

zero|waste

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

REGION'S GARBAGE & RECYCLING PROGRAM GOES **GREENER IN 2010**

The Regional District of Nanaimo has long been a leader in sustainable waste management. By participating in innovative waste recycling and recovery programs, residents have helped put our region at the forefront in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by diverting garbage from the landfill. Soon the RDN and its municipal partners will get even greener by introducing residential curbside food waste collection throughout the region.

"Once service is launched region-wide, it will keep 6,000 tonnes of residential food waste per year out of the landfill," said RDN Director and Solid Waste Advisory Committee Chairperson George Holme. "When combined with the impact of commercial food waste generators who are already separating organics from their waste stream, we will be well on the way to achieving our 75% waste diversion goal."

New Contract Sets the Stage

On October 27, 2009, the Regional Board selected Waste Services Inc. as the preferred proponent to provide service for households served under the RDN's Garbage and Recycling Program. Staff was directed to begin negotiating a new garbage and recycling contract that will take effect March 31, 2010. The contract will include collection of garbage, recyclables and food waste for 26,000 RDN residential customers.

How will it affect me?

Once food waste collection starts, residents will separate household materials into organics, recyclables and garbage. Organics collected include materials unsuitable for backyard composting such as food scraps, soiled paper products, and meat and fish waste.

The new collection contract will change current garbage and recyclables pick-ups. Split packer trucks will collect food waste weekly, with garbage and recyclables collected every two weeks. Households currently receiving bi-weekly garbage collection will have their food waste collected every week. Residents of Qualicum Beach and Lantzville who currently only receive recycling service under the RDN contract may also see some changes.

What are the benefits?

Organics are the largest part of household waste. A successful pilot project showed participants reduced their garbage by 50% by putting food waste and other compostable material in their green bin. Since organics were removed, mostly dry garbage was left. With far less smelly garbage, it was easy to adapt to it being collected once every two weeks.



Why are we making the change?

Diverting residential food waste will extend the lifespan of the region's only landfill, so it can keep working for the region's residents for years to come. Keeping the material out of the landfill will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide a resource that will be turned into compost at the licensed composting facility located at Duke Point.

When will food waste collection start?

The projected program start date is June 2010, depending upon upgrades at the Church Road Transfer Station and delivery of the contractor's new collection trucks. Before the program starts you will receive a wheeled green bin, a handy kitchen container and detailed instructions. Until then, please keep up the great job of reducing, reusing and recycling.

What are the costs?

User fees consist of contractor collection costs, landfill disposal, food waste transfer and processing fees, and program administration. Collection fees will increase in 2010 as a result of the new contract being implemented. The Regional Board's budget review process will finalize user fees. They will likely be in the \$12 per month range for garbage, recycling and food waste service customers, and \$7.50 per month for those receiving recycling and food waste collection on add-a-day service only.

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SERVICE NEWS

Winter weather may disrupt collection service

Occasional severe weather, such as **heavy snowfall, sleet and high winds**, can result in impassable or unsafe roads. As a result, your garbage and recycling contractor may have to temporarily delay your scheduled pick-up.



Safety for collection drivers and other road users is the highest priority. Where scheduled collection is affected by weather or other delays, garbage collection is the first priority. If collection on a route is cancelled every effort will be made to pick up garbage the following day, weather and road conditions permitting. Recycling collection may be delayed until your next scheduled pick-up. For more information, please call Waste Services Inc. at 1-866-999-8227.

Bi-weekly Garbage Collection Customers

If your garbage cannot be picked up on the day following a cancellation it will be collected the first Saturday after your regularly scheduled collection day.

Weekly Garbage Collection Customers

If your garbage cannot be picked up the day following a cancellation, it will be picked up on your next scheduled collection day.

Container limits will be doubled for that collection day.

The RDN will post updates on schedule delays on its Website and in local newspapers. Please note, the Ministry of Transportation, its contractor or municipalities are responsible for road maintenance, not the RDN.

CHECK THE BLUE PAGES OF YOUR PHONE BOOK FOR NUMBERS

Holiday Schedule Change Reminder

Christmas and New Year's statutory holidays will affect your garbage and recycling pick-ups. Here's how:

Over Christmas your collection moves ahead two working days; and

The following week your collection day advances again **because of New Year's Day.**

Check your Garbage & Recycling Schedule for details

Remember your current schedule is valid until March 31, 2010. If you misplaced it, visit www.rdn.bc.ca to download one or call 1-866-999-8227 to have one mailed.

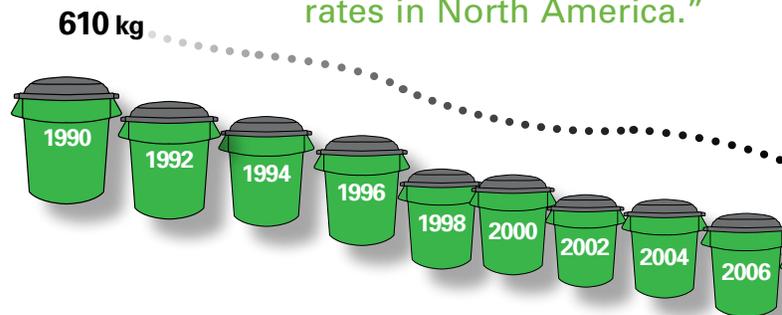
Progress on the Road to Zero Waste

Residents and businesses in the region are on track to divert **63% of their waste from the landfill in 2009.**

How do we compare with other jurisdictions? In 2006, RDN residents disposed of 527 kg of waste per capita, well below the BC average of 675 kg but higher than the 430 kg mark set by Nova Scotia, the Canadian provincial leader.

"Introducing residential food waste collection service next year should lower our per capita waste disposal to below 400 kg," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope.

"It's a key step forward in achieving our 75% diversion target, one of the highest rates in North America."



DON'T BE LATE GET IT OUT BY 8!

Avoid missed pick-ups by ensuring your garbage and recyclables are at the curb by 8 a.m. on your collection day.

Changes in route scheduling by the RDN's garbage and recycling contractor means your pick-up time could vary during your collection day. Putting your garbage and recyclables out on time will avoid unnecessary phone calls and extra work for you and your collector.



ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION PROGRAM

MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Illegal dumping represents only .001% of the solid waste disposed of in the region. Nonetheless illegally dumped material can harm the environment, wildlife, and our ability to enjoy natural landscapes and outdoor recreation.

Maude Mackey, the RDN's Zero Waste Compliance Officer, has been active throughout the year implementing the region's Illegal Dumping Prevention Program, working with community groups, coordinating clean-ups, and arranging signage. These efforts are having a positive impact as shown below:

- **25 tonnes** of material removed from dump sites, a much lower volume than in 2008
- **13 clean-ups** ordered
- **11 warning letters** sent
- **9 community groups** assisted with clean-ups by providing tipping fee waivers
- **28 signs** erected in electoral areas.

What you can do

- Appropriately dispose of extra garbage, household hazardous waste, and other materials. Remember yard waste is still a "waste" and should either be composted at home or disposed of at an approved facility. Waste attracts other waste and illegally dumping yard and garden waste encourages other similar activity.
- If you see illegal dumping, observe, record and report. Report illegal dumping in electoral areas to Solid Waste Services by calling 250-390-6560 or 1-877-607-4111 (toll-free).
- Contact the municipal office to report dumping within municipal areas.
- Organize a community clean-up in your neighbourhood. Call Solid Waste Services to discuss your project and to enquire about waiving of landfill or transfer station disposal fees.



WSI collector Tod Auringer

HELP KEEP COLLECTION WORKERS SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

On an average day they can lift more than 5 tonnes of waste or sort through more than 800 blue boxes and recycling bags. Despite rain, snow, freezing cold and sweltering heat, they are there so we can do our part for the environment.

