

# REAPS



# REPORT

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MARCH 2022

## COMING EVENTS

### MARCH

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

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### MAY

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## SATURDAY, 30 April 2022

Celebrating Pitch-In & Spring Clean Up

### JUNK IN THE TRUNK SALE

Garage Sale Bonanza  
CN CENTRE PARKING LOT

Open to the PUBLIC 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Stop by and shop!

**VENDORS - 100 + STALLS**

- set up starting at 7:30 a.m.
- book a stall (\$20 donation)
- Sell items from the trunk of your car
- Donate left over items to AimHi & Diabetes

To book a stall go to [www.eventbrite.ca](http://www.eventbrite.ca)  
More information call:  
REAPS 250-561-7327  
email: [events@reaps.org](mailto:events@reaps.org) or call

# REAPS NEWS

## Web Pick of the Month

<https://www.earthday.org/>

### INVEST IN OUR PLANET

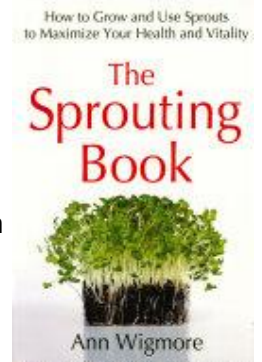
This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to **preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods.**

## Book of the Month

*The sprouting book* by Ann Wigmore

ISBN: 0735918292468

Filled with essential vitamins, proteins, and enzymes that cleanse, rejuvenate, and heal the body, sprouts just might be the perfect food. In *The Sprouting Book*, nutritionist Ann Wigmore unlocks the secrets to one of nature's most beneficial foods, arming readers with all they need to know in order to eat, grow, and reap the benefits of sprouts.



## REAPS Office Has Moved

As part of ongoing reconciliation/reparation work the City of PG has been engaged in, the land that REAPS Compost Demonstration Garden has been on for almost 30 years has been returned to the Lheidli T'enneh nation whose lands we reside on. REAPS office of 12 years has moved to Suite 101, 1595 5th Ave (thank you to IFS for providing space so quickly). Appointments can be made by calling 250-561-7327 (same phone number) or emailing [recycling@reaps.org](mailto:recycling@reaps.org).

REAPS Demonstration Garden is an integral and essential part of the teaching we do about environmental stewardship and growing in environmentally friendly ways. Founded in 1993, the Compost Demonstration Garden's intent was to showcase various types of indigenous plants and flowers, and teach children, families and local gardeners how to grow organically, reduce household waste by 33% to create a valuable soil supplement - compost, highlight what can be grown in our climate sustainability and to increase food security. This education outreach continues to this date.

The Garden is slated to move in April. The REAPS Team has submitted an application for a Capital Grant which will assist us in our ability to reestablish and expand our garden to include a community garden growing space, more social infrastructure, increased composting of Institutional Food Wastes and a shared activity and gardening processing space.

REAPS greatly appreciates the three decades of dedicated volunteer support that built and maintained the garden, and hopes that the community will continue this support as we work through this transition.

The REAPS Team are actively searching for more funding opportunities for the move and are in discussion with potential partners for a new site.

We are seeking capital donations in the form of financial, labour, letters of support, garden redesign and material donations to assist our success in both the application and garden relocation.

If you are able to assist, drop us a line or donation to [recycling@reaps.org](mailto:recycling@reaps.org)

REAPS continues to offer their programs, community initiatives and field trips to schools and residents during this transition period. Summer programming with summer camps, daycares and community groups will still be taking place within the community.

Thank YOU!



## Survey

We are excited to participate with a keen group of UNBC students taking a class on Public Engagement for Sustainability at UNBC. They have created a survey around Climate Change that will assist us with future direction of educational programming and promotion. Please participate by clicking on the link below. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/7BJGCZB>



## FOOD WASTE RECOVERY WORKSHOP SERIES



Visit [www.reaps.org/events](http://www.reaps.org/events) and register today!

