Recycling & Environmental Action & Planning Society

REAPS



REPORT

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COMING EVENTS

JANUARY

- Happy Green New Year! REAPS memberships due Т
- 12 Small - Large Actions at Home
- 29 Coldsnap Music Festival begins

FEBRUARY

- 4 Coldsnap Music Festival Festival D'Hiver - Francofun 3
- 9 Eco-Friendly Habits for Home
- 14 Valentine's Day

MARCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

REAPS News

Web Pick Book of the Month Eco-Friendly Presentation Small/Large Action Presentation REAPS Membership Due **REAPS** Donations welcomed

Local News

Meteor Lake East of PG RDFFG Landfill Tipping Frees PG's Tree Protection Bylaw Federal Gov't Deny Coal Mine

Around BC

3

5

Vancouverites Flock to Food App Biofoam - Packaging From Wood Waste

Around Canada

Farmer Reluctantly Throws Away Cauliflower A Stitch in Time

Around the World

7 in 10 People in 34 Countries Support Global Rules Germany To Force Plastic Makers To Help Pay for Cleanups

A Circular Communities Success Visualizing Mismanaged Plastic Waste By Country

Back Page

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



January 2023



Government of Canada reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to address plastic pollution and protect biodiversity here at home, and around the world.

Over the next decade, this worldleading ban on harmful single-use plastics will result in the estimated elimination of over 1.3 million tonnes of hard-to-recycle plastic waste and more than 2,000 tonnes of plastic pollution, which is equivalent to over one million full garbage

The Government of Canada will continue to be guided by science as it takes additional measures toward its zero plastic waste goal. The Government is working with provinces, territories, and industry to set an ambitious collection target of 90 percent for recycling plastic beverage bottles. It is also developing regulations to require that certain plastic packaging contain at least 50 percent recycled content and to establish clear rules for labelling recyclable and compostable plastics. Draft regulations are targeted for publication as early as fall 2023. In addition, the Government is developing a plastic registry to hold plastic producers accountable for their plastic waste.

These measures put Canada among world leaders in the fight against plastic pollution and will help to meet the commitments of the Ocean Plastics Charter. Internationally, Canada continues to advance global ambition as a founding member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. Canada is working with countries and stakeholders globally to develop an ambitious and effective legally-binding treaty to end plastic pollution. The world must act urgently and concretely to tackle plastic pollution and Canada will continue to be a strong contributor to this effort.

Quick Facts:

- The six categories of singleuse plastic items in the Regulations were specifically selected because they are commonly found in the environment, are harmful to wildlife and their habitat, are difficult to recycle, and have readily available alternatives.
- The six categories of singleuse plastic include: checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from hard-to-recycle plastics, ring carriers, stir sticks, and straws.
- To provide businesses in Canada with enough time to transition and to deplete their existing stocks, the Regulations will enter into force through a phased approach:
- Starting on December 20, 2022, with the prohibition on the import and manufacture of singleuse plastic checkout bags, cutlery, foodservice ware made from problematic plastics, stir sticks, and straws; the prohibition on the sale of these items will come into force in December 2023.
- In June 2023, the manufacture and import of ring carriers in Canada will be prohibited and the sale of these items will be prohibited in June 2024.

- As of June 2024, the sale of flexible straws packaged with beverage containers will be prohibited.
- By the end of 2025 the Government will also prohibit the manufacture and import for the purposes of export of all six categories of single-use plastics, making Canada the first among peer jurisdictions to do so internationally. These phased timelines recognize the complexity associated with retooling manufacturing lines for these products.
- Exceptions to the ban on straws allow single-use plastic flexible straws to remain available for people in Canada who require them for medical or accessibility reasons. This includes for use at home, in social settings, or in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and long-term care facilities. All other types of single-use plastic straws will be prohibited.
- The Government will use the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Roadmap to Strengthen the Management of Single-Use and Disposable Plastics and robust science and other evidence to analyze potential future actions to target harmful and problematic plastic items.
- The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity focuses on agreeing to a new Global Biodiversity Framework to guide the world's collective efforts to protect nature and halt biodiversity loss around the globe.

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

Green Choices is about the choices we can make in our everyday lives to protect our environment, for the benefit of all. We aim to empower you with simple, direct information on green alternatives which make a real, lasting difference.

https://www.greenchoices.org/

Book of the Month

How to Give Up Plastic By: Will McCallum

ISBN 9780143134336

Plastics are everyone's problem, and unless we as individuals, governments and companies all share responsibility, we won't solve ever solve it. In this book, Will McCallum, head of oceans at Greenpeace UK, frames the current state of global plastic pollution and the environmental consequences of our throwaway, sin-

gle-use culture. Part history, part guide, "How to Give Up Plastic" helps us understand our plastics addiction while giving us practical, ambitious steps to correct it.



