

zero|waste

B e y o n d R e c y c l i n g

PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP EXPANDS RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

For most households, returning empty beverage containers to retailers and bottle depots for the refundable deposit is as routine as taking the blue box to the curb. In fact in 2006 alone, more than one billion containers were recycled through BC's industry-led Beverage Container Stewardship Plan.

But did you know that Stewardship Programs have expanded from beverage containers to seven other products found in most people's homes? These now include:

Computer Equipment

Lead Acid Batteries

Paints
Solvents
Flammables

Tires

TVs

Motor Oil

Prescription
Medications

Because there are local disposal and recycling facilities, the Regional District of Nanaimo has banned these materials from the Regional Landfill.

Making producers and consumers responsible for managing the "life cycle" of products through Stewardship Programs has many benefits. They bear the costs of recycling and safe disposal of wastes instead of local government. Requiring producers to collect and recycle left-over or used products encourages efforts to make them

easier to recycle, less harmful to the environment, and less likely to end up in the landfill.

Electronics Recycling

Launched in August 2007, BC's Electronics Stewardship Program provides a convenient and responsible way to recycle desktop computers, laptops, computer peripherals such as monitors, printers, keyboards, cables and mice, as well as fax machines and televisions. You can recycle them at no-charge at the following locations:

- **Parkville Bottle & Recycling Depot**
611A Alberni Hwy, Parkville
Ph: 250-248-0224
- **Mostar Bottle Depot**
4 - 4151 Mostar Rd, Nanaimo
Ph: 250-751-2358
- **Nanaimo Recycling Exchange**
2477 Kenworth Rd, Nanaimo
Ph: 250-758-7777

The e-waste Stewardship Program is funded through industry-set environmental handling fees paid by consumers when they purchase products covered by the program's categories. Encorp Pacific is the program contractor. For more information visit www.encorpinc.com/electronics/ or call toll-free 1-800-330-9767.

Recycling paint, oil, pesticides, medications and other Stewardship materials

Use the on-line Recycling Directory at www.rdn.bc.ca to find local collection sites for lead acid batteries, beverage containers, medications, tires, paints, solvents, flammables, oil and oil filters. The BC Ministry of Environment website section at www.env.gov.bc.ca/

[epd/recycling/](#) has a wealth of information on Product Stewardship programs.

If you don't have Internet access or have questions about what can be recycled call the toll-free Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) Hotline at 1-800-677-4321.

What about household batteries?

New products for consideration under Product Stewardship plans include household batteries and mercury containing products such as compact fluorescent lights as well as stereos, cell phones and hand-held devices.



Rechargeable batteries can contain lead and cadmium and other hazardous materials and should not be put in the garbage. A North America-wide recycling program is run by the battery industry. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation's website at www.rbrbc.org lists locations throughout the region that accept used rechargeable batteries. These include Canadian Tire,

London Drugs, The Source by Circuit City, Home Depot and Staples Business Depots but call first to confirm the individual store's participation.

The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange accepts all types of household batteries for recycling. For more information on where to take batteries for recycling call the RCBC Recycling Hotline.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES

More than 3,100 tonnes of recyclable paper, cardboard, metal, glass and household plastic containers are now collected annually through the RDN's blue box recycling program.

But what happens to these materials after they leave the curbside?

The RDN's recycling contractor, Waste Services Inc., collects curbside recyclables in a truck with designated compartments for each material and transports them to the Vancouver Island Recycling Centre (VIRC).

At VIRC's 30,000-square foot facility in south Nanaimo, an automated sorting line processes these materials and removes contaminants. Once recyclables are compacted and baled, they are shipped to facilities on Vancouver Island, Greater Vancouver and the U.S. for processing into materials and products made with recycled content.

Newspaper

Newspaper is baled and shipped to SP Newsprint Co. in Oregon or to the Catalyst Paper de-inking plant in Coquitlam. Some de-inked newspaper pulp is sent to Catalyst's Vancouver Island paper manufacturing divisions

to produce newsprint and telephone directory paper.

Household paper

Mixed household paper such as junk mail, envelopes, and office paper is baled and shipped to newsprint recycling facilities, where it is de-inked and pulped and becomes part of recycled newsprint content.

