Recycling & Environmental Action & Planning Society

REAPS



REPORT

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NOVEMBER 2021

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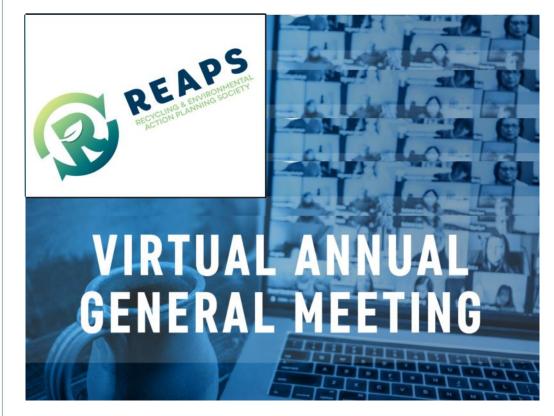
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Year in review, election of board of directors, followed by Guest Speaker: Sue Maxwell Zero Waste BC.

If you are interested in a board position email events@reaps.org

Sue will be addressing A Zero Waste Agenda for BC report. Developed in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, it outlines how to get to Zero Waste and the climate and jobs benefits of doing so. Good timing with the provincial government looking at developing a circular economy strategy. Sue will also be addressing changes in the home to achieve zero waste.

You are invited to a Zoom meeting. When: Nov 25, 2021 06:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada) Register in advance for this meeting: **CLICK LINK TO REGISTER**

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

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

https://www.facebook.com/thegoodfoodboxpg

Local food box & online store supplying fresh local & provincial produce+ to the Prince George community.



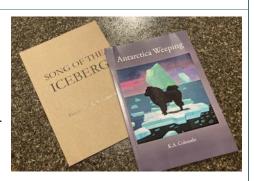
Currently a bi-monthly pick-up option that aims to develop into a year-round, community online grocer with weekly pick-up and delivery.

Book of the Month

Two published works by K.A. Colorado, Artist-in-residence at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Artist in Residence at University of Northern British Columbia.

Song of the ICEBERG (poems)

Antarctica Weeping ISBN: 978-1-7778397-0-3



REAPS Food Waste Workshop Series

It is estimated that individuals and households across Canada waste more than \$10 billion worth of food annually. Canada's 2.2 million tonnes of avoidable household food waste is equivalent to 9.8 million tonnes of CO2 and 2.1 million cars on the road, and when organic material breaks down it releases methane, which is a greenhouse gas 25 x more potent than carbon dioxide. Food waste is the single largest waste stream found in landfills.

P/T staff extraordinary Roanne has created monthly unique and interesting ways to look at our food waste in a different light. From creating dyes, cosmetics, growing at home, recipes and more.

Join us via zoom monthly - registration link found under events on FB or Website.

FOOD WASTE RECOVERY WORKSHOP SERIES



REAPS DIY Bags

Have you ever thought about how long it takes for a plastic bag to decompose? Depending on the environment, it can take 1,000 years or more for a bag to breakdown! Every year, Canadians throw away over 3 million tonnes of plastic waste.

REAPS is providing DIY simple bags for gift giving this season or purchasing your produce at the store or Farmers' Market.

Nov. 3rd is DIY Produce Bag

Dec. 1st is DIY Gift Bag

Register in advance to pick up your materials from REAPS events@reaps.org and then zoom in day of to receive simple instructions to create your own bag.

Do not have sewing machine? We are happy to schedule time to use ours following PHOs.







2ND WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

NOV DYES & FABRICS
DEC RECIPIES & CRAFTS
JAN DIY BODY PRODUCTS
FEB GROWING INDOORS
MAR MAKE IT AT HOME
APRIL REUSABLES & FOOD
MAY VERMI / COMPOSTING
JUNE OUTDOOR COOKING
JUL WILD FORAGING
AUG KIDS & FOOD WASTE
SEPT PRESERVING FOOD





LOCAL NEWS

Ramada Hotel 1st Private Facility to Join District Energy System By: Cheryl Jahn, CKPG Today

The Ramada Hotel will be the first private facility to join on the City's District Energy System.

