### Recycling & Environmental Action & Planning Society

# **REAPS**



# **REPORT**

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**JULY 2022** 

#### **COMING EVENTS**

#### JULY

I Canada Together

6 Free Tour of Northern Lights

Winery

8 - 9 Two Rivers Gallery Community

Arts Days

13 REAPS Wild Foraging

17 Vermicomposting I p.m.

17 Composting 2p.m.

17 Recycling 3 p.m. 17 - 21 Go For Green Week Recycle

Crafts

20 Free Tour of Northern Lights

Winery

**AUGUST** 

Free Tour of Northern Lights
Winery

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#### **REAPS Relocation**

In May 2021 the City notified REAPS that they have given the property bordering lheidli t'enneh memorial park which included our garden (of 28 yrs) and the office building (of 12 yrs) to lheidli t'enneh First Nation to build their Daycare slotted for April 2022.

REAPS is excited for LTFN and their project to develop and build a much needed daycare space.

Short notification from the City to relocate has us, as a Charitable Organization scrambling on what this relocation will look like, where, when and how much it will cost.

Since our funders require us to fulfil obligations which include speaking with the public, hosting workshops, providing resources in person this has left us to be tasked on how to deliver and where.

Exploration Place kindly offered up their Explorer Gardens for us to delivery school programs, summer programs and workshops. We have planted the beds to showcase growing gardens where the produce will go back into the community.

Industrial Forestry Service kindly offered up office space for our Executive Director and 27 yrs worth of outreach material in February to relocate to.

The DDBGS has reached out to us and invited us to join in their garden expansion at UNBC. Meaning a space to rebuild our Demonstration Gardens, be a part of the Community Gardens and large scale composting site which will all be developed as funding comes in. DDBGS main focus is the visitor centre to begin building 2023 where REAPS may have an office space.

The RDFFG has been very supportive on our situation and has suggested moving 2 sheds, greenhouse and our little garden office temporarily to Quinn Street Transfer Station.

As with any relocation funding is an issue. For REAPS to successfully relocate, \$2.5 K is needed! Nonprofits do not have this kind of capital in their banks. We have had volunteers complete funding applications (not successful... lots of competition for dollars). We are working on more funding grants but stalled because awaiting to see what compensation will be forthcoming from the City so we can match dollars for dollars, getting quotes on moving our structures and storage of items until permanent location is secured and much more.

We recently were told that it is not worth the cost of moving the shed and greenhouse (cheaper to rebuild) and the garden office would require 2 weeks to secure permits to move and the cost would far exceed rebuilding. Yet another obstacle and stall.

We have removed a number of plants that went into the DDBGS Plant Sale. We still have a number of plants to be potted up.

We appreciate the community's support and interest in what is happening. We will continue to share our relocation updates as we move along. If you have any ideas for funding, assistance in moving, etc. Please drop us a line at garden@reaps.org

The Explorer Gardens and Compost Demo Garden are open periodically for workshops, tours, events... check our events page and we are always available by appointment / phone call and happy to meet with you.



## **REAPS NEWS**

#### **Web Pick of the Month**

National Center for Home Food Preservation is a wonderful first resource as it's exhaustive in its coverage of so many elements of preservation (freezing, fermenting, drying, pickling, and storing). They offer a list of publications and fact sheets on canning along with an informative FAQ and Links page.

https://nchfp.uga.edu/#gsc.tab=0

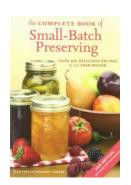
#### **Book of the Month**

The Complete Book of Small-Batch Preserving

by Margaret Howard

ISBN: 9781554072569

The easiest and safest methods for making delectable preserves in small batches -- all year long.



#### The Good Food Box

A partnership between REAPS, EAT (Everyone at the Table) and PGPIRG (PG Public Interest Research Group) with the funding from a MyPG Grant works to connect local producers and consumers through the online store. We value putting local produce and products first (as much as possible with the seasonality of our region) and strive for harm reduction in our practices through efforts in reduced packaging and support of regenerative growing practices that enhance our local soils and environments.

