

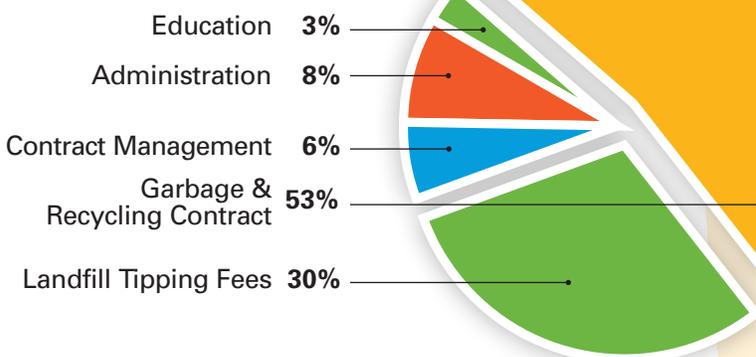
zero|waste

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

WHERE IT GOES – HOW YOUR GARBAGE & RECYCLING FEES ARE SPENT

The Regional District of Nanaimo provides garbage and recycling collection services to seven Electoral Areas and the City of Parksville. Curbside recycling only service is provided to the District of Lantzville and Town of Qualicum Beach, each of which manages their own garbage collection service.

2009 Garbage and Recycling Services Budget Breakdown



In 2009, the costs of providing garbage and recycling service rose 5%, resulting in a matching increase in customer user fees. This increase is largely due to a rise in contractor's expenses and tipping fees (landfill disposal charges), and preparations to launch curbside food waste collection in 2010.

The RDN Residential Garbage and Recycling program is funded entirely through user fees. The 2009 user fee for weekly garbage and recycling collection is \$125.80 however 95% of customers will take advantage of the prompt payment discount to reduce this to \$113.22. Maximizing the amount you recycle helps minimize user fees by reducing Regional Landfill disposal costs.

New Contract to Expand Garbage and Recycling Service, Increase Waste Diversion

The current contract to collect your garbage and recycling has been extended to March 31, 2010. Presently, staff are working with our municipal partners in assessing what changes can be made for the next contract. The process for the next contract will differ from recent years. Instead of a tender for services, which tends to award the work to the lowest bidder, this time we are preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP).

This Request for Proposals process has several advantages. It enables the RDN to balance prices with suggestions on service innovations and how potential contractors will make their operations carbon-neutral as per the provincial Climate Action Charter obligations.

RDN staff will evaluate proposals from pre-qualified garbage and recycling service providers in May 2009 with a contractor expected to be announced in June.

The company chosen will be required to introduce curbside food waste collection service in 2010. This will require significant investment in new equipment, and the provision of green bins and kitchen waste containers to households.

The new garbage and recycling contractor will provide the service from 2010 to 2015. The five-year term will enable the RDN to consider distributing multi-year Garbage and Recycling schedules, saving money and causing fewer disruptions.

Curbside food waste collection will be a key change in the new residential garbage and recycling contract.



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE NEWS

Received your new Garbage and Recycling schedule?

New 2009-2010 Garbage & Recycling Schedules have now been sent to households served by the Regional District of Nanaimo and its contractor, Waste Services Inc.

If you did NOT receive a schedule . . .

Get one on-line

Point your Web browser to www.rdn.bc.ca and follow the link to Garbage & Recycling Schedules. Select your area, key in your route (e.g., R01 or R50) or your street address, then download and print your new schedule.

Rte 52 residents: make sure you have the UPDATED schedule.

Pick up a schedule

Schedules are available at Waste Services Inc. at 1151 Herring Gull Way in the Parksville Industrial Park. For households located in the Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville or District of Lantzville, schedules are available at the respective municipal offices.

Call Zero Waste

Don't have Internet access or can't pick up a schedule? Call **1-866-999-8227** (toll-free) to have one mailed.

Results of Zero Waste newsletter survey

Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the on-line Zero Waste newsletter survey. Although only 32 survey forms were completed here is a brief summary of the results:

- **72%** found the newsletter very helpful and informative
- More than **90%** of respondents found the content and layout easy to read and follow
- New recycling opportunities for materials not accepted at the curbside was the most useful topic
- **72%** of respondents supported changing to an on-line newsletter to save money and reduce waste
- Suggestions for improvement included providing alternative recycling or disposal options for items not accepted in the garbage or curbside recycling program, and more reviews or tips on waste reduction.

If you have any comments on this issue of Zero Waste or the program, please email zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca or call the Solid Waste Department at one of the phone numbers listed on the back of this issue.



SEVERE WINTER WEATHER CHALLENGED COLLECTION SERVICE

This past winter was one of the worst on record for heavy and sustained snowfalls. All 22 routes served by the RDN and its contractor experienced some missed pick-ups; some customers missed as many as three scheduled collection days.

The RDN and its contractor made every effort to minimize disruptions, which were primarily caused by poor road conditions for which the RDN has no maintenance responsibility.

Our contractor had staff at work and trucks on routes every scheduled day but even with extra service on bi-weekly routes, the three statutory holidays caused longer than expected

delays. When normal conditions returned drivers worked 10 – 12 hour days to ensure all garbage and recycling was collected.

The RDN regularly updated its Web site on the status of collection service and worked with local media to inform our customers. We are looking at other measures to provide daily updates when extended service disruptions occur next.

We thank all our customers for their cooperation and understanding during what was an exceptionally challenging winter.



