

REAPS



REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

www.reaps.org

Email newsletter@reaps.org

September 2023

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 3 - 9 Zero Waste Week
- 3 - 4 Potato Festival Huble Homestead
- 7 REAPS at Public Library - back to school sustainable ideas
- 23 Junk in the Trunk
- 23 - 24 Scavenger at Huble Homestead

OCTOBER

- 1 Waste Reduction Month
- 8 Fall at Huble Homestead
- 21 Halloween at Huble

NOVEMBER

- 18 REAPS Recycle Toy Drive

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- REAPS memberships, donations

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- Site C Dam Builder Fined
- Community West Market
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SATURDAY, 23 September 2023

Celebrating Pitch-In & Spring Clean up



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 (\$26)
- Sell items from the trunk of your car
- Donate left over items to AimHi & Diabetes

To book a stall go to
www.eventbrite.ca
More information call:
REAPS 250-561-7327
email: events@reaps.org
or call



REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

<https://bearwise.org/> BearWise® is the black bear program you can trust for sound information and smart solutions that help homeowners, businesses and communities coexist with bears.

<https://www.northernbearawareness.com/> Our own local BearAware site also provides helpful information to avoid attractants and conflict.

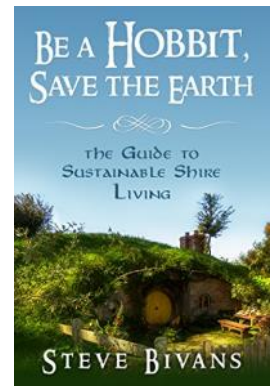


Book of the Month

Be a Hobbit, Save the Earth: The Guide to Sustainable Shire Living By: Steve Bivans

ISBN: 9781507856628

Would you rather live in Middle Earth? Escape your troublesome modern existence? Eat organic mushrooms for second breakfast before heading out to burgle Smaug? Then this is the book for you! Learn to live sustainably with a fun twist!



REAPS Summer Fun!

This past summer saw staff busy partnering with the YMCA and their CCRR programs in local parks creating and inspiring youth to look at waste in a new way.

Many summer camps took advantage of our youth programs and learned about the 9 Rs through various hands on activities. Youth either visited us in the Explorer Gardens or we went to their camps.

REAPS Go For Green Week held at Explorer Gardens provided youth with a chance to create art from waste.

Summer staff were at Valemount, Mackenzie, McBride and Dunster Farmers Markets. We also participated in the Hixon Fall Fair, Summerfest, Indigenous Day, Kids Artz Dayz and the ELC Repair Cafes.



Gleaning Abundance Program (GAP)

GAP is an exciting new initiative that has taken inspiration from the successful program in Kamloops. Managed by REAPS and EAT (Everyone at the Table), GAP tackles the ongoing challenges of local food security, excess wasted fruit, and the safety of our local wildlife.

Partnering with NBAS (The Northern Bear Awareness Society), DART (Drug Awareness Recovery Team), ELC (Eco Living Community), The Northern Lights Winery, and with the generous funding support from the MyPG Grant. GAP's main purpose with help from volunteers collect fruit from tree owners in a way that benefits everyone involved. Here's how it works:

One-third of the gathered fruit goes to the tree owner.

Another one-third is shared among the volunteers who helped pick the fruit.

The remaining one-third is carefully distributed by GAP to support the wider community.

But the goodness doesn't stop there! The collected fruit finds new purposes:

Fruits may be sent to EAT's Canning Circle, a fantastic group of volunteers who process and can produce that might have otherwise gone to waste. This delicious food helps people in need.

Apples may be directed to the Northern Lights Winery. The amount of apples donated directly translates into a money donation for NBAS, which is tirelessly working to protect both bears and local residents in PG.

Alternatively, the fruit can be shared with others who want it, or even with students who might find it difficult to afford fresh produce.