Magazines and catalogues

Old magazines and catalogues are baled and sent to de-inking facilities and becomes

part of recycled content in paper and newsprint.

Cardboard

Cardboard is sent to packaging facilities in the Lower Mainland and Washington State, where it is re-pulped and becomes

recycled content in kraft paper and new cardboard packaging.

Metals

Metal food and beverage containers and aluminum foil and trays are baled and sent to facilities such as Steel Pacific Recycling's Nanaimo depot.

The metal is separated, ground and shipped to steel mills around the world.

Glass

Glass food containers are shipped to aggregate and gravel producers on Vancouver Island, where it is crushed and used in road building and reclamation projects.

Household plastic containers

Household containers are baled and shipped to several plastics' processors in BC. Most plastic containers are sent to Syntal Products Ltd., in Victoria, which uses mixed plastics to manufacture plastic lumber.



VIRC General Manager Doug Money points to his plant's automated sorting for separating recyclables.

Be a good sort!

By keeping your recyclables free of contaminants, you can help ensure these materials can be made into new products and packaging.

For more information, check the Garbage & Recycling Materials Guide on the back of your 2008-09 Garbage & Recycling Schedule.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Recycling one tonne of paper saves 17 trees, 26,320 litres of water and 1,753 litres of oil.
- Recycling corrugated cardboard saves 25% of the energy needed to make cardboard from virgin fibre.
- Recycling a tonne of PET plastic (used in food containers) saves 5-7 cubic metres of landfill space.
- Producing steel from recycled scrap metal saves 75% of the energy required for steel made from virgin ore.

Source: Waste Reduction Week in Canada

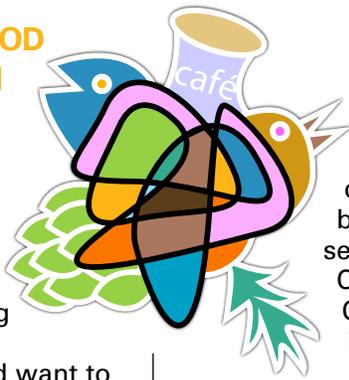


THUMBS UP FOR FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

The region's food waste collection pilot project has passed the halfway point and according to a recent survey, an overwhelming majority of respondents support the initiative and want to see it continued.

More than 23% of the 2000 households on three routes in Cedar, the City of Nanaimo and the Town of Qualicum Beach completed the pilot project survey. The regional district and the participating municipalities will use the survey responses to assess the project and identify possible improvements to equipment and scheduling before considering a region-wide food waste and organics curbside collection program.

On average 93% of survey respondents regularly use their green bin to take their food waste and food soiled paper products to the curb. More than 80% of respondents saw a reduction in their household garbage, with many commenting on how food waste collection complemented the existing curbside recycling program.



Since the pilot project started last October, over 100 tonnes of food waste and other compostables have been collected and sent to International Composting Corporation's facility in Nanaimo for processing into compost and fertilizer.

The average home on the pilot project is now diverting 65% of its household waste through the expanded curbside recycling program, thereby conserving resources and landfill space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

THE SURPRISING STORY OF OUR STUFF

Here's some food for thought: for every can of garbage we take to the curb another 70 cans of waste

this looks fine, but our economic system doesn't consider the real world impacts on people, the environment and rapidly depleting resources.

On a positive note, the "Story of Stuff" shows we can become more sustainable in the way we consume and interact with our environment. Wasting less and recycling more, becoming less car dependent and more energy efficient, and buying green are just a few ways to get involved.

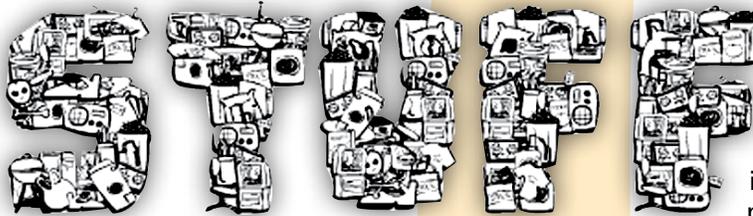
PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft, when someone uses your personal information without your knowledge or consent to commit a crime such as theft or fraud, is on the rise. One way identity thieves can gain access to your personal information is by scavenging through your curbside recyclables or garbage.