- MAR Make it at Home
- APR Reusables & Food
- MAY Vermi / Composting
- JUNE Outdoor Cooking
- JULY Wild Foraging
- AUG Kids & Food Waste
- SEPT Preserving Food



## LOCAL NEWS

### Northern BC Virtual Seedy Saturday Event

The Prince George Master Gardeners and David Douglas  
Botanical Garden Society  
present the second  
Northern BC Virtual Seedy Saturday Event  
Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 9:00am to 12:30pm

Topics include:

Prince George Community Seed Library with Ana Peasgood

Basic Seed Saving with FarmFolk CityFolk

Know your Pollinators, who is working in your garden? Pollinator survey results with Aija White, Faculty of the Environment, University of Northern British Columbia

Prince George Master Gardeners – Questions & Answers

Register in advance for this event at [Northern BC Virtual Seedy Saturday Event](https://www.ddbotgarden.bc.ca) or <https://www.ddbotgarden.bc.ca> Upcoming Events. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Limited spaces available.

A link to the documentary video **Modified** will be sent to the participants who have registered for Seedy Saturday. **Modified** is a documentary about **GMOs** and trying to get them labelled on food products. Video sponsored by Seeds of Diversity.

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

### NORTHERN BC VIRTUAL SEEDY SATURDAY EVENT

**SATURDAY MARCH 5, 2022  
9:00AM - 12:30PM**

BASIC SEED SAVING  
PRINCE GEORGE SEED LIBRARY  
MASTER GARDENER ~ QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
KNOW YOUR POLLINATORS

REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.DDBOTGARDEN.BC.CA](https://www.ddbotgarden.bc.ca)  
UPCOMING EVENTS

AFTER REGISTERING, YOU WILL RECEIVE A  
CONFIRMATION EMAIL CONTAINING INFORMATION  
ABOUT JOINING THE MEETING.

Prince George Master Gardeners  
Our Roots are in the North

### PG Farmers' Market

Local always tastes and feels better. The Prince George Farmers' Market was started in 1994 with a few vendors and has grown into a substantial Prince George institution with around 100 members offering everything from local vegetables, ethically-raised grass-fed meats, bakings, fruits, hot foods, coffee, honey and jams and jellies, preserves, and a wide variety of artisan products including jewelry and crafts.

(Saturdays) 8:30 am - 2:00 pm 1310 3rd Avenue



### City Wide Spring Clean UP

CITY OF PRINCE GEORGE REAPS

**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY: APRIL 24**  
Register today at [princegeorge.ca/SpringCleanUp](https://princegeorge.ca/SpringCleanUp)

Our place, our community, our neighbourhoods.

Any litter removed from a natural ecosystem helps wildlife and creates a better space for humans too! Counteract litterbugs by being a litter picker. You don't have to be on an organized litter pick to help, just pick up any rogue litter when you see it and pop it in the bin!

PITCH-IN mark your calendars registration coming soon.

## AROUND BC

### Pacific BioEnergy Shuts Down Production

source: MyPrinceGeorgeNow

Pacific BioEnergy, a wood pellet plant, has shut down their plant in Prince George for the last time.

In December, the company announced they would be shutting their doors permanently.

"Our Company has been battling several challenges for the past few years. Sawmill closures in the region have reduced the volume of available raw materials and increased their cost significantly. Forest fires, landslides, and floods have severely impacted our ability to transport our product by rail to the export terminal in North Vancouver. The impact

has been a significant increase in operating

ers," said John Stirling, CEO.



Pacific BioEnergy has been part of the local community for over 25 years. According to PacBio CEO John Stirling, the plant was shut down as of 4:00 a.m. March 4, 2022.

"We've made a tough decision at PacBio that we are shutting down our company operations completely, the equipment is going to be sold, it'll move offsite and our team will wind down over the next couple of weeks," Stirling said.

costs. Our sales contracts have been sold to Pinnacle to mitigate the impact on our custom-

### Williams Lake Has a Recycling Program Available For Single-Use Face Masks

source: MyCaribooNow

Single-use face masks and some other Covid related Personal Protection Equipment can now be diverted from the landfill to a recycling facility.

Chief Green Officer for the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, Oliver Berger, says this new recycling initiative got started a few months back with some funding from the City of Williams Lake to deal with the problem of an abundance of single-use masks.

"There's a company down in Burnaby which is awesome. They collect all the used masks, disinfect them, melt them down, pelletize them, and then re-sell them back to the plastic. It's a BC "Closing the Loop Option" and we decided to get some funds together and get a few boxes start-

ed up so Williams Lake could have that same option as well."

Berger said they've been in touch with several businesses around town who were interested in having a recycling box at their location to deal with their own single-use face masks.

