# Recycling & Environmental Action & Planning Society

# REAPS REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

www.reaps.org

Email newsletter@reaps.org

MAY 2021

#### **COMING EVENTS**

#### MAY

- I Composting Week
- I Compost Garden Opens
- I NorGrow Little Gardeners
- 8 Composting 101 ZOOM
- 8 Vermicomposting 101 ZOOM
- I 3 DDBGS Online Plant SaleI 5 Growing Hope Hope Farms
- Fundraiser @ REAPS 16 Composting 101 ZOOM
- 16 Vermicomposting 101 ZOOM
- 21-24 DDBGS In Person Plant Sale
- 29 REAPS Plant Sale by appt.

#### JUNE

8	World Oceans Day
13	Canadian Rivers Day

JULY

I Canada Day

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Dumpy's Tip of the Month Recycle Craft Corner Membership Application





DATE: Saturday, May 29th

**TIME:** 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (1/2 hr time slots by appointment only)

**PRICES:** by donation (minimum suggestions: \$1 small, \$2 medium, \$3-\$5 large)

LOCATION: Compost Demo Garden

# ADDRESS:

1950 Gorse Street (Near L'heidli T'enneh Memorial Park and the Exploration Place).

Featuring: perennials, herbs, veggies, hanging baskets, vines, and shrubs.

Donations: of plants, and garden tools welcomed

## To Book Appt to Shop:

Call: 250-561-7327 e-mail: events@reaps.org

www.reaps.org

HOTLINE 250-561-7327

# **REAPS NEWS**

# Web Pick of the Month

https://www.fix.com/blog/common-garden-pestsand-how-to-get-rid-of-them/

Getting Rid of Garden Pests



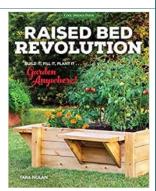
NorGr

# **Book of the Month**

Raised Bed Revolution: Build It, Fill It, Plant It ... Garden Anywhere! ISBN: 981591866503

By: Tara Nolan

Raised Bed Revolution provides you with information on size requirements for constructing raised beds, height suggestions, types of materials you can use, and creative tips for fitting the maximum garden capacity into small spaces—including vertical gardening.



## Hope Farms Outdoor Plant Sale and REAPS fundraiser!

Saturday, May 15th from 10 am - 2pm at REAPS 1950 Gorse Street beside Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park.

Available day of **OR** order online herbs, potatoes, strawberries, squash, raspberry canes, squash and sunflower garden starts!

Hope Farms also has sage, basil (green and purple), oregano, and lemongrass potted.

Order online at:

https://hopefarmorganics.com/collections/growing-hope

irowing

Hope Farms accepts cash, credit or debit at the outdoor event.

Rasaberry Cane Starts

# Get kids gardening!

GARDENERS

STARTER KIT

**FREE** kits are available at REAPS on Saturday May 1 starting at 10am, 1950 Gorse Street:

 a pot with NorGrow compost, a trowel, sunflower seeds and growing instructions

- Enhance PG's Gardening with Children, a kids' gardening book
- a gardening colouring sheet

**EGIONAL DISTRIC** 

Limited quantity, first come first served

# **ZOOM Workshops**

Check out our FREE Online via ZOOM workshops at <u>www.reaps.org</u> or on our <u>FACEBOOK page</u>.

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

#### **Compost Demonstration Garden OPEN**

Garden Hours: To View / Pick up brochure / Info

Wednesday to Sunday 12:30-4:30 p.m.

#### Office Hours:

Monday to Sunday 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Please note we may be away hosting presentations / shops during theses times occasionally. Appointments may be booked.



# LOCAL NEWS

### **Waste Diversion Projects Could** be Coming to PG

SOURCE: Catherine Garrett/My PG Now

Prince George is being considered as a location for two waste diversion projects, a report to City Council says.

Representatives from Sustane Technologies and Canfor made a presentation on a pair of proposed biomass/biofuel projects.

