

zero|waste

Beyond Composting



NEVER MISS ANOTHER COLLECTION DAY!



In November 2014 the Regional District of Nanaimo Solid Waste department launched a new service for our curbside collection customers. Our goal is to make missing collection day history!

The new online curbside collection schedule search function is designed to help you remember your collection day and which bins to put out.

You can sign up to get a reminder email, tweet or phone call the night before, or the morning of collection. All you have to do is take your bins to the curb by 8:00am.

If you prefer, you can import your curbside schedule into your online calendar – such as iCal, Outlook or Google Calendar.

To check it out, visit the RDN website (www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the RDN Curbside Collection image – you'll find it on the right hand side of the screen beside the feature photograph. Click through to the address page, simply key in your address, press Search, and your schedule will be displayed on screen.

We have also created a mobile app for both Apple and Android devices. Simply search **RDN Curbside** in the App Store or at Google Play to download it for free.



In the first four months of operation, the new feature has been visited over 10,000 times.

More than 700 homes have taken advantage of the opportunity to set up a reminder. We think you should too! If you are not comfortable interacting with computers or you don't have a smart phone, we can help. We will be happy to help set up the reminder service for you – just drop us an email or give us a call.

If you live in the Town of Qualicum Beach, the collection schedule search function and reminder set-up can be accessed through the Town's website (www.qualicumbeach.com) or by calling the Town office at 250-752-6921.

Our solid waste app is the easiest thing you'll sign up for this year – and your pre-coffee morning brain will thank you.

REVIEWING OUR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Solid Waste Management Plan determines how we will reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of our waste for the next 10 to 20 years. The Ministry of Environment approved the current Plan in 2005. At that time, the Plan introduced a Zero Waste direction which included curbside food waste collection, diverting commercial food waste, and putting landfill bans in place for wood waste and other materials.

Thanks to the efforts of RDN residents we have achieved many of the targets set in the 2005 Plan. With that in mind, we're reviewing and updating the Plan to identify ways to continue those successes, to consider new targets, and to make sure the system is effective, economical, and environmentally responsible.

To learn more about the review process, and to become involved, be sure to visit the RDN website (www.rdn.bc.ca) and navigate to the Solid Waste Management Plan Review page.



Making it Happen

- EMAIL
- VOICEMAIL
- TWITTER
- ICALENDAR
- DOWNLOAD THE APP

IN THIS ISSUE: Curbside Recycling Update • Medications Return Program • Feeding your Green Bin

Beans to bones in the bin!





RECYCLING INFORMATION

In May 2014, the Regional District made some changes to our curbside recycling collection system. The changes happened because we signed on to become a collector on behalf of a new stewardship group (Multi-Material BC or MMBC). With that new relationship, additional items can be included in your curbside recycling.

Did You Know the Following New Items are now accepted at the curbside?

- Tetra Pak (Aseptic) boxes and cartons e.g. soups, sauces
- Paper-based microwave bowls and cups
- Aerosol cans (empty) and caps e.g. air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant, hairspray, whip cream
- Spiral wound paper cans and lids
- Plastic clamshells
- Plastic cold drink cups and lids
- Plastic garden pots and seedling trays
- Paper hot and cold beverage cups
- Frozen dessert boxes e.g. ice cream
- Milk and cream cartons
- Paper bags with single and multiple paper layers (may include plastic layer). E.g. pet food bags
- Shredded Paper (must be in a tied clear plastic bag)

The change also means that your annual utility fee will be reduced because **MMBC is paying us to collect the recycling on their behalf**, and we are passing that saving on to our residents. Residents who receive full garbage, food waste and recycling collection service from the RDN will see their 2015 annual utility bill reduced almost 20 per cent compared to their 2013 bill.

20% SAVINGS



2013 UTILITY BILL



2015 UTILITY BILL

MULTI-MATERIAL BC DROP-OFF DEPOTS



The region has six MMBC Drop-Off Depots that will accept non-deposit glass jars and bottles, plastic bags and overwrap, and plastic foam (Styrofoam) containers, trays and cushion packaging. **These items are not collected in your curbside recycling program.** These Depots also accept all other packaging and printed paper materials accepted through the curbside recycling program.

Where?

to recycle glass containers, plastic bags and overwrap and foam plastic (Styrofoam)

QUALICUM BOTTLE & RECYCLING DEPOT

Open Tues. – Sat. 9 am – 5 pm
4 - 141 Fourth Ave E, Qualicum Beach
Ph. 250-752-8884

PARKSVILLE BOTTLE AND RECYCLING DEPOT LTD.

Open Mon. – Sun. 8 am – 6 pm
611 A Alberni Highway, Parksville
Ph. 250-248-0224

ALPINE DISPOSAL & RECYCLING

Open Mon. – Sat. 8 am – 4:30 pm
2250 McGarrigle Road, Nanaimo
Ph. 250-751-1089
Website: www.alpinegroup.ca

REGIONAL RECYCLING

Open Mon. – Sat. 8:30 am – 5:30 pm
Sun. 10 am – 4 pm
• 839 Old Victoria Road, Nanaimo
• 2375 Hayes Road, Nanaimo
Ph. 1-855-701-7171
Website: www.regionalrecycling.ca/nanaimo

NANAIMO RECYCLING EXCHANGE

Open Mon. – Sun. 7 am – 7 pm
2477 Kenworth Road
Ph. 250-758-7777
Website: www.recycling.bc.ca



Visit www.recycling2015.ca for more information

If you are looking for information about recycling in our region be sure to visit our recycling-specific website: www.recycling2015.ca. We have joined forces with the City of Nanaimo to update the website with fun facts, recycling success stories, and to offer advice and resources to help you make the most of recycling opportunities in the region.



Medications Return

Nanaimo region's residents return more than 4,900 kg of old medications annually

Do you know how to safely dispose of your expired or un-used medications? It's easy. **Take them back to your pharmacist** on your next visit. In recent years, residents in the Regional District have returned more than 4,900 kg of medications annually. **That's the same weight as more than 1,200 sockeye salmon!**

The BC Medications Return Program helps divert medications from being thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet, where they have the potential to harm the environment, children and pets.

It's not just prescription medications. The program covers all prescription drugs; over-the-counter medications, including topical antibiotic and antifungal creams; and natural health products such as vitamins, minerals, traditional Chinese medicines, herbal products, probiotics and homeopathic medicines.

Any liquid or cream medications should be kept in their original container with any personal information removed or blacked out, and solid medications such as pills should be combined into a small bag. For more information, visit www.healthsteward.ca.

"I would encourage anyone with unused or expired medications to dispose of them responsibly," said Regional District of Nanaimo Chair Joe Stanhope. "There are over 40 pharmacies and drug stores located throughout our region where residents can make use of this free service."

It makes good sense to have medications disposed of correctly, and kept out of our waterways and landfill."



free service
40 locations