"Quite a few schools have reached out as well so they can offer this in the school or the classroom, a couple of pharmacies, we have a few daycares, and every week a few more people ask about it and want to get some boxes. We even had some requests from out of Williams Lake in Quesnel and 100 Mile House so it's exciting that it's growing."

He added that before they get shipped out, there is a main collection box at Next GENERAL Mercantile Refillery and so far they've already filled box one which can fit about 16-hundred masks.



Berger says anyone interested in taking part in the single-use face mask recycling project can reach out to the Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society on social media or call 250-398-7929.

### B.C. Developing Plan to Protect Drinking Water, Ecosystems

source: The Canadian Press

Severe drought, wildfires, flooding and landslides in British Columbia last year show that responding to climate change requires focusing on water and strengthening natural defences provided by healthy watersheds, an expert says.

"We've all learned that climate crisis is a water crisis," said Oliver Brandes, co-director of the University of Victoria's POLIS Project on Ecological Governance.

"Our best hedge against these challenges is to ensure the security of our watersheds and improve our capacity to manage water sustaina-

bly."

The B.C. government announced in January that it's developing a new strategy to protect watersheds and drinking water in response to threats posed by climate change combined with the effects of urban and industrial development. Creating the strategy is an important step to help the province set its priorities and hopefully incorporate a greater focus on water as it modernizes land-use planning, Brandes said in an interview.

Restoring wetlands, riparian areas and other natural assets that filter water and act as buff-

ers against flooding will require rethinking how and where communities develop and changing some forestry and agricultural practices, he added.

But it will also save costs in the long run as climate change worsens, he noted.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)





## AROUND CANADA

### Statistics Canada Releases Data on Household Textile and E-Waste Disposal in Canada source:

Ever wondered what Canadians are doing with their old cell phones and computers? When an electronic device, such as a cell phone or computer, becomes damaged or reaches the end of its useful life, users are faced with the question of whether to repair the device or replace it.

Repairing damaged cell phones and computers has become increasingly challenging in recent years as devices have become smaller and more complex in nature. The inability to easily repair devices like cell phones means that consumers are left with few options other than to

replace them with new ones, resulting in the old devices needing to be disposed of.



Data from Statistics Canada suggests that Canadian households are retaining their cell phones

and computers longer in recent years than they were a decade ago, as evidenced by a decrease in the proportion of households having one of these devices to dispose of while ownership levels have remained fairly steady.

Check out the recently released statistics from Statistics Canada on whether Canadians are looking to repair or replace their old cell phones and computers.

[REPAIR OR REPLACE STATS LINK](#)

### Tim Hortons Changes Lid Colour in Bid to Improve Plastic Value source: MyComoxValleyNow

Select Tim Hortons restaurants are now receiving white beverage lids. Changing the colour from brown to white of their hot beverage lids will increase the potential value of these materials to recyclers in the post-consumer market.

The fast food chain announced the change early in March, saying the white plastic lids will be more valuable to recyclers. They believe recyclable materials have better potential to be reused and repurposed into more new products.



Other changes from Tim's include testing a new plastic-free fibre lid at more locations.

The changes are being done under the Tims for Good initiative. Through its various Tims For Good initiatives, including transitioning

from plastic to paper straws, Tim Hortons in Canada eliminated one billion single-use plastics in 2021 that would otherwise have ended in landfills. Other initiatives including the introduction of new 100 per cent recycled-fibre napkins and new recyclable sandwich packaging also contributed to more than three billion units of packaging being improved at Tim Hortons restaurants in Canada in 2021 compared to the packaging that was used in restaurants in prior years.

Other changes for Tim Hortons include moving from plastic to paper straws, and recycled-fibre napkins.

They say they are also getting ready to launch returnable packaging in Vancouver this year.

The pilot project would offer Vancouver guests to pay a deposit and get reusable and returnable cups.

### Textile Waste is a Growing Problem—Canada Not Doing Enough to Solve It source: CBC

At Paul Long's clothing store Anián, each garment gives new life to used wool.

The fabric is recycled from discarded clothing from landfills and rag houses — warehouses full of second-hand clothing — in southeast Asia and Africa that eventually lands in Vancouver, where Long's team uses it to create new garments.

Long estimates his business kept 136 tonnes of textile waste out of landfills abroad in

2020 — around the weight of a blue whale — and he's hoping to make even larger strides in recycling in the future.

