

Backgrounder # 1

Blue Box Curbside Recycling Program

Where We've Been:

- March 1989** The Capital Region's original Blue Box Curbside Recycling program is established. Glass bottles and jars, tin and aluminum cans and newspaper are collected. The program services Oak Bay, Saanich, Victoria and Esquimalt.
- 1990** The Western Communities, Saanich Peninsula municipalities and Salt Spring Island are added.
- 1991** Salt Spring Island opts to run its own recycling service under contract to the CRD.
- 1994** Oak Bay opts to run its own recycling service under contract to the CRD.
- 1995** Mixed paper is added to the program.
- 2000** Corrugated cardboard and plastic containers are added to the program. Blue Bags are used in addition to Blue Boxes.

Where We're Going:

- May 2005** Pizza boxes are added to the program. Two million pizza boxes are used in the region each year. Each day, this equals a stack higher than Mt. Douglas.
- Rigid plastic packaging is added to the program.
- The CRD enters into new seven-year contracts with International Paper Industries Ltd. for collection and Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc. for processing.

Acceptable materials now include:

- newspaper and mixed paper
- glass, metal and plastic containers, including lids
- rigid plastic packaging
- corrugated cardboard, including pizza boxes

Since 1989, over 180,000 tonnes of material have been collected and processed through the CRD's Blue Box Curbside Recycling program.

About 90% of households in the region participate in the program.

The program covers almost all single family dwellings in the Capital Region – a total of 98,000 homes.

All materials (except those in Oak Bay) are collected by International Paper Industries Ltd. using 11 trucks. Payment to International Paper Industries is on a per-household basis. Oak Bay uses its own municipal crew to collect recyclables under contract to the CRD.

All materials are processed by Metro Waste Paper Recovery Inc. through its new state-of-the-art Victoria facility. Payment/revenue is on a per-tonne basis.

Areas not included in the curbside program are:

- The Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island, which continue to be serviced by depots operated by the local recycling society under contract to the CRD
- Port Renfrew, which operates a transfer station for garbage and recyclables

The program is funded with revenue from the sale of recyclables and tipping fees at Hartland landfill ■