Mapping Out: Eco-Friendly Products & Habits for the Home

Join us at the PG Public Library for an overview of what habits we can adopt or enhance at home to reduce our environmental impacts of daily living.

In addition, we will highlight some handy home products that can be incorporated to help you on your eco-living journey.

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2023 FROM 18:30-19:30

At the PG Public Library - Main Branch

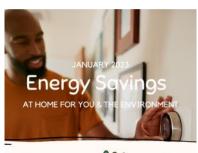


Small-Large Actions At Home: Energy Savings For You & The Environment

Join us for an overview of actions, big to small, that can be taken-on at home to reduce your energy use, gain you savings, and benefit the environment. The presentation will introduce actions and projects that can be applied to heating/cooling, lighting and appliance and electronics usage.

THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2023 FROM 18:30-19:30

At the PG Public Library - Main Branch











CHARITABLE DONATION:

REAPS provides charitable tax receipts for any donation over \$20

Consider donating to our relocation and rebuilding fund of our Educational Community Compost Garden at UNBC



To Donate:

Mail to: PO Box 444 PG, BC V2L 4S6 e-transfer to: recycling@reaps.org paypal on our website www.reaps.org

in "notes" state what payment is for ie/membership; donation



LOCAL NEWS

Meteor Lake East of Prince George

The Nature Trust of BC is slightly more than halfway towards its goal of raising \$75,000 to purchase and protect 235 hectares of wetland east of Prince George.

Some \$30,000 has been raised through a crowdfunding campaign, a spokesperson said this week. The organization launched the campaign on Oct. 19 and is facing a Nov. 30 deadline to reach its goal.

The properties skirt the northeast and southeast corners of the Meteor Lake wetland-bog, about 100 kilometres east of the city and across the Fraser River from Sinclair Mills. It is one of the three largest wetlands in the upper Fraser River and a site that plays a vital role in limiting the pace of climate change, according to the organization.

The wetland also provides food, breeding grounds, and habitat for grizzly bears and moose, as well as threatened and at-risk mam-

mals, birds, and amphibians. The northern goshawk, classified as threatened, and white sturgeon, classified as endangered, are found within the area.



Source: PG Citizen

The property also

contains bog and fen ecosystems with rare and specialized flora and fauna - including two ecological communities ranked blue-listed or of special concern by the provincial government.

The \$75,000 covers the last 15 per cent of the cost of the land, the spokesperson has said. To donate go to canadahelps.org.

RDFFG Landfill Tipping Fees to Increase; Small Loads Not **Affected** Source: PG Daily News

The base tipping fee rate at the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George landfill and transfer stations will be increasing by \$2 to \$96 per tonne on January 1, 2023.

This increase in fees will help offset increase in facility operations and maintenance. The cost to dispose of smaller loads will not be affected and the \$6 minimum charge for amounts up to 100 kg will remain in effect.

PG's Tree Protection Bylaw to be Reviewed source: PG Citizen

The City of Prince George will include a review of the city's tree protection bylaw during the planned update of the city's official community plan next year, following a vote by city council on Monday.

The move came after two groups of UNBC environmental studies students presented their research on urban trees and the importance of greenspace to city council.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

Federal Government Deny Approval for Northern B.C. Coal Mine

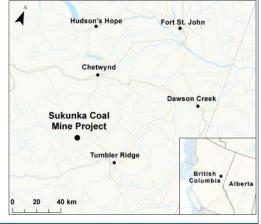
A proposed \$450 million coal mine in northeast B.C. will not go ahead, after the B.C. Environmental Assessment Office announced on Wednesday that an environmental assessment certificate will not be issued for the project.

According to Glencore Canada, the Sukunka mine - located about 55 kilometres south of Chetwynd and 40 km west of Tumbler Ridge – would have created roughly 700 jobs during construction and 250 ongoing jobs. The mine was expected to produce roughly three million tonnes of metallurgical coal for export per year over the 22-year life of the mine.

"The assessment found the project would have

significant adverse and cumulative effects on the threatened and red-listed Quintette caribou herd. increasing the risk of its extinction," the EAO statement said. "The EAO's assessment additionally found that the project would have significant cumulative effects on grizzly bears, by adding to existing impacts from previous development in the region, as well as adverse impacts to First Nations, such as treaty rights to hunt."

