

REAPS REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

www.reaps.org

Email newsletter@reaps.org

MARCH 2021

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 18 Global Recycling Day
- 22 World Water Day
- 27 Earth Hour

APRIL

- 22 Earth Day
- 25 City Wide Spring Clean Up

MAY

- 1 (? ?) REAPS Junk in the Trunk
- 1 Composting Week
- 1 Compost Garden Opens
- 2 Drinking Water Week

JUNE

- 8 World Oceans Day
- 13 Canadian Rivers Day

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2020 a Challenging Year

It's no secret that COVID-19 has profoundly impacted nonprofits and communities, but what is the outlook for organizations today as they've continued to navigate the effects of the pandemic?

Despite a challenging operating and fundraising environment REAPS had in 2020 our outlook is still positive.

Our **top challenge** during the COVID-19 pandemic was and is **fundraising**. REAPS also found innovating programs/events models and revising/recalibrating organizational business strategy as challenges.

Like many other Non Profits Organizations (NGOs) REAPS **top three concerns** for generating organization revenue are: 1) cancelled fundraising events 2) loss of funders or corporate partners and 3) challenges meeting funder requirements or grants/contracts with government agencies at risk. REAPS is very fortunate that our current funders are supportive, and we are meeting our obligations.

Despite our significant fundraising concerns this coming year we **anticipate and we are hopeful that our total revenue goal** for 2021 will be met through our grant writing, donations, memberships and small fundraising ventures.

REAPS can **keep their current staffing model in place** and are actively applying for funding for summer staff and part-time positions.

REAPS remained **open and operating**, with staff working in person and working virtually.

2020 has required REAPS to grow and stretch in many ways. As a result, the needs of our staff grew, too.

REAPS required our staff to shift and adapt operations and services, with the most prevalent being pivoting to **virtual service delivery**. Additionally, REAPS made a concerted effort to connect personally with donors, forge strategic collaborations and refocus on enhancing operations and organizational strategies.

To **personally be successful**, staff say they most need the following:

Prioritize self-care

"A chance to breathe and think. Being in response mode long-term is draining."

Financial stability

"More secure financial resources to meet payroll and continue business operations."

Additional skills/training

"Better understanding of how to take community engagement activities to a virtual environment."

Board and funder support

"A board that is willing to see all I'm doing and accomplishing."

"Grace and kindness from funders."

Discussing 2020 with other NGOs all our **staff need more human connection, clarity and self-care**. Additionally, flexibility and enhanced technology are necessary to ensure a successful virtual workplace.

As REAPS enters into their 32nd year we look forward to **community** engagement, providing rewarding volunteer opportunities, offering educational programs and resources and having a positive environmental impact in our regional district.

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

25 DIY Ideas to Recycle Your Potential Garbage

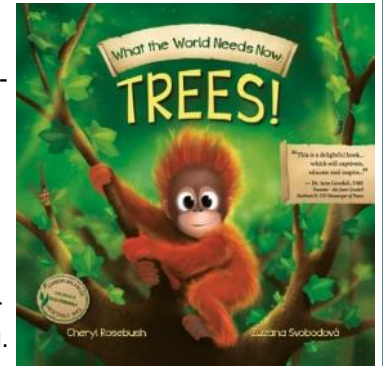
<https://beautyharmonylife.com/25-diy-ideas-to-recycle-your-potential-garbage/>

With the recycling process we can help first the nature, to avoid the pollution. Secondly, we will create usable objects that can help save us some money and do the job instead of buying new things. We can also create some beautiful ornaments and decorations.

Book of the Month

What the World Needs Now: Trees! By: Cheryl Rosebush

This book explores the universal connection people, plants, insects and animals share with life-giving trees. The book also 'walks its talk' as it is ECO friendly, produced using 100% recycled paper, biodegradable laminate, vegetable-based inks and carbon balanced printing.



REAPS Guides Online

Do you have an item you are not sure how to dispose of? Recycling, Reusing, Repairing or trash? We have 2 guides that may assist you with your dilemma. The **Waste Reduction Directory** highlights over 90 different items where they may be returned or disposed of safely. The **Repair Guide** highlights everyday items from phones to coat zippers where they may be repaired saving landfilling of a favorite item.

Located here www.reaps.org under GOING GREEN tab - found as a pdf at bottom of page. Want a copy? Email recycling@reaps.org



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Plastic Bags

Reduce: reusable bags are awesome. They can come in various sizes, shapes and colours, not only reducing your use of plastic bags but also making you look good while you use them.

... BUT sometimes life happens and you get caught unawares, without your reusable bag, and you accept plastic bags from stores. In that case....

