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May2023

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REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

<https://www.upcyclethat.com/>

Upcycle That curate and create the best upcycling ideas and upcycling projects. Why? Because Upcycling is a great way to reuse materials and reduce our footprint. Look through the menus and browse by materials or end uses.

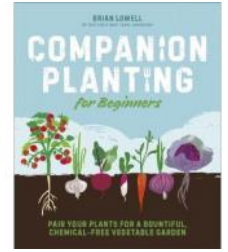


Book of the Month

Companion Planting for Beginners: Pair Your Plants for a Bountiful, Chemical-Free Vegetable Garden By: Brian Lowell

ISBN: 9780744045727

Organic gardeners have known for years that planting the right plants together is the key to minimizing pests, improving soil quality, and increasing the yield of their gardens, and almost any vegetable you can grow likely has a beneficial companion.



Join us to expand on garden planning phase 1 to talk about garden structures. We will overview the layout and placement of your garden, planting in the sun or shade, building garden beds, cold frames, greenhouses and more. We will also highlight what building materials are good and what are best to avoid.

THURSDAY, 4 MAY 2023 AT 18:30 at the Prince George Public Library

Rebuilding, Relocating and Strong

After 27 years of operation in Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park and over 30,000 visitors the garden site was returned to Lheidli T'enneh in 2021 for their future daycare.

Opportunity to plan for the future - **Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden** to be located adjacent to the expanded DDBGS Botanical Garden.

REAPS is very grateful for the ongoing support from the RDFFG as we rebuild. As well as the DDBGS reaching out to provide space for us to grow with the UNBC nod of approval.

REAPS main office is provided by Industrial Forestry Services Ltd. who opened their doors and welcomed us into their space at 1595 5th Ave.

REAPS is excited about the potential for enhanced outreach programs, including stronger connections with local food security.

The ground will be prepared this spring for the construction to begin in phases. Fundraising began last year and continues to reach our \$500k goal. Volunteers will be called upon to help build beds, plant and provide support as able.

 <p>REAPS MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>The few dollars from your membership makes a much bigger difference than you may realize!</p> <p>Students and Seniors: \$5.00 Individual: \$8.00 Family: \$15.00 Business: \$25.00</p>	<p>CHARITABLE DONATION:</p> <p>REAPS provides charitable tax receipts for any donation over \$20</p> <p>Consider donating to our relocation and rebuilding fund of our Educational Community Compost Garden at UNBC</p>	<p>To Donate:</p> <p>Mail to: PO Box 444 PG, BC V2L 4S6 e-transfer to: recycling@reaps.org paypal on our website www.reaps.org</p> <p>in "notes" state what payment is for ie/ membership; donation</p>
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LOCAL NEWS

Robert Caton Scholarship to Local PhD Student

Congratulations to PhD student Ann Duong, the 2023 recipient of the Robert Caton Scholarship for her work studying air quality. She is currently working on validating the use of a multi-fraction sampler that can evaluate respirable and inhalable dust mass and metals in workplace air.

The Robert Caton Scholarship was established in 2004 to honour the memory of Dr. Robert Brent Caton, a scholar, entrepreneur and expert in the field of air quality, atmospheric emissions, environmental management and policy.



Read more about the scholarship and Ann's accomplishments at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/.../research.../scholarships-current>

DAVID DOUGLAS BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY



2023 Spring Plant Sale

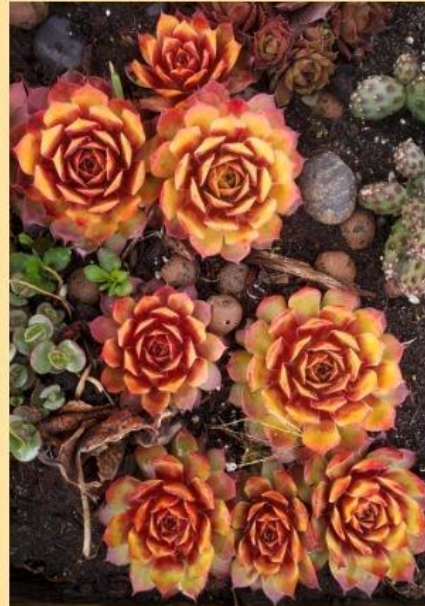
A Growing Tradition!