The B.C. EAO carried out an assessment on behalf of the provincial and federal governments under an agreement, which allows a single review for both levels of government. The federal government also announced its decision on Wednesday.



AROUND BC

Amid Rising Prices, Vancouverites Flock to Food Waste App to Save on Grocery Bills source: Vancouver News

The latest Consumer Price Index numbers show BC food prices are up nearly 10 per cent over the past year, forcing many people to adapt their grocery shopping habits.

"There's 44 per cent who are going into cheaper alternatives when they're at the grocery store," said Mario Canseco, president of Research Co.

Canseco's latest poll shows British Columbians cutting back on everything from eating at restaurants to grabbing a cup of coffee.

"It's clear that even though inflation isn't as bad as other countries, people are noticing more expensive groceries and starting to make sacrifices," he said.

According to Too Good To Go – an app that addresses food waste issues by helping businesses sell their unsold items to consumers at a discounted price – around 35,000 people in Metro Vancouver have used the app since it was introduced to the Vancouver market in 2021.

"This really provides that kind of middle level

opportunity to both recoup some of what would go to waste in terms of the food that they would produce that they would throw out, and then also help consumers to help eliminate waste and save some money on food that they would other-

FIGHT FOOD WASTE

wise pay full price for," said Sarah Soteroff, spokesperson for Too Good To Go.

According to the National Zero Waste Council, 2.3 million tonnes of edible food is wasted each year in Canada.

"So we get some money, but more than that, we can save a lot of food per day," said Westview Bakery owner Reza Norozi. "The day after, if

they like it, they come back to get the fresh one, so it's kind of an advertisement for us as well."

Too Good To Go says more than 700 Greater Vancouver businesses have signed on with the ann

Flashfood is a similar app with dozens of grocery stores listed on its website.

"We know that people are using it for those everyday items like baked goods and grocery items, less on the specialty items," said Soteroff.

She says consumers pay one-third of the regular price for their items, but it's unlikely they'll know exactly what they'll receive. Items are placed in a "surprise bag" filled with whatever is left at the end of the day.

Businesses are rated by app users, meaning it's likely in their best interest to provide value.

Canseco says he's not surprised by this growing shopping trend. "It's not shocking, partly because everybody's trying to do their best to try and squeeze those pennies," he said.

B.C. scientists and First Nation create decomposing 'biofoam' Packaging From Wood Waste source: CBC

Packing material designed as an alternative to Styrofoam that degrades naturally within weeks.

Styrofoam can take 500 years to decompose as it bloats landfills around the world, but new packing material called biofoam made of forestry waste can decompose in a matter of weeks, say scientists.

University of British Columbia researcher Feng Jiang says that's a potential environmental boon, because Styrofoam currently fills up to 30 per cent of landfills.

"We have been doing a few tests, which is putting biofoam into the soil, and then it started degrading and after two months, it will be completely gone," said Jiang, an assistant professor in the university's faculty of forestry and the Canada Research Chair in

sustainable functional biomaterials.

The biofoam project is a collaboration between the Wet'suwet'en First Nation in central B.C. and University of B.C. researchers. The partnership came about three years ago when Jiang met Reg Ogen, president and CEO of the First Nation's Yinka Dene Economic Development Limited Partnership, at an encounter arranged by the B.C. Forests Ministry.

Jiang and his fellow scientists listened as First Nation members described concerns about what to do with wood waste on their land.

Ogen said wildfires and infestations of mountain pine beetles in the 1990s and 2000s had created large amounts of waste that they wanted to be used in a meaningful way.



"We met with Dr. Jiang there and we looked at different ways of utilizing the wood waste and finally we came up with a product that I think we can do something good with. And hopefully, at the end of the day, to keep all of the Styrofoam out of the landfills and then make sure that we continue to protect Mother Earth," said Ogen.

He said seeing waste transformed into a useful material brought a smile to his face.

AROUND CANADA

Farmer Says He Reluctantly Throws Away Enough Cauliflower to Feed a Province Source: CBC

Richard Melvin hopes there comes a time when the majority of food waste from his farm ends up in the mouths of people who need it most.

Despite being "perfectly good to eat," up to 40 per cent of Melvin's 36 hectares of cauliflower gets plowed back into the ground each year. according to the Nova Scotia farmer's estimates.

"We waste enough cauliflower on our farm to feed everybody in Nova Scotia, or the Maritimes for that matter." he told Cross Country Checkup's Ian Hanomansing.

Many farmers aren't in a position to afford to harvest, box and transport produce that isn't being purchased, Melvin says — especially for vegetables like cauliflower that can spoil in two weeks.