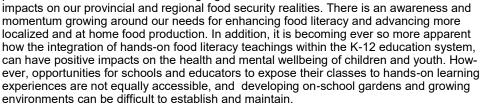
Boxes are available bimonthly. Sign up today at https://www.thegoodfoodboxpg.ca/



#### **Farm to School**

A partnership between Farm to School and REAPS with funding from Northern Health provided an opportunity for educators and students to participate in place-based, hands-on learning within the Prince George community.

Impacts of both Covid 19 and climate change on food production and distribution are having significant



From this thought the Connecting Schools to Community was developed with majority of the input coming from Farm to School local resource person and part time REAPS Staff - Roanne.

The project addresses the needs for creating or enhancing opportunities for food literacy place-based learning for children within the k-12 education setting. Hands-on food literacy exposure to various foods through creative and positive methods can contribute to healthier relationships with food and better mental health outcomes, all while increasing food literacy skills that strengthen overall resiliency in food security.

8 school classes participated in May and June in a classroom presentation and then a guided field trip with activities. 4 more school classes are booked for September.

The field trip includes: tour of CNC greenhouse and activity; during which time the head chef of the CNC culinary program takes half the kids to the kitchen for a tour while the other half participates in activity in the greenhouse. The students then hop back on the bus to UNBC, have lunch and a DDBGS master gardener gives a tour of the botanical gardens. The students then walk to the food gardens behind the university to just show them what is growing in there.

## **Canning Circle Says Thank you the RDFFG**

The latest initiative of the Everyone At the Table and REAPS see the diversion of the food received through the Food Recovery Program at the The Salvation Army that is not able to be distributed to people before going bad. The Canning Circle is capturing goods that need a little prep and turning them into jams or soups while teaching canning to volunteers every Wednesday night.

The waste left from these canning sessions is composted with thanks to the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George who donated composters to the Canning Circle members to create compost to enrich soil that will grow more food.

https://ckpgtoday.ca/.../salvation-army-doing-its-part.../

To learn more about the Canning Circle or to volunteer

https://www.letseatlocalpg.com/canningcircle



## LOCAL NEWS

### **A Few Good Farms Food Box**

A Few Good Farms Food Box will be a bi-weekly food box with a mixture of fresh fruit and vegetables from Three Seeds Farm and Foraging Moose Farm and optional additions of gourmet local mushrooms from 15 Mile Fungus!



\$35 Bi-weekly

veekly July August Sox September

## Seasonal Produce

Greens, radish, carrots, beets, strawberries, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, beans, peas, onions, squash, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, garlic, hakurai turnips, mixed edible flowers. & assortment of gourmet mushrooms!

### **Sewing Camp Intermediate**

Runs Monday July 4/22 to Friday July 29/22

(3 hours) at Theatre Northwest Festival Seating 556 North Nechako Road.

This class is designed for children ages 12-17 with some sewing experience, those who attended last year's sewing camps, and children ages 10-12 with considerable sewing experience. The projects are more challenging than the Beginners class and some projects are multi-day projects. This camp consists of 3 hours per day for 5 days.



👸 GRAMA'S INN

Morning camps will run July 18-22 and July 25-29 from 9am-12pm Afternoon camp will run July 4-8 from 1:30-4:30pm For details contact admin@theatrenorthwest.com

## **Equity Workshop for Local Food Advocates**

About this Event: Mon, 4 July 2022

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PDT

This workshop will explore how unequal power dynamics can reproduce food inequities through representation and engagement of people, food, agriculture, and the land. Workshop participants will explore two different community planning tools that can help uncover these unequal power dynamics and can disrupt assumptions and biases about impacted and marginalized groups and individuals. This workshop aims to identify tangible paths forward for Prince George, and the broader region, to take in creating resilient and just food systems.

**Note:** This workshop will be hosted in a hybrid format. Participants can attend either **in-person or online** via zoom. We will send out the zoom link prior to the event.

