

REAPS REPORT

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JULY 2021

COMING EVENTS

JULY
1 Canada Day
4 - 10 REAPS Go For Green Week


AUGUST
2 Civic Holiday
7 BBBS PG Treasurer Hunt

SEPTEMBER
18 World Clean Up Day
21 Zero Emissions Day
22 Car Free Day
26 World Rivers Day

OCTOBER
2 Junk in the Trunk (tentative)

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GO FOR GREEN WEEK!


July 04th - 10th (Sunday to Saturday) 2021

Join us! At **1950 Gorse Street** - REAPS compost demo garden
(BEHIND THE EXPLORATION PLACE IN LHEIDL I T'ENNEH MEMORIAL PARK)


FREE daily recycled crafts for kids! 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
2 DIFFERENT CRAFTS EVERY DAY! INCLUDING...




CD FISH




TOILET PAPER ROLL FROG



T-SHIRT TOTE BAG




TIN CAN WINDSOCK



MILKJUG BIRD FEEDER



MAGAZINE BEAD BRACELET



TOILET PAPER ROLL DRAGON

Parents take the opportunity to have your recycling questions answered or check out our display of where and what can be recycled in Prince George.

Contact REAPS for more info!

Phone: 250-561-7327

E-mail: events@reaps.org

Covid—19 guidelines in place: physical distance outdoors and recommended to wear mask if not fully vaccinated.
Supervision of your children is mandatory.

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

<https://seeingthewoods.org/>

Seeing the Woods is produced by the [Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society](#) (RCC), an international and interdisciplinary research center devoted to the environmental humanities. Its contributors include the RCC's staff, fellows, and members of the community of graduate and doctoral students, as well as occasional external contributors.

Book of the Month

The New Climate War The Fight to Take Back Our Planet

by Michael E. Mann ISBN-13: **9781541758223**

A renowned climate scientist shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change, and offers a battle plan for how we can save the planet.



REAPS Summer Workshops

All workshops / presentations are held at REAPS Compost Demo Garden.

DIY Produce Bag 18 July —please register space is limited and to ensure enough materials. events@reaps.org

Zoom— Composting 101 6:30 p.m. link under event on FB or website calendar of events.

DATE	WORKSHOP	TIME
23-Jun	Recycling 101	5:30 p.m.
23-Jun	Composting 101	6:30 p.m.
23-Jun	Vermicomposting	7:30 p.m.
11-Jul	Zero Waste 101	11 a.m.
11-Jul	Recycling 101	1:00 p.m.
11-Jul	Composting 101	2:00 p.m.
18-Jul	DIY Produce Bags (make / take)	2 p.m.
4-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
5-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
6-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
7-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.

DATE	WORKSHOP	TIME
8-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
9-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
10-Jul	Go For Green Recycle Craft for kids	2 - 4 p.m.
25-Jul	Recycling 101	1:00 p.m.
25-Jul	Composting 101	2:00 p.m.
25-Jul	Vermicomposting	3:00 p.m.
11-Aug	Composting 101 via zoom	6:30 p.m.
8-Aug	Recycling 101	1:00 p.m.
8-Aug	Composting 101	2:00 p.m.
8-Aug	Zero Waste 101	3:00 p.m.
22-Aug	Recycling 101	1:00 p.m.



Free Garden Tools

We received a donation of tools available to who is needs them. recycling@reaps.org

3 hoes 1 pitch fork

1 round mouth shovel

Various hand trowels

Black weed barrier fabric cloth

Welcome Summer Students

REAPS is pleased to welcome Tyya Robinson and Bradley Golar, summer students 2021.

They are responsible for overseeing the Compost Demo Garden, community outreach, presentations to daycares, summer camps and the public, creating school newsletters, how to videos, green office newsletters and more.

Both have graduated this year from Grade 12 at PGSS.

Thank you to Canada Summer Jobs for assisting with the funding of these 2 positions.

LOCAL NEWS

PGPIRG's Farm For Thought Is Back At UNBC

Source: Taya Fast/ CKPG Today

Tucked just behind student housing at UNBC is a beautiful garden with a large variety of fresh produce and flowers. Farm for Thought is run by Prince George's Public Interest Research Group, a student-led not-for-profit organization.

"This program gives students an opportunity to have farming and management experience in Prince George on an urban farm," says Summer Farm Coordinator, Jessica Sawin. They hope to educate the local community while also reducing their carbon footprint.

