## Recycling & Environmental Action & Planning Society

# REPORT REAPS

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NOVEMBER 2020

## **COMING EVENTS**

### NOVEMBER

- **REAPS DIY Produce Bag** 4
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 21 **REAPS** Recycle Toy Drive CANCELLED
- 21 World Fisheries Day
- 27 Buy Nothing Day

### DECEMBER

### **REAPS DIY Holiday Gift Bag** 2

- 5 World Soil Day
- 25 Merry Green Christmas

JANUARY

Happy New Year Т

FEBRUARY 14 Happy Valentine's Day

MARCH 25 Earth Hour

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# **Everything You Need for a Green Christmas**

We know Christmas is bad news for the environment: our annual indiaestion-inducing consumption devours thousands of tons of wrapping paper, millions of trees and turkeys, and hundreds of millions of cards. But there are ways to reduce your festive impact without becoming Scrooge, scrimping on food or switching off lights.

Here is our list of ideas for a greener Christmas, that will help you minimize your energy, consumption and waste.

## GIFTS

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So this Christmas try to buy less - or at least buy greener - here are a few guides:

- shop local
- make it yourself

- conservation subscriptions
- donation to a charity in receiver's name
- Give consumable presents

## FOOD

Christmas is responsible for more than its fair share of the of food wasted each year. Here are some tips on reducing waste and sourcing sustainable food over the festive period:

- watch your waste during the season of overindulgence
- buy local foods
- freeze leftovers
- buy local drinks
- make your own foods / bake goods



## WASTE

Buy less and recycle more this Christmas.

- buy less and recycle more
- recycle your Christmas tree
- use silverware and china not disposables
- compost all your food peelings
- recycle your clothing don't throw away the old
- recycle your batteries
- reuse your decorations / make new ones
- defrost your freezer before Christmas (will work more efficiently)
- take your reusable bags with you when shopping
- turn down the thermostat by 1C
- turn Christmas lights off when you go to bed



- gift card, gift certificates
- gift of time

- eco wrapping
- - Give books

# **REAPS NEWS**

## Web Pick of the Month

## https://earth911.com/

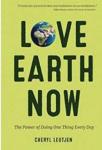
At Earth911, We've Created A Community That Helps People Find Their Own Shade Of Green, Match Their Values To Their Purchase Behaviors, Adopt Environmentally Sound Practices And Drive Impactful Environmental Changes. We Are Dedicated To Increasing Recycling Rates And Helping You Choose Sustainable Options To Live A Happier, Healthier Lifestyle; One That Protects This Wonderful Planet We Call Earth.



# **Book of the Month**

Love Earth Now by: Cheryl Leutjen ISBN-13 : 978-1633536258

Have you ever awoken in the morning and wondered what you can do for the planet today? Love Earth Now: The Power of Doing One Thing Every Day is like a self-help book for being conscious of your environmental impact and taking positive steps toward being "eco-mindful." This book provides you with examples, big



and small, of what you can do each day to contribute less to environmental problems and love the Earth.

# **School Programs**

REAPS is following WorksafeBC COVID-19 protocol for small businesses, SD 57 COVID-19 guidelines and Department of Fisheries & Oceans Stream to Sea COVID-19 Guidelines.

We continue to offer FREE in class presentations, as well as ZOOM presentations and narrated PowerPoint presentations to watch at your own pace.



We have placed all our red wigglers into 9 classrooms this year. Last year we had 20 participating classrooms. The remaining worms were sold as a fundraiser.

Our Stream to Sea program - this year we are happy to report that 23 schools are raising endangered Chinook Salmon (thanks to volunteers with SCWA). Last year we had 26 schools participating.

The pandemic provides challenges. Continued education and semi-normalcy keeps us focused and grounded. I so enjoy seeing the smiling faces (in person or via ZOOM) and curiosity through questions and stories from the youth.

# **Rebranding....**

You may have caught on that we are going through a rebranding... new logo, new website and more...

The board felt it was time for a face lift, to stay current, reach out and expand the audience, reflect on new goals, services and values, boost our profile and more.