#### **REGISTER HERE**

For morre information, contact Keaton Freel at freel@unbc.ca or 416 419 0449.



# **Eco-Living Kitchen Serving up Sustainable Food Options**

The student-led Eco-Living Kitchen group won a prize in the Nourishing Innovation Initiative: Campus Nutrition and Food Security Contest for their Community Cooking on Campus project.

Sustainability, climate change challenges and secure food options in northern B.C. were just some of the top issues a diverse group of students passionate about the north came together to address. While attending UNBC, they formed Eco-Living Kitchen (ELK) in response to a call from the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) for youth between the ages of 16 - 30 to create climate solutions in a province-wide project called Co-Creating a Sustainable BC.

The students, who are all invested in addressing environmental issues, thought it was important enough to meet and discuss solutions even as they attended online classes in the Fall of the 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Partnering with various UNBC and Prince George organizations such as Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS), the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society and Prince George Public Interest Research Group (PG PIRG), the students provided ELK Kits to the Prince George community and ran a series of online workshops that focused on those topics.

Launched in April 2021, the ELK Kits provided locally-sourced, lowwaste options for the kitchen to 75 Prince George residents free of charge, thanks to funding from FBC.

## **AROUND BC**

### Metro Vancouver Business Diverting 70,000kg of Food from the Trash

A couple of enterprising young business students in Metro Vancouver are reducing carbon emissions by saving ugly and aging produce from being thrown away.

Sang Le and Arielle Lok buy misshapen and surplus fruits and vegetables from farmers and wholesalers, then redistribute them to consumers through their company, Peko Produce.

Food waste accounts for up to eight per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions, according to nonprofit Project Drawdown, which aims to reduce carbon emissions. The Commission for Environmental Cooperation estimates Canadians waste about 13 million tonnes of food each year, which

makes us one of the top per capita food wasters in the world.

Le, 22, and Lok, 20, launched the company in May 2021. They started by visiting farmers markets to meet the people growing the food to find out if they had extra fruit and vegetables after they harvested, and sure enough, most said yes.

The pair got to work packing boxes through the summer.

So far, they've diverted about 70,000 kilograms of food from the landfill, and estimate they've

SOURCE: BC Climate Changers

saved their 8,000 customers up to 40 per cent on their produce purchases over the past year.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE



#### **B.C. Watches as California Subpoenas Plastic Industry Over Waste, Alleged Deception** source: Vernon Morning Start

California's attorney general in April announced he subpoenaed ExxonMobil, alleging the company helped cause a global plastic pollution crisis while it intentionally deceived the public for decades.

The oil company engaged in "historic and ongoing efforts to deceive the public," attorney general Rob Bonta said.

While ExxonMobil denied the allegations, California said the company pushed petroleum-based plastic products while seeking to minimize public understanding about how widespread use could harm the environment and public health.

"The truth is, the vast majority of plastic products - by design - cannot ever be recycled," Bonta said.

B.C.'s Ministry of Environment didn't answer Black Press Media's question on whether the province will follow California's direction, but a spokesperson said they will continue to monitor the state's actions. The ministry's response also included a list of provincial actions taken on tackling plastic pollution, with several of those touting B.C.'s recycling systems.

But the latter is exactly where the problem lies, according to one University of Victoria law expert who says plastic producers pushed the concept

of recycling so they could create and sell more products.

"It's been a pretext for the plastic industry to produce more and more plastic, more and more plastic waste," said Calvin Sandborn, legal director of Environmental Law Centre.

He's no stranger to the industry using misleading tactics, as his UVic team helped bust Keurig for false claims the company was making about its coffee pods being recyclable. Their co-complaint to the Competition Bureau of Canada led to Keurig having to pay a \$3 million fine, change its recyclable claims and issue a series of public corrections.