The backside of the building, which houses provincial government offices is already connected but not activated. Now the common areas in the hotel portion of the building will be added.

Currently, all civic facilities in the downtown are on the system, including the new pool downtown. They are all heated with wood waste burned at

Lakeland Mills and piped underground to a peaking station at a facility on the corner of Second Avenue and George Street. But with the



Ramada joining all those civic facilities, is it straining the system?

"There isn't a strain at this point," explains Wil Wedel, the Manager of Utilities.

"We're at about half the capacity of what the system can handle. And then there's also some limitations as far as how much energy Lakeland can provide for us as well."

He says the piping goes up Fifth Avenue as far as the RCMP detachment

could be an addition loop repeated in the other direction "but we need to determine exactly where those needs are first."

Prince George Trucking Company Takes Delivery of Hydrogen-diesel Hybrid source: PG Citizen

A Prince George-based trucking company has taken a step toward dramatically reducing its carbon footprint.

Lodgewood Enterprises took delivery this week of a long-haul semitruck outfitted with a system that allows it to run on a blend of hydrogen and diesel for as much as 1,000 killometres and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 40 per cent in the process.

The system poses no loss of fuel efficiency, range, power, torque or payload capacity and the fuel is provided at a slight discount to diesel. The advantages were enough for Lodgewood president and CEO Arlene Gagne to put 11 more such conversions on order.

"It's been a long process and a lot of work to get to this but I truly believe that being innovative in trucking is important," Gagne said last week during a media event at the company's yard in the BCR Industrial Site.

"We want to be able to reduce our greenhouse gases immediately. We want to be part of the solutions in our province."

The outfitting is being carried out by Vancouver-based <u>Hydra Energy</u> whose CEO, Jessica Verhagen, gave local media a guided tour of the rig, starting with an array of carbon-fibre-wrapped tanks fixed to the back of the cab and moving forward to a fuel-injection system attached to the engine at the front.

In the cab is an onboard computer that gives the driver some data and allows the truck to automatically switch entirely over to diesel once the hydrogen has run out. That typically occurs at the 1,000-kilometre mark.



Importantly, said Verhagen, the system was designed to avoid compromising the warranty on the engine and can be fitted onto "anything that burns diesel, is what it comes down to."

The hydrogen comes from Chemtrade, which just so happens to be a byproduct of the chemicals it produces and supplies to the local pulp mills.

In February, Hydra landed a <u>long-term contract</u> with Chemtrade to provide the fuel with the aim of having a refueling station capable of servicing up to 65 trucks up and running by sometime next year.

In advance, other fleet owners in the area with round trips no longer than 1,000 kilometres can arrange to test drive the Lodgewood converted truck by emailing info@hydraenergy.ca.

As it stands, the refuelling station located at Lodgewood Enterprises is able to refuel two trucks per day.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

AROUND BC

Where Does Richmond Supermarket's Expired Food Go?

Source: Richmond News

Have you ever wondered what happens to all that food you spot in the supermarket that's just about to reach its "best before" date?

Well, it appears a lot of it, thankfully, doesn't go to waste and ends up in the hands of the Richmond Food Bank and other local charities.

Supermarkets and wholesalers across the region are often left at the end of each day with what's referred to as "recoverable food" that's perfectly fine to eat.

The Richmond Food Bank (RFB) gets about

40 per cent of its fresh donations via a program called Food Mesh, which distributes such produce to charities on behalf of suppliers.

RFB's executive director, Hajira Hussain, told the Richmond News that deliveries from Vancouver-based Food Mesh account, on average, for 30-40 per cent each month of its fresh donations.

"Other than Food Mesh, we recover from other partners, such as Canadian Dry Storage, Blundell Seafoods, Sunrich foods, Windset farms, Costco etc.," added Hussain.



