

# zero|waste

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



## GREEN BIN TIPS THE SCALES IN REDUCING HOUSEHOLD WASTE

The Green Bin Program is weighing in big at the curbside. In the first three months alone, households sent 825 tonnes of food and kitchen waste to the ICC Group composting facility at Duke Point. Your efforts are making a tremendous difference in reaching our 75 per cent waste diversion goal.

### BEFORE AND AFTER THE GREEN BIN

Before the green bin, the average household generated 24 kg of garbage per month. With curbside food waste collection that dropped to 13 kg –

**a 45 per cent reduction in the weight of household garbage!**

“By using your green bin, you are making a significant contribution to the future sustainability of the region,” said Regional District of Nanaimo Board Chair Joe Stanhope. **“You are extending the life of our region’s only landfill,** reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and turning what was garbage into a renewable and valuable resource – compost.”



Monthly Household Waste

*Before Green Bin*    *After Green Bin*

**24 kg**

**13 kg**

## REGION'S ZERO WASTE PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

The RDN's Zero Waste Program was one of 12 winners at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities 2011 Sustainable Communities Awards. The Awards, recognizing municipal environmental projects across Canada that demonstrate excellence in environmental responsibility, were presented on February 8 at the FCM's Sustainable Communities Conference in Victoria.



In 2002, the RDN committed to “zero waste” as its long-term goal. The Zero Waste Program was recognized for its innovative approach to achieving waste diversion through a waste stream management licensing system, expanded landfill disposal bans, single-family food waste collection, and Zero Waste education and promotion.

**“Receiving this national award is something everyone in the region can take pride in,”**

said George Holme, Electoral Area E Director and Chair of the Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

“The success of our Zero Waste programs is a direct result of the efforts of the residents of the regional district and our municipal partners. It also took strong participation from the region’s commercial hauling sector, private and non-profit recycling facilities, and businesses that divert waste from the landfill.”

IN THIS ISSUE: Spotlight on Recycling Depots • Curbside Recycling and Green Bin Guide

# Beans to bones in the bin!



## YOU ASKED US: Q&A ABOUT THE GREEN BIN PROGRAM

# Q&A



### What can I do to prevent problems with bears?

Improperly stored garbage and other food-attractants are the main cause of human-bear conflicts in BC. If you reside in an area that experiences seasonal problems with bears, please take extra care when storing and disposing of garbage and other food sources.

#### HOW TO AVOID BEAR CONFLICTS



#### Here are some steps you can take:

- Store your garbage can and green bin in a secure, locked location.
- Place your garbage can or green bin at the curb on the morning of your collection day. **Don't leave them at the curbside overnight.**
- Use a **spray bottle filled with a bleach solution** to deodorize the lid and exterior of your green bin to prevent food odours from attracting bears and other wildlife.
- Don't put meat, fish, cooked foods, bread, fruit, cereal etc. **in your backyard composter.**
- Collect fruit from fruit trees as it ripens. **Unpicked or ripe fruit left on the ground may attract bears** or wildlife to your property and to your garbage can and green bin.
- During bear season, keep barbecue grills clean and store pet food inside your house.

For more information visit the "Preventing Problems with Bears" page of the Solid Waste section at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca).

### What happens if I have too much garbage?

To reduce the garbage you produce, please make the most of your curbside recycling yellow bag, blue box and green bin. Garbage collection service provides for one standard-size container (up to 100 litres) collected once every two weeks. For the safety of collection crews, the weight of containers cannot exceed 23 kilograms (50 pounds).

**A maximum of two additional garbage containers can be put out on your scheduled collection day with a \$2 extra garbage tag attached to each extra container.**

For information on locations selling garbage tags, call RDN Solid Waste Services at 250-954-3792 (SD 69) or 250-390-6560 (SD 68) or visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) (Solid Waste – Garbage Collection & Recycling).



## YES

### What types of paper are accepted in the green bin?

- Soiled paper towels and tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Waxed paper and cardboard
- Food soiled cardboard such as pizza boxes
- Used paper cups and plates
- Ice cream, milk and cream cartons
- Gable top juice and soy milk cartons (with plastic spout removed) are also accepted in the green bin, but these containers may also have a deposit and can be returned to a Return-It Centre for a refund.

Compostable paper comprises as much as five per cent of household waste, and most of this material can be diverted through your green bin.



## NO

### What types of paper are not accepted in the green bin?

Paper products containing metal, foil or plastic coatings or laminations should not be placed in the green bin. This includes **Tetra Pak juice boxes, soiled diapers, baby wipes, personal hygiene products, make-up remover pads, cotton swabs and cotton balls.**

Paper towels or tissues used with household cleaning liquids such as **solvents, glass cleaners or nail polish remover** should not be placed in the green bin, as these can kill bacteria that are essential to breaking down organic matter.

## SPOTLIGHT:

### MATERIALS ACCEPTED AT LOCAL BOTTLE AND RECYCLING DEPOTS

#### NANAIMO RECYCLING EXCHANGE (NRE)

2477 Kenworth Road, Nanaimo

Hours: 7 days a week, 7:00am to 7:00pm

Ph: 250-758-7777 Website: [www.recycling.bc.ca](http://www.recycling.bc.ca)

The NRE accepts a wide variety of recyclable materials, including household glass containers, white foam plastic (Styrofoam), and all Product Stewardship Materials (paint, flammable liquids, electronics and appliances). The Community Market accepts clean reusable household items.

Please call the NRE or check its website for a complete list of materials accepted.