Textile waste, which comes from the manufacture of clothes and their eventual disposal into landfills, is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world.

While there are signs that governments are taking the problem seriously by providing more sustainable disposal options, some people in

the recycling and textiles industries say Canada still lacks a lot of the infrastructure to

properly re-purpose clothes — and that there is still too much reliance on other countries to break down our garments for us.



# AROUND THE WORLD

## Shipping Line Won't Carry Plastic Waste

source: Waste&Recycling

Global ocean shipping line CMA CGM Group has announced that it will no longer carry plastic waste.

the total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the Group in 2020.

storage and the absence of processing infrastructure for plastic waste that does not actively get recycled or reused.

During the One Ocean Summit organized by Emmanuel Macron, president of France, Rodolphe Saadé, chairman and CEO of the CMA CGM Group, announced that after May 2022 the shipping line would no longer be transporting any plastic waste aboard its ships.



The CMA CGM Group serves more than 420 ports around the world on five continents. Using a fleet of 545 vessels, in 2020 the Group transported nearly 21 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent units) containers.

Committed to the energy transition in shipping, and a pioneer in the use of alternative fuels, the CMA CGM Group has set a target of carbon neutrality by 2050. An approach involving ongoing improvement which brings concrete results, with a decrease of 4% in

### Conserving biodiversity

Every year, around 10 million tons of plastic waste end up in the sea. Unless action is taken, that figure is set to triple over the next 20 years to reach 29 million tons per year, which will cause irreversible damage to marine ecosystems, fauna and flora.

The causes of this pollution include open-air

### Zero plastic waste to be transported

With the decision that it will no longer transport plastic waste on board its ships, CMA CGM will prevent this type of waste from being exported to destinations where sorting, recycling or recovery cannot be assured.

The Group has thus decided to take practical steps where it has the operational capability to do so, heeding the urgent calls made by certain NGOs.

With this decision, the CMA CGM Group is stepping up its efforts to make conserving biodiversity one of the priorities of its CSR policy and to develop trade that is more responsible and fair for everyone and for the planet.

## U.N. Pact May Restrict Plastic Production. Big Oil Aims to Stop it

source: reuters

United Nations member states are set to meet this month in Nairobi to draft the blueprint for a global plastics treaty, a deal that could see countries agree for the first time to reduce the amount of single-use plastics they produce and use.

It's being touted as the most important environmental pact since the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change.

A global explosion of disposable plastic, which is made from oil and gas, is increasing carbon emissions, despoiling the world's oceans, harming wildlife and contaminating the food chain. More than 50 countries, including all 27 members of the European Union, are calling for the pact to include measures targeting plastic

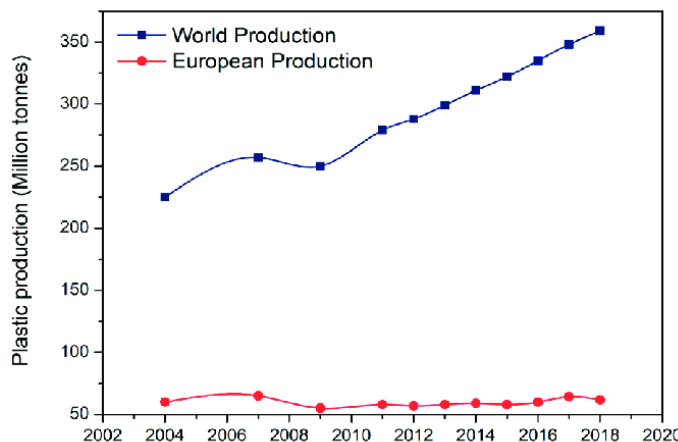
production.

That's a problem for big oil and chemical companies. The industry is projected to double plastic

output worldwide within two decades.

Publicly, plastic industry groups representing firms like ExxonMobil Corp ([XOM.N](#)), Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Dow Inc ([DOW.N](#)), have expressed support for a global agreement to tackle this garbage.

Behind the scenes, however, these trade organizations are devising strategies to persuade conference participants to reject any deal that would limit plastic manufacturing, according to emails and company presentations seen by Reuters, as well as interviews with a dozen officials involved in the negotiations.



[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Where Will Canada's Electric Vehicle batteries Go When They Die?