Boosting local food security, building a community of knowledgeable tree owners who know how to care for their trees properly, safeguarding bears and other wildlife by reducing interactions with humans and getting rid of tempting food sources, minimizing food waste, and assisting those who can't pick their own fruit.

We encourage everyone to pick and clean up the fallen fruit. Donate to food banks or farmers.



REAPS

MEMBERSHIP

The few dollars from your membership makes a much bigger difference than you may realize!

Students and Seniors: \$5.00
 Individual: \$8.00
 Family: \$15.00
 Business: \$25.00



CHARITABLE DONATION:

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


Consider donating to our Growing Knowledge Community Compost Garden near 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

Canada's First Renewable Diesel Refinery Built in PG

source: CBC

It's one of several renewable energy projects underway in community, provincial government says.

The province of B.C. says construction has been completed on a stand-alone renewable diesel refinery in British Columbia, the first of its kind in Canada.

Officials, including Premier David Eby, were in Prince George to celebrate the milestone for the \$380-million facility run by Tidewater Renewables.

Renewable diesel is the term given to a biomass-based fuel that is chemically equivalent to petroleum diesel. This means it can be transported directly in petroleum pipelines or sold at retail stations without any infrastructure modifications or fuel blending.

Renewable diesel can be made from vegetable oil, animal fats, used cooking oil or even algae.

A government statement says the process in Prince George involves blending feedstocks, such as canola and tallow, with transportation fuels to lower their carbon intensity.

Tidewater CEO Rob Colcleugh says the facility will produce renewable diesel, which offers an 80 to 90 per cent reduction in carbon emissions compared with fossil fuel diesel.

Eby says more than 40 per cent of the project's cost came from the province's low-carbon fuel credits, given to companies that use more fuels like hydrogen, electricity, renewable gas and diesel.

Officials say the facility will be fully operational "in the near future" and is expected to produce more than 3,000 barrels of low-carbon fuel a day along with renewable hydrogen.

The opening is one of a number of initiatives underway aimed at transforming Prince George into a renewable energy hub.



Site C Dam Builder Fined \$1.1 million

The contractor building the Site C hydro dam in northeast B.C.'s was fined \$1.1 million this month after pleading guilty to discharging more than three million litres of contaminated wastewater into the fish-bearing Peace River.

Peace River Hydro Partners — a partnership between the Spanish corporation Acciona and the South Korean corporation Samsung — was also added to Canada's environmental offenders registry. The registry contains information about corporate convictions under federal environmental laws.

The conviction stems from an event in September 2018, when large volumes of rainwater flowed over potentially acid-generating rock exposed during excavations for the \$16-billion hydro dam.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Join the MRBFI in our first Community West Market! Dates: Sept 10th 12-4pm. Please come out and support your neighbors, friends, and local farmers at the Beverly Community Park. Everyone welcome!



September 13 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

CN Centre 2187 Ospika Blvd. S.

AROUND BC

B.C. Announces Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation

source: BC Gov News

In July, the Province of British Columbia unveiled groundbreaking regulations aimed at tackling the environmental challenges posed by single-use and hard-to-recycle plastics. These new measures promise a significant positive impact on our environment.

The recently announced regulation in British Columbia takes a strong stance against single-use plastics. Under this initiative, single-use plastic bags, problem plastic food service packaging, and all oxo-degradable plastic packaging will be banned. These actions are crucial steps towards reducing plastic waste that harms wildlife and ecosystems.

Another noteworthy aspect of the regulation is its focus on curbing the usage of disposable food service accessories. Items such as

cutlery, straws, and beverage cup lids will now be available only upon request. By doing so, the province aims to minimize unnecessary waste and encourage more sustainable practices in our daily lives.

It's important to know that British Columbia's new regulation complements the federal Single-Use Plastic Prohibition Regulation, which covers similar plastic items across Canada. By working in harmony with federal guidelines, the province ensures a unified approach to combatting plastic pollution throughout the country.