He also points to an NPR and PBS investigation that found oil and plastic companies knew in the '70s that recycling wouldn't work on a broad scale, but the concept would quell growing public concern around plastic waste. That report also cited internal documents showing those companies lobbied the majority of U.S. states to mandate that the recyclable triangle logo appear on all plastic items - even if they couldn't be processed.

It's that kind of deceptive advertising that California is targeting and Sandborn said Canadian officials need to look at it seriously.

"If the same thing has happened here, and I suspect it has, then the attorney general of British Columbia should be looking at potentially suing for the cost to government of running a bunch of recycling programs that may have been triggered by deceptive statements by the plastics industry."

It wouldn't be unprecedented for B.C. to sue for costs it had to pay due to a company's product, as Sandborn noted how the province took on the tobacco industry. In 1998, B.C. launched a lawsuit to recover tobacco-related health care costs stemming in part from the industry's "deceptive promotion of their product."

Recycle BC's most recent annual report said among its collectables, plastics are people's main concern. In 2020, 52 per cent of the 63,000 tonnes of plastics produced were recovered, up from 46 per cent the year before.

Recycling should be the last resort after reducing and reusing plastics, Sandborn said. But the industry said the way forward is better recycling through expanding B.C.'s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) model

nationwide.



## **AROUND CANADA**

## **Ziploc Launches Compostable Sandwich Bags**

Ziploc® launches compostable sandwich bags in Canada Back in February and March postable sandwich bags are both BPI and 2020, members of the Ziploc Canada team attended the Compost Council Workshops across Canada, both to learn more about the pleted by the Compost Manufacturing Allilatest in organics recycling and compost use, and introduce the Ziploc® brand compostable sandwich bags to members of the compost community and to hear your feedback.

We are pleased to let our fellow Council members know that the new certified compostable bags are now being introduced at retailers across the country, supported with an awareness campaign to let consumers know the new product is available and to educate people on the benefits of compost to soil health.

By way of background - the Ziploc com-BNQ certified, with in-field testing for compostability having been successfully comance to ensure decomposition was within industry standards.

Recognizing that what goes into the organics bin is crucial to ensure the highest quality compost output, the bags were designed to be easily distinguishable from standard Ziploc bags. The compostable version is green in colour, has the BPI and BNQ logos along with the word "Compostable" across the front, and recognizing that not all facilities can accept certified compostable products, the packaging clearly indicates to check with municipalities to determine acceptance within the local organics collection program.

source: Ziploc

Made of recycled paperboard, the box is also different, visibly identifying this Ziploc bag as certified compostable.

From certification to brand identification and communication, all these measures are meant to support consumer understanding and confidence in our Ziploc compostable product and, of equal importance, to help support the important work of compost facilities.

More information about the bags may be found on the Ziploc website here.



#### **Cardboard Bread Clips Hitting Grocery Shelves After Quebec Company Ditches Plastic** source: CBC

Cardboard bread clips are beginning to appear on grocery shelves across Canada, after a Quebec manufacturer made the decision to ditch plastic.

KLR Systems produces millions of plastic bread clips a year, destined to tie the knot on some of Canada's biggest bread brands. However, the fasteners were not recyclable.

"All the plastic we produce here ends up in landfills," said Nicolas Hamel, the president of KLR Systems, which is located in Saint-Pie, Que., in the province's Montérégie region.

Even if the clips themselves are small, their effect on the environment isn't: Hamel said the amount of plastic that would come in and out of the factory was staggering. Every few weeks, there would be trucks filled to the brim with plastic, he said.

It pushed him to try to find a more sustainable way, leading to the new clips made from recycled cardboard.

"Not only is it recyclable, but if it ever inadvertently ends up in the trash, it's already better because it's compostable," he said.

Two production lines are now producing the cardboard versions to the tune of four to five million a day.

The Bimbo company, which produces several brands of bread including Pom, Bon Matin and Villaggio, have already started adopting the new clips and are gradually appearing on their products in grocery stores.

"The bread clips we have just launched on the market will allow us to reduce our use of single-use plastic by more than 200 tonnes a year,

which is equal to 32 adult elephants." said Laurence Vallerand, a spokesperson for Bimbo Canada.



