UVic-ians use 3,000 paper coffee cups every day, and once we’ve emptied them they’re worm food. Gustavson has green compost bins ready and waiting in the main-floor kitchen of the Business and Economics Building and outside David Strong Building. They’re collected regularly by Jason Adams’s (BCom ’99) ReFUSE. You’ll find more bins all over campus. The composters don’t like the taste of the plastic lids, though, so those go in the orange-topped recycling bins.

And speaking of plastics
Walmart stores in BC will be collecting for recycling all types of plastic film, including sandwich, grocery, dry-cleaning, and bread bags; case wrapping; and air pillows. The Canadian Plastics Industry Association is partnering with Walmart and SC Johnson in the first large-scale program that links industry, manufacturer, and retail. Watch for more details in the news and stores in September as the program rolls out.

From plain vanilla solar to medical wasabi
T’Sou-ke Nation near Victoria has expanded from its role as the world’s first solar indigenous community to solar-powered wasabi farmers. “First Nations communities with young, energetic, well-educated leaders across BC have been excelling with all kinds of business ideas,” says Global TV’s Brian Coxford in this news clip from August 26. Medical wasabi is just the latest in the T’Souke stable of sustainable enterprises.

This week’s pick for “People are Amazing”
When the bad guys are the good guys, they devote tens of thousands of hours to making people feel good, along with hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity. The Vancouver Island branch of the global 501st Legion is a dozen people you know. Or you know someone they work with, or the person they’re married to. CTV News caught the Star Wars villains giving folks a hefty dose of The Force. “How could you not smile?” one local said. “[It] made my night!”

Reporting done right
The burgeoning world of sustainability reporting is in danger of fragmenting unless the growing number of frameworks start to work together, the new CEO of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) warns in The Guardian on July 23, 2014.

Global Reporting Initiative certified sustainability reporting courses are being offered around the western US in the next few months, including one in Seattle in January 2015.