# Sources

- - various businesses and institutions throughout Salt Spring (through Andria's survey)
- - Waste Initiatives Coordinator at the CRD (Nellie Salter)
- - Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (particularly Ben Corno)
- - Salt Spring Abattoir Society's Composter (Georg Janssen)
- - Island Community Services Recycling Depot at Rainbow Road (Peter Grant)
- - Galiano Island Recycling Resources Society (Renee MacDonald)
- - Phoenix Plastics on Galiano (David Gaylor)
- - District of Saanich (Councillor Teale Phelps Bondaroff)
- - Coastal Waste Management Association (Sheila Molloy who is now organising province-wide conversations because of this project!)