Reuse: craft something with the plastic bags! ([website link](#)) or give them away to organizations that need them (e.g., thrift stores, such as the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store are always looking for plastic bags so that they can bag up customers' purchases if needed)

...BUT sometimes the plastic bags pile up and there is not the time or energy to reuse them. In that case....

Recycle: grocery stores (e.g., Save-On) have bins near the front of the store where you can drop them off next time you go grocery shopping, or beverage recycling centres have places where plastic bags can be dropped off as well, next time you bring your beverage containers in to recycle.



ZOOM Workshops

Check out our FREE Online via ZOOM workshops at www.reaps.org or on our [FACE-BOOK](#) page.

Are you interested in knowing more about something? Let us know and we'll see about creating a workshop on your topic.



LOCAL NEWS

Northern BC Virtual Seedy Saturday Event

Prince George Master Gardeners present Northern BC Virtual Seedy Saturday Event.

Saturday March 6, 2021 9:00am - 12:30pm Hosted by Seeds of Diversity

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

RDFFG New Draft Parks Plan

The Regional District of Fraser Fort-George DRAFT Regional Parks Plan is now available for review. The Draft Plan provides a clear direction and priorities for regional parks for the period 2020 to 2030. [FOR FULL REPORT](#)

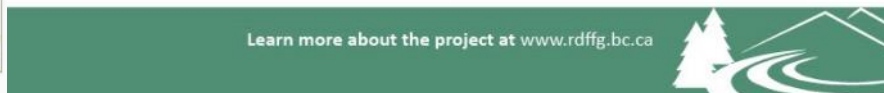


REGIONAL PARKS PLAN 2020-2030

What We Heard - Round 1



* from online survey Sept 2020



THE PRINCE GEORGE MASTER GARDENERS AND DAVID DOUGLAS BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY PRESENT THE FIRST

NORTHERN BC VIRTUAL SEEDY SATURDAY EVENT

SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2021
9:00AM - 12:30PM

SEED SAVING 101
POLLINATORS AND PLANT DIVERSITY
CLIMATE CHANGE AS IT AFFECTS NORTHERN BC
MASTER GARDENER ~ QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

<https://www.dbotgarden.bc.ca>
<https://www.facebook.com/pgmastergardeners>

Impacts of Climate Change

Over the past century, temperatures have increased about 1 C globally, 2 C in B.C. and 3 C in northern B.C., according to a B.C. government research climatologist. As northern landscapes lose snowpack and glacier cover, the exposed land absorbs more solar energy, amplifying the effects of the changes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns we need to stay below 1.5 C warming above pre-industrial levels to re-

duce impacts on ecosystems and human health.

SkeenaWild Conservation Trust executive director Greg Knox said climate change should be the top priority for any politician hoping to represent the region.



source: The Narwhal

"It's already here and impacting our fish and our water and our glaciers and our forests," he said in an interview. "We have fewer salmon coming back due to climate impacts on the ocean and there are more floods and droughts in river systems. We see disease outbreaks in our forests and forest fires are increasing." [FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND BC

UBC Chemistry Scientist Develops New Compostable Coffee Pod - XOMA

source: Global News

A UBC scientist has teamed up with a Surrey company to invent a new compostable coffee pod that they say solves one of the biggest problems of compostable pods.

"Right now over 40 billion single-serve coffee pods are disposed of every year and virtually all of these go straight to landfill," Hudson said. "Very few are even recycled."

new, Hudson says their product keeps coffee fresher for longer, avoiding one of the major complaints from coffee aficionados have about pods.

Zac Hudson, assistant professor in UBC's Dept. of Chemistry and Canada Research Chair in Sustainable Chemistry, and Surrey-based NEXE Innovations have created their own fully-compostable coffee pod.

While the idea of compostable pods isn't

"We found that competing alternatives in the compostable pod space allowed air to get in a little too quickly and so the coffee would go stale," Hudson said

Hudson said the pods are composed of a bamboo-fibre exterior and a bioplastic plant-based material interior.



The pods compost completely in as little as 35 days and are compatible with all Keurig K-Cup systems. Pods compatible with Nespresso systems will be available this year.

Tla'amin Nation Receives Government Funding for Composting Project

source: Powell River Peak

A new organics processing facility will produce class A compost, support agriculture and food security for Tla'amin Nation, service the qathet Regional District and Powell River, and provide new jobs and economic opportunities.