The first project, from Sustane, would see waste diverted from the landfill to a small plant in the city.

"We have a potential this year to shift this region to be a waste division leader in British Columbia and maybe the world."

Vinall says they have developed a plan that would recycle municipal solid waste as opposed to burning or burying it.

The process is expected to deliver a diversion rate of around 90 percent — meaning the majority of things that go in your landfill can be repurposed.

Sustane would build and operate the plant, which would employ roughly 25 workers.

Overall greenhouse gas emissions in Prince George would drop ten percent as a result of the project — but it's not a done deal yet.

Meanwhile, a second project, proposed by Canfor and Arbios, would use recovered wood to make biofuel.

In their report to Council, Canfor says they believe this project will likely be given the go-ahead later this summer or fall - with the hope it will be running by the end of next year.

An environmental review is also currently in progress.

If approved, this would be the first project of its kind in Canada.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

## **Four Prince George Facilities** Awarded for Oil Recycling Efforts

SOURCE: Catherine Garrett/My PG Now

The BC Used Oil Management Association says four Prince George organizations are being recognized as top oil, oil filter, oil container, used antifreeze and antifreeze container recyclers.

Foothills Boulevard Regional Landfill and Jepson Petroleum Ltd were ranked 25 and 26, and were among 30 facilities across the province to receive Top Collector plagues for 2020.

"These B.C. organizations are some of the most dedicated used oil and antifreeze Return Collection Facilities in Canada," said David Lawes, CEO, BC Used Oil Management Association.

"They continue to provide convenient, environmentally-friendly and easy-touse infrastructures for their DIY customers to return their used oil and antifreeze materials. Their efforts were even more impressive throughout 2020 due to the pandemic, as they had to navigate their way through many additional challenges to ensure their customers were comfortable and safe while returning their materials."

Lawes says used oil is a valuable resource, and, if it is recycled at one of BCUOMA's dedicated RCFs it can be recovered and re-used.

Used oil can be re-refined into new lubricating oil or sold as raw material inputs for manufacturing or energy products.

Additionally, used oil filters contain reusable scrap metal that steel producers can reuse for metal products like rebar, nails and wire.

Plastic oil and antifreeze containers can be recycled into new oil containers, drainage tiles, and parking curbs.

Then, used antifreeze can be refined and reused as new automotive antifreeze.

Quinn Street Transfer Station and Vanway Transfer & Recycle Station were two of six organizations to receive a Long Time Service Award.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

## UNBC Named One of Canada's Greenest Employers SOURCE: UNBC media release

For a ninth time, the University of Northern British Columbia's commitment car users are only required to pay the standard parking fee to access the to sustainability has resulted in being named one of Canada's Greenest Employers, according to Mediacorp Canada Inc.

"At UNBC, sustainability is at the heart of our teaching and research objectives and is central to the day-to-day operations at our campuses," says UNBC Interim President Dr. Geoff Payne. "As Canada's Green University we are proud to once again be among Canada's Greenest Employers as our faculty, staff and students lead by example to create a healthier world for everyone."

This latest recognition follows Mediacorp's announcement earlier this year that UNBC is once again one of B.C.'s Top Employers.

Canada's Greenest Employers judges recognized UNBC's environmental initiatives including providing three electric car-charging stations. Electric

chargers.

The University also offers secure, covered, bike storage as well as shower facilities and lockers for cyclists.

Ongoing lighting upgrades at the Prince George campus include the replacement of old fluorescent lights with energy-efficient LEDs. Improved controls take advantage of motion sensing, daylight harvesting, zone control, and dimming to reduce electricity use and improve usability.

UNBC is one of seven universities included on the list this year and is the only employer in northern B.C.



# **AROUND BC**

#### **The Ugly Truth: More Consumers Will Buy Unattractive Fruits** and Veggies When They're Labeled 'Ugly' SOURCE: Wan Yee Lok/ UBC News

Few marketers would recommend that clients call their products uply - but new research from the UBC Sauder School of Business shows that when it comes to selling misshapen fruits and vegetables, labeling them as "ugly" can be a recipe for sales success.

