

REAPS



REPORT

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JANUARY 2022

COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- 1 Happy Green New Year
- 1 - 14 Wreath Recycling
- 8 - 9 Christmas Tree Recycling
- 12 Food Waste: Body Product & Cosmetics

FEBRUARY

- 9 Food Waste: Growing Micro greens, herbs & sprouts
- 14 Make it a **Green** Valentine's Day

MARCH

- 9 Food Waste: Make it at Home.
- 22 World Water Day
- 26 Earth Hour (8:30 - 9:30 p.m.)

APRIL

- 13 Food Waste: Reusables & Food
- 22 Earth Day

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

REAPS News

2

Web Pick
Book of the Month
REAPS Food Waste Series
Wreath Return
Winter Composting

Local News

3

New Life for Old Wooden Bridges
Recycle Your Christmas Tree
Good Food Box PG

Around BC

4

RecycleBC Collection Lifted
Zero Waste Agenda for BC

Around Canada

5

Where to park Yukon old vehicles?
Canada Needs to do Better

Around the World

6

The World Created ~8 M tonnes of
Pandemic Plastic Waste
Apple Announces Self Service
Repair

BC Program Finds Solutions for
Waste
Canada Plastic Pact

Back Page

8

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

A start of a new year is the perfect time to assess your goals as they relate to Mother Earth.

8 Green New Years Resolutions

1. Recycle More

Beyond the obvious recycling of aluminum, cardboard, paper, plastic, and so on – what items around your home or work can be re-purposed or given to someone else who can use them instead of putting them in the garbage? Think simply, but creatively (i.e. composting, art projects, etc) and you may find the perfect fit! Try to reduce the amount of waste you throw out.



2. Buy (or Grow) Natural Foods

Eat more seasonal fruits, vegetables and whole grains, preferably locally grown when you can. Avoid the "boxed" processed foods and lean towards foods that come from the earth. Local organic foods will be free of pesticides and also don't take so much energy to get to you. Visit the Farmers Market or order from the Good Food Box PG.

3. Use the Re-Usable Shopping Bags

In order for the reusable shopping bags to do any good, they have to be used! Find a way to remember to bring your bags with you to the store (keep them by the door or in your car) and reduce the number of plastic bags that you waste.

4. Think Local

Doing business locally not only helps our local economy to bloom, but also reduces the carbon footprint we are making on Mother Earth. Lessening your commute can save money, as well as provide more opportunities for walking or biking and getting in touch with the outdoors.

5. Do Second-Hand

Instead of buying books, borrow them from a friend or use the library. Second-hand clothes are money-savers and earth-friendly, especially for growing kids. When your kids outgrow their clothes, pass them on to a family in need, a thrift store, or find another way to recycle the clothing and textiles. Salvation Army accepts clothing for recycling (torn, stained).

6. Teach Kids

Teach your kids about why it is so important to take care of our earth by leading by example and getting them involved. Sometimes they may teach us new things about the environment too. Be open to their ideas.

7. Do Green Business

Employees can put all their day-to-day environmental goals into hyper-drive at work too. Retail stores or manufacturers may even consider purchasing a vertical baler for managing their recyclables or a busy mall or fast food restaurant may participate in a composting program (feed for pigs / coffee grinds to gardeners) to minimize waste.

8. Be Water Smart

Buy a nice reusable water bottle and pledge to stop buying bottled water. Other ways to be smart about your water usage include collecting rain water, and simply minimizing water usage while brushing teeth and taking showers, etc.

Start with small easy tasks that can make a big impact when becoming a lifelong habit. Your 8 Green New Years Resolutions should be something that you can start simple, and build on.

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

<https://cbeen.ca/>

CBEEN is the regional network for environmental education in the Columbia Basin.

<https://outdoorlearningstore.ca/>

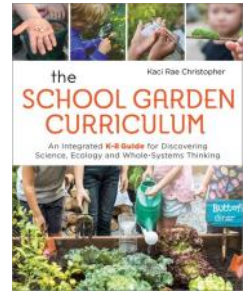
Canada's Non-profit Outdoor Learning Store is a charitable social enterprise that offers outdoor learning equipment and resources for educators and learners. All of our proceeds go towards supporting Canadian outdoor learning non-profit organizations.

Book of the Month

The School Garden Curriculum: An Integrated K-8 Guide for Discovering Science, Ecology, and Whole-Systems Thinking
by: Kaci Rae Christopher

ISBN: 9780865719057

The School Garden Curriculum offers a unique and comprehensive framework, enabling students to grow their knowledge throughout the school year and build on it from kindergarten to eighth grade. From seasonal garden activities to inquiry projects and science-skill building, children will develop organic gardening solutions, a positive land ethic, systems thinking, and instincts for ecological stewardship.