"Last year, we recovered a total of 726.113 (kilos) of food, out of which 539,045 (kilos) was perishable food."

It appears that most of the big supermarket chains in Richmond, such as Save-On and Superstore, contribute to RFB via Food Mesh.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

Under New Emissions Plan, B.C. Accelerates Phase-out of Gas-Powered Cars source: PG Citizen

New plan puts caps on oil and gas emissions, phases out gas-powered vehicles and moves to regulate zero-emission buildings. But critics say it fails to properly regulate the future of gas production in B.C.

The B.C. government has released a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next decade, offering an accelerated timeline to phase out new gas-powered cars while putting a cap on emissions from the oil and das sector.

Policy experts and leading climate scientists say government action over the next decade will deliver a make-or-break moment to achieve a carbon-neutral world by 2050. That's the threshold the world must hit in order to stave off a global temperature rise beyond 1.5 C a path scientists say will lead to catastrophic damage to the world's climate.

"We have to have the same common

purpose to attacking climate change that globally agreed-upon target of "netwe have had to attack COVID-19," said Premier John Horgan.

"This transcends political boundaries, it transcends regions of British Columbia, all of us working together with a singular focus on lifting up everyone as we put a price on carbon pollution."

zero."

Nancy Olewiler, director of the School of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University, described the plan as "exceptional news" given that the 2018 CleanBC plan failed to set benchmarks that would meet the province's emission reduction targets.



Under the new CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the province is aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 40 per cent of 2007 levels by 2030, and by midcentury it plans to absorb as much carbon as it emits, effectively achieving a

"It is an ambitious plan. It is bold. If all goes well, it will meet the targets," said Olewiler.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

AROUND CANADA

Province of BC: Taking Action to Recycle More Products

source: BC Gov News

Electric-vehicle batteries, mattresses, singleuse fuel canisters and fire extinguishers are among the products that will be eligible for province wide recycling as part of a five-year plan to advance recycling in British Columbia.

Other items to be added to British Columbia's
Recycling Regulation and the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) strategy include
more electronic products such as solar panels,
in North America to do so.

more types of lithium-ion batteries, electric-vehicle chargers and ecigarettes.

"Expanding the number of recyclable products will mean convenient, free collection of those products and a cleaner environment for British Columbians," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. "Adding to the product list will reduce the waste that's now being sent to the landfill or illegally dumped in back alleys or green spaces. This will protect our environment and boost our economy through an increase in recycling operations and remanufacturing."

Under the EPR Five-Year Action
Plan, the changes will be phased in to give producers time to set up the necessary systems. The Province recognizes the need for timely action and will work with its partners to accelerate proposed timelines where possible.

EPR requires producers to take responsibility for the lifecycle of their products, including collection and recycling. This shifts the costs and responsibility from local and Indigenous governments and taxpayers to the producers and consumers of products. Since 2004, the Province has regulated through EPR residential packaging and paper, beverage containers, numerous electronics, light bulbs, tires, automotive oil, antifreeze and paint.

Regulating more products under EPR is one

part of the new action plan, which builds on British Columbia's leadership in preventing waste, reclaiming more materials and growing the circular economy. The ministry will also explore how to regulate the recycling of more packaging and paper products beyond residential sources, such as from businesses, stadiums, shopping malls and universities. British Columbia would be the first jurisdiction in North America to do so

What is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?



product

B.C.'s EPR strategy recovers \$46-million worth of materials annually and reduces greenhouse gas emissions by more than 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The strategy generates an estimated \$500 million annually through recycling programs, and collects approximately 315,000 tonnes of plastic from bottles, packaging and electronics

The Province is preventing waste, tackling plastics pollution and supporting the circular economy by:

 expanding the beverage container deposit-refund system to include milk and milk-alternative containers, and recycling up to 40 million more containers annually, starting in February 2022;

expanding the number of single-use products (such as disposable dishware, cutlery, stir sticks and sandwich bags) that can be recycled through industry-funded residential recycling programs, effective January 2023;