[TO READ SINGLE-USE AND PLASTIC WASTE PREVENTION REGULATION](#)

Surrey Organic Waste Facility Construction May Begin 2024

source: Dailyhive

Semiahmoo First Nation's plan to build a regional-size organic waste recycling and processing facility on its reserve in South Surrey have been revealed.

This is a revenue-generating opportunity for the First Nation, jointly owned with Vancouver-based organic waste processing firm Andion Global.

It will have a capacity to process 70,000 tons of organic food waste and yard trimmings on an annual basis — effectively diverting such biodegradable waste from landfills or incinerators, and preventing methane emissions from being released into the atmosphere during the decomposition process.

It will eliminate about 55,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually, equivalent to taking 11,800 cars off the road each year.

The organic waste byproduct from the renewable natural gas production process will be turned into nutrient-rich compost for sale to local agricultural businesses. This will further help avoid the use of 22,000 tons of chemical fertilizers annually and an avoidance of 26.4 million GJ of fossil fuels in the fertilizer production process.

The planned Semiahmoo facility will be more advanced than the existing GFL and Anadona facilities, as it is not a composting

facility, but instead uses anaerobic digestion to create renewable natural gas from organic waste. With FortisBC's goal of transitioning to a 75% renewable natural gas supply over the coming decades, there is immense demand through the utility to tap into such facilities.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Construction Company Plots Massive New Landfill Near Hope

source: FVC

A private company wants to create a large landfill for construction waste in a rural area outside of Hope. And they say doing so would actually be good for the global environment.

But the scale of the facility is potentially so big that local officials are asking the province to step in and provide guidelines for how it might begin to evaluate the proposal.

That company now wants to do more on the site than just remove gravel. It wants to dump up to a quarter-million tonnes of construction waste each year for approximately 40 years. To put that in context, Chilliwack's Bailey Landfill accepts nearly 85,000 tonnes of waste annually. And officials estimate that across the entire region, around 230,000 tonnes of solid waste is disposed of each year.

The company formed to lead the project, called Hope Environmental Limited Partnership (HELP), says the facility wouldn't be open to the public. Instead it would provide a final home for demolition, land-clearing, and construction (DLC) waste. HELP says the site is needed in part because there are few local destinations for such material after the closures of several similar DLC landfills on First Nations land throughout the Fraser Valley. [TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

AROUND CANADA

Toronto Man Says His 'UberEats-style' Surplus Food app Has Cut Enough Waste to Feed 25,000 People

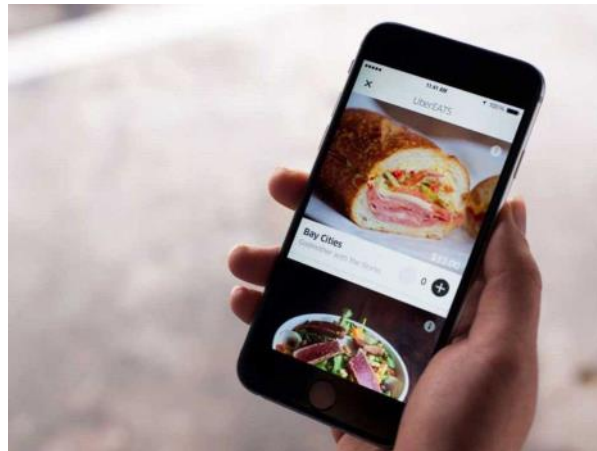
source: CBC

Tony Colley has come a long way over the past four years — from an idea he had while experiencing food insecurity to running a business that helps alleviate it.

It wasn't long ago that Colley, working for a Toronto catering company, noticed how much excess food was dumped after an event. His then-manager let staff, including Colley, take home food after a shift. But he noticed there was still lots left when guest numbers were lower than expected.

That's how the idea for Be One To Give, or B12Give, was born. Founded in 2019 to fight hunger in the Greater Toronto Area, Colley says the company has diverted approximately 15,000 kilograms of food

waste — enough to feed 25,000 people since its inception.