Here are some tips on how to protect yourself:

- Shred or tear all documents containing personal information such as banking or credit card numbers before recycling or disposing in the garbage. A permanent marker can also be used to cover such information.

THE STORY OF



was created to make what we no longer want! That's just one of the surprising plot turns in

"The Story of Stuff", a video that can be viewed on-line at www.storyofstuff.com

The video is narrated by Annie Leonard, who spent 10 years tracking where our stuff comes from and where it ends up. In what is called our material economy, consumer goods move in a linear fashion from extraction of resources, to production to distribution to disposal. On paper

- Place shredded or torn documents inside an empty cereal box, paper bag or envelope.
- Call the Zero Waste hotline at 1-866-999-8227 if you see someone scavenging through your recyclables or garbage. The RDN Garbage and Recycling Collection Bylaw prohibits scavenging because along with posing a security risk, it affects revenues from the sale of recyclables that help offset the cost of operating the curbside recycling program.





**illegal dumping
is garbage!**

**390-6560
954-3792**

zero|waste

Beyond
Recycling

TAKING ACTION ON ILLEGAL DUMPING

Up to 500 tonnes of illegally dumped material is cleaned up annually from back road sites in the region. Although that's less than 1% of the solid waste sent to the Regional Landfill, illegal dumping can have serious consequences for the environment, water supplies, and the enjoyment of outdoor recreational areas.

The RDN recently boosted its Illegal Dumping Prevention and Enforcement Program by hiring Maude Mackey as its new Zero Waste Compliance Officer. She will enforce the RDN Waste Stream Management Licensing Bylaw, which expands the number of individuals who can be held responsible for illegal dumping, including anyone whose garbage can be identified.

One of Mackey's most recent tasks was coordinating the clean-up of a 1,200-acre section of provincial Crown Land off Melrose Road in Electoral Area F. Almost 13 tonnes of illegally dumped scrap metal, tires, and other household garbage was removed from this forested area.

Joe Stanhope, RDN Board Chairperson, says that staff will be monitoring problem sites in the RDN's rural areas, coordinating clean-up efforts with community groups and contractors, and working to prevent illegal dumping through education and enforcement. "Anyone who sees someone dumping illegally should record the location, type of waste, vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers, and report it immediately to the RDN," Stanhope says.

To report illegal dumping, call the RDN Solid Waste Department. The department's updated website at www.rdn.bc.ca has a new section on illegal dumping, including an on-line form to report incidents.

MANAGING YARD AND GARDEN WASTE

Households throughout the region are finding backyard composting an effective way to turn their yard and garden waste and fruit and vegetable scraps into a material that can be reapplied to the soil. The RDN Solid Waste website at www.rdn.bc.ca has information on composting systems and where to purchase backyard composters.

Try "Grasscycling"

Did you know an average size lawn produces as much as

**four tonnes of grass
clippings in one
summer?**

Why not cut it high and let it lie!

Grasscycling simply means leaving clippings on the lawn after mowing. It's a great way to reduce yard waste, return nutrients to the lawn and save time and money. To grasscycle, let your lawn grow at least three inches high. Cut it by one inch and let the clippings do their work, returning water, nitrogen and phosphorus to the turf.

Self Haul Options - Take your excess yard and garden waste (fees apply) to:

- Church Road Transfer Station
860 Church Road, Parksville
Ph: (250) 248-5254
- Regional Landfill
1105 Cedar Road, Nanaimo,
Ph (250) 722-2044
- Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
2477 Kenworth Rd, Nanaimo
Ph: 250-758-7777

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Other disposal questions...
construction waste, yard
waste, hazardous waste

Call our Environmental
Services Department at
390-6560 (School District 68)
or 954-3792
(School District 69)

BILLING INFORMATION

Call our Finance Department
at 390-411 or Toll Free in BC
1-877-607-4111

OR

Visit our website at:
www.rdn.bc.ca



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