We are very pleased to have received a grant from NDIT

(Northern Development Initiative Trust) to cover half of the costs.

We are very excited to be working with SPLASH through this whole process! More to come in the new year.



# **Recycled Toy Drive**

Unfortunately this year our ever popular Recycle Toy Drive is <u>cancelled</u> due to the pandemic event guidelines: attendees, storage, sanitation etc.

We hope that friends of the toy drive will find other homes for the beloved children items or reach out to agencies directly to see if donations are welcomed at this time.



## **REAPS AGM**

Thank you to all who zoomed in for our AGM held on September 29th. Big thank you to our guest speaker Lyndsey Chauhan, Director, Marketing Communication, RecycleBC.

We are grateful that our existing board stayed on and Sabrina joined on to the board of directors.

We look forward to continuing to service in the RDFFG and thank all the sponsors, partners, supporters, donors and volunteers that keep us afloat.

# LOCAL NEWS

## **Curbside Glass Recycling Starts in** December

For those who are keen on recycling, there will be a new addition to the blue box program, coming to the city in December.

That's when residents can begin to recycle their household glass waste.

The blue box campaign was launched in BC in 2014, to recycle paper products and certain plastic products but glass was not part of it due to concerns about contamination.

"When you put glass into a curbside bin and threw it into a truck, it's likely to break and it will end up with all of those pieces contaminating other materials in the load," explains Dave Lefebvre with Recycle BC, which oversees the blue box program.

Also, Recycle BC aims to have an end user of what they collect. According to the most recent Annual Report, 98% of plastics collected through the program is sold to end markets in BC.



# PG & Area Local Food Guide

Prince George Food Hub (found on Facebook) goal is to provide a platform to match local food producers with local consumers. A volunteer with the Food Hub started compiling a guide of local vendors which was expanded by summer staff at REAPS this past summer.

It is hoped that this a useful quide for local consumers and producers. If you wish to have a copy email garden@reaps.org.

If you wish to be added to the growing list please email garden@reaps.org.



# **RDFFG Tackling Plastic Agriculture Waste**

The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George will be taking part in a study aimed at getting a handle on plastic waste produced by farms in the region.

Agricultural plastic waste – including bale wrap, silage film and twine – is classed as industrial waste, and is not included in provincial recycling regulations. The regional district board voted on Thursday to partner with Cleanfarms to conduct a study on the amount of plastic farm waste being produced in the region, with the potential to develop a three-year recycling pilot project.

"This is an issue, agricultural plastic waste has come up many times," director Lara Beckett said. "We haven't gotten very far, for the number of years we've been working on it."

The study results could also be used to help advocate for an extended producer responsibility (EPR) program that would see the manufacturers made responsible for the costs of recycling the material, Beckett said. The district contributed \$5,000 to conduct the study, with Cleanfarms matching that through a federal grant.

The study will provide information used to create a budget for a three-year

recycling pilot project, district waste diversion program leader Rachael Ryder wrote in a report to the district board. If the pilot project goes ahead, Cleanfarms would provide half of the funding through federal grants.

source: Arthur Williams / PG Citizen

The Foothills Regional Landfill is the designated facility for handling industrial waste in the district, Ryder said.

"We've heard anecdotally how some people are handling this material," Ryder said, including burning it or burying it on site.

There are no options to recycle plastic farm waste in the Robson Valley, director Danielle Alan said.

"This is a huge issue in our area. The transfer stations are not large enough to take all this material. No construction waste company will take it," Alan said. "There was a whole pile of it dumped in the Dore River this year." Cleanfarms is a not-for-profit environmental stewardship organization.

This article was taken from: https://www.princegeorgecitizen.com/news/ local-news/district-tackling-plastic-agriculture-waste-1.24224033

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# **AROUND BC**

## **B.C. Gives Pacific BioEnergy Green Light to Log Rare Inland Rainforest for Wood Pellets** SOURCE: Matt Simmons/ The Narwhal

Sean O'Rourke was hiking in B.C.'s globally rare inland rainforest this spring when pink flagging tape indicating a planned cutblock caught his eye. Finding flagging tape is nothing new, but when he looked closer, he realized the tape had the name of a nearby pellet company on it - Pacific BioEnergy.