### **AROUND THE WORLD**

## **Apple Expands the Use of Recycled Materials Across Products**

SOURCE: Circular

For the first time, Apple has introduced certified recycled gold, and more than doubled the use of recycled tungsten, rare earth elements, and cobalt.

Nearly 20 percent of all material used in Apple products in 2021 was recycled, the highest-ever use of recycled content, the company said.

Apple released new details on this progress, its recycling innovation efforts, and clean energy in its <u>2022 Environmental Progress</u> Report.

"We are making real progress in our work to address the climate crisis and to one day make our products without taking anything from the earth," said Lisa Jackson, Apple's vice president of Environment, Policy, and Social Initiatives.

"Our rapid pace of innovation is already help-

ing our teams use today's products to build tomorrow's, and as our global supply chain transitions to clean power, we are charting a path for other companies to follow."

Apple says it has "pioneered innovations" in the recycling and sourcing of materials to spur industry-wide change. To help its recycling partners build on this momentum world-wide, Apple announced its newest recycling innovation, Taz, a machine that uses a groundbreaking approach to improve material recovery from traditional electronics recycling.

In 2021, 59 percent of all the aluminum Apple shipped in its products came from recycled sources, with many products featuring 100 percent recycled aluminum in the enclosure. Apple says it has also made "significant progress" toward the company's goal to eliminate plastics from its packaging by 2025, with plastics accounting for just 4 percent of packaging in 2021.

Since 2015, Apple has reduced plastic in its packaging by 75 percent.

Additionally, Apple products in 2021 included 45 percent certified recycled rare earth elements, a "significant increase" since Apple introduced recycled rare earth elements in its devices, Apple says.

This included 30 percent certified recycled tin, with all new iPhone, iPad, AirPods, and Mac devices featuring 100 percent recycled tin in the solder of their main logic boards; and 13 percent certified recycled cobalt, used in iPhone batteries that can be disassembled by Apple's recycling robot Daisy and returned to market.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

## Planet vs. Plastic: Three Steps to Solving the Global Plastics Waste Crisis Source: Green Biz

From the Arctic tundra to the top of Mount Everest to inside the <u>human gut</u>, plastics are quite literally everywhere.

Escalating plastic production, exclusively out of fossil fuels, is a dirty not-so-little secret — it <u>rose</u> from 2 million tons in 1950 to nearly 400 million tons in 2020. The consequences, from overflowing landfills to marine life death to negative human health impacts, are widely recognized, but action to address both the production and clean up the pollution still lags.

At GreenBiz's annual conference on the circular economy, Circularity 22 in May in Atlan-

ta, plastics experts and practitioners took the stage to discuss the ins and outs of the solutions to the plastics problem — and how to build the momentum to find success.

So what will it take? A systems-wide approach that redesigns how we use plastic in products and packaging, plus investment and behavior change toward recycling and disposal, all while centering people and planet. It's no easy task, but with the right tools, approaches and proof points, it's all doable, according to experts speaking during a plenary session about how to move from ambition to accountability.

"We have the infrastructure for innovation for the future, not just the past," said Keefe Harrison, CEO of the nonprofit organization The Recycling Partnership. Harrison and other innovators are working on building that future today to set up the circular economy of tomorrow up for success.



### Are EV Batteries Recyclable? Your questions answered - CBC Science

More electric vehicles (EVs) are on roads than ever before as many Canadians start to move away from internal combustion vehicles to reduce the carbon emissions that contribute to climate change. But what about the environmental impact of the batteries used to run this electric transportation?