Sunday, May 21st
and
Monday, May 22nd

10:00am ~ 2:00pm

UNBC Parking Lot A
and
DDBGS Compound

annuals, perennials
flowers, vegetables
herbs, fruits, grasses
trees, shrubs,
specialty plants,
seeds, houseplants
and much more



www.ddbotgarden.bc.ca

REAPS AGM June 3 1-3 pm

Year in review. Election of Board (interested?)

Guest Speaker: Master Gardeners on Backyard Greenhouse

In-person (Suite 101—1595 5th Ave back entrance)
and online via **zoom**

To Zoom Register in advance for this meeting: [CLICK HERE](#)

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



THE DAVID DOUGLAS BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

TOMATO PLANTS

Saturday, May 6th

8:30am to 2:00pm

CHOOSE FROM A LARGE VARIETY OF TOMATO
COLOURS, SIZES, SHAPES AND FLAVOURS



Indoors at the
Prince George Farmers Market
1310 3rd Ave, Prince George, BC

AROUND BC

Worms in the Kitchen?

Source: CBC

They're slimy, and they come with a bit of an ick factor, but the use of the industrious and always hungry earthworm that gives kitchen waste a whole new life is catching on.

Vermicomposting, or worm composting is a process where worms eat kitchen green waste which then passes through their tiny little bodies and turns into worm manure.

The nutrient-dense castings are considered the gold standard of soil amendments — and incorporating it into gardens and containers cuts back on food waste and creates an optimum start for house plants, and fruit and vegetable root systems.

"It's going to get as close to its genetic potential as possible. All from this humble little turd," said Andrew Couzens, owner of Terra Flora Soil Works in Chilliwack, B.C.

Couzens said the appeal of worm composting for home use grew during the pandemic, but rising food costs have created "an explosion of interest."

Worm compost bins can be placed in backyards, balconies

and basements and if you are like Andrew Couzens, right there in your kitchen.

"It smells like the forest floor," he said. "Properly made compost will never, ever smell." [TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Locally worms may be purchased at a number of venues. You can make your own worm bin and vermicomposting information provided on REAPS website and through



presentations during the year. More info at www.reaps.org or wormlady@reaps.org

Progress Plant to Receive RecycleBC Post-Consumer Glass

source: Newswire

Progressive Planet which creates CleanTech innovations from its C-Quester™ Centre of Sustainable Innovation, has reached an agreement with Recycle BC for a steady supply of post-consumer glass for the manufacture of a new ingredient to dramatically reduce CO₂ emissions from cement.

The recycled glass will be used to make PozGlass 100G ("PozGlass") at Progressive Planet's PozGlass Pilot Plant, which will begin construction in 2023. PozGlass is a replacement for Portland cement and fly ash from coal plants, which are now used in concrete and release large amounts of CO₂ in the manufacturing process.

The cement industry currently emits more than 8 percent of global CO₂. When PozGlass is used at a cement plant, it is expected to dramatically reduce emissions by sequestering CO₂ and being mixed with Portland cement at up to a 50% ratio.

Added Ian Grant, the COO of Progressive Planet: "Our objective is to help the cement industry reduce its carbon footprint. We have developed

PozGlass, here in British Columbia, to reduce the use of carbon emitting ingredients of cement and sequester CO₂ stack emissions created in the cement manufacturing process."

Recycle BC is a not-for-profit organization responsible for residential packaging and paper product recycling throughout British Columbia, servicing over two million households or over 99% of BC through curbside, multi-family and/or depot services.



"In support of this project, Recycle BC is happy to approve Progressive Planet's Pilot Plant facility as an end market for our program's glass, assuming they meet and continue to adhere to Recycle BC's standards for end markets," said Baker.

By manufacturing PozGlass at its Kamloops pilot plant, Progressive Planet will also be able to reduce the current carbon footprint of its operations, which create widely sold CleanTech products for agriculture, soil regeneration and animal care.

"Progressive Planet operates one of the largest, natural gas fired, industrial mineral dryers in Canada," added Grant. "By receiving this steady and reliable supply of recycled glass from Recycle BC, to make PozGlass at our Kamloops headquarters, Progressive Planet will also now be able to sequester CO₂ it currently emits, meaning we will contribute to British Columbia's and Canada's GHG reduction targets and improve the carbon footprint of our home, Kamloops, B.C."

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND CANADA

Canada's Single-use Plastic Ban Faces its First Legal Test source: CBC

Canada's single-use plastic regulations face their first legal test in early March as the plastics lobby and the federal government head to court.