The new facility is expected to process up to 2,000 tonnes of organic waste each year and produce high-quality compost for local agriculture, the release stated. Construction of the facility will be completed by March 31, 2022.

lent of removing 100,000 cars from the roads for a year. Organic waste currently represents 40 per cent of material sent to municipal landfills in BC and generates 7.5 per cent of the province's greenhouse gas emissions, the release stated.

According to a media release from BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Tla'amin will build the \$1.15-million facility on land adjacent to the Catalyst paper mill site in Powell River. Two-thirds of the funding will come from the joint federal/provincial Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP), and one-third from Tla'amin.

"As the Tla'amin move forward developing our Tla'amin Nation lands, we want to bring forward projects that are in line with our community-driven land use plan," stated Tla'amin hegus John Hackett. "One of our many plans is to utilize our land to grow produce and raise livestock, and the class A compost produced by the organics processing facility will support agricultural and food security for the Tla'amin Nation. It will also service the qathet Regional District and the City of Powell River, while providing jobs and economic opportunities."

According to the release, the program is helping communities throughout BC expand infrastructure and divert organic waste away from landfills. It is also helping the province meet its CleanBC commitment to help communities to achieve 95 per cent organic waste diversion for agricultural, industrial and municipal waste.

"One of the most important things people can do to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to divert organic waste from going into landfills," stated George Heyman, minister of environment and climate change strategy. "These investments significantly reduce the release of methane greenhouse gases and create benefits for future food production and opportunities for agricultural communities – an important part of our economic recovery."

The Tla'amin project adds to the 13 OIP projects announced to date and is the first one led by an indigenous nation, according to the release. Overall, the OIP will result in a reduction of nearly 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2030, the equiva-

The Tla'amin project is estimated to result in a reduction, over 10 years, of 5,200 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent – a standard unit for measuring carbon footprints from different greenhouse gases).



AROUND CANADA

World's First All-Hemp Plane is 10 Times Stronger than Steel and Fueled by Hemp

source: Return to Now

A Canadian company is working on ultra-lightweight, all-hemp plane that runs on hemp fuel!

Canadian cannabis firm **Hempearth** has designed a plane made from and fueled by hemp oil.



The body and wings of the plane are made from composite hemp fibers that are 10 times stronger than steel, according to the company.

Even the interior walls, seats and pillows are made from hemp!

And best of all, it's even designed to run on 100% hemp oil, which it won't need much of since it's so lightweight!

The hemp composite material used to make the body of the plane could "replace all fiberglass in aviation and many other industries," Hempearth's CEO Derek Kesek says.

It would be lighter weight, stronger, more

durable and with more flexibility/plasticity.

Kesek claims his company turned down an invitation to collaborate with DuPont on the material, because he refuses "to work with fascist companies that are associated with military, The Rockefellers, The Rothchilds and or the Military Industrial Complex."

He says he hopes the plane will take its first flight at The Wright Brother's Memorial in Kitty Hawk North Carolina – the birthplace of aviation – when it's completed.

Hempearth also makes hemp plastics, hempboard, hemp oils, hemp surfboards and hemp phones.

Guelph's Repair Café Still Working to Reduce Waste During Pandemic

source: Tegan Versolatto / CTV News

A popular program known for giving new life to broken household items has changed up its operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guelph's Repair Café has a different look but it's still dedicated to reducing waste.

Ben Phillips is a repeat customer at the location in Guelph and used to come bi-monthly events.

"Every time you went to a repair café, there was a number of repairers, people volunteering there from the Guelph Tool Library," Phillips said.

The library initially put its popular repair pro-

gram on hold during the pandemic, but a series of local grants allowed a new delivery service model.

"I'll tell them to drop it off here in the tool library during our opening hours," said founder Saba Saneinejad. "We will deliver it to our volunteers and they will work on it."

Then they'll let the customer know whether or not the item can be fixed.

"We have this saying where, when you brought us something, it was broken, so if we break it some more, who cares? But maybe we're going to fix it for You," fixer and founder John Dennis said.

The idea is to encourage people to try repairing something before they replace it with something new.

The new funding will allow the Repair Café to fix at least 60 more items. They said they've already had an overwhelming response from the community and will try to accept as many items as they can.

"If we see there is demand, we might reallocate funds or look for other sources of donations to be able to offer this for longer," Saneinejad said.



Canada Plastic Pact Launched to Improve Recycling, Composting Rate

source: Canadian Plastics

A group of more than 40 Canadian companies from leading brands to waste management firms, government institutions, and NGOs have unveiled the Canada Plastics Pact, a plan to recycle or compost 50 per cent of Canada's plastic packaging by 2025.