"It operates like an UberEats-style delivery platform, but it's strictly for surplus food," Colley told CBC Toronto.

The idea is simple, he says: Restaurants and businesses notify B12Give through its app when they have surplus food. Then, the company picks it up and distributes it to local shelters and charities.

While the pandemic was a setback for B12Give, Colley says it gave him the opportunity to build the technological back-end of the company and release his app in early 2021.

Going forward, B12Give has lofty goals, including redistributing 100 per cent of avoidable food waste across Canada by 2030.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Canada Goose Launches Second-hand Trade-in Program in Canada

source: The Free Press

Your next Canada Goose coat might be on its second life by the time it gets to you.

The Toronto-based, luxury apparel company announced Thursday that it is bringing Generations, a platform allowing consumers to shop for and trade in pre-loved pieces from the brand, to Canada.

Pieces available for trade-in or purchase through Generations will range from the company's popular parkas and outdoor vests to snowsuits, snow pants, trench coats and even fleece and knitwear.

The program is being launched to further Canada Goose's commitment to sustainability but also cater to the growing number of people seeking second-hand goods, Carrie Baker, the company's president, said.

even faster than just regular commerce, and for us, it really taps into our target demographic," she said.

Baker has seen statistics suggesting 80 per cent of consumers under the age of 30 shop



for pre-loved goods, but interest in purchasing second-hand items stretches beyond the youngest cohort of shoppers.

Online consignment store ThredUp predicts

the global market for second-hand goods will double by 2027, reaching \$350 billion. It also found the number of retailers with branded resale programs tripled between 2021 and 2022 alone.

Branded resale programs cropping up recently include one from Hudson's Bay and baby gear startup Rebelstork and another from Canadian department store chain Simons and resellers LXRandCO and VSP Consignment.

Canada Goose is also no stranger to the circular economy — it has been making fabric and material donations to remote communities and Indigenous sewers since 2009 — but has never offered a trade-in program before.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

"The resale market is growing like crazy,

AROUND THE WORLD

Solar Panels Wear Out, a Recycling Industry is Born

source: newsmax

Sunlight beats down on a graveyard for dead solar panels in Yuma, Arizona, hundreds stacked in neat piles, waiting for their next life. The great majority of worn and damaged panels are still dumped in landfills. But with more and more piling up, many people know that needs to change.

In this desert city where Arizona, California, Sonora and Baja California meet, North America's first utility-scale solar panel recycling plant has opened to address what founders of We Recycle Solar call a "tsunami" of solar waste. Plans to address climate change rely on massively scaling up clean, solar electricity.

The panels, stacked and banded, come here from the company's main collection warehouse in Hackettstown, New Jersey, plus six other locations across the country.

Workers maneuver the stacks into the sprawling 75,000 square foot facility on forklifts, then gently lift each out by hand to begin separating by brand

and model. Some only have a few cracks in their glass, sometimes from storm damage.

These can be reused, said Adam Saghei, CEO of We Recycle Solar, and there is a market for them — clients around the world who search for refurbished panels for their affordability. The Yuma facility, he says, is like "your local thrift store that looks to upcycle."

Some have been sold for example at the store Mercados Solar in Carolina, Puerto Rico.

Those that don't go towards testing and resale head down a conveyor belt where glass, metals, and other materials with value are separated.

Solar panels are built to withstand decades of harsh weather, so it's difficult to break the resilient bonding that keeps them together. Separating the glass without it shattering, for example, is a challenge. But with robotic suction arms assisted by workers, they come apart.

Some of the highest value materials are copper, silver, aluminum, glass, and crystalline silicon. Repurposing these means finding new uses for them, such as selling glass to companies that do sandblasting.



For Saghei, the inspiration for the company came in 2017. He was working in the computer electronic waste sector, seeing solar spread across warehouse roofs and wