



B e y o n d C o m p o s t i n g



GET READY TO MEET YOUR GREEN BIN

The countdown to the launch of food and kitchen waste collection service has begun. Over a four week period starting September 7th, green bins and start-up kits will be delivered to households in the Regional District of Nanaimo's Electoral Areas, Lantzville, Parksville, and Qualicum Beach.

On urban routes, green bins will be dropped off near the front door of the residence. In rural areas, green bins will be placed in a visible location inside the property line and adjacent to the driveway.

Check inside

To learn what goes in the green bin and when to place it out for curbside collection, check out the start-up kit included in your green bin. The kit includes:

- A new 15-month collection schedule;
- A new curbside collection guide for Garbage, Recycling and the Green Bin Program;
- Decals listing acceptable/unacceptable materials, a fridge magnet; and
- A small kitchen container, sample liner bags, and a new large yellow bag for recycling paper including newspaper.

All residences receiving RDN curbside collection service should have their green bins and start-up kits delivered by October 8th. Households that don't receive a green bin by this date should call RDN Solid Waste Services at 250-390-6560 (School District 68) or 250-954-3792 (School District 69).



Collection start dates

Food waste collection will commence the week of October 18th. Check your new schedule for your green bin, garbage, and recycling pick-up days. Remember, food waste is collected weekly and garbage and recyclables are collected on alternating weeks.

Start diverting food waste and compostable paper products into your green bin a week before your first scheduled collection day.

A new Curbside Collection Guide will be delivered with your green bin. It provides a full list of acceptable green bin materials.

ATTEND A GREEN BIN PROGRAM OPEN HOUSE

The RDN and its member municipalities are holding green bin open houses in September and October throughout the region. Learn how to make your green bin work for you and about changes to garbage and recycling collection. Mark your calendar and plan to attend an open house at a location nearest to you.

The open houses will feature Green Bin Program displays and staff will be available to answer questions.

See page 2 for open house locations, dates and times.



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Beans to bones in the bin!

GREEN BIN PROGRAM OPEN HOUSES



Electoral Area/ Municipality	Date	Location
Area A	Wed., Oct. 13	Cedar Community Hall, 2388 Cedar Rd., Cedar
Area B	Thurs., Oct. 14	Agricultural Hall, 265 South Rd., Gabriola Island
Area C	Fri., Sept. 24	Cranberry Community Hall, 1555 Morden Rd., South Wellington
Area E	Mon., Sept. 20	Nanoose Place, 2925 NW Bay Rd., Nanoose Bay
Area F	Thurs., Oct. 7	Arrowsmith Hall, 1014 Ford Rd., Coombs
Area G	Wed., Oct. 6	St. Columba Church Hall, 921 Wembley Rd., Parksville
Area H	Mon., Oct. 4	Lighthouse Community Hall, 240 Lion's Way, Bowser
Lantzville	Wed., Sept. 22	Costin Hall, 7232 Lantzville Rd., Lantzville
Parksville	Thurs., Sept. 23	Council Chambers, 100 E. Jensen Ave., Parksville
Qualicum Beach	Tues., Oct. 5	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach

GET READY FOR CHANGES TO YOUR CURBSIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Glass no longer accepted in the Blue Box

Effective October 2010, glass containers will no longer be accepted in the curbside recycling program. This change coincides with the introduction of new two-compartment vehicles for collecting either food waste and garbage or food waste and recyclables in one truck.

Continuing to collect glass in the blue box would have required additional collection vehicles, causing increased greenhouse gas emissions and higher program costs. Many recycling programs on Vancouver Island, including the City of Nanaimo, don't accept glass at curbside because it is very costly to recycle due to lack of markets and if broken in transit contaminates other high value



commodities such as paper and plastic.

Roughly 220 tonnes of glass is collected in the RDN blue box recycling program each year, which represents a reduction of less than .05% in annual landfill disposal. Given that roughly 35% of the glass currently collected in the blue box is refundable, discontinuing glass collection will result in roughly 140 tonnes of this inert, non-polluting material going into the landfill. However, putting the Green Bin Program into action will result in the diversion and composting of 3,000 tonnes of organic waste from RDN program customers that otherwise would decompose at the landfill.

As glass will no longer be accepted at curbside

it is important to return deposit glass containers, such as pop, juice, wine, beer and liquor bottles to a Return-It Centre for refund. Non-deposit containers such as jars and condiment bottles can be placed in your regular garbage. For those individuals wishing to continue recycling non-deposit glass, containers can be taken to the Church Road Transfer Station or the Regional Landfill. Due to lack of markets, this material will then be crushed and used as aggregate in landfill construction projects.

Drop-off locations for non-deposit glass containers and information on the elimination of this material from the blue box program can be found on www.rdn.bc.ca or by calling RDN Solid Waste Services at 250-390-6560 (School District 68) or 250-954-3792 (School District 69).

Watch for your new yellow recycling bag

A new larger Zero Waste yellow recycling bag will be delivered inside your green bin. The change to collecting recyclable materials in one compartment of the collection truck and their mechanical separation at the processing facility means it is no longer necessary to use the blue bag to separate newspapers and flyers.

All household paper and newspaper can be placed in the large yellow bag. This makes it easier to store these materials until collection day and helps maintain their market value by keeping them dry at the curb. You can continue to use your blue bag and small yellow bag to store and set out mixed paper and newspaper. Put these bags in the garbage when they wear out.



Making the transition to changes in garbage collection

The launch of the Green Bin Program brings with it changes to garbage collection frequency and limits. One 48-litre container of food waste will be collected weekly and one 100-litre container of garbage will be picked up every second week.

Food and kitchen waste make up to half of household garbage. During a one-year pilot project, the vast majority of households adapted easily to having one standard-size container of garbage collected on alternating weeks.

Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas and Easter are times when households typically produce more garbage. Much of this waste is compostable material that can be diverted through the green bin, or recyclable material that can go in your yellow recycling bag or the blue box.

There are several ways to make extra space in your garbage container. These include capturing all recyclables accepted through the curbside program, ensuring food-soiled paper and other acceptable food waste is placed in the green bin and taking advantage of Product Stewardship opportunities such as the Return-It Beverage Container program.

Check the on-line Recycling Directory at www.rdn.bc.ca for options to recycle many materials that aren't accepted in the curbside program.

As is the case now, you may occasionally need to put out an extra can of garbage. Up to two additional standard size containers can be put out on your collection day by attaching a \$2 tag to each container.

in the green bin

- Food leftovers, plate scrapings
- Meat, fish, poultry and bones
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Dairy products
- Egg shells
- Bread, cereal, grains
- Pasta, pizza
- Baked goods, candies
- Soiled paper towels and tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Waxed paper, parchment paper
- Used paper cups and plates
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Ice cream and milk & cream cartons
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Houseplants, cut and dried flowers
- Nuts and shells



GREEN BIN PROGRAM COMPLEMENTS BACKYARD COMPOSTING

The green bin accepts meat, fish, cooked food, food-soiled paper products and many other items unsuitable for home composting.

Please continue to use your backyard composter for vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, and yard and garden waste.

Remember, yard and garden waste is not accepted in your green bin.

Home composting is the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to recycle vegetable and fruit waste, coffee grounds, egg shells, and lawn clippings and leaves into a soil-enriching humus. If you want to start backyard composting, visit the RDN Solid Waste website for tips on selecting a system that's best for you or call Solid Waste Services at 250-954-3792 (School District 69) or 250-390-6560 (School District 68) to have a brochure mailed to you.

TAKE A TOUR OF GREEN BUILDING PROJECTS IN THE RDN

Join the Green Skyline Tour on September 18, 2010.

Learn what you can do to protect our environment while cutting your utility bills.

The tour will feature green building projects in our region and the people who made them happen. Discover what you can do to improve energy efficiency, conserve water, and incorporate renewable energy systems around your home or on your building projects.

For more details email sustainability@rdn.bc.ca and check www.rdn.bc.ca for updates.

BE BEAR AWARE

Many of the calls local conservation officers receive about nuisance black bears in the region are garbage or food-related. With the October launch of the Green Bin program, being responsible for how your food waste and garbage is stored and set out is more important than ever.

The first step to being "bear smart" is storing garbage and food waste in a secure, animal proof location. The next step is only putting out your green bin or garbage on the morning of your scheduled collection day. See the checklist on the right for other helpful tips.

If you see a bear in a residential area, remain calm; usually the bear is just passing through and if no food is available it will move on. Keep away from the bear and warn others to keep away. Bring children and pets inside the house.

If a bear appears to be threatening or persistent, call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

For more information on bears and bear safety, visit the Bear Aware website at www.bearaware.bc.ca or the BC Ministry of Environment website at www.gov.bc.ca/wld and click on the link for BC's Bear Smart Community Program.

Bear Smart Food Waste and Garbage Checklist

Take your green bin or garbage can to the curb on the morning of your collection day. Don't leave them outside overnight.

Freeze fish, meat, and fruit waste and put it in your green bin on your collection day.

Ensure the lid of your green bin is latched and your garbage can is sealed with a tight-fitting lid.

Use a spray bottle filled with a bleach solution to deodorize the lid and exterior of your green bin to prevent odours from attracting bears.

Collect fruit from trees as it ripens. Unpicked or ripe fruit left on the ground may attract bears or wildlife to your property and garbage can or green bin.

Maintain your compost bin to prevent it from attracting bears or wildlife.

Don't put meat, fish, cooked food, bread, cereal, dairy products etc. in your backyard composter.

Clean barbecues thoroughly after use.

NEW RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES: BATTERIES, LIGHTS, STEREOS & MORE

On July 1, 2010, BC's Product Stewardship Programs added the following items that can be returned to retailers or collection depots.

For more information on Product Stewardship programs and materials visit www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/recycling/ or call the toll-free Recycling Council of BC hotline at 1-800-667-4321.

Household Batteries and Cell Phones

Used household batteries and cell phones can now be dropped off free-of-charge at locations such as Canadian Tire, Home Depot, London Drugs, The Source, and the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE). Visit www.call2recycle.ca or call 1-888-224-9764 for other return locations.

call2recycle

Fluorescent Lights

Burnt out compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and tubes can be returned at no-charge to Dolly's Home Hardware (Qualicum Beach), Albertson's Home Centre and Parkville Central Builders Supply (Parkville), Canadian Tire, London Drugs, and the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange. Visit www.productcare.org/lights for more information.

Product Care

Electronics

The following items can now be recycled free of charge: display devices, desktop computers, portable computers, computer peripherals, computer scanners, printers and fax machines, non-cellular phones and answering machines, vehicle audio and video systems (aftermarket), home/personal/portable audio and video systems. These products can be recycled at the Parkville Bottle & Recycling Depot, the Mostar Bottle Depot, the Nanaimo Bottle Depot and the Nanaimo Recycling Exchange. Visit www.return-it.ca/electronics for more information.

ESABC ELECTRONICS STEWARDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Return-It Electronics



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO



BIOGAS ENERGY

Beyond Composting

zero|waste

CONTACT INFORMATION
Email: zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca
www.beyondcomposting.ca
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6300 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2
Ph. (250) 390-6560 Ph. 1-877-607-4111 (Toll-free)