Winter Composting

Winter best time to compost!!! Throw in your kitchen wastes and let the freeze/thaw work. No turning, watering or covering with browns. When we get back up to warmer temps (psychrophiles can tolerate temperature range of 0–20 °C and slowly work on the decomp of waste). The RDFFG is selling composters and turners at cost (\$50 and \$24). Get yours today by calling 250-960-4400.



FOOD WASTE RECOVERY WORKSHOP SERIES



2ND WEDNESDAY OF MONTH

Visit www.reaps.org/events and register today!

- 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



REAPS
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ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY
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LOCAL NEWS

Mackenzie Man Finds New Life for Old Wooden Bridges source: CKPG Today

A retired Mackenzie resident has taken his hobby of making furniture from recycled wooden bridges to selling locally-built artisan furniture pieces across the nation.

Les Sloan is a craftsman who makes unique pieces of furniture from what some see as wood waste.

Sloan looks at pieces of cut wood. He sees imperfections as a way to trigger his creativity. A few years ago, Sloan noticed some of the decommissioned wooden bridges were pulled away from the roadway and burned.

Sloan was in the wood industry for 45 years before retiring. When he learned that the old wooden bridges were destined for the burn pile, he knew this was an opportunity to save the environment.

No two pieces of art furniture are the same, and each piece of furniture comes with a story of where they would originate.

Sloan has an extensive collection of uniquely shaped salvaged wood from around the province that was once driftwood or looked at as scrap.

For each piece of timber he saves from the fire, he envisions it worked into a piece of art furniture and at the same time protecting the environment.



RECYCLE

YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



Prince George Job's Daughters has organized the Christmas tree drop off.

Donations welcomed.

WHEN: Saturday, January 8th and / or Sunday, January 9th

WHERE: CN parking lot corner of 18th ave. and Ospika Blvd.

TIME: 10:00 am-4:00 pm

WHY: The trees will be chipped and used for mulch in the City's Parks.

Good Food Box PG

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

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

Buy to Give is a food box donation where funds raised go towards purchasing food boxes that are subsidized or donated to someone or a family in need within our community.

[Good Food Box PG Link](#)



AROUND BC

Recycle B.C. Material Collection Suspension Lifted – Glass Bottles and Jars and Foam Packaging

source: RecycleBC

RecycleBC is pleased that they are now able to resume collection of foam packaging at depots province-wide, effective Monday December 27. This lifts the final remaining collection suspension, which affected glass bottles and jars and foam packaging over the past month.

The decision to resume collection will be made by depots who collect on our behalf. We expect most will resume collection on Monday. However, given it is the holiday season, some may choose to delay collection of foam for a few days to manage other materials. For example, London Drugs locations will not be resuming collection of foam until after the holidays.

Recycle B.C. had asked people across the province to hold on to some of their recycling, due to

challenges transporting the materials to their end destination over roadways that have been damaged by floods.

The B.C. non-profit responsible for the recycling of residential garbage suspended collection of non-deposit glass bottles and jars, as well as Styrofoam packaging from its depots in mid December. Also suspended collection of all glass bottles and jars from curbside and multi-family collection facilities.

Recycle B.C. has 36 receiving facilities for recyclable materials located across the province, but has only two key material recovery facilities — located in Richmond and New Westminster — the destinations for most of the collected materials.

Material recovery facilities prepare recycled material for end-use manufacturers.

The primary glass end-market that Recycle B.C. ships recycled bottles and jars to is located in Abbotsford, which has been under a local state of emergency since Nov. 15 due to major flooding.

COLLECTION OF GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS RESUMED



A Zero Waste Agenda for BC Needed to Reduce Carbon Pollution and Solid Waste

source: CCPA

BC should look to zero waste policies to challenge a culture of wasteful consumption that is creating both carbon pollution and solid waste, says a CCPA-BC report, [A Zero Waste Agenda for BC](#).

While BC is ahead of most North American jurisdictions in implementing composting and recycling programs, the total volume of waste produced has been increasing. Too many everyday products have a useful lifespan of mere moments before being trashed, including many single-use items like plastic bags, bottles and packaging, the report notes.

"The challenge of our times is not to recycle a little more, but to fundamentally redesign systems to reduce the amount of waste that is created in the first place," says co-author Marc Lee, CCPA-BC senior economist, of the new report, noting that it calls for BC to achieve zero waste by 2040.

"Well-designed policies can reduce waste and carbon emissions while also supporting local economic development and social justice goals in BC," he adds, explaining that in addition to aggressive product design change and reduction of materials used, a system of repair and re-use

before recycling is needed.