The companies represent diverse parts of

the plastics value chain, and include Canadian Tire Corp., the Circular Plastics Task Force, Coca-Cola Canada, EFS Plastics Inc., Loblaw Companies Ltd., Merlin Plastics, Nestlé Canada, PAC Packaging Consortium, Unilever Canada, and Walmart Canada.

Because plastic packaging accounts for 47 per cent of all plastic waste, it is the immediate focus of the CPP's collective efforts, which will centre around four targets by 2025.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

Clever PLOYS to Save Planet From Plastic

SOURCE: Craig Ross/ Bundaberg Now

An idea that started with punctured pool floaties at home a little over a year ago has turned PLOYS into a thriving Bundaberg PVC plastic refurbishing business.

Ploys Creative Concepts in Disguise, also known as PLOYS, repurposes unwanted PVC plastic items into useful and fashionable products and last weekend celebrated its first birthday.

The concept first came to PLOYS owner Carin Sandker who, when confronted with punctured pool floaties at home, did not wish to throw them away as she was aware that it can take 1000 years for PVC waste to break down.

Since then, she and husband Gerhard have grown the business in the terms of product range and sales, as well as its measurable impact on

waste reduction, and Carin said it was exciting to look back on how far they had come in the past 12 months.

"It has been a busy yet challenging year for us," she said. "It started with Gerhard losing his job in software development due to COVID, which put a big strain on our family.

"Yet this is also what prompted us in setting up our own business. The idea of doing something with punctured pool toys had been there in the back of our minds.

"In 2020 we started small with making coin purses and pencil cases which has now grown to also making swim bags, backpacks and messenger bags."

Since January 2020, PLOYS (the name combines pool and toys) has diverted 88kg of plastic PVC waste, such as punctured pool toys, air mattresses and rubber boats, from landfill, and grown its Facebook following to more than 1600 people liking its products and sustainability focus.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Developing Effective Waste Management Strategies to Achieve Zero-waste Status

SOURCE: Tara Craig/ Passenger Terminal Today

The first airport to win Turkey's Zero Waste Certificate, Istanbul, considers sustainability fundamental to its future. All of the airport's activities are based on international sustainability standards, and zero waste is seen as a critical success factor.

Key to the airport's certification was the sorting of waste, according to Ülkü Özeren, advisor to the chief executive officer and leader of the project. Istanbul sorts waste into five categories: paper/cardboard, packaging, glass, organic and domestic. The airport's entire waste management infrastructure has been designed to facilitate recycling,

and all operating companies have signed a Zero Waste Declaration. Istanbul generates 100 tons of waste a day; according to Özeren, 30% of this is now recycled.

In addition to sorting, working toward certification prompted the airport to review the reasons for waste generation, in a bid to prevent or minimize it. Staff and partners have responded well to the zero-waste drive. "All parties operating at the airport share our understanding and enthusiasm," says Özeren. Projects such as Waste to Art have helped raise awareness of waste management.

The airport also collaborated with the Mind Your Waste Foundation on a public zero-waste awareness video and photographic project, Are You Aware?. The Kollekt app, launched recently in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, Coca-Cola Foundation and Nature Conservation Center, enables passengers to collect points and win prizes for disposing of waste in the correct bin.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Online Shopping Lands Recycling Responsibilities to Consumers

SOURCE: The Verge

The fate of cardboard boxes in the US rests in the hands of consumers more than it ever has been before. In the past, brick-and-mortar retailers handled much of the leftover packaging from shipments. Malls and grocery stores usually send big bales of used but relatively clean cardboard to recycling programs so that they can be made into new boxes. Now, the rise of e-commerce, which started before the pandemic, has shifted more responsibility onto shoppers to properly dispose of boxes so that they can be recycled. Boxes are piling up on residential curbsides instead of at retail stores.

The pandemic has only accelerated this shift,

which experts expect to continue even after COVID-19 is under control. One of the largest waste collection companies in the US, Republic Services, saw as much as a 25 percent increase in waste it picked up from households last year — after the volume it picked up from commercial customers dropped by up to 30 percent when pandemic-induced lockdowns began. The company says it's even had to change its equipment so that it can capture smaller boxes from e-commerce in addition to the larger packaging used to send goods to stores.

When cardboard winds up at a person's house instead of at a store, there's a bigger chance that

it could be tossed in the trash or otherwise become too dirty to recycle. "The concern is that when you have more [cardboard] transitioning to the home, it becomes more of an individual choice for consumers whether they recycle it," says Rachel Kenyon, senior vice president at the Fibre Box Association, a trade group representing packaging manufacturers. "We really want to encourage consumers to recycle because we do need that fiber back. It does help us to make another box again."