The company operates a plant in Prince George where it turns waste wood products - sawdust from mills, tree bark, wood shavings and clippings into pellets to be burned to produce heat or electricity, replacing coal and fossil fuels. More than 90 per cent of Canadian wood pellets are shipped overseas to Europe and Asia, according to the Wood Pellet Association of Canada.

But the ancient cedars and hemlocks in the rainforest in Lheidli T'enneh First Nation territory, about 60 kilometres east of Prince George, are most certainly not waste wood.

O'Rourke, a field scout with Conservation North, a grassroots organization advocating for the protection of old-growth forests in northern B.C., took photos of the flagging tape to show his colleagues. He later combed through the publicly available harvest data to confirm the province had indeed issued permits to Pacific BioEnergy to log the old-growth forest.

Flagging tape marked "PBEC" — Pacific BioEnergy Corporation — tipped off Conservation North field scout Sean O'Rourke that the area was going to be logged for pellets. Photo: Conservation North

While wood pellets are often touted as a renewable energy source, Conservation North director and ecologist Michelle Connolly challenges that claim.

"If the raw material for harvested wood products or pellets is coming from primary and old-growth



forest, it is not clean or green or renewable in any way, shape or form," she said in an interview.

"Destroying wildlife habitat to grind forest into pellets to ship them overseas to burn, to feed into an electricity plant so that people can watch Netflix or play video games really late at night - we can't allow that to happen," she added.

The planned cutblock is set to be logged this winter for pellets, but Conservation North is asking the B.C. government to provide legal protection to all primary forests — those that have never been logged — in the northern region.

For more information, go to: https://thenarwhal.ca/bc-pacific-bioenergy-oldgrowth-logging-wood-pellets/

## An Unexpected Outcome of the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement: Tasty Sustainable Scallops SOURCE: Matt Simmons/ The Narwhal

Prince Rupert has a long and storied history in the seafood industry, once home to large-scale commercial fishing operations, canneries and processing plants. But much of that history is just that — history. Now, Coastal Shellfish, an Indigenous aquaculture company, is slowly changing the tides as it builds its business and sells its first product: Great Bear Scallops.

Coastal First Nations - an alliance of nine nations on B.C.'s central and north coast - started exploring the viability of shellfish aquaculture in the region in 2003, testing various species including oysters and geoducks. In 2013, the nations formed Coastal Shellfish, with Metlakatla First Nation as the majority owner, and started producing scallops. Three-quarters of employees are Indigenous.

The decision to focus on scallops was based on sustainability, Uehara said. Scallops are filter feeders, so farming them in the ocean means they clean the water while they grow.

"Our idea essentially establishes what amounts

to a restorative ocean patch that would create ecological benefits, but more importantly, not create ecological harm, and delivers, at least calorically, a tremendous amount of sustenance."

Coastal Shellfish operates a hatchery and ocean farm sites, and last year opened a processing plant. Uehara said it's the first seafood plant on the north coast to open its doors in about 15 years.

The concept of establishing sustainable Indigenous-led businesses on the West Coast was a prominent part of the Great Bear Rainforest Act, an agreement between the B.C. government, the Coastal First Nations and other First Nations whose territories are within the area. The agreement became official in 2016 and had been in the works since the late 1990s.

The agreement includes land and marine use management plans, which were announced in 2006. As part of these plans, the provincial and federal governments each contributed \$30 million to support conservation and sustainable



Last year. Coastal Shellfish took over the former Canfisco Seal Cove processing plant in Prince Rupert. Photo: Prince Rupert Port Authority

economic development projects, matching \$60 million contributed by philanthropists and conservation groups.

The donors, governments and First Nations agreed to set up a trust called Coast Funds to administer the money to Indigenous projects that meet the goals of the agreement. Coastal Shellfish was the first project Coast Funds supported.

