

# zero|waste

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



## DID YOU RECEIVE A NOTE FROM US?

This summer RDN staff worked alongside our curbside collection drivers to let residents know how well they are doing when it comes to their curbside recycling. Thanks to your efforts we are one of the best performing regions in B.C., but we still have some work to do.

During a 12-week period this summer, staff checked blue boxes and yellow bags set out for collection at more than 4,200 homes throughout the region. If we were in your neighbourhood you probably got a tag from us telling you how well you were doing. Staff reported that 50 per cent of the recycling set out for collection met the recycling requirements. Thank you for doing a GREAT JOB! The other half of the materials checked had non-compliant items. These were pulled out and set aside with a different sticker identifying why the recycling would not be collected, with information provided to encourage compliance.

Some items we can't accept in curbside recycling include plastic bags and plastic wrap, Styrofoam packaging, and glass containers. Still want to recycle those items, or have questions about recycling other items? Flip over to page 4 for more information.



## Did you know the following items are accepted at the curbside?

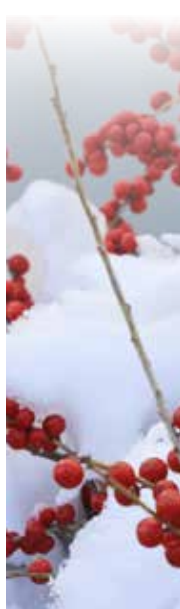
- Tetra Pak (Aseptic) boxes and cartons e.g. soups, sauces
- Paper-based microwave bowls and cups
- Aerosol cans (empty) and caps e.g. air fresheners, shaving cream, deodorant, hairspray, whip cream
- Spiral wound paper cans and lids
- Plastic clamshells
- Plastic cold drink cups and lids
- Plastic garden 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)

## YOUR NEW GARBAGE, RECYCLING AND FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SCHEDULE

In December, new two-year schedules will be mailed to households receiving RDN curbside collection service. The new collection schedules will be in effect from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

If you haven't received your new schedule by December 31, you can access it online:

- Visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the Curbside Collection tab. Select your municipal location and enter your address at the prompt.
- If you do not have computer access, you can call Progressive Waste Solutions (1-866-999-8227) to request a new schedule. Qualicum Beach residents should contact the Town office at 250-752-6921.
- Need a collection day reminder? See Page 3 of this newsletter for information on setting up reminders.



IN THIS ISSUE: Battery Recycling • Winter Service Disruptions • Plastic Bag Recycling Options

# Beans to bones in the bin!



## TALKING TURKEY ABOUT THE GREEN BIN AND TRIMMING HOLIDAY WASTE

The holidays are an uplifting time. It's also a time that brings a heavy environmental footprint.



The annual waste created in Canada from gift wrapping and shopping bags amounts to more than 545,000 tonnes according to the Recycling Council of BC. By using the green bin and curbside recycling program, residents can divert much of their holiday waste, keeping it out of the region's landfill.

### Here are some tips on caring for your green bin:

- 1. Remember: no plastic, metal, tin foil, glass or biodegradable bags. Compostable bags are accepted.
- 2. To keep your food waste from sticking to the green bin during cold weather, line the bottom with newspaper. Spraying the sides with a vegetable oil spray can help too.
- 3. Please don't put your small kitchen catcher at the curbside. If you have more food waste than can fit in your green bin, store it in a cool secure place or in your freezer until your next collection day.

### What to feed your green bin over the holidays:

- 1. Turkey trimmings, gizzards, giblets, stuffing, bones and other food leftovers.
- 2. Food-soiled paper products, including napkins, paper towels, paper plates, cups, and paper tablecloths.
- 3. Wax-coated paper containers, such as gable-top eggnog, dairy and ice cream cartons. *(Please remove plastic spouts and lids.)*
- 4. Cut flowers and houseplants such as poinsettias, nuts, shells and even spices.



## DID YOU KNOW? BATTERIES ARE RECYCLABLE!

When batteries are sent to the landfill they can leak into the soil and can cause harm to local water systems. **Recycle them instead.**

Call2Recycle is the steward for collecting and recycling batteries in Canada. In 2014, residents in the RDN returned almost **14,000 kilograms of household batteries** for recycling. Let's keep up the good work. Bring in your old batteries for recycling today!

Not sure where you can recycle your batteries? There are a total of **32 public collection sites** in the RDN.

Visit [www.call2recycle.ca](http://www.call2recycle.ca)  
to find the closest collection  
site near you.



### REGULATION SIZE CONTAINER Maximum Weight 50 lbs



**YOUR COLLECTION PERSON** will make 700 to 800 curbside stops each work day, manually lifting garbage cans, green bins, and recycling containers to empty the contents into the truck. It's a job that requires physical stamina and a strong back capable of lifting four tonnes every day!

Please help us to prevent worker injuries and service disruptions.