According to a recent report, U.S. farmers throw away up to 30 per cent of their crops tions. An earlier study found that American retailers throw away over \$15 billion in edible produce a year. What's more, 1.4 billion hectares of land and 25 per cent of the world's fresh water are used to grow produce that will later be thrown away.

In 2014, French supermarket chain Intermarché garnered international headlines when it began marketing misshapen produce as "ugly," and since that time, food retailers around the world have launched campaigns to sell "imperfect produce" or "produce with personality."

Some have been successful, while others withered on the vine - but until now, researchers hadn't adequately explained why consumers reject imperfect produce, or what marketing approach was most likely to whet their appetites.

For the study, the researchers at UBC Sauder conducted seven studies that tested the efficacy of 'ugly' labeling (describing the unattractive produce as 'ugly') by having participants purchase produce at a farmers market and online, and by examining people's preconceptions about misshapen foods.

Interestingly, they found that consumers expected the imperfect produce to be less tasty and even less nutritious than more traditionally attractive foods.

But it's not all bad news for unattractive

foods. The researchers also found that when the produce is labeled "ugly," consumer hesitancy disappears - and it's not because of humour or originality. Calling items "ugly" signals to consumers that the only difference between items is aesthetic, explains Mookerjee, which makes them aware of their bias and significantly increases their willingness to buy the less attractive produce.

The researchers tested their hypothesis with multiple field studies, including one at a local farmers market where they sold both attractive and unattractive tomatoes, carrots and potatoes. They not only found customers spent more on the misshapen produce when it was labeled "ugly"; they also spent more on that ugly produce than they did on the conventionally beautiful foods.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

#### **Metro Vancouver Residents Trashed More Than 500 million Pieces of PPE Last Year, report finds** SOURCE: Global News.ca

A new report is offering insight into how much additional trash is ending up in Metro Vancouver landfills amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report, released March 13, 2021 by Metro Vancouver's Zero Waste Committee, found that an estimated 528 million items of personal protective equipment (PPE) were disposed of in 2020 — about 194 items for every resident.

Gloves were the most commonly disposed item (about 136 per person), followed by masks (about 40 per person).

Synthetic wipes, not including paper towels or toilet paper, came in third, at about 18 per person.

The report notes the more than half-a-billion items of PPE may actually be an undercount, "as it is uncertain if overall contributions of personal protective equipment from



health-care waste, which contains high concentrations of certain personal protective equipment, have been accurately estimated "

It also notes the data was collected before B.C. made the use of masks mandatory in indoor public spaces.

> Despite the high number, the items still only represented about 0.5 per cent of the region's total waste in 2020, Fulton said.

Additionally, while a high number of PPE items were disposed of in 2020, the amount of other singleuse products ending up in landfills was actually down compared to 2018, and overall waste disposal dropped by about 4.0 per cent.

#### TO READ FULL ARTICLE

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# **AROUND CANADA**

# **Minister of Transport Announces Funding For Design of Recyclable Boats**

Ensuring a cleaner future for our children and grandchildren is a priority for the Government of Canada. To get there, every action and every idea counts. This includes the design and development of boats that are more respectful of our oceans and our environment. That is why. through the Oceans Protection Plan, we are taking action to encourage greater use of recycled components for boats.

Today, the Minister of Transport, the Honorable Omar Alghabra, announced that funding of \$200,000 is being awarded to the organization Innovation Maritime, located in Rimouski, Quebec, for their design of a recyclable boat project.

The goal of the project is to replace as many of the components of the hull and deck as possible with more ecological parts and to develop a method to make dismantling the boat easier. A complete and functional prototype will be developed and tested under real navigating conditions, creating a unique showcase for technological advancement across Canada.

Launched in November 2016, the Oceans Protection Plan is the largest investment ever made to protect Canada's coasts and waterways. This national plan is creating a world-leading marine safety system that provides economic opportuniSOURCE: Transportation Canada/Cision

ties for Canadians, while protecting our coastlines and clean water for generations to come. This work is being done in close collaboration with Indigenous peoples. local stakeholders, and coastal communities.