"By dramatically reducing the volume of materials that flow through the economy, we can reduce the associated energy consumption and carbon emissions. And, because climate change and wasteful consumption are connected we must do this immediately," says co-author Sue Maxwell, a sustainability consultant and board member of Zero Waste BC.

The report calls for new regulatory frameworks in BC in two pressing areas, plastics and construction/demolition waste.

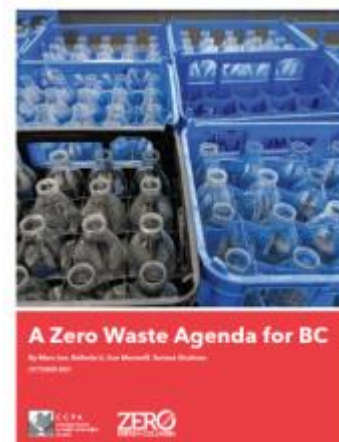
In Canada, government action on plastic has been painfully slow, mostly improving low rates of recycling rather than reducing the volume of plastic entering the economy. Beverage containers are an example of a sector where reuse and refilling opportunities could dramatically reduce the amount of plastic in circulation.

The construction and demolition (C&D) sector represents 50 per cent of waste generation and 30 per cent of disposal in Metro Vancouver. The report calls for the province to create model municipal solid waste policies and regulations that can be adopted at variable rates, but with a

provincial "backstop" as in the BC Energy Step Code.

"New policies and investments to reduce and manage food waste and organics can greatly reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and produce compost for local use," adds co-author Belinda Li, a solid waste management consultant and Director of Innovation of the Food Systems Lab at Simon Fraser University.

"Waste problems are not unique to BC," says Maxwell. "There is a growing movement around the world to shift to a system that lives within the means of our planet while not leaving people behind. BC should embrace this."



AROUND CANADA

Where to Park Yukon's Abandoned Vehicles?

Source: CBC

The Yukon is known for beautiful mountains and lands teeming with wildlife.

But lesser known is that drivers can see a long-lasting invasive species from the side of the road: thousands of abandoned Chevys, Fords and Toyotas.

"The landfills are ... full with cars," Ralph Charlton, metals director at Yukon's Raven Recycling Society, tells CBC. "We're just trying to catch up, to get back down to zero."

Charlton and other recyclers like him are racing against the clock. If left alone to rust, hazardous material like engine oil, diesel and coolant oozes out of them into the soil or water sources nearby.

The Yukon has a long tradition of abandoning vehicles that dates back to the 1940s, when the Alaska Highway was first built, according to Scott Dudiak, the program coordinator at Zero Waste Yukon.

What's changed since then is that more and



more people are leaving their family vehicles in the wild, he said.

"Abandoned vehicles in the Yukon are a unique challenge," Dudiak said.

"When you go to recycle your car [in the provinces] oftentimes you're paid for it, for the materials ... but in the Yukon, because of our distance from those markets, it actually costs money to [recycle]."

Raven Recycling Society started auto recycling a year and a half ago, according to Charlton — becoming the first non-profit in the

territory to do so.

The salvaged cars are brought back to a shared workshop between Raven Recycling and Urban Auto. One or two workers de-pollute the cars, removing all the hazardous material like coolant, oils and gasoline.

A baler then turns the car metal into its final form—an unrecognizable block of scrap metal, ready to be separated and shredded at a recycling plant in Edmonton.

Some material, like tire rubber, eventually makes its way back into constructing or fixing the roads those tires used to drive on.

In the last two years, Raven Recycling collected over 100 cars and turned them into 70 to 80 tonnes of recycled scrap metal.

There's many more to go. A 2018 feasibility study from Zero Waste Yukon predicts there will be roughly 10,000 more disused cars to deal with in Yukon by 2036.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Canada Needs to do Better at Recycling and Reusing Stuff

source: Canada's National Observer

Canada has one of the world's most wasteful economies when it comes to recycling and reusing commodities like plastic, metal, and energy, a new report commissioned by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has found.

Only about six per cent of materials — a catch-all term that includes fossil fuels, water, minerals, food, and manufactured items like plastics or textiles — are reused, refurbished, or recycled in Canada. In contrast, over a fifth of materials used in France are recycled into the country's economy.

Waste is a major driver of pollution and climate change, and transitioning to a more "circular economy" is urgent if countries are to prevent ecological catastrophe, warn the report's authors, a panel of experts convened by the Council of Canadian Academies. Circular economies prioritize the reusing and recycling of resources such as energy, water, minerals, food, and manufactured products.