A federal court judge will hear arguments from lawyers on all sides from Tuesday to Thursday in Toronto.

The federal judge, who is not expected to deliver a ruling for months, must consider whether Ottawa was justified when it listed plastic products as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

"This is one of the largest environmental court cases that we have seen in Canada," said Anthony Merante, plastics campaigner at Oceana Canada, an intervener in the case.

"This is about tackling Canada's second most pertinent environmental crisis, which is the global plastics pollution crisis."

The Liberal government relied on a scientific assessment of plastic pollution published in 2020. It found that plastic pollutes rivers, lakes and other water bodies, harming wildlife and leaving microplastic fragments in the water we drink.

That report was soon followed by several federal policy and regulatory moves, culminating most recently in the federal government officially announcing dates for a ban on the manufacture, sale and import of certain plastic products.

The ban affects checkout bags, straws, stir sticks and cutlery. Some of these prohibitions have already taken effect and some won't happen until 2025.



As the government attempted to address the pollution problem, the plastic industry accused the government in legal briefs of introducing a plan with "fatal flaws." It's not the federal government's place, the complainants argue, to regulate plastic pollution when the provinces and territories typically handle waste management.

The plastics industry also alleges the federal government failed to demonstrate it had enough scientific evidence to justify the regulations. The industry argues Ottawa failed "to conduct a risk assessment" and "to characterize ecological exposure to all plastic products."

The federal judge, who is not expected to deliver a ruling for months, must consider whether Ottawa was justified when it listed plastic products as toxic under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

ZeroWasteBC Wants Plastic Waste Reduced at Source SOURCE: NorthDelta

As B.C. expands what people can put in their recycling bins and drop off at depots, waste-reduction advocates say the province still isn't putting enough emphasis on cutting out plastic items before they're thrown away.

The province amended regulations in January to make a wider array of plastics and packaging products – many of them single-use – accepted through the recycling system.

People can now put things like plastic utensils and straws, plastic-lined paper products and plastic party-style cups in their recycling, while also being able to bring flexible plastics, like wraps and sandwich or freezer bags, to depots.

But the most recent data shows just over half of the recyclable plastic packaging making it to market is recovered in B.C., with less than that ultimately being recycled. The province recognizes that reducing waste and reusing items should come first.

"Unfortunately, the province hasn't really

encouraged or enforced that aspect too much, but we're hoping they will start to and then that can really make a shift to reduce the waste," said Sue Maxwell, chair of Zero Waste BC.

The province is expected to release a report on what it heard during consultations on new plastic regulations before those policies are drafted this spring. A 2022 intentions paper on those proposals envisions moving plastics into a circular economy approach where nothing is "waste." Maxwell wants the province to expand that circular scope to all single-use items.

Maxwell said B.C.'s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program, which puts the onus on companies for the waste their products cause, needs to be emboldened as municipalities have for too long been bearing the costs of disposable and hard-to-collect packaging. She said companies should face steeper fines, which could go toward funding reuse programs, unless they shift to more reusable packaging or

eliminate unnecessary product waste.

The EPR is expected to start covering items such as mattresses, vehicle batteries and medical syringes in the next four years.

B.C. is working on single-use bans that will go further than the federal regulations and could take some action by the end of this year, Heyman said. There's huge public support for making sure waste doesn't end up in the ocean or on land, but the province has to ensure companies have access to alternatives before they can bring in new bans, Environment Minister George Heyman said.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



AROUND THE WORLD

Scientists Created a New Recyclable Plastic Not Made From Crude Oil

source: science alert

The world is direly addicted to plastics. Try as we might to recycle them, plastics are cheaper to make anew, so unthinkable amounts of plastic waste are dumped into landfill and are clogging up our oceans.

From all the new plastics ever made, over 6 billion metric tons of plastic waste (that doesn't decompose but only breaks up into smaller and small pieces) has been generated, with less than 10 percent recycled thus far.

Not only is manufacturing new plastics incredibly wasteful, but it uses starter materials derived from fossil fuels that need to stay in the ground if we want to avert climate change.

To make a small dent in that global problem, two materials scientists from Boise State University in the US have just developed a new kind of plastic that, unlike existing plastics, isn't made from crude oil and its derivatives.



What's more, small-scale lab experiments replicating industrial processes suggest

roughly 93 percent of the new plastic could be recycled into clean starter materials – even when the plastic is mixed in with other unprocessed plastic waste, paper, and aluminum.