But how many of us give thought to the hazards faced by garbage and recycling collection workers? A U.S. study of workers' compensation claims showed garbage collectors suffer injury rates that are five to seven times more than the average worker. Many of these injuries are back related or caused by impatient drivers unsafely passing stopped collection trucks.

This holiday season and all year round, please remember it's a person and not a machine who has to handle what you take to the curb. You can help keep your collector safe by:

- Ensuring garbage cans or bags **don't exceed 50 lbs** (23 kg);
- Not putting **hazardous wastes** such as flammable materials, syringes, solvents or paints in your garbage;
- Wrapping and clearly identifying broken glass, ceramics or other **sharp objects**;
- Using caution when passing collection trucks as the **driver's vision is often limited**;
- Using approved containers that will not split or crack in the colder temperatures; and
- Having your garbage properly secured and at the curb by 8 a.m. on your collection day.

rdn.bc.ca

..and what gift wrap you can reuse - do.

IT'S THE SEASON TO CELEBRATE THE 3Rs Give "Wasteless" Gifts That Don't Cost the Earth

With the holidays on the way, you can help make this an environmentally friendly time of the year by making "wasteless" choices. Here are some helpful tips to ease the burden on your garbage can and our landfill:

SUSTAINABLE GIFTS

Consider giving sustainable gifts such as homemade presents or gifts of time or services. Options include making a donation in the person's name to a charity, giving bus tickets, skating or swimming passes, or gifts from products that are grown or made locally and sustain our region's economy.



GIFT WRAP

Most gift wrap can't be recycled. That's because of its high ink content and blending with materials such as metal, wax or plastic lamination. Instead choose reusable gift bags, tea towels, cloth napkins or even reusable shopping bags for gift wrap that can be reused.

STYROFOAM™

Taking advantage of some great holiday deals and upgrading to a 52" plasma TV, or new home entertainment system? What are you going to do with all the Styrofoam™ packaging? Consider buying from a store that will take back the packaging and recycle it off the Island.

MAXIMIZE YOUR CURBSIDE PROGRAM

Be a good sort over the holidays. Ask yourself if paper, plastic, metal or glass can be recycled at the curbside before you trash it. If your household is currently participating in the food waste collection program, remember your Green Bin isn't just for food scraps, you can feed it soiled paper products including paper plates, cups, waxed cardboard, and paper take out food and drink containers.

Other Holiday Item Recycling Opportunities in the Region

What	Where
Computers, computer equipment, TVs	Parkville Bottle & Recycling Depot, Mostar Recycling Depot, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Fremont Road Bottle Depot
Refundable beverage containers, Tetrapak juice boxes, waxed Egg Nog, milk and juice containers	Parkville Bottle & Recycling Depot, Qualicum Bottle & Recycling Depot, Mostar Recycling Depot, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Fremont Road Bottle Depot
Rechargeable batteries (Call store to confirm participation)	Canadian Tire, London Drugs, The Source by Circuit City, Home Depot, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Staples Business Depot
Cell Phones	For locations near you check online at www.recyclemycell.ca or at www.call2recycle.org
Compact fluorescent light bulbs (Call store to confirm participation)	London Drugs, Home Depot, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange, Gabriola Island Recycling Organization
Used household goods – Clothing, books, reusable household items	Society of Organized Services (SOS), Canadian Diabetes Association, Salvation Army, Friends of Haven House, Gabriola Island Recycling Organization, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
Christmas Trees	Watch your local newspaper for details on Christmas tree drop-off or collection information
All Recyclable Materials	RDN On-Line Recycling Directory – Go to www.rdn.bc.ca , click on Environmental Services/Solid Waste Services and click on RDN Recycling Directory
	RCBC Recycling Hotline 1-800-667-4321 or visit www.rcbc.bc.ca

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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: rdn.bc.ca



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