## **READ FULL ARTICLE**

# **AROUND CANADA**

## **COVID-19 Driving Canadians to Waste Less Food: Survey**

SOURCE: Don Bradley/ Zero Waste Council

A new nation-wide survey shows that Canadians are wasting less food while COVID-19 public health measures have been in place. Love Food Hate Waste Canada, delivered by the National Zero Waste Council in conjunction with its campaign partners, worked with the Mustel Group to understand how food purchasing, storage, consumption and waste behaviours have changed since the introduction of quarantine and physical distancing measures.

The online survey of 1,200 randomly-selected adult Canadians was conducted between June 16 and 24, 2020 and found that while people are buying more food overall, 24% of households are throwing away or composting less uneaten food and 94% of Canadians are motivated to reduce their household's avoidable food waste.

Since the introduction of public health measures in response to the COVID -19 pandemic, 63% of Canadians are shopping less often, but are buying more food per trip than before. More households are adopting food-saving habits, especially checking what food is already in the house, freezing foods to extend shelf life, and getting creative with leftovers.

"This new research confirms that Canadians are thinking about making the most of the food they buy. We know that 84% of Canadians believe that everyone has a responsibility to prevent avoidable food waste in their households," said Malcolm Brodie, Chair of the National Zero Waste Council. "We are excited to build on this momentum and support Canadians with the tools, insights, and resources they need to make preventing food waste in the new normal."



## READ FULL ARTICLE

# Ottawa Pushing Ahead With Plan to Ban Single-use Plastics By End of 2021 SOURCE: Amanda Connolly/Global News

The federal government is moving to fulfill a key promise to ban single-use plastics by the end of 2021.

But the move comes as Canadians increasingly turn to plastic packaging out of concerns about the coronavirus pandemic and is raising questions about what the plan means for a struggling Alberta, which recently outlined a plan to become a major plastics recycler.

"We are living in extraordinary times," said Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson as he announced the plan to ban single-use plastic grocery bags, stir sticks, six-pack rings, utensils, straws and some food ware made of hard-torecycle plastics.

Wilkinson announced details of the plan in a press conference on Wednesday, saying the ban will layout regulations by the end of next year as the government had pledged to do last year before the start of the federal election campaign.

He noted that the coronavirus pandemic and increased use of plastics throughout it was among the considerations made by the government in preparing the list of six items to be banned, and that many of the items targeted by the ban have readily available, affordable alternatives.

"Canadians expect their governments to be able to address the COVID issue and other challenges at the same time," he said.

"The problem is getting worse. Action is needed to keep plastic out of our environment."

Wilkinson said Canadians are only recycle roughly nine per cent of the plastics used in the country each year and that while plastics can be useful, those being used must be recyclable. "Plastics are very useful. We all use them," he added. "We need to make sure we're not dumping them."

The move is one part of what Wilkinson described as a "comprehensive plan" aimed at getting plastic producers to take more responsibility for collecting and recycling their products.

It will also lay out new standards for things like the amount of recycled products that will need to be used in plastics going forward, though the details of that will be created through discussions with industry and stakeholders that are ongoing.

Wilkinson would not say when those rules could come into effect, noting many of the conversations require cooperation with the provinces. "I would certainly like to get this done within the next 12 to 34 months," he said.

READ FULL ARTICLE

# **AROUND THE WORLD**

## **Ocean Plastic Pollution is a Huge But Solvable Problem**

SOURCE: Winnie Lau/ The Hill

With roughly 11 million metric tons of plastic flowing into our ocean each year — a figure that could nearly triple by 2040 without urgent action — many people might view marine plastic pollution as an insurmountable problem.

In fact, that flow could be reduced by 80 percent over the next 20 years, largely through technologies, business processes and policy models that already exist.