- A regulation garbage can is 100 litres. If you use a larger (121 litre) can, please do not fill it to the top.
- Your container must weigh less than 23 kg (50 pounds).
- Place your containers in full view and as close to the curb as possible without obstructing traffic.
- Take your containers to the curb before 8 AM on your collection day.
- To report a missed collection or for scheduling information contact Progressive Waste Solutions at 1-866-999-8227.

**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING OUR  
COLLECTORS HEALTHY AND SAFE!**



## ADVERSE WEATHER DISRUPTIONS TO COLLECTION SERVICE

Although infrequent, severe winter weather can result in disruptions to curbside collection by causing unsafe driving conditions and roads blocked by downed trees or power lines.

Safety is the priority for the collection contractor. Slippery roads, especially in hilly neighbourhoods, can be unsafe for large collection vehicles putting collection staff and other road users at risk.

During severe winter weather, every effort will be made to collect the curbside materials as per the regular schedule. If a regular collection day is missed, the following procedure will apply:

- 1. The main fleet of collection vehicles will continue to provide collection service as per the regular schedule.
- 2. For the area(s) where collection was disrupted the contractor will mobilize additional collection vehicles.
- 3. If your street is not collected please remove your containers overnight, especially the green bin, and continue to put missed materials at the curb by 8 AM until they are collected. This may take several days.
- 4. Clean-up of missed collection area(s) will commence as soon as the roads are in a safe condition for the collection vehicles.
- 5. Use of the additional collection vehicles will continue until all the missed areas have been cleaned up.
- 6. 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](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) or please call Progressive Waste Solutions at 250-248-8109 or toll-free at 1-866-999-8227.



### Road Maintenance Responsibilities

Please note that the Regional District is not responsible for road maintenance (such as snow clearing). In the electoral areas the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has contracted Emcon Services to do this work. In the municipalities, road and streets are maintained by municipal crews.



# ADD-A-DAY

## CHECK YOUR COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR CHANGES IN PICK-UPS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Garbage, recycling and green bin collection schedules follow an add-a-day system. After each statutory holiday your collection day will advance by one day.

Please check your schedule for changes to your collection days over the Christmas and New Year holidays or call the collection contractor, Progressive Waste Solutions, if you have questions.



## CURBSIDE COLLECTION REMINDERS

Simplify your life with the RDN curbside collection reminder feature and mobile app!

Check out the app on our Facebook page or visit [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) and click on the Curbside Collection tab.

Need help setting up a reminder? Call us at 250-390-6560 (or toll free from District 69 at 250-954-3792) and we'll be happy to help.

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



## RECYCLING OPTIONS FOR NON-CURBSIDE ITEMS

Items **not accepted in your curbside recycling** include: plastic bags, plastic foam packaging (Styrofoam), and non-deposit glass jars. You can ensure these things get recycled properly by taking them to a drop-off depot where they are stored and processed separately from other recyclables.

### What's wrong with Plastic Bags?

When the new Province-wide recycling organization started operation in May 2014 they asked collectors to exclude plastic bags and overwrap (known as "plastic film" in the recycling business) from curbside collection to avoid mixing with other recyclables. This is because when plastic film is collected with other materials at the curb, pieces of the other recyclables—printed papers, paper packaging and aluminum, steel, and rigid plastic containers—mix with the plastic film. Once these materials are mixed together it is difficult to completely separate the other recyclables from the plastic film to meet the standards of North American recycling markets.



*To ensure that plastic film can be recycled for use in new products or packaging, it is important that plastic bags and overwrap not be mixed with other plastic types. By dropping plastic bags and overwrap off at depots, you can ensure that they will be recycled properly.*

## RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTED ONLY AT DROP-OFF DEPOTS

The region has several Drop-Off Depots that accept plastic bags and overwrap, foam (Styrofoam) containers, trays and cushion packaging, and non-deposit glass jars and bottles. These Drop-Off Depots may also accept curbside packaging and printed paper materials, as well as a range of other recycling items. Check with them to confirm accepted items.

### Parksville Bottle and Recycling Depot Ltd.

611-A Alberni Highway, Parksville Ph. (250) 248-0224

### Qualicum Bottle & Recycling Depot

4-141 Fourth Ave E, Qualicum Beach Ph. (250) 752-8884

### Nanaimo Recycling Exchange

2477 Kenworth Road, Nanaimo Ph. (250) 758-7777

### Alpine Disposal & Recycling

2250 McGarrigle Road, Nanaimo Ph. (250) 751-1089

### Regional Recycling

839 Old Victoria Rd, Nanaimo Ph. 1 (855) 701-7171  
2375 Hayes Rd, Nanaimo

### Gabriola Island Recycling Organization (GIRO)

700 Tin Can Alley, Gabriola Island Ph. (250) 247-9257

Visit [www.recycling2016.ca](http://www.recycling2016.ca) for more recycling information

## 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:

### 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.

### Styrofoam

Taking advantage of some great holiday deals and upgrading to 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 or return it to your nearest MMBC drop off depot.

### Gift Wrap

Most gift wrap can't be recycled 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.

### 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 or at a drop-off depot before you trash it. 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.



#### 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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