- piloting new projects to use reclaimed plastic waste in new manufacturing through the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund:
- empowering municipalities to enact their own bans of certain single-use plastics, without provincial approval, by amending a regulation under the Community Charter allowing them to take immediate action on plastics pollution in their communities. This is in addition to having approved bylaws banning single-use plastics in nine municipalities (Richmond, Surrey, Victoria, Saanich, Esquimalt, Nanaimo, Tofino, Ucluelet and Rossland);
- further working on the development of a legal framework to allow provincial bans on single-use items, such as straws, takeout containers, shopping bags and other priority items:
- supporting the largest shoreline cleanup in B.C.'s history through the Clean Coast, Clean Waters Initiative. More than 550 tonnes of marine debris have been removed from B.C.'s shorelines to date, with much of the debris sent for recycling; and
- partnering with the Canada Plastics
 Pact to collaborate with industry, government and non-profit organizations
 from the plastics sector to address
 plastic waste keeping it in the economy and out of the environment.

AROUND THE WORLD

Prince William and Kate Recycle Outfits to Highlight Climate

 $\label{thm:condition} \textbf{Impact on Fashion} \quad \text{source: Jennifer Hassan/ The Washington Post}$

While many high-profile events usually feature a plush red carpet, Sunday's Earthshot Prize ceremony featured a green one — and those who walked it were instructed to "consider the environment" when selecting their outfits.

Britain's Prince William, who founded the environmental prize after becoming disheartened by what he perceived as lackluster efforts to combat climate change, arrived wearing a green velvet suit jacket he had worn at an event in 2019, along with a pair of 20-year-old trousers.

The eco-friendly attire was apropos as guests gathered to watch this year's winners scoop up 1 million pounds (\$1.4 million) for their solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

In the United Kingdom, around \$192 million worth of clothes are sent to landfill sites each week, according to British broadcaster ITV.

Scientists concerned about the climate say the fashion industry — with many brands under fire for churning out cheap clothes to meet high demand — has its own part to play when it comes to protecting the planet and have called on it to strive toward more sustainable goals. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the fashion sector uses more energy than aviation and shipping combined, accounting for roughly 10 percent of global carbon emissions, and almost 20 percent of wastewater.

The older outfits seemed to wow the British tabloids, which declared that the prince, who is second in line to the British throne, was "channeling James Bond," as did many others on social media who branded the 39-year-old "dapper."

William arrived alongside wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, who donned a pastel-colored Alexander McQueen gown that she wore in Los Angeles at the BAFTAs about 10 years ago.

The two were chauffeured to the ceremony in a fully electric Audi, which operates without emitting carbon dioxide. According to the Daily Mail, the couple recently installed an electric-car charging point at their home in Kensington Palace.

Actor Emma Watson, who has long campaigned on environmental issues, arrived wearing an outfit created from 10 secondhand bridal dresses that had been donated to British charity Oxfam.

"How spectacular is this gown," Oxfam tweeted Monday, confirming that the activist's outfit was "made by Harris Reed from pre-loved wedding dresses."

The Earthshot event came as other senior members of the royal family called on world leaders and the general public to do more to tackle the issue of climate change.

The royals have, on many occasions, come under



scrutiny for their use of private aircraft and their lavish lifestyles — which critics say contradict their public appeals to look after the planet.

In an interview with the BBC last week, the heir to the throne, Prince Charles, discussed the personal measures he takes to try to protect the planet, revealing that his Aston Martin sports car runs on wine and cheese byproducts.

When asked how much energy it required to heat a royal residence such as Clarence House, the prince said he had installed solar panels to help generate electricity.

In the same week, Queen Elizabeth II was overheard expressing frustration that politicians around the world "talk" but "don't do" on the issue of climate change — remarks that were widely interpreted as the monarch showing a degree of irritation that she still did not know who would be attending the COP26 climate conference in Scotland later this month.