"This is fresh produce, so we're talking about a fairly short shelf life. We often get into a situation where we try to do something and the market demand is not quite as good as what we thought it would be."

According to a 2019 federal government report. an estimated 13 per cent of fruits and vegetables grown in Canada go unharvested or are discard-

And Melvin says grocery and retail standards are strict when it comes to acceptable product size and colour.

"If it's a little bit too creamy colored — people might call it kind of a snow white kind of colour people don't like that," he said. "If it's too small, too large, then that's another area [of concern]," adding the ideal size for cauliflower is 13 to 18 cm in diameter.

A new funding stream for growers is required. Melvin says, to get leftover produce into the food bank system.

Feed Nova Scotia is one possible option to accomplish that.

The registered charity — which serves food banks, shelters and meal programs in the prov-



ince — is in discussions with Melvin.

Second Harvest CEO Lori Nikkel isn't surprised to hear that farms have to get rid of so many edible crops.

Billed as a food rescue charity, Second Harvest collects surplus food from across the supply chain and redistributes it. According to the organization's 2022 annual report, Canadians waste 58 per cent of their food each year.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE

A Stitch in Time: Repairs, Recycling and Other Fixes for Fast-**Fashion Waste Problems** source: CBC

Average Canadian throws away 31 kg of textiles each year, says U of A researcher.

Sarah Janzen watches customers in her shop as they pick through tables and racks of pants, shirts and sweaters priced at less than three bucks per pound.

"We started off a year ago in a 2,000square-foot warehouse with 40 volunteers," says Janzen, owner of Blenderz Garment Recyclers. "The demand for it was so high that we've doubled."

Her new location, at 5609 Gateway Blvd, in south Edmonton, is more than 5,000 square feet and has 60 to 70 volunteers pitch in every month, sorting and processing garment donations from the public.

Good items go back for resale to stay in the local economy, Janzen says. The not-so-good ones —

like stained T-shirts and single socks — find new life as woven rugs or other upcycled items sold in the shop.



"The not-good clothing goes through a sanitization process and disassembly, and we put them into one of our different products," says Janzen. She accepts donations as an eco-fee toward processing of things like used sheets and towels.

The shop also sells bulk textiles and clothing that

can be recycled or upcycled by cottage indus-

"We're keeping the resources for people to make things here and take care of our waste right here," Janzen says. "So we're not creating the carbon emissions from exporting and ending up in a landfill in another country."

Janzen says the system produces a little more than two kilograms of garbage each week out of more than 1,300 kilograms of items coming in.

A growing aspect of the Blenderz business is classes held on the last Thursday of every month, offering instruction in skills like learning to sew and mend or creating homemade holiday presents.

AROUND THE WORLD

Seven in 10 People in 34 Countries Support Global Rules to Stop Plastic Pollution Source: Ipsos

Consumers globally believe it is important for such a treaty to incorporate five key measures to tackle plastic pollution: ban unnecessary singleuse plastics, ban types of plastic that cannot be easily recycled, have rules making manufacturers and retailers responsible for reducing, re-using and recycling plastic packaging, have global rules requiring all new plastic products to contain recycled plastic and require labelling of plastic products so that it is clear how to responsibly sort them for reuse, recycling or disposal.

An average of 70% people across 34 countries support a treaty that creates global rules for governments to end plastic pollution, according to the *Global attitudes towards a plastic pollution treaty* report by Ipsos.

Support for a treaty creating global rules for governments to end plastic pollution is highest in Latin America (77%) and Europe (72%), and lowest in North America (60%). The highest level of support for such a treaty is seen in Peru and Colombia (both 81%), while support is lowest in Japan (48%) and the United States (58%).

The survey also reveals that consumers globally

believe it is important for the treaty to incorporate five different measures to tackle plastic pollution.

Stuart Clark said: "These high levels of support for measures that go beyond bans to include extended producer responsibility and clear labelling of products show that there's a strong desire for countries to work together to implement a comprehensive set of rules in a global treaty."

Clear majorities in every country surveyed, and a global average of 75%, believe that it is important to have global rules to ban unnecessary single-use plastics.

Majorities of people across the 34 countries surveyed believe that it is important to have global rules to ban types of plastic that cannot be easily recycled, with a global average of 77%.

Majorities across the countries surveyed believe that it is important for a treaty to have rules making manufacturers and retailers responsible for reducing, re-using and recycling plastic packaging, with a global average of 78%.

In addition, clear majorities believe that it is im-

portant to have global rules requiring all new plastic products to contain recycled plastic, with a global average of 76%.