#### TO READ FULL ARTICLE



#### **Popular Retailer Launches Makeup Recycling Program** SOURCE: Matt Dionne/ InSauga

Every year, more than 120 billion units of plastic packaging are produced by the global beauty industry, but only nine per cent of this packaging ends up being recycled.

In response, the Seattle-based company has announced it will be encouraging Canadians to bring their empty beauty packaging--from any brand--into the store to be recycled.

The program, known as BEAUTYCYCLE was first launched in the U.S. in 2020 in part because many local recycling centres will not accept beauty materials and packaging due to the fact they're often comprised of a mix of materials that are not locally recyclable.

As of Tuesday (April 6), Canadians can bring their empty beauty packing into their nearest

Nordstrom and drop them into the BEAUTYCY-CLE boxes, the contents of which will then be sent to TerraCycle and recycled.

Some notable items that will be accepted include shampoo and conditioner bottles and caps: hair gel tubes and caps; hair spray bottles and triggers; hair paste; plastic jars and caps; lip balm tubes; face soap dispensers and tubes; lotion bottles, tubes, dispensers, and jars; shaving foam tubes (not cans); lip gloss tubes; mascara tubes; eveliner pencils and cases; eve shadow and tubes; and concealer tubes and sticks.

"We understand our customers care about sustainability, and we want to help them move toward a zero-waste beauty routine so they can look great and do good at the same time." Gemma Lionello, executive vice president and general merchandise manager of accessories and beauty for Nordstrom, said in a news release.

"We're proud to expand access to a recycling program that will help our Canadian customers easily and conveniently recycle their beauty packaging," she continued.

#### TO READ FULL ARTICLE



## **Five Grand Just for Recycling**

POPPING a plastic bottle into a recycling bin made a high school student \$5,000 richer.

On Thursday, Colin Bazin, an 18-year-old from Centre scolaire Léo-Rémillard, beamed as he received an oversized cheque.

"I feel very lucky," he said, a smile almost bursting out from under his face mask.

Bazin became the first monthly prize winner of a new incentive program from Recycle Everywhere and its parent organization the Canadian Beverage Container Recycling Association.

The program uses the Recycle Everywhere app, which was launched March 16. People can use the app to scan any recycling bin, in public or at home, then the barcode on their plastic bottle, aluminum can, or juice box before they throw it in the bin. Containers for dairy and alcoholic beverages, however, won't work.

That earns users a ballot for draws held daily, weekly, monthly and bi-annually. Prize amounts are \$100 daily, \$1,000 weekly, \$5,000 monthly and \$25,000 biannually in cash, cheques or gift cards.

The association funds the program with money it gets from the container recycling fee. Beverage producers pay that fee, ranging from one to three cents per item, for every unit sold in Manitoba.

SOURCE: Cody Seller/Winnipeg Free Press



TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE

# **AROUND THE WORLD**

# Serving Size, Satisfaction Influence Food Waste on Campus

SOURCE: Rice University/ Science Daily

Understanding what drives food choices can help high-volume food service operations like universities reduce waste, according to a new study.

Researchers have concluded that food waste in places like university cafeterias is driven by how much people put on their plates, how familiar they are with what's on the menu and how much they like -- or don't like -- what they're served.

Food waste has been studied often in households, but not so often in institutional settings like university dining commons. What drives food choices in these "all-you-care-to-eat" facilities is different because diners don't perceive personal financial penalty if they leave food on their plates.

Published in the journal Foods, "Food Choice and Waste in University Dining Commons -- A Menus of Change University Research Collaborative Study" was conducted by a team of experts from Rice University; the University of California, Davis; Stanford University; Lebanon Valley College; the University of California, Santa Barbara; and the University of California, Berkeley.