HOUSEHOLDS REDUCE THEIR GARBAGE IN 2008!

PUTTING YOU IN THE BIG PICTURE

Markets for recyclables drop, Blue Box commitment remains strong

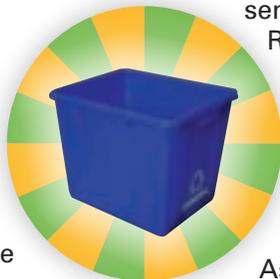
Despite a sustained downturn in markets for recyclable materials, the RDN's curbside recycling remains a cost-effective and efficient way to divert waste from the landfill.

Deteriorating world economies and declines in manufacturing have resulted in low demand for some recyclable commodities such as old newspaper, cardboard, scrap metal and plastic. The RDN's Blue Box and Yellow and Blue Bag recycling program hasn't been affected because its fixed price agreement with the collection contractor isn't affected by price fluctuations.

"Residents can be assured their Blue Box program will continue," says George Holme, Electoral Area E Director and Chair of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

"We will soon be awarding a new garbage and recycling collection contract and will work with the company selected to make the service meet our customers and our environmental objectives, which focus on waste diversion, conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

Under the current collection contract, materials collected through the RDN curbside recycling program are



sent to the Vancouver Island Recycling Centre (VIRC) in Nanaimo for processing. VIRC is regulated under RDN's Waste Stream Management Licensing bylaw.

The RDN is a member of the Coast Waste Management Association, the Recycling Council of BC and the BC Product Stewardship Council. These organizations are working to find ways to reduce the cost of providing recycling services to taxpayers and local government and limit the impact of declining markets for recyclables on recycling programs throughout the province.



In 2008, residents on RDN curbside garbage and recycling service sent 6,139 tonnes of garbage to the landfill, enough to fill more than 760 8-tonne capacity garbage trucks. The good news is that the average household reduced the annual amount of garbage it takes to the curb by almost 50 kg, the first such reduction in the past four years. In 2008, an average household recycled 123 kgs of recyclable paper, plastic, metal, newspaper and cardboard at the curb. That translates into a diversion rate of 29%, a 4% improvement over the past four years. What is even more encouraging is that despite an increase in the number of households on garbage collection routes, the total waste tonnage collected dropped.

Your waste reduction and recycling efforts pay off in several ways

Practicing the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle – saves scarce landfill space and conserves resources and energy compared with making packaging and products from virgin materials. This also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

While it's worth noting the progress made in reducing waste and increasing recycling, there's always room for improvement. One place to start is by checking to ensure that you're maximizing the opportunities to keep recyclables such as household paper out of the garbage by having collection containers in areas such as your kitchen and home office.

Cardboard is processed into bales at VIRC before being shipped to paper recycling facilities.

NEW PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING RECYCLING

Recent growth in the multi-family housing sector has resulted in a plan to bring these complexes more in line with curbside recycling services provided to single-family households throughout the region.

Last November, the Regional Board supported adding household plastic containers as well as metal food and beverage containers to materials prohibited from disposal at RDN solid waste management facilities. It's anticipated that the ban will come into effect in 2010.

The purpose is to increase recycling options for residents of apartments and condominiums and help achieve the region's waste diversion goal. RDN staff is now working with their municipal partners, private garbage and recycling service providers, and multi-family complex owners to develop educational materials and ensure a smooth transition.

Up to 75 per cent of the region's 12,000 multi-family units have some level of recycling collection service but it's mostly limited to cardboard and paper banned

from landfill disposal. With the growth forecast for multi-family housing, the current level of recycling service must be expanded and improved to meet the demand.

The Town of Qualicum Beach has already responded to the coming expanded recyclable materials ban by arranging to provide recycling collection service to all multi-family dwellings within the Town.

INFORMATION RESOURCES TO MAKE SPRING CLEAN-UP A GREENER AFFAIR

Check the RDN Recycling Directory

The on-line RDN Recycling Directory quickly shows where you can recycle items ranging from appliances and building materials to tires and yard and garden waste. Simply go to www.rdn.bc.ca, click on the Zero Waste section and click on Recycling Directory. Select your location and what you want to dispose of or recycle. The Directory will list where to take items, if there are any fees and if a drop-off or pick up service is provided.

RCBC RECYCLING HOTLINE

Don't have Internet access and have questions about how to recycle oversized and other unwanted items? Call the Recycling Council of BC Hotline at 1-800-667-4321. Need an answer on a weekend? The Hotline has expanded its hours to include Saturdays 9.00 am - 4.00 pm.

Oceanside Nanaimo FREecycle

The Oceanside Nanaimo Freecycle Web site at <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/dist69freecycle/> provides free listing service where RDN residents can post free items that others can use.

Consider COMPOSTING

Backyard composting is an easy and effective way to turn your lawn clippings, yard and garden waste, and fruit and vegetable scraps into a humus-like product that can be reapplied to the soil. For tips on selecting the composting system that's best for you, visit the Composting section on the RDN Solid Waste Web site or call Solid Waste Services to have a brochure mailed to you.



zero|waste

Beyond
Recycling

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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

Call our Solid Waste
Department at (250) 390-6560
(School District 68) or
(250) 954-3792 (School District 69).

BILLING INFORMATION

Call our Finance Department at
(250)390-4111 or Toll Free in BC
1-877-607-4111

OR

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



Printed on recycled paper.
Please pass on to a friend or recycle.