A clear majority also believe that it is important to require labelling of plastic products so that it is clear how to responsibly sort them for reuse, recycling or disposal, with a global average of 77%.

TO READ FULL ARTICLE



Germany to Force Plastic Makers to Help Pay for Cleanups

source: AP News

The German government stated that it plans to make plastic manufacturers contribute to the cost of cleaning up litter in streets and parks.

The Cabinet agreed on a bill that makers of products containing single-use plastic will need to pay into a central fund managed by the government, starting in 2025.

The fund is estimated to collect about 450 million euros (\$446 million) in the first year, based on the companies' past production of single-use plastic.

Affected items include cigarette filters, drink containers and packaging for takeout food.

Environment Minister Steffi Lemke said the

cost of cleanups in Europe's biggest economy is currently borne by all.

"That should change," she said. "Whoever

depends on putting single-use plastic onto the market for their business should contribute to the collection and cleanup costs."



PAGE 7 REPORT HOTLINE 250-561-7327

A Circular Communities Success Story – Town of Banff Library of Things source: RCA

The Recycling Council of Alberta is working with municipalities across Alberta on the Circular Communities Project to create opportunities to design-out waste and conserve resources to transition to a circular economy.

The Town of Banff is one of the Albertan communities participating in the Circular Communities Project. They created an opportunity to design out waste from their town with a Town of Banff Library of Things.

The Banff Public Library and the Town of Banff partnered to develop an object lending program that offers access to useful items that are rarely needed, hard to store, or are expensive to purchase. By using their library cards, Banff and Lake Louise residents can borrow a variety of things from tool, digital, hobby, cooking and home categories. By loaning instead of owning, Library of Things users can save money, free up storage space, and reduce waste. You can check out everything included in the Town of Banff Library of Things here.



Visualizing Mismanaged Plastic Waste by Country source: Visual Capitalist

Globally, 350 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated each year.

Of those 350 tonnes, approximately 70 million tonnes end up in the mismanaged category each year meaning it is dumped or littered outside of proper waste management practices.

Mismanaged plastic waste (MPW) represents a significant environmental threat as it winds up polluting our land, lakes, rivers and oceans.

Only a fraction of plastic waste is recycled, and about one-fifth ends up in the mismanaged category, meaning that it is dumped or littered without proper waste management practices. Mismanaged plastic waste threatens the land and marine environments, and most of it doesn't decompose, polluting the environment for hundreds of years.

Asian countries account for the majority of global mismanaged plastic waste (MPW), and many of the top plastic-emitting rivers are concentrated in the region.

India and China are the only countries to account for over 10 million tonnes of MPW, although that could partly be driven by their sheer population numbers.

Generally, the top countries are developing economies that tend to have inadequate waste management infrastructure.

The Philippines is the third-largest contributor and accounts for 37% of all MPW released into the ocean at over 350.000 tonnes per year. Solid waste management remains a major environmental issue in the Philippines. The country recently closed

down 335 illegal dumpsites to encourage the use of sanitary landfills and proper waste segregation.

The three continents of North America, Europe, and Oceania together account for just 5% of global mismanaged plastic waste. However, it's important to note that these figures do not reflect the amount of waste that is exported overseas, and many rich nations are known to export some portions of their waste to poorer nations.

Plastic waste has various negative implications for the environment, especially as it can take hundreds of years to decompose.

Millions of tonnes of plastic waste flows into the oceans every year, accounting for at least 85% of all marine garbage. This poses a major threat to aquatic life because fish

> and other organisms can get entangled in plastic waste and ingest plastics.

On land, plastic waste threatens the quality of the soil and its surrounding ecosystem. Additionally, burning plastic waste releases toxic particles that have a detrimental impact on air quality.

If current trends continue, over 12 billion tonnes of plastic waste is expected to end up in landfills by 2050. Although recycling rates

are expected to improve, increasing the availability of adequate waste management systems will be important in preventing plastic waste from entering the environment.

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Practical Eco-Friendly New Year's Resolutions

Do a waste audit to see what you are throwing away each week. Then consider replacing with a reusable alternative.

Reduce shower time by 2 minutes will save big. Average shower uses 8 litres of water per minute. It adds up quickly.

Reduce vampire power. Not using computer turn off, even sleep mode uses power. By turning if off at night saving 40 watts every day and reducing electric bill by 10%.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Make a recycled Valentine Card Box for school and begin making your own valentine cards with your children to hand out to your child's classmates.

MATERIALS: glue, scissors, scrap paper, pipe cleaners, empty Kleenex box, markers, tape and imagination.





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:
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)
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