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Nestlé Reduces Plastic from Cereal Packaging

source: edie

Well-known cereal brands including Cheerios, Shreddies and Shredded Wheat are set to reduce the amount of plastic used in packaging by more than 600 tonnes annually, while Nestlé's Smarties brand is also switching to recyclable paper packaging worldwide.

The breakfast cereal brands are manufactured by Cereal Partners – a joint venture between Nestlé and General Mills – and are all set to reduce the amount of plastic used in packaging by up to 15% compared to current levels.

The company's Cereal Partners Worldwide vice president UK & Oceania Garry Eccles said: "We know sustainability is

an issue close to the hearts of today's consumers, and it's close to ours too.



Today, we're united in a mission to create a positive impact on the world around us, which is why we've revamped every-

thing from our production lines, to our logistics processes to help make reductions in plastic and cardboard packaging and reduce our carbon footprint.

The packaging builds on wider commitments from Nestlé to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. Last year, Nestlé also announced that its European business would follow in the footsteps of its UK operations by signing up to the European Plastics Pact to help achieve its goals of ensuring packaging is 100% reusable or recyclable by 2025.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Governments Urged to Accelerate Circular Economy Transition Through Green Recovery Plans

source: edie

As nations continue to deliver their strategies for the economic recovery from Covid-19, they must better embed measures to improve resource efficiency, recycling, reuse and nature restoration, according to a major new policy briefing.

The briefing has been produced by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and outlines a universal set of goals that policymakers can work towards – in collaboration with businesses – to shift economies away from unsustainable, linear models of consumption.

Goals are grouped into five key areas: stimulating design for the circular economy; resource management that preserves value; shifting the economics; investing in innovations, infrastructure and skills; and collaboration for systems change.

Action across all five pillars, the Foundation states, can build

resilience into national economies by minimizing their contribution to – and exposure to – climate change, biodiversity loss and resource scarcity.

Examples detailed in the first pillar include policies that require companies to make goods that are durable and repairable, like the EU's Circular Economy Package. The Package mandates electronics manufacturers to implement eco-design principles and ensure their customers have a "right to repair". This pillar also covers requirements on collecting and sharing information regarding the environmental footprint of products and sustainable sourcing requirements.

The second policy goal focuses on improved resource management, recognising the value of well-designed Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes and Deposit Return Schemes (DRS). EPR rules are due to get tighter in the UK in the coming years, alongside the rollout of a national DRS, through the Resources and Waste Strategy – but consultations on the specifics have stalled due to the pandemic. Such schemes will also have an impact on the third goal, around economics, helping to make circular economy models less costly and pricing in the externalities associated with take-make-dispose systems.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

CIRCULAR
ECONOMY



RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

Mailing address:
PO Box 444, Prince George, BC V2L 4S6

Compost Garden and Office Location:
1950 Gorse Street

Phone: 250-561-7327
Fax: 250-561-7324
E-mail: newsletter@reaps.org
Website: www.reaps.org
Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/REAPSPG

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 newsletter@reaps.org

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters via email please email REAPS and state UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Clothes, shoes, boots

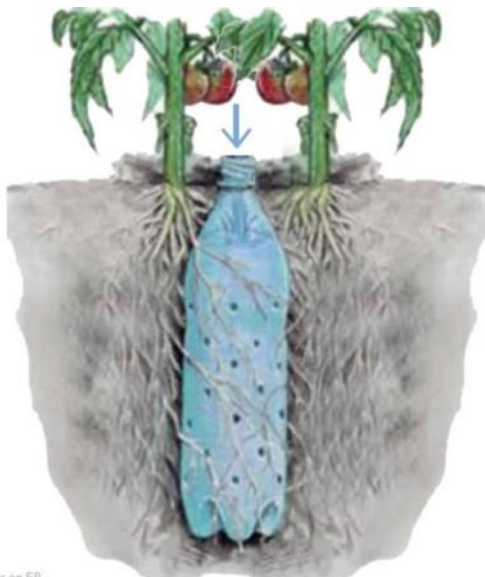
Before you put your winter wardrobe away, take the time to sort through the stuff that the kids have out-grown or that you don't see yourself wearing again next year.

Once sorted sell online, give to another family or donate to a local charity.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

[For more reusing growing ideas.](#) Great watering system to reach those roots.



RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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

Things that I would like to take part in are:

- School presentations
- Master Composter Program
- Spring Plant Sale
- General Garden Work
- Information Booths
- Fundraiser Events
- Public Workshops and Presentations
- Board of Directors

Date: _____

Cheque payable to:
R.E.A.P.S.
Box 444 Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6