"We focus on sustainable farming that has a low impact on the environment. We don't use chemical pesticides. We use compost that was collected from UNBC, the food that you would have tossed in the compost bin over the past couple of years," continued Sawin.



The group is growing fresh food like strawberries, mint, and chives as well as fresh-cut flowers that will be up for sale soon. Buying local will ensure that this initiative has enough of a financial cushion to keep going. Produce can be purchased online in the next few weeks or at local Farmer's Markets in July.

To purchase online <https://pgpirg.square.site/>

Link: <https://ckpgtoday.ca/2021/06/22/pgpirgs-farm-for-thought-is-back-at-unbc/>

Forest Policy Paper Gets Mixed Reviews

Source: Mark Neilsen/ PG Citizen

Time is ticking away as far as Michelle Connolly is concerned.

The member of Prince George-based environmental advocacy group Conservation North had hoped for something more concrete on how the provincial government plans to protect B.C.'s old growth.

Instead, it issued last week a [list of intentions](#) for stewardship of B.C.'s forests with old growth "relegated" to an appendix to the back of the document where a three-year timeline to develop a strategy was outlined.

"This is very disappointing," Connolly said. "They say they're going to do it by 2023 but things need to happen now."

The document was issued nearly nine months after the authors of a review of the state of old growth in B.C. issued [14 recommendations](#) to better protect what remains of the stands and urged the government to act within six months.

While Premier John Horgan has promised to live up to those recommendations, the most assertive step so far came with the release of the review back in September when the province temporarily deferred logging of 353,000 hectares spread over nine locations.

The move drew [faint praise](#) from Conservation North, in part because just one of the spots is in northern B.C. but also because it was considered a token gesture that was not all it was purported to be as rainforest.



[TOO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Marriage of science and Indigenous Knowledge Protects Grizzly Bear Habitat in Northern B.C.

Source: Hanna Petersen/ PG Citizen

After a decade-long process, a rare grassland area in northern B.C. has been officially designated a Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) to protect grizzly bears.

The now 6,983 ha area north of Fort St. James is one of the only grizzly bear Wildlife Habitat Areas in northern B.C.

It was established through collaboration between the Tl'azt'en First Nation and biologists at the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

It's called Tl'o Ba which means 'meadow on the edge' in Dakelh.

"Ever since we go on the land the bears are always there they have been there forever," said Art Pierre, a Tl'azt'en Elder and traditional Keyoh holder of the area known as Tl'o Ba.



Although Tl'o Ba was always known as an important area for grizzly bears, work to protect it didn't begin until Renel Mitchell, Natural Resources Coordinator with Tl'azt'en Nation, started looking for sensitive and rare habitat areas in the territory that needed to be flagged.

Mitchell asked Joanne Vinnedge, a senior ecosystem's biologist with the ministry, who identified a rare grassland area along the Kuzkwa River, before bringing that information back to Pierre.

"He confirmed from his knowledge of the area that this is what we call 'grizzly bear country' and that this area is an important foraging area for grizzly bears and is along a salmon bearing creek."

Mitchell said she thought working to protect this area would be a perfect partnership between FLNRORD and Tl'azt'en to pursue.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND BC

Plastic Power: B.C. Recycling Facility Receives Provincial Funding

Source: Collisionrepairmag.com (author unknown)

Reclaim Plastics, a recycling facility in BC has received provincial funding to help them divert hard to recycle automotive plastics from the landfill.

The \$667,000 in funding from the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund will be used to purchase technology that will make it easier to sort hard to recycle automotive plastics like bumpers, headlights and other automotive plastics.

According to the CleanBC Plastics Action Plan, the use of plastics in manufacturing is growing rapidly, but because it is so difficult to recycle it very rarely gets reused and often ends up in landfills.

"With automotive plastics being the second highest contributor to plastic waste after packaging, our goal has always been to prevent automotive plastic waste from entering the landfill," said Al Boflo, a partner at Reclaim Plastics.

Boflo hopes that through this initiative Reclaim Plastics will be able to help auto body shops and auto recyclers become more environmentally conscious. He also hopes that this will allow automotive plastics to be repurposed easily.

"There is enormous potential for plastic waste to be source material for new products – keeping it out of landfills and protecting our environment – another strategy in our CleanBC Plastics Action Plan," said George Heyman, minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The average vehicle volume is made up of 50 percent plastic, which is approximately 440 pounds. Before a car is recycled all of this plastic material needs to be sorted, decontaminated and processed.