Those are among the top-line findings of a report my colleagues at The Pew Charitable Trusts and I - along with SYSTEMIQ, a London-based sustainability consultancy, and four thought partners - published recently. In that report, titled "Breaking the Plastic Wave," and in a corresponding paper in Science, we identified the sources of the problem and a credible pathway to solving it. First, the sobering news: Our research found that continuing what we dubbed the "business-asusual" scenario would, in 2040, send enough plastic into the ocean to cover every yard of coastline in the world with 110 pounds of plastic. Further, we found that the commitments that governments and industry had made up to mid-2019 would produce only a 7 percent reduction in the annual flow by 2040.

However, all is not lost. We also analyzed a full "system change" pathway in which governments and industry around the world, working together and taking ambitious action, could achieve that 80 percent reduction.

A full system change would deliver a host of benefits, starting with a cleaner, healthier marine environment. Although the magnitude of the effects of plastic on ocean life are not fully known, more than 800 marine species are already known to be affected by marine plastic pollution, and numerous studies have found plastic particles in seafood. In addition, mismanaged plastic waste poses considerable health risks to local communities.

Reaching full system change would require eight simultaneous interventions: reducing plastic production and consumption; substituting some plastics with alternatives such as paper and compostable materials; designing products and packaging for recycling; expanding waste collection rates in middle- and low-income countries; increasing recycling; developing new recycling technologies; tackling the sources of microplastics; and reducing plastic waste exports.



Photo by Brian Yurasits on Unsplash

Notably, we found that reducing plastic production and consumption was the largest lever, and would lessen plastic waste generation by 30 percent. Improved recycling — mainly through product and packaging redesign and doubling mechanical recycling capacity worldwide — could yield a 20 percent drop. Substituting plastic with alternatives such as paper and compostable materials could cut marine plastic pollution by another 17 percent.

READ FULL ARTICLE

# Tim Hortons, Burger King to Offer Reusable, Returnable Containers

Tim Hortons and Burger King have signed a deal with TerraCycle's Loop program to test an option that would allow customers to pay a deposit and receive their order in reusable, returnable cups and food packaging.

Once the customer is done they could return the cups and other containers to a participating restaurant and have their deposit refunded.

Tim Hortons says the cups and food containers would then be cleaned, sanitized and used again.

The test program is expected to start next year at select Toronto restaurants.

Tim Hortons says it expects that over time, the Loop program will have a growing num-



ber of drop-off locations — both at Tim Hortons restaurants and elsewhere.

The company announced plans to give away nearly two million reusable cups in February but had to pause the plan due to the pandemic. Burger King also said it will begin testing reusable containers next year to reduce waste from sandwich and soda packaging, the burger brand said on Thursday.

The pilot program will launch in the second half of 2021 in some Burger King restau-

rants in New York City; Portland, Ore.; and Tokyo initially.

Tim Hortons and Burger King have the same parent company, Restaurant Brands International.

# **Pandemics May Increase if Environmental Issues Not Dealt** With

An international group of scientists has concluded pandemic problems are just starting unless the world moves to deal with the issues creating animals. them.

"The factors driving pandemics are human activities - unsustainable growth in livestock production, deforestation, the wildlife trade and global connectivity," says Peter Daszak, a British expert on disease ecology and head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The panel, which has 137 member nations, commissioned a report into the environmental roots of pandemics and new diseases including AIDS, H1N1, SARS, Ebola and COVID-19. The authors of the peer-reviewed report drew on the findings of more than 700 journal articles -- about a third published in the last year.

"Pandemics are becoming more frequent, driven by a continued rise in the underlying emerging disease events that spark them," the report says. "Pandemic risk could be significantly lowered by promoting responsible consumption and reducing unsustainable consumption."

The report estimates mammals and birds host about 1.7 million undiscovered viruses. Somewhere between 540,000 and 850,000 could infect It's no longer good enough to wait for pandemics humans.

More than five new viral diseases emerge every year, about three-guarters of which originate in

Growing human populations that push into previously unpopulated lands, as well as the deforestation required to grow crops, are a big part of the problem. The panel found about a third of the new diseases result from land-use changes. agricultural expansion and urbanization.