Source: The Narwhal

Electric vehicles are booming in B.C. and that means the province has a unique opportunity to divert some of the world's most sought-after clean-energy minerals from a potentially hazardous waste stream

What happens when an electric vehicle battery the size of a small dinner table reaches the end of its life?

That's the question jurisdictions across Canada and the world are grappling with as more and more electric vehicles hit the roads in the coming decades. In B.C., government estimates there will be more than 2.5 million of these vehicles cruising along the province's roadways by 2040.

With so much focus in B.C. on growing the mining sector and especially supplying minerals for the clean energy revolution, critics say the province is overlooking the potential economic benefits of extracting materials from used-up electric vehicle batteries — materials that don't require the creation of new, environmentally impactful mines.

### Electric vehicles in Canada an opportunity to rethink battery recycling

There are already more than 60,000 electric vehicles on B.C.'s roads. Each car is equipped with a lithium-ion battery and while the design of those batteries is much the same as the one in your smartphone, electric vehicle batteries are, by

necessity, much bigger. A single car battery can weigh several hundred kilograms and is made up of materials like manganese, graphite, nickel, cobalt and lithium.

These behemoths of the battery world have an average lifespan of eight to 15 years, which means as the electric vehicle market continues to grow, B.C. faces an important opportunity to rethink the recycling sector.

It's work that's already underway across the continent.

Kunal Phalpher, chief strategy officer at Li-Cycle,



a Toronto-based lithium-ion recycling company with four facilities operating and under construction across North America — including in Kingston, Ont. — said the more batteries become available, the better the opportunities become for recyclers.

He said it's crucial to plan for recycling right at the start of the electric vehicle growth curve.

"In the next eight to 10 years we're going through this first wave of rapid growth and rapid increase in demand for these materials where you're still going to need new primary resources [from mines]," he told The Narwhal.

"But it's also the time to build up infrastructure to manage [batteries] at end of life so that we can continue to chip away and increase the percentage of recycled material back into the battery."

Phalpher said he anticipates a sector-wide shift to reusing more materials. Electric vehicle batteries aren't currently produced with recycled minerals because there's not enough supply, he said.

"But as we get into the next decade, we'll start to see a sharper increase in that," he said. "And then you can eventually work towards not having to build new resources for pulling material out of the ground and really drive [production] through secondary sources."

Until the time comes when recycling facilities start receiving high quantities of depleted batteries, the demand for minerals is expected to continue to increase exponentially.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

## Plastic Pollution A Global Problem - Treaty to Curb It

source: TheConversation

Plastic pollution is accumulating worldwide, on land and in the oceans. According to one widely cited estimate, by 2025, 100 million to 250 million metric tons of plastic waste could enter the ocean each year. Another study commissioned by the World Economic Forum projects that without changes to current practices, there may be more plastic by weight than fish in the ocean by 2050.

On March 2, 2022, representatives from 175 nations around the world took a historic step toward ending that pollution. The United Nations Environment Assembly voted to task a committee with forging a legally binding global treaty on plastic pollution by 2024. U.N. Environment Pro-

gram Executive Director Inger Andersen described it as "an insurance policy for this generation and future ones, so they may live with plastic and not be doomed by it."

Andersen's forthcoming book, "Our Plastic Problem and How to Solve It," explores legislation and policies to address this global "wicked problem."

I believe plastic pollution requires a local, national and global response. While acting together on a world scale will be challenging, lessons from some other environmental treaties suggest features that can improve an agreement's chances of success.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)





## RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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Website: [www.reaps.org](http://www.reaps.org)

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

### Dumpy's Tip of the Month

#### HANG-DRY LAUNDRY

Save electricity by taking advantage of the nicer weather and drying all of your bedding, clothing, and towels outside instead of in the dryer. Air-drying clothes can reduce the average household's carbon footprint by 1,089 kg a year. Save the dryer for rainy days and you'll be taking big steps to help the environment.



#### RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER



Toilet paper rolls and egg cartons make excellent Easter decorations.

### 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](mailto:newsletter@reaps.org)

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletters via email please email [REAPS](mailto: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](mailto:recycling@reaps.org)

PayPal at [www.reaps.org](http://www.reaps.org) (state membership)

Cheque payable to:

R.E.A.P.S.

Box 444 Prince George, B.C. V2L 4S6