The Happy Beetle Wants to Build a Circular Economy in Denver

Source: Hilal Bahcetepe/ 303 Magazine

In a circular economy, everything that's produced and consumed is reused, recycled and broken down for as long as possible. It creates a system that produces significantly less waste and pollution compared to the current one we have now. Dave Kiefner, fascinated by the idea of a circular economy for years, founded The Happy Beetle in April after he caught a bug to build a better recycling system in Denver.

It all started when Kiefner was reading a book about insects to his son, Henry. In the book, he came across the African dung beetle, which utilizes feces for shelter and food. He was fascinated by the bug's self-sufficiency and distinct contribution to the ecosystem. To him, its existence only emphasized the urgency for modern humans to adopt better waste practices.

"It's about recognizing that there is still inherent value and embedded energy in whatever item it is; we might look at an item and throw it away because there's no value to it," said Kiefner. Breaking down discarded items that can be recycled or reused as much as possible is one way the company is helping keep unnecessary waste from entering the landfills. In July, the company diverted over 4,000 pounds from going to the landfill. Kiefner wants to make it simple for residents to dispose of difficult things like electronic waste, batteries, house paint, textiles and other hard-to-recycle items.

"It's kind of shocking that Colorado has one of the lowest recycling rates in the entire nation," explained Kiefner. Despite widespread recycling and compost services throughout the state, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)

reported a 15.9 percent recycling diversion rate in 2019, falling below the national average and ranking among the bottom 20 states for recycling. When it comes down to general sustainability and waste practices, the United States is the trashiest. Proper recycling, better policies and systems, using and consuming less or investing in zero waste products, can all help mitigate this issue.

"People are passionate about the outdoors and protecting it, but a lot of times our policies and practices don't match our beliefs. We're trying to make it easy to complete that link," said Kiefner.

The Happy Beetle offers monthly or quarterly pickups at an affordable price for anyone living within the Denver Metro Area and Boulder, with plans to expand in the coming months.

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Getting Aboard the Pineapple Express source: UNBC Stories

Every fall, intense Pineapple Express storms dump large amounts of rain and snow along northern British Columbia's Coast Mountains. This year, a team of University of Northern British Columbia researchers will embark on an ambitious fieldwork campaign to gain a better understanding of how these atmospheric rivers influence precipitation in the region and what it means A team of UNBC and Université du Québec à for the future of the Nechako River Watershed.

The Tahtsa Ranges Atmospheric Rivers Experiment (TRARE) is one component of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)/Rio Tinto Industrial Research Chair in Climate Change and Water Security project led by Environmental Science Professor Dr. Stephen Déry. The short-term, intensive field campaign runs from September to the end of October, with the goal of exploring how much and what type of precipitation these storms bring to the region. The experiment is the first of its kind in Canada and will help inform our understanding of how climate change may affect the hydrology of the Nechako River Watershed.

Pineapple Express storms are the colloquial name for atmospheric rivers that originate in the Pacific Ocean near Hawaii and transport high volumes of moisture northwards.

"While these storms often replenish critical water resources, the adverse, and often violent, conditions that accompany them such as flooding, washouts and landslides can damage infrastructure and endanger the health and well-being of

ecosystems and communities," Déry says. "With climate change, it is anticipated these 'rivers in the sky' will become more frequent and intense along B.C.'s coast. It is therefore critical to understand their nature and impacts including within the Nechako Watershed."

Montréal (UQAM) researchers will travel to three remote sites about 100 kilometres south of Houston. B.C.: the Mount Sweeney weather station. Huckleberry Mine, and the Nadina River spawning channel.



The team, which includes a rotation of UNBC graduate students and other trainees, will deploy state-of-the-art-meteorological equipment. They will install weather stations at the main sites, rain gauges along the slopes of Mount Sweeney, equipment to measure the volume of water in Lake Sweeney and the Tahtsa Narrows as well as the volume of water going through streams in the area. During storms, research staff will launch weather balloons to profile air temperatures, humidity and winds.