Currently, Metro Vancouver has implemented a disposal ban on

auto bodies and parts, but this ban has not been mandated by the rest of the province. Because of this many auto body shops and auto recyclers continue to discard their automotive plastic waste, as it is cheaper than recycling, said a news release.

With this funding Reclaim Plastics will be able to safely dispose of, and even recycle automotive plastic to create landscape edging, piping, or even new plastic car parts.



Feedback Shows Demand For More Products in B.C.'s Recycling Program

Source: Pete McIntyre/ CKPG

More items could be added to B.C. recycling programs if the public gets what it wants.

The province says feedback to a policy intentions paper shows broad support for adding more products to the recycling regulation to reduce waste and promote a cleaner environment.

That includes products like mattresses and household hazardous wastes.

A public engagement in 2020 asked for input on expanding the Extended Producer Responsibility Program (ERP) to reduce waste and ensure more products are managed responsibly. Input came from individuals, local governments, Indigenous Nations, producers, recyclers, waste management companies, environmental groups and others. They provided feedback on a range



of items, including:

- * mattresses
- * electronic products, including electric-vehicle batteries
- * packaging and paper products beyond

residential sources

* moderately hazardous products, such as single-use compressed gas canisters, fire extinguishers, and additional paints, sealers and adhesives.

The EPR program requires producers to take responsibility for the life cycle of their products, including collection and recycling. This shifts the costs and responsibility from British Columbians and local and Indigenous governments to the producers and consumers of products.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is reviewing the responses to the intentions paper as part of developing a multi-year strategy for EPR, including changes to the recycling regulation.

AROUND CANADA

City Bike Reuse Program Distributes Over 400 Donated Bikes a Year

Source: Ariel Deutschmann/ GuelphToday

A city program that reuses and recycles unwanted bicycles is giving out over 400 free bikes a year.

Those looking for a new, used set of wheels should consider checking out the City of Guelph's ReCycle Bike Reuse Program.

Through the ReCycle Bike Reuse Program, residents can either donate a working bike, or pick up a bike for free at the Waste Resource Innovation Centre. Being open year-round, the program aims to reduce waste and extend the life of the bikes.

"We're really pleased to offer this service to the city for no cost and hope that people will consider participating," said Heather Yates, supervisor of environmental programs at the City of Guelph.

"We're always so thrilled that people would consider donating their bike as opposed to looking to waste that."

Created by a city staff member in 2012, Yates explains the program has seen between 400 to 500 donated bikes go to residents each year.

"It's an ongoing and pretty successful program that takes care of itself in a number of ways," she said.

The program was put on hold when the pandemic hit in 2020, but has since reopened.

Yates estimates around 400 bikes were donated and given out in 2020 compared to 487 bikes in 2019.

"If we're thinking about 2019 compared to 2020, we're kind of on par based on what's available," said Yates.

With a demand for bikes rising across Canada,



da, Yates mentions people in need of transit in Guelph always benefited from using this type of program.

"As our understanding of COVID has changed, people are feeling more comfortable again with reused goods," she said, "Even before the pandemic, we've always had more people looking for bikes than the donation of bikes that were available on

site."

"For Guelph, those donated bikes make a difference to some people, even for just regular transportation."

Yates adds the community has been very generous in contributing to the program over the years. Residents can pick up a bike anytime throughout the year.

"I was at the public drop-off a few weeks ago and there were three or four bikes there that people were ... just taking turns, taking a look at what is there," she said.

When picking up a free bike from the program, Yates explains the city will need people to sign a waiver prior to the exchange to confirm they won't sell the bike.

"We're just trying to facilitate a goods exchange in a meaningful way that can help the community," said Yates.

While the City of Guelph is only accepting working bikes for the program, residents are still encouraged to bring in broken bikes. The city will either recycle the metal parts of these bikes, or team up with a local non-profit to fix them.

"To repair and refurbish some of the unusable bikes that might come through these streams as well, especially knowing the demand right now," she said.

Some Manitoba Provincial Parks to Recycle Disposable Masks

Source: Juliana Vannucci/ Global News

Some Manitoba provincial parks will now have a special box to collect disposable masks to recycle them.

"Mask use is critical for protection during the COVID-19 pandemic, but once a disposable mask is used, it becomes waste that should be treated differently than standard garbage or recyclables," said Conservation Minister Sarah Guillemard.

Now that more people are attending provin-

cial parks, the number of discarded masks are going up as well, she added.

The province, in partnership with recyclers TerraCycle, will distribute "Zero Waste Boxes" at 15 different parks.