In their paper, Allison Christy and Scott Phillips describe making a new type of plastic based on poly(ethyl cyanoacrylate) or PECA, which is prepared from the monomer used to make Super Glue.

Like all plastic polymers, the new product is formed through a process of polymerization where single, repeating monomer units are strung together in a chemical reaction to make one long chain.

If manufactured at industrial scales, Christy and Phillips suggest their new, recyclable PECA plastic could replace polystyrene plastics that are not accepted in most curbside recycling programs. [TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Nokia Launches Smartphone With DIY Repair Kit to Make Repairs More Accessible

source: Nokia

The power to repair is in your hands. Nokia is making smartphones that you'll be able to fix yourself. It's another step we're taking to make phones that are good for you and the planet.

Making self-repair simple. The easier it is to repair a device, the longer you can keep it – that's better for the planet as well as your pocket.

Starting with Nokia G22, we'll be designing and building smartphones that are easier to repair. So, with guides and genuine spare parts from iFixit and a few simple tools, you'll be able to make repairs at home.

[NOKIA](#)



Second Harvest Completes Two-year Food Loss and Waste Implementation Project

source: Food in Canada

Second Harvest completed its two-year Food Loss and Waste Implementation Project, funded by the Walmart Foundation. This project included food loss and waste technical implementation support, change management and goal-setting consulting, and redistribution support for 20 large-scale Canadian companies in the food processing and manufacturing sector.

In total, this project in partnership with Anthesis and Enviro-Stewards, successfully prevented 3,109,433 kg/year of food loss and waste. An infographic summarizing the results of this project can be found here.

"Second Harvest has helped identify sustainable solutions that have the potential to advance food loss and waste practices across the food industry," said Naomi Gunnell, direc-

tor of Walmart.org's Healthier Food for All initiative. "We're excited about how this work demonstrates that philanthropy can catalyze cross-sector innovation to realize positive social, environmental and economic sustainability."

Although staffing shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges to some waste reduction implementation efforts, the project's food redistribution goal was still surpassed by seven per cent, directly rescuing 100,295 kg of surplus edible food.

In Canada, 58 per cent of food produced for Canadians is lost or wasted every year, of which 47 per cent, or 16.77 million metric tonnes, comes from processing and manufacturing. When this food ends up in landfill, it generates 56.5 million metric tonnes of CO₂e

emissions, contributing significantly to climate change. While this good, healthy food is lost, nearly one in six Canadian families face food insecurity and struggle to access nutrition and put food on the table.

"It's been an incredibly rewarding process to work with these companies in preventing food loss and waste. As a food rescue organization, we are laser-focused on ensuring no good food goes to waste, but prevention at source remains the most important tool to manage the global food and environmental crises we're facing," said Lori Nikkel, CEO of Second Harvest. "The work from this project has redirected a significant amount of food to non-profits and community food programs and represents exactly the kind of industry-wide collaboration on measurement, management and prevention that is needed."

FOOD WASTE IN CANADA

THE FACTS



35.5 MILLION TONNES

of food produced in Canada is lost or wasted each year.



32 %

of this, amounting to

11.2 MILLION TONNES

could be **rescued** to support communities across Canada.



This is equivalent to the weight of almost

95 CN TOWERS



58%

of food produced in Canada is lost or wasted each year.



The average Canadian household spends

\$1,766

on food that is wasted every year.



Food waste costs Canada's economy more than

\$49 BILLION

each year.

Each year, food waste in Canada creates about

56.6 MILLION TONNES

of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions.

Organics wasted in a landfill produce methane gas which is

25 TIMES

more damaging to the environment than carbon dioxide.



Source:

The Avoidable Crisis of Food Waste (2019); Roadmap; Second Harvest and Value Chain Management International

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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Phone: 250-561-7327

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E-mail: newsletter@reaps.org

Website: www.reaps.org

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

Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Compost!

Every day is a great compost day! Learn how to avoid wastefully sending organics to the landfill creating more methane gas!

It is as simple as 1,2, 3! Food, water and oxygen! REAPS offers many Backyard Composting Workshops, help in person, on the phone or via email.

Reach out today and reap the rewards of compost for your lawns, gardens and flower beds.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Build Your Own Pallet Composter [Click Here](#)

There are many versions of pallet composter via google. So simple to make.

NEED: saw, hammer, screws, screw drivers, chicken wire and time.



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:
R.E.A.P.S.

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