



Beyond Composting

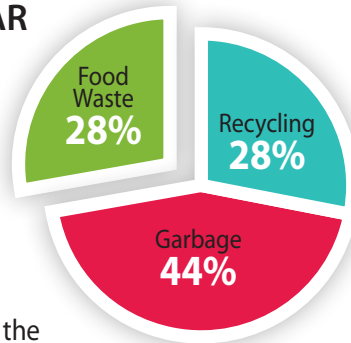


2013 SHAPING UP TO BE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WASTE DIVERSION YEAR

Thanks to your participation in Regional District of Nanaimo curbside programs, residents are on course to divert 56 per cent of their household waste from the Regional Landfill in 2013.

It's estimated this year that the average household will recycle 28 per cent of their household waste through their blue box and yellow bag. Food waste in the green bin will make up another 28 per cent which will be composted at the ICC Group facility in Nanaimo. The remaining 44 per cent of household waste is garbage – an amount well below annual disposal rates for other Canadian local governments.

Over the holidays and in the New Year don't forget to use your Green Bin to collect food waste and compostable paper. Your household paper, along with plastic and metal containers should go into the blue box and yellow bag for recycling. The combined efforts of 27,000 households can make a big difference in conserving resources, saving landfill space and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



Use your Green Bin to gobble up organic holiday waste, including:



Turkey trimmings, bones, cranberries and other food leftovers.

Food-soiled paper, including napkins, paper plates, cups, and paper table cloths.

Wax-coated paper containers, such as gable-top eggnog, dairy and ice cream cartons. (Please remove plastic spouts and lids.)

Cut flowers, nuts, shells and spices.

2014 CURBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEDULES COMING IN DECEMBER

New one-year schedules, including a program information guide, are being delivered in early December to householders receiving municipal and RDN garbage, recycling and food waste collection service.

Curbside schedules are being mailed to homes in Parksville and the RDN's seven Electoral Areas. Town staff will deliver the schedules to Qualicum Beach households. In the District of Lantzville, new schedules will be inserted in the December issue of the Lantzville Log.

The new collection schedules will cover the period from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Households that don't receive a new schedule by December 18 have several options:

- Visit www.rdn.bc.ca. Go to Curbside Collection, click on 2014 Curbside Collection Schedules and follow the download instructions.
- If you reside in the RDN Electoral Areas, District of Lantzville or City of Parksville call 1-866-999-8227 to have a schedule mailed to you. Town of Qualicum Beach residents can obtain a replacement schedule by contacting the Town at 250-752-6921.



CURBSIDE COLLECTION PROGRAM UPDATES

Staying safe around collection vehicles – Here's how:

Collection drivers are trained to operate their vehicles safely.

Do your part by staying clear and keeping small children away when trucks are operating on your street.



If you are driving, use caution when approaching or passing collection vehicles.

Please note, the driver steers the vehicle from the right hand side and has limited visibility below the hood of the truck.

Furthermore, collection vehicles may advance or reverse without warning when drivers are collecting curbside materials.

If winter storms delay collection service

Although infrequent, severe weather causing unsafe driving conditions may postpone regular curbside collection service on some streets or routes. If your street is not collected, please remove your green bin and other curbside containers overnight and return them to the curb by 8 a.m. the next day. Collection on any missed streets will resume as soon as roads are safe for collection vehicles. Additional collection vehicles will be used until all missed areas have been serviced. Your understanding and patience is appreciated.

Information on collection delays and disruptions will be posted under the RDN Alerts section – found on the home page at www.rdn.bc.ca, or please call BFI Canada at 250-248-8109 or toll-free at 1-866-999-8227.

Please note, the RDN is not responsible for road maintenance such as snow clearing.



CHECK YOUR CURBSIDE COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR HOLIDAY CHANGES

After a statutory holiday your green bin, garbage and recycling pick-ups advance by one day. After Christmas and Boxing Day your collection will move ahead by two working days. The following week will advance your collection by another day because of New Year's Day.

Please ensure you have materials at the curb before 8 a.m. Qualicum Beach residents should check their schedules for garbage pickup days.



Materials banned from household garbage

Since 1991, the RDN has banned materials from landfill disposal when local recycling alternatives are in place. Materials banned from disposal in household garbage include yard waste and items collected through the curbside recycling program.

Also banned from landfill and household garbage disposal are products covered under Product Stewardship or Extended Producer Responsibility programs. These products include refundable beverage containers, batteries, paint, motor oil, and electronics such as computers, phones, cameras, TVs and audio visual equipment.

Despite being banned from household garbage, electronic waste is still ending up in the Regional Landfill. Please do your part to ensure used electronics and other product stewardship materials are recycled by taking them to local collection depots and participating retail locations.

The back page of this newsletter provides locations in the region where used electronics, small appliances, lights and lighting fixtures can be taken for recycling. For a complete list of what is accepted through Product Stewardship programs and where they can be recycled, visit www.bcstewards.com.

PROGRESS ON UPDATING THE REGION'S SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The first step in reviewing the region's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) has been completed. Once updated, the new SWMP will provide a long term vision of how we will minimize landfill waste and then safely dispose of what's leftover. The first step was a review to assess the status of the region's current waste management systems and the impact of putting the existing SWMP's programs and policies into action. The report highlighted that

by introducing the residential green bin program and commercial food waste diversion, the region-wide disposal rate has fallen from 480 kg per capita in 2005 to 350 kg per capita in 2012. This is one of the lowest per capita disposal rates in Canada.