Co-author Eleanor Putnam-Farr, assistant marketing professor at Rice's Jones Graduate School of Business, is available to discuss the findings and potential impact with news media.

ing the 2019 spring and fall semesters to study foods types, diner confidence and diner satisfaction. They used photos taken by diners themselves before and after eating to measure how much food was taken and how much of it went to waste. "Diners were intercepted at their dining



halls and asked if they wanted to participate in a study about food choices and satisfaction, but the objective of investigating food waste behavior was not disclosed," the authors wrote.

The study found the amount of food wasted didn't significantly differ among types of food. Instead, researchers discovered waste was related to the amount of food diners put on their plates, how satisfied they were with their meals and how often they went to the dining commons. If students were satisfied with their food, they tended waste

less of it. And diners who visited the commons most often -- making them more familiar with the menus and more confident in their choices -tended to waste less.

Mixed dishes, like sandwiches or stir-fry, took up a greater percentage of the surface area on surveyed plates than animal proteins or grains and starches. Those three types of food took up a greater area of the plates than fruits, vegetables or plant proteins. The amount of food wasted, however, did not significantly differ among the various food categories.

The mixed dishes and animal proteins that took up greater portions of the plate tended to be preplated by the commons staff or have a suggested serving size. The study's results showed that greater amounts of food taken by diners correlated with the item being pre-plated or served by others.

The authors recommend future research on the topic uses their multicampus approach -- which enabled them to study food choice among a large and diverse group -- to better understand what causes food waste and find out if it can be reduced by interventions such as posting signs that encourage healthier choices.

#### TO READ FULL ARTICLE

The researchers conducted student surveys dur-

# **Heineken Using Nine Million Leftover Pints to Generate Electricity**

The thought of even pouring one cold pint of beer down the drain would be tough for many to consider during lockdown - so imagine what it was like for Heineken Ireland, with the prospect of nine million pints going to waste.

The brewing giant decided that if the sea of cold ones weren't going into the bellies of their customers, then they would be sacrificed for the greater aood — the environment.

Heineken Ireland repurposed over 5,000 tonnes of beer collected from bars during lockdown and sent it to anaerobic digestion plants.

Those 5,000 tonnes, the equivalent of 100,000 kegs or nine million pints, created 480kW per hour of electricity and heat, which the firm calculated as akin to powering 48,000 houses for one day,

based on an average household's annual electric- down 32% as producity consumption.

If the beer wasn't going towards creating electricity and heat, it was instead used as agricultural fertilizer, the firm said in its 2020 sustainability progress report.

The Cork-headquartered arm of the Dutch brewing giant said it has been removing plastic shrink and can connectors from across its range of beers Heineken Ireland's susand ciders in 2020. That is geared towards eliminating four million pieces of would-be consumer waste in 2021.

It also recorded a cumulative 50% reduction in transport emissions, it claimed.

Total energy usage in 2020 also reduced considerably with gas down by almost 34% and energy SOURCE: Pádraig Hoare/ Irish Examiner

tion volumes at the brewerv in Cork fell due to the prolonged closure of the hospitality sector.

Water wastage was also down 42% in 2020, according to the firm.

tainability and public affairs manager, Barbara-Anne Richardson, said 2020 marked 10 years of its program to reduce its environmental impact.



# How to Perform a Trash Audit at Home

In order to reduce your waste at home, you have to know what you're throwing away. All you need is a couple of minutes, a little commitment, and a notebook.

Step 1. Get to know your trash: Dump all of your trash out and go through it. For each item you find write it on the clipboard. For each recurring item add a tally mark.

Step 2. Organize by frequency of tally mark.

Step 3. Make some changes: start with the things you are throwing away most for biggest impact (and instant gratification!). Determine if you should be placing item in a recycle bin or bin to take to the recycle depot (plastic wrap, wrappers, paint etc.)

Step 4. Repeat.

Unsure where it should go? Contact REAPS at recycling@reaps.org

SOURCE: Katheryn Kellogg

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# Is EPR the End of Single-Stream Recycling?