#### PARKSVILLE BOTTLE AND RECYCLING DEPOT

611(A) Alberni Hwy, Parksville

Hours: 7 days a week, 8:00am to 6:00pm

Ph: 250-248-0224

##### Return for Refund:

All deposit beverage containers including Tetra Pak and gable top juice boxes

##### Other Recyclables and Materials:

- Electronics: computers, TVs, stereos etc.
- Glass (Non-refundable household glass containers)
- Metal, automotive batteries, radiators
- Milk and milk substitute beverage containers
- Plastic film and plastic bags
- Paint and aerosol paint cans
- White foam plastic (Styrofoam)

#### NANAIMO BOTTLE DEPOT

1805 Fremont Road, Nanaimo

Hours: Mon-Sat 8:30am to 5:30pm,

Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm • Ph: 250-751-1159

##### Return for Refund:

All deposit beverage containers including Tetra Pak and gable top juice boxes

##### Other Recyclables and Materials:

Electronics: computers, TVs, stereos etc.

#### MOSTAR BOTTLE DEPOT

#4 - 4151 Mostar Road, Nanaimo

Hours: Mon-Sat 8:30am-5:30pm,

Sun 10:00am to 4:00pm • Ph: 250-751-2358

##### Return for Refund:

All deposit beverage containers including Tetra Pak and gable top juice boxes

##### Other Recyclables and Materials:

Electronics: computers, TVs, stereos etc.

#### GABRIOLA ISLAND RECYCLING ORGANIZATION

700 Tin Can Alley, Gabriola Island

Hours: Wed and Sat 9:30am to 4:00pm

Ph: 250-247-9257 • [www.girodepot.com](http://www.girodepot.com)

##### Beverage containers:

All deposit beverage containers including Tetra Pak and gable top juice boxes accepted as donation

##### Other Recyclables and Materials:

- Batteries: household, marine, automotive
- Electronics: computers, TVs, stereos etc.
- Fluorescent tubes
- Glass (Non-refundable household glass containers)
- Motor oil
- Scrap metal

##### Reuse Centre:

Accepts books, reusable building materials, clothing, paint, and small appliances.

#### QUALICUM BOTTLE DEPOT

#4 - 141 Fourth Avenue, Qualicum Beach

Hours: Mon-Sat, 9:00am to 5:00pm

Ph: 250-752-8884

##### Return for Refund:

All deposit beverage containers including Tetra Pak and gable top juice boxes

##### Other Recyclables and Materials:

- Milk and milk substitute beverage containers
- Plastic film and plastic bags
- Paint and aerosol paint cans

# CURBSIDE RECYCLING & GREEN BIN GUIDE

## INSIDE YOUR GREEN BIN

Food Waste including:

Baked goods

Baking ingredients, herbs, spices

Bones

Bread, cereal, grains

Candy

Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags

Dairy products, butter, mayonnaise

Egg shells

Fruit and vegetable scraps

Meat, fish/seafood, poultry

Nuts and shells

Pasta, rice

Soiled Paper/Paper Packaging:

Cardboard (including waxed)

Ice cream, milk & cream cartons

Gable top juice and soy milk cartons (plastic spouts removed)

Paper cups and plates

Paper fast food packaging

Paper food packaging (unlined)

Paper towels and tissues

Parchment paper

Pizza boxes

Waxed paper

Other:

Compostable bags (must have certified compostable logo)

Houseplants, cut and dried flowers (NO yard waste)

## INSIDE YOUR BLUE BOX

Rigid Household Plastic Containers and Bottles including:

Plastic beverage containers (may be returned for refund)

Plastic condiment bottles: ketchup, relish, mayonnaise etc.

Plastic cosmetics bottles: shampoo, hair rinses etc.

Plastic dish soap and laundry detergent bottles

Plastic food containers: margarine, yogurt, peanut butter etc.

Plastic milk jugs

Plastic over-the-counter medicine and vitamin bottles: pill bottles, mouth wash etc.

Please check:

- Containers are clean (no food or other residue)
- NO foam plastic (Styrofoam), containers that held chlorine or ammonia-based products, motor oil containers, metal bottle lids or caps, spray nozzle heads and metal attachments.
- NO plastic bags or film plastic

Metal Containers:

Food and beverage cans and lids

Foil containers and trays

Please check:

- Clean (NO food or other residue)
- Labels removed
- NO metal pots, plastic or paper laminated with foil such as chip bags or yogurt lids.

Please remember:

**GLASS** is not accepted in the curbside recycling program. Including glass will contaminate a load of recyclable materials. Non-refundable glass containers can go in regular garbage. For other glass disposal options visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) (Solid Waste – Garbage Collection & Recycling, Curbside Collection Program).

## INSIDE YOUR YELLOW BAG

Newspapers and Mixed Papers:

Boxboard packaging: cereal, detergent, soap boxes, shoe boxes etc.

Catalogues

Envelopes

Fibre egg cartons

Magazines

Newspapers and flyer inserts

Office paper

Paper bags

Telephone directories

Please check:

- Paper is clean and dry (NO food or other residue)
- NO books, soiled paper, drinking boxes or paper with plastic or foil lamination.
- NO tissues, used paper towels, waxed paper, baking/parchment, or pizza boxes. These can go in the Green Bin.

## BESIDE YOUR BLUE BOX

Cardboard:

- Broken down, flattened and tied in a bundle. Maximum size is 30"x30"x8".
- NO waxed or coated boxes or non-corrugated boxes. Waxed cardboard can go in the green bin; non-corrugated boxes can go in the yellow recycling bag.

Textiles, Clothing and Linens:

- Place in a separate shopping bag and tie with a piece of fabric or string.
- NO shoes, handbags, or non-fabric items.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: [zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:zerowaste@rdn.bc.ca)

[www.beyondcomposting.ca](http://www.beyondcomposting.ca) or [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca)

Regional District of Nanaimo, Solid Waste Services

6300 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

Ph. (250) 390-6560 or 1-877-607-4111 (Toll-free)

BeyondComposting

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