Waste Composition Study

A critical tool in updating the SWMP is a waste composition study. The study completed last fall analyzed the types of waste sent to landfill by the residential, commercial and institutional sectors. The study showed the weight of compostable organics (food waste and soiled paper) decreased by 31 per cent from 2004 to 2012.

The study also concluded that through greater participation in existing programs, as much as 35 per cent of waste currently landfilled could be composted and up to 20 per cent could be recycled.

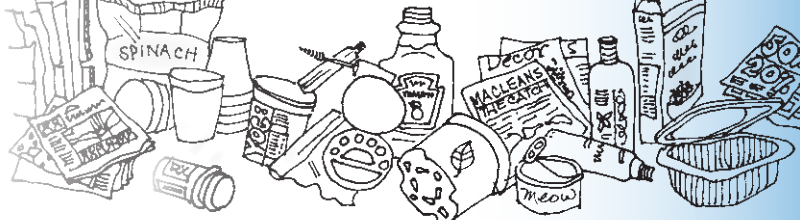
2004

2012

WEIGHT OF COMPOSTABLE ORGANICS
DECREASED BY 31%

Next Steps

A Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee, composed of public, local government and technical representatives, has reviewed the draft Stage 1: Existing Systems Report. Future stages will include identifying options to address the region's future solid waste management needs, the selection of preferred options, and community consultation.



COMING TO CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Our Spring and Summer 2013 Zero Waste newsletters announced how a new Product Stewardship Plan for packaging and printed paper (PPP) from residential sources will affect households receiving RDN curbside recycling service.

In August, the Regional Board approved negotiating a contract to work with Multi Material BC (MMBC), a not-for-profit agency set up by manufacturers and retailers to manage the collection and processing of PPP materials.



The RDN will continue to operate and administer the curbside recycling program through its contractor, BFI Canada. Garbage and food waste collection remains unchanged.

Most materials covered by PPP Product Stewardship are **already accepted in the RDN** curbside collection program.

These include:

newspaper

cardboard

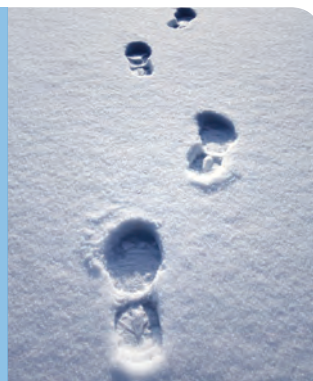
household paper

plastic and metal food containers

foil trays and wrap

Items not included in curbside collection such as glass containers, Polyethylene film plastics (grocery/shopping bags), and Styrofoam packaging, will be accepted at local recycling depots. MMBC has the responsibility to ensure these materials are collected and recycled. A full list of acceptable items will be provided prior to May 2014.

In return for the RDN providing curbside collection of PPP materials, MMBC will pay the RDN an annual fee. This amount will be used to reduce curbside collection user fees when the PPP program starts on May 19, 2014.



MAKE MEMORIES NOT GARBAGE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

The festive season is fast approaching. For most of us it's the most wonderful time of the year, but because of the amount of garbage we produce it's also one of the most wasteful. By remembering the 3Rs – reduce, reuse, and recycle – you can enjoy the spirit of the season while easing the load on our landfill and environment. Here are some suggestions how:

Reduce

Make memories instead of waste by taking family and friends to a concert, skating or holiday event. Other ideas are donating to a charity or environmental organization in the person's name, giving recreation passes, transit tickets or buying locally produced goods that sustain the region's economy.



Reuse

Gift wrapping paper has low recycling value because of its low fibre and high ink content. Save time and money by using reusable gift bags that can easily be stored for next season or wrap a gift in a gift and save ribbon and bows for reuse.



Recycle

Use your curbside program to recycle holiday flyers, junk mail, plastic and metal containers. Christmas cards and gift wrap can be recycled too but not bows or cards and wrap containing foil, metal or plastic.



What? TO RECYCLE



Where? TO RECYCLE IT



Batteries, including cell phone, rechargeables, and alkaline	To check for a location near you, visit www.call2recycle.ca
Computers, computer equipment, cord/cordless phones, cameras, home audio visual equipment, electronic musical instruments, TVs, and video gaming systems	Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot, Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE), Regional Recycling Nanaimo (two locations), Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO) Visit www.return-it.ca for more info
Small appliances: countertop, exercise machines, personal care, garment care, power tools, sewing machines, and time and weight measurement instruments	Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot, NRE, Regional Recycling Nanaimo, GIRO Visit www.electrorecycle.ca for more info
Electronic toys, including battery operated and plug-in	Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot, Regional Recycling Nanaimo, GIRO
Cell Phones	For locations near you check online at www.recyclemycell.ca or at www.call2recycle.ca
Lights, lighting fixtures and products	Parksville Bottle Depot, NRE, Regional Recycling Nanaimo, GIRO, and many retail locations. Visit www.lightrecycle.ca for more info
Refundable glass and metal beverage containers, Tetra Pak juice boxes	Parksville Bottle & Recycling Depot, Qualicum Bottle & Recycling Depot, NRE, Regional Recycling Nanaimo, GIRO
Polystyrene foam (Styrofoam)	Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
Used household goods – Clothing, books, reusable household items	Society of Organized Services (SOS), Canadian Diabetes Association, Salvation Army, Friends of Haven House, GIRO
Christmas Trees	Watch your local newspaper for details on Christmas tree drop-off or collection information
The Stewardship Agencies of British Columbia and the Recycling Council of BC websites both contain a wealth of information, including locations that accept a wide range of recyclable items.	Stewardship Materials www.bcstewards.com Recycling Council of BC www.rcbc.ca 1-800-667-4321