Europe has a long history of collecting source-separated recyclables, and they also have several decades of experience with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policies for packaging. As several states are currently vying to pass the first U.S. EPR policy for packaging, there has been a lot of talk about how to best transfer the successes of the EU EPR programs over to our side of the pond. However, one really big thing that we don't talk about enough is that none of the EU EPR models is based on single-stream recycling. In fact, single-stream recycling is largely non-existent outside of the U.S.

EPR for packaging is primarily a funding mechanism to support the recycling system, so some may think it doesn't really matter if it's single-stream, dualstream, or multiple streams of recycling. At face value, this is probably true. However, when we pair EPR with minimum recycled content policies and start to build toward a circular economy, then the future of single-stream becomes pretty murky.

In a circular economy, the main goal of recycling is to capture valuable materials from the waste stream as the primary inputs for making new products, ideally eliminating or significantly reducing the use of virgin natural resources. Recycling is not about avoiding disposal — it is the primary way that manufacturers source their raw materials for production. When creating high value feedstock becomes the goal, then single-stream recycling certainly is not your first choice because of the increased contamination, high sorting costs and lower material quality. For example, even top-notch sorting equipment at some of the cleanest MRFs cannot compete with the quality of the clean bales of PET bottles from deposit return programs. Given this shift to focus on material quality and recycling as part of the supply chain, one could definitely imagine a future where we return to more source separation under EPR programs.

Here are three other ways that a stronger focus on material quality and highest and best use of materials under a circular economy could alter recycling as we know it:

**1.Deposit return systems (DRS)**, or bottle bills, are the best policy tool to achieve ambitious capture rates on beverage containers. Creating a separate collection system for containers will significantly alter recycling collection and MRF operations in the 40 states that don't currently have these policies.



SOURCE: Waste360

#### 2.Replacing cardboard boxes with reusable shipping containers and

**packaging models** would be a strong move toward a more circular economy but would also fundamentally change MRF economics. Without the "Amazon effect," it is questionable how many MRFs would have survived the repercussions of National Sword. Will recyclers stand behind reuse as the preferred approach to manage resources if it means losing the revenue from cardboard?

**3.More reuse/refill models** could mean a reduction in overall packaging. MRFs rely on increased tons to boost revenues so again we see a potential clash between current MRF operations and highest and best use of materials.

Put all these changes together — EPR, circular economy policies, and evolving packaging trends—and the MRF of the future looks like an entirely different operation. Big policy changes like EPR for packaging need to recognize that these are real operational challenges facing haulers and MRFs in evolving to the system of tomorrow. Effective policies need to help the current recycling system to adapt by creating a transition plan and dedicated funding to help operators make new investments or recoup stranded assets when appropriate. Effective policies will need to focus on outcome-driven goals without being overly prescriptive about how to meet these standards given the unknowns about what the material stream and policy landscape will look like by 2030. TO READ FULL ARTICLE

#### 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

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

One of the main things that people throw away is food. Here are some ideas to reduce food waste:

- Use overripe fruit in smoothies or baking
- Use leftover bread to make breadcrumbs
- Freeze food to extend its shelf life
- Make a meal plan for the week (with a shopping list) so that you can buy only what you need



#### 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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	RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY
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Annu	al Membership Fee: Individual (\$8.00)
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l'm in	terested in volunteering:  Yes  No
Thing	s 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
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R	R.E.A.P.S.
1, 0	ox 444 Prince George, B.C. V2L 456

**RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER** 

One of the big fashion trends right now is homemade jewelry! Get in on the trend by making your very own jewelry by upcycling things (like buttons) that you already have around.



#### HOW TO RECYCLE MARKERS INTO WATERCOLOR PAINT

All you need to do is fill a spray bottle with your old markers and a bit of water. Make sure to use one color per bottle or you'll get muddy colors! Or use complimentary hues.

Watch the paint from the markers drain magically into the water. Give it a little shake to distribute the colors and your little ones are ready to spray away and paint!