The trade in wildlife, which has increased more than fivefold in value over the last 14 years, also increases close contact between humans and unfamiliar animals, the report says. So does climate change, which drives migration of both) people and animals.

"We are part of the animal kingdom," said report co-author Carlos Zambrana-Torrelio, a Bolivian biologist.

"We can get viruses from animals. What happens is all these human activities are putting together humans more in close contact with animals that have these viruses. In the past, we would never aet so close."

to emerge and rely on a medical response, the report concludes. It points to research that is

source: Bob Weber / The Canadian Press

starting to be able to predict where future pandemics will arise, which animals will host the virus and the environmental and economic changes that drive them.

"Pilot projects, often at large scale, have demonstrated that this knowledge can be used to effectively target viral discovery, surveillance and outbreak investigation," it says.

The report calls for reform in how land-use changes are funded to account for biological risks. Habitat conservation should be stepped up. People in viral hotspots need education about potential risks. Animals most likely to host dangerous viruses should be blocked from the wildlife trade, which also needs higher safety and cleanliness standards.

Government policies should discourage consumption of products that drive deforestation and habitat loss.

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"We have a choice now," Daszak said. "We can either continue business as usual and have more and more pandemics that emerge guicker, spread more rapidly, kill more people and crash our economies -- or we can shift toward preventing pandemics."

# **Tetra Pak: Packaging** of the Future

Tetra Pak: 'The ideal package of the future is made solely from renewable or recycled materials, is 100% recyclable, and supports a low-carbon circular economy'

02-Sep-2020 By Rachel Arthur

Tetra Pak has set out its aspirations for creating the ideal package of the future - but how close is it to achieving this goal?

**READ MORE** 



## **Newfoundland Labrador Ban on Plastic Bags Effective October 1,**

In April 2019, the Provincial Government amended the Environmental Protection Act and began drafting regulations to ban the distribution of retail plastic bags. Details about the regulations, including exemptions, can be found in the "Learn More" section below.

The cost of alternative bags, such as reusable bags and paper bags, customers may wish to purchase will be at the discretion of the individual business. Consumers using their own reusable bags are encouraged to wash them frequently.

Over the last year, residents, businesses, governments and organizations have been actively decreasing the amount of plastic waste created by single use plastic bags and working to put alternatives in place. Newfoundland and Labrador will be the second province to implement such a ban. This builds on the Province's ongo-

ing work with the Council on the Zero Plastic Waste Strategy as part of the Ocean Plastics Charter.

Prince Edward Island was the first province to ban plastic bags followed by Nova Scotia.



### RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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## **Dumpy's Tip of the Month**

### Reduce Holiday Waste

- 1. Use your own shopping bags.
- 2. Skip the wrapping paper. Use cloth item, brown paper decorated.
- 3. Reuse ribbons and bows.
- 4. Use cloth tablecloths and napkins.
- 5. Opt for reusable cutlery and china.
- 6. Use washable glasses not plastic cups.
- 7. Give experiences not stuff.

## **RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER**

Repurpose cans to make a wreathe to decorate your door!





## Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (AKA REAPS)

The REAPS Report is published six times a year, on the first of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Articles, originals or reprinted with permission, are submitted by members and represent the opinions of the authors only, not necessarily those of the Society, Board, or members as a whole.

Deadline for submission is two weeks prior to publication date. Articles, suggestions for articles, or comments in general are *much* appreciated, and can be submitted to the REAPS office via email at <u>newsletter@reaps.org</u>

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters via email please email <u>REAPS</u> and state UNSUB-SCRIBE in the subject line.

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Name:
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Annual Membership Fee: Individual (\$8.00) Family (\$15.00) Business (\$25.00) Student (\$5.00) Senior (\$5.00) I'm interested in volunteering: Yes No
<ul> <li>Things that I would like to take part in are:</li> <li>School presentations</li> <li>Master Composter Program</li> <li>Spring Plant Sale</li> <li>General Garden Work</li> <li>Information Booths</li> <li>Fundraiser Events</li> <li>Public Workshops and Presentations</li> <li>Board of Directors</li> </ul>
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