

Sort Smart Technical Assistance Program Launched to Support Three-Stream Sorting Education and Compliance

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has officially launched the Sort Smart Technical Assistance Program (Sort Smart) to further help property owners and managers meet the requirements of the Mandatory Waste Source Separation (MWSS) bylaw. The MWSS bylaw, in effect since January 1, 2025, requires commercial, multi-family and institutional properties throughout the RDN to have separate, partitioned waste containers for recycling, food scraps and landfill materials wherever they are generated such as workspaces, break rooms, waste and recycling rooms. Anyone who oversees recycling and waste management at their workplace or multi-family residence can access the Sort Smart program to better understand and implement the new three-stream sorting requirements, including booking a free site visit.

Through the program, which was fine-tuned after a successful pilot project in 2025, Sort Smart team members will work directly with site managers and property owners to provide:

- Solutions to challenges and barriers for effective waste separation
- Guidance with sourcing and setting up appropriate bins and how best to sort materials
- Resources and solutions tailored to the unique needs of each property
- Individual support and follow up

The RDN has an education first approach and continues to work with local waste haulers, building managers and property owners to support education and compliance with the MWSS bylaw. However, fines can be issued for non-compliance. The MWSS applies to all properties in the RDN, including:


- School districts and post-secondary institutions
- Municipal facilities
- Hotels, motels and other similar accommodations
- Restaurants and other food service businesses
- Office buildings
- Condominiums and apartments

For more information on the Sort Smart Program, ask questions, sign up for project updates, resources and to learn how to become a Sort Smart partner, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/sort-smart.

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