"The circular economy is the only way" we can reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and environmental footprint enough to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss, said co-author Tima Bansal, a professor at the Ivey

Business School in London, Ont.

For instance, less than 10 per cent of Canada's plastic waste is recycled because recycling is too expensive and ineffective to compete economically with new plastic. The country also unnecessarily wastes construction materials, textiles, and food, the document notes.

There are a few glimmers of hope. The reusable packaging company Loop is helping Canadian, British, and American food companies package their goods in metal containers, which Loop then collects from customers to wash and reuse. And earlier this year, the Canada Plastics Pact, a coalition of companies and environmental groups, announced a plan to streamline plastic packaging to make it easier for businesses to reuse and recycle.

"[The idea] is that material products stay in the economy longer," Bansal explained. "It's not just about [pushing] the waste stream into recycled products, it's about keeping material products longer."

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

The World Created About 8 Million Tons of Pandemic Plastic Waste, and Much of it is Now in the Ocean

source: The Washington Post

Some 8 million metric tons of pandemic-related plastic waste has been created by 193 countries, about 26,000 tons of which is now in the world's oceans, where it threatens to disrupt marine life and further pollute beaches, a recent study found.

The findings, by a group of researchers based in China and the United States, were published this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal. Concerns had been raised since the start of the coronavirus pandemic that there would be a boom in plastic pollution amid heightened use of personal protective equipment and rapid growth in online commerce. The study is among the first to quantify the scale of plastic waste linked to the health crisis.

The impact of the increase in plastic waste has been keenly felt by wildlife. As of July, there were 61 recorded instances of animals being killed or disrupted by pandemic-linked plastic waste, according to a Dutch scientist-founded tracking project. Among the widely publicized examples are an American robin found wrapped in a face mask in Canada and the body of a perch wrapped in the thumb of a disposable medical glove, which was found by Dutch volunteers. National Geographic called the latter the first documented instance of a fish being killed by a disposable glove.

Although only about 30 percent of all coronavirus cases were detected in Asia as of late August, the region was responsible for 72 percent of global plastic discharge, the study found. The researchers said this was due to higher use of disposable protective equipment, as well as lower levels of waste treatment in countries such as China and India. By contrast, developed economies in North America and Europe that were badly hit by the coronavirus produced relatively little pandemic plastic waste.

The situation was worsened by the suspension or relaxation of restrictions on single-use plastic products globally. New York state's ban on single-use plastic bags, which took effect in spring 2020, was enforced only that fall.

"Better management of medical waste in epicenters, especially in developing countries, is necessary," the researchers wrote, while also calling for the development of more environmentally friendly materials.

"Governments should also mount public information campaigns not only regarding the proper collection and management of pandemic-related plastic waste, but also their judicial use," said Von Hernandez, global coordinator of Break Free From Plastic, an advocacy group. "This includes advocating the use of reusable masks and PPEs

for the general public ... especially if one is not working in the front lines."



Much plastic waste enters the world's oceans via major rivers, according to the researchers, who found that the three waterways most polluted by pandemic-associated plastic were all in Asia: The Shatt al-Arab River feeds into the Persian Gulf; the Indus River empties into the Arabian Sea; and the Yangtze River flows to the East China Sea.

The study said the main form of plastic discharged into oceans was medical waste generated by hospitals, which accounted for over 70 percent of such pollution. Scraps of online shopping packaging were particularly high in Asia, though they had a relatively small impact on global discharge.

Modeling by the scientists indicates that the vast majority of plastic waste produced as a result of the pandemic will end up either on the seabed or beaches by the end of the century. In addition to becoming possible deathtraps for coastal animals, plastic buildup on beaches can increase the surrounding temperature, making the environment less hospitable to wildlife. And as plastic degrades over time, toxic chemicals may be released and moved up the food chain.

Apple Announces Self Service Repair

source: Newsroom

Apple today announced Self Service Repair, which will allow customers who are comfortable with completing their own repairs access to Apple genuine parts and tools. Available first for the iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 lineups, and soon to be followed by Mac computers featuring M1 chips, Self Service Repair will be available early next year in the US and expand to additional countries throughout 2022. Customers join more than 5,000 Apple Authorized Service Providers (AASPs) and 2,800 Independent Repair Providers who have access to these parts, tools, and manuals.

The initial phase of the program will focus on the most commonly serviced modules, such as the iPhone display, battery, and camera. The ability for additional repairs will be available later next year.

"Creating greater access to Apple genuine parts gives our customers even more choice if a repair is needed," said Jeff Williams, Apple's chief operating officer. "In the past three years, Apple has nearly doubled the number of service locations with access to Apple genuine parts, tools, and training, and now we're providing an option for those who wish to complete their own repairs."

