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THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Vancouver, B.C. – There will be several fewer garbage bins hitting the curb at the Vancouver Aquarium this year. Continually striving to support our mission to effect the conservation of aquatic life, the Vancouver Aquarium has diverted 82 per cent of its waste from the landfill, a two per cent increase from last year (2008-09) and a nine per cent increase from the year previous (2008-07).

Almost 220,000 kilograms of garbage were either composted or recycled, which is the equivalent of 18 city buses, that was diverted from the landfill this year.

“The Aquarium is committed to reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of the environment,” said John Nightingale, Aquarium president. “We want to be the model for environmentally responsible organizations. To do that, we have to ensure that we conduct our operations and activities in ways that minimize the negative impact on our environment and promote environmentally responsible behaviour both in our workplace and throughout the community”.

The Aquarium runs comprehensive waste management and conservation programs, including an extensive composting program. In fact, the Aquarium’s Upstream Café was one of the first cafés in Vancouver to use compostable food serving ware and is one of the first organizations in British Columbia to introduce a public composting facility to its visitors.

This year the Café was able to ensure that 100 per cent of its serving ware products used are compostable, including plates, utensils, stir sticks and coffee lids. And the composting extends far beyond food services.

The composting program incorporates classrooms, communal lunchrooms and special events hosted at the Aquarium. Even deskside garbage containers have been removed to encourage composting and recycling practices.

The Aquarium is committed to its mission to effecting the conservation of Aquatic life in every practice, and on every scale. From conservation and research projects dedicated to protecting our marine mammals and marine ecosystem to daily practices of turning off lights and computer monitors. Every little bit makes a different.

About Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

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