The team is also collaborating with volunteers from the Cheslatta Carrier Nation to install an array of standard gauges to collect additional precipitation data within the Nation's traditional territory.

"The remote reaches of the upper Nechako Watershed lack critical infrastructure like weather radar to monitor atmospheric conditions. During TRARE, we will measure precipitation at nearly 20 sites to capture precise information on the spatio-temporal variability of rainfall associated with Pineapple Expresses and other storms,"

Déry explains. "This is particularly important in assessing water inflows to the Nechako Reservoir and for planning of Rio Tinto's hydropower operations at the Kemano Powerhouse." The NSERC/Rio Tinto Industrial Research Chair is a five-year multifaceted research project examining the hydrology of the Nechako River Watershed. The project is now in its third year and the research team publishes regular newsletter updates on their fieldwork. Read their latest dispatch.

"The extensive monitoring network of water temperature loggers, precipitation gauges and weather stations combined with computer modeling are providing insights on the causes for the Nechako's rapidly changing environment," Déry savs. "Our partnership with Rio Tinto has facilitated research across the vast Nechako Watershed to the benefit of their operations, in addition to various stakeholders and communities across the basin."

Vancouver's First Zero-waste Rescued Food Market Opened October 1st source: BCBusiness

The "pay-what-you-feel" Olympic Village grocer offers perishable foods that would otherwise be thrown away.

How good food is for you tends to have an inverse relationship with how affordable it is (Case in point: the do-you-think-we're-millionaires conversation I have with my partner every time he accidentally buys organic bananas.) It's the same deal with sustainability: eco-friendly goods cost more. And for many people, that's a devastating financial barrier.

Carla Pellegrini, director of Vancouver charity Food Stash Foundation, says that one in seven Canadians is food-insecure and one in 20 Vancouverites lives below the poverty line. "Lots—if not all—of the zero-waste, environmentally friendly options are quite a privilege to support," she says. The Rescued Food Market, opening October 1 in Olympic Village, aims to change that. "Our market is a pay-what-you-feel model," explains Pellegrini, "so those who are in a position to support it financially can help keep us running. But for those who truly need the access to healthy food, there is no expectation of any

financial transaction. It is totally voluntary payment."

Foodstash's environmental angle is rooted in where its inventory comes from: it's all surplus, "ugly" or approaching its best-before date. The rescued food is gathered from grocery stores, wholesalers, markets and farms. "They're dealing with too much stock or cancelled orders, or the shape of the produce doesn't quite match up with customer expectations," Pellegrini says. "We save that food from moving into the landfill, so we are reducing the impact of food waste on the environment."

The Rescued Food Market will also have a community fridge where folks can donate tinned and dry goods, produce, baked goods and cooked foods from registered kitchens. (Everything must be less than two days old and not partly consumed.)

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

6 QUICK TIPS FOR **DECLUTTERING** TOYS BEFORE HOLIDAYS

- 1. Frame the decluttering project in positive way to the children.
- 2. Do first pass through the toys yourself.
- 3. Recycle paper clutter
- 4. Re-work the layout of the space.
- 5. Put everything back in a way that is easily accessible to the children.
- 6. Donate your quality used toys to local charities or thrift stores, have a swap with another family / friends or sell online.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER



Pencil

Popsicle Stick

Felt or Cork

- Enviro Tex Lite Pour On High Gloss Finish
- 4 Wide Mouth Canning Jar Lids and • Ribbon
- Christmas Cards
- 4 Plastic Cups with smooth sides
- Aluminum Foil
- Glue Gun
- Glue sticks

DIY Christmas Coasters

These DIY Christmas Coasters are cute and quite simple to make. This is a great project to reuse old Christmas cards and make a wonderful homemade gift for friends and family.

Plan ahead though because they do take time to cure.

For detail directions:

https://www.annsentitledlife.com/h olidays/diy-christmas-coasters/

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

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RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION Name:
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:
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