After the boxes are collected, they will be shipped to a sorting facility in Ontario and broken down into components to be recycled.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has posed many challenges to the global community including worldwide spikes in plastic pollution caused by the improper disposal of single-use face masks," said Tom Szaky, TerraCycle's CEO.

Szaky said the project offers an easy solution to collect and recycle disposable masks, keeping them out of the landfill and from littering natural spaces.

AROUND THE WORLD

Hair Waste From Salons Recycled to Mop Up Oil Spills On Sea Shores

Source: Emily-Jane Heap/ The Guardian

Hair cuttings from salons are being used to mop up oil spills and hair bleaches, and dyes are being burned to create energy as part of a scheme to make the hairdressing industry greener.

Over the past 10 months, 550 salons across the UK and Ireland have signed up to the Green Salon Collective (GSC), an initiative that reduces salon waste through recycling and education programmes.

"Hair salons are one of the biggest contributors to waste on the high street," said GSC co-founder Paul Seaward. "We were shocked to see how far behind the UK is with salon sustainability, this was long overdue."

About 99% of hair cuttings from salons are sent to landfill sites, GSC says, but as part of the initiative the group has started collecting cuttings to make hair-booms – cotton or nylon tubes packed with hair, which are placed on the shores of beaches to stop oil spills from spreading.

GSC says 500kg of hair has so far been collected, of which 50kg has been used in cleanup oper-

ations.

Other leftover hair is given to farmers to use in compost as it contains protein and nitrogen which enrich plants.

Hair colourings and bleach are usually washed down the sink, which poses a risk as they can leach toxins that pollute soil and groundwater. Salons participating in the scheme are able to collect the waste liquids and send them to a facility to be burned to generate electricity for the National Grid.

The scheme also makes it easier to recycle hairdressing foil, of which only about 1% is recycled. Within the first three months of the scheme, 2.2 tonnes of foil was sent for recycling.

Karine Jackson, whose Covent Garden salon joined GSC last year, said: "Every salon should be joining, we have to take responsibility for our own waste. This is just the start of something huge."

GSC charges a one-off £125 payment to join the scheme, and encourage salons to add a small



"green fee" to their prices to cover this.

Paula Todd, the owner of the Green Ginger salon in Newcastle, said: "The feedback has been so positive, it makes clients value what we do and know that we care a bit more, not just for them but for the whole environment."

Helen Bird, strategic technical manager for plastics at Wrap, the government's waste advisory body, said: "With nearly 90% of us now regularly recycling at home, more of us want to ensure that we recycle all that we can at work too. It's great to hear of initiatives such as the Green Salon Collective to enable the recycling of valuable resources such as aluminum foil."

Food Scraps Recycled Into Materials Stronger Than Concrete, Yet Edible

Source: David Szondy/ New Atlas

It sounds like the premise of a comedy sketch, but researchers at the Institute of Industrial Science at the University of Tokyo led by Yuya Sakai have developed a way to recycle food scraps into construction materials that are stronger than concrete, yet remain edible and tasty.

According to the United Nations, 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted worldwide every year. Some of this is lost due to inefficiencies in the food chain, but large amounts are also wasted because the produce is deemed to be substandard or past its sell-by date, or because scraps and leftovers are simply discarded.



Recycling such wasted food isn't new. The idea probably dates back to when early humans first hit upon the idea of taking the less edible bits of dinner and using it as bait. Today, there are whole industries that revolve around things like

composting or turning restaurant waste into slops for feeding pigs, as well as converting biowaste into fuel or plastics.

The University of Tokyo team is taking things a step further by not only turning food scraps like fruits and vegetables into something useful, but also keeping them in an edible form. The basic idea is to take common scraps, mix them with seaweed, and then process it to produce materials that are stronger than concrete, but still tastes like the original material.

Using a technique originally developed to make building materials from wood powder, the researchers took food scraps including seaweed, cabbage leaves, orange, onion, pumpkin and banana peels, and vacuum-dried and then pulverized them. The powders were then mixed with water and seasonings, then pressed in a mold at high temperature.

The results were a range of materials, some of which had a higher bending strength than con-

crete, yet remained edible and retained their taste. Despite remaining edible, the material resisted rot, fungi, and insects for a test period of four months. Even adding sugar and salt did not affect a material's strength, though not all scraps proved to be ideal.

"With the exception of the specimen derived from pumpkin, all of the materials exceeded our bending strength target," says Kota Machida, a senior collaborator. "We also found that Chinese cabbage leaves, which produced a material over three times stronger than concrete, could be mixed with the weaker pumpkin-based material to provide effective reinforcement."

Presumably, the new materials are stronger than concrete, but not anywhere near as hard, otherwise the edibility would be moot. The researchers say that the materials have a wide range of "creative applications," but one wonders if it could also one day lead to the phrase "eating someone out of house and home" being more than just an idiom.

Two Artists Want G-7 Leaders to End e-Waste. So They Sculpted Them Out of Trash.

Source: Frank Langfitt/ NPR

Security is tight in the English county of Cornwall as President Biden and other leaders of the Group of Seven – seven of the world's wealthiest countries — prepare to meet for a weekend summit beginning Friday.

But if you want to catch a firsthand glimpse of Biden, Germany's Angela Merkel or the other powerful politicians, your best bet may be a two-story sculpture that replicates their likenesses using electronic waste in the hills overlooking the resort where they are meeting.

The sculpture, which is drawing large crowds, is arranged like Mount Rushmore — but with the G-7 leaders instead of U.S. presidents.

The sculptors, artists Joe Rush and Alex Wreckage, have dubbed it "Mount Recyclemore." Rush says he hopes the leaders spotted it on their flights to Cornwall and that it encourages them to address the world's avalanche of e-waste.

"The message is we have to find a way of dealing with this electrical waste that we're producing, because we haven't got ways of repairing it and we haven't got ways of getting rid of it," Rush says.

The world produces about 53 million tons of e-waste annually and that volume is expected to double by 2050, according to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the International Telecommunication Union.

Adam Minter, author of *Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade* says that most people in the developed world associate e-waste with unsafe practices in developing countries.

But he says Mount Recyclemore "forces viewers

to consider e-waste as something that's local, immediate and very much theirs. Addressing questions of electronic refuse will in part require consumers in developed countries to tell manufacturers to make more durable and repairable devices. Artworks like this one are a starting point for the discussion."

The sculpture, which took 12 people to build over six weeks, bears a remarkable likeness to the world leaders it depicts. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's famously unkempt hair includes a jumble of old telephone receivers hanging by their cords. Biden's skin is a carpet of green circuit boards and his lips are made of rows of the battered backs of Samsung and Apple smartphones.

Joanie Willett, who teaches politics at the University of Exeter in Cornwall, says she thinks the most thought-provoking touch is the circuit boards that make up Biden's face.

"Because these are things that we don't even see," she says. "It's totally invisible and we don't give any thought when we're using the stuff."

The sculpture provoked lots of comments about the environment among the scores of people who gathered there as dusk arrived Friday

evening. There were also meta moments as people — with no apparent sense of irony — used their smartphones to shoot pictures of sculptures made with old smartphones.

The installation is not only a striking piece of art and environmental activism, but it's also a smart piece of marketing. It was sponsored by musicMagpie, a British company that buys old electronics and refurbishes them for resale, and its U.S. brand, Decluttr.

Liam Howley, the company's chief marketing officer, says the company buys about 1,500 tech items and 40,000 media items — including old CDs and DVDs — each day in the United Kingdom — and its materials were used to create Mount Recyclemore.

"We're trying to raise awareness, make sure people know about it, can act on it and encourage better behavior to refurbish, recycle, reuse," Howley says.



Reno Woman Recycling Masks Into Quilts For Homeless

It's not hard to find a mask where it doesn't belong, whether it's in a sidewalk gutter or on a mountain trail.

As Americans start to shed the pieces of cloth that for the past year have shielded them from the novel coronavirus, one Reno woman is trying to find a way to prevent all of the reusable masks from becoming unnecessary waste.

She thinks she has an answer, one that will help keep the planet cleaner



and the community's homeless population warmer.

"I feel like it's just a win-win," said Cami Rowe, who's organizing a local mask drive at a growing list of businesses.

Rowe intends to spend the summer and fall creating quilts for Reno's homeless population out of the community's masks. The masks will be heavily sanitized before they are stitched together and backed with fleece.

"It gets people to participate in doing some good," said Rowe.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/REAPSPG>

Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Keep indoor plants! Not only do some plants look nice, they also can help keep your house a bit cooler. Some, like English Ivy, even filter your air.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER



GLASS BOWL
+
PATIO PAINTED
WOOD SLICES
+
VASES
FILLED WITH
SAND & BAUBLES
=
ONE-OF-A-KIND
HOMEMADE
BIRD BATH



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.

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