Apple builds durable products designed to endure the rigors of everyday use. When an Apple product requires repair, it can be serviced by trained technicians using Apple genuine parts at thousands of locations, including Apple (in-store or by mail), AASPs, Independent Repair Providers, and now product owners who are capable of performing repairs themselves.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



B.C.-based Program is Finding Sustainable Solutions for Waste Across Western Canada

source: Vancouver is Awesome

Founder Jack Diamond and his sons started the business from a small butcher shop in Vancouver, which he grew into multiple locations, and then into B.C.'s largest meatpacking operations. In 1979 son, Gordon Diamond proceed to build West Coast Reduction Ltd. which has become the largest independent rendering company in western Canada. Diamond's ultimate goal? "Finding an efficient solution for this waste while creating value."

"He noticed there was a need to get rid of products that couldn't be sold to humans for consumption and that ended up in the landfill, so he built up this network of operations – wanting nothing left behind," says Derek Quan, Head of Redux Services on the 'silent industry' the company has been involved in since its inception.

In 2010 Redux was formed and is built on four unique services that keep tonnes of animal and food waste, plus thousands of litres of used cooking oil and grease, from being dumped in landfills annually across western Canada.

"The goal is to divert waste from the landfill," Quan says. "It's shocking how much food goes to waste before it even reaches the consumer, whether it has been labeled incorrectly or has small imperfections. We use the EPA food waste

hierarchy, which starts off by reducing waste at the source level. If it is safe, we try to find an option to feed humans with it, like through charities. If that is not possible then we work to feed it to animals, use it as a feedstock, or work with partners for composting."

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Canada Plastics Pact releases 'Roadmap to 2025'

source: RCA

More than 70 leading businesses, governments and organizations including the Recycling Council of Alberta / British Columbia have come together to release an ambitious action plan to eliminate plastic waste through the Canada Plastics Pact. Roadmap to 2025: A shared action plan to build a circular economy for plastics packaging represents unprecedented cross-value chain collaboration, uniting key players behind a shared vision for a circular economy for plastics packaging in Canada and a targeted plan to drive tangible change by 2025.

Industry, NGOs and public sector organizations, including brands, retailers, recyclers, resin producers, nonprofits, associations, governments and others who together account for over a third of the plastics packaging on the market in Canada developed the action plan.

The Roadmap presents a full picture of what is needed to aggressively advance action and what can be done next to achieve a circular economy for plastics packaging through three strategic priorities for 2025:

1. **Reduce, reuse, collect:** Eliminate unnecessary and hard to recycle plastics. Drive innovation for reuse and refill models. Innovate to prevent waste from being created in the first place. Improve collection and recycling systems.
2. **Optimize the recycling system:** Packaging design standards to improve recyclability. Investments in new infrastructure. Address supply and demand issues to incorporate recycled resins. Ensure government policy is in place and well-designed.
3. **Use data to improve the whole system:** Create standard definitions and measurement practices. Drive investment in better real-time data and monitoring.

Currently, we are throwing valuable materials away and there is significant material loss between the plastics that are generated to that which is collected, sorted and actually recycled. Innovation in technology and business models that will be generated through achieving a circular economy for plastics packaging will capture economic value, deliver jobs, and position Canadian businesses competitively.

The CPP is following the ambitious precedents set in the Roadmaps of other Pacts across the Ellen MacArthur Foundation's global Plastics Pact Network to bring globally aligned direction and responses to plastic waste and pollution. The Roadmap will accelerate progress towards the CPP's four 2025 targets for plastics packaging and waste which Partners of the CPP are required to report on annually. These are:

1. Define a list of plastic packaging to be designated as problematic or unnecessary and take measures to eliminate them.
2. 100% of plastic packaging being designed to be reusable, recyclable or compostable.
3. 50% of plastic packaging is effectively recycled or composted.
4. 30% recycled content across all plastic packaging.

To learn more about the Roadmap, visit <https://roadmap.plasticspact.ca/>



RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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

Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Reuse, Repair, Repurpose Instead of Buying New

One of the most impactful ways to make 2022 a green new year is to reuse, repair, and repurpose what you already own before making new purchases. It's also a terrific way to keep expenses to a minimum. Before you toss unwanted items in the garbage, donate or sell them.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER



Toilet Paper Roll Crafts

So many ways to reuse tp rolls that children can craft animals, pencil holders, cars and more from. Here are some examples to give inspiration to your children.



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

Renew today: E-transfer: recycling@reaps.org

PayPal at www.reaps.org (state membership)

Cheque payable to:

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