As the market for EVs expands and consumers have more choice when it comes to makes and models, it's important to understand the different types of batteries and what goes into them.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, there are four main types of energy storage systems used in EVs:

- •Lithium-ion batteries: These are used in devices like cellphones and laptops. They are widely preferred in the EV industry because of their high efficiency, good performance at high temperatures, low self-discharge (a chemical reaction that causes loss of charge) and the fact that most of their components can be recycled.
- •Nickel-metal hydride batteries: You can find these in many hybrids on the market, though in most plug-in EVs, these have been superseded by lithiumion batteries. The main challenges with nickel-metal hydride batteries are their high cost, high self-discharge and low performance at higher temperatures. However, they are generally considered safer than li-ion batteries, due to the lack of liquid electrolyte that can spill during accidents.
- •Lead-acid batteries: They are the cheapest and the oldest kind of batteries. Charging and operation of them typically results in the emission of hydrogen, oxygen and sulfur. They were used to power early versions of EVs in the 1970s.
- •Ultracapacitors: Useful in providing additional power for acceleration and hill climbing, these can be used as a sec-

ondary energy storage in EVs because they can both rapidly store and release energy — while keeping the main batteries from overheating.

## How long can you expect an EV battery to last?

This depends on which batteries are being used and how you take care of them. Based on the current EV market, battery packs should come with an eight-year warranty. However, Steve LeVine, editor of the Electric, a publication that focuses on electric vehicles and lithium-ion batteries, says they actually last much longer.

When an EV battery pack degrades to around 75 per cent of its original capacity, it is considered to be at the end-of-life stage.

"Car manufacturers are expecting the battery will degrade, and it starts to degrade on Day 1. But they want consumers to have that 75 to 80 per cent of that capacity after about five to seven years," Petrunic said.

## How are used batteries disposed of? Can they be recycled?

While all the components of the batteries are recyclable, the bigger challenge is the recycling industry for these products is not that well developed, said Petrunic.

EVs are still new to the automotive industry
— so only a small number of them have useful ends to their lives.

"The metals are recyclable, but they're not valuable ... like iron and phosphate," LeVine said. "Lithium is valuable."

Policy decisions by the governments are needed to incentivize the recycling of iron and phosphate gear, he said.

When it comes to recycling lithium-ion batteries, there are currently three basic methods

to recycle them. These include:

- •Pyrometallurgy, also known as smelting.
- Hydrometallurgy.
- Direct recycling.

## Where do the raw materials for the batteries come from?

According to the U.S. National Institute for Health (NIH), the main materials used to create EV batteries are graphite, cobalt, lithium, manganese and nickel.

However, procuring these key minerals is not an easy task because they come from various mines around the world.

China has been the largest extractor and processor of graphite — the most common mineral used in EV batteries. According to S&P Global Commodity Insights, China controls nearly 79 per cent of global production, although other countries are launching graphite-mining projects to relieve demand.

# From the mining of raw materials to manufacturing to recycling, are EVs really sustainable?

While all EVs running solely on electricity will have zero tailpipe emissions, emissions may be produced where the electricity is generated.

According to a report from the International Council for Clean Transportation (ICCT), EVs by far have the "lowest life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions."

In comparing the emissions during manufacturing, another\_ICCT report found that EV manufacturing requires more energy and produces more emissions than manufacturing a conventional car, because of the metal extraction processes required for batteries.

## RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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

#### CLEAN NAILS WHILE WORKING IN GARDEN

If you are like me I do not wear gloves while working in the garden. This little trick helps to prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nail-

brush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.





#### **RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER**

#### **DIY Watering Can**

- 1. Choose a large bottle with a handle and a screw-on lid. Detergent jugs and milk jugs are great choices. Large water jugs and juice jugs may also work, as long as they have a handle. Most importantly, make sure that the lid screws on. A cap that you pop on and off will not work for this due to the water pressure.
- **2. Clean out the bottle and remove labels**. Fill partway with water, close the cap tightly, shake it and pour out.
- 3. Punch holes into the cap with a nail. Keep the cap on bottle. Use a nail to punch as many holes into the lid as wanted. Consider adding a hole above the handle which will help with the water flow and release pressure.



## 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 <a href="mailto:newsletter@reaps.org">newsletter@reaps.org</a>

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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: R.E.A.P.S. Box 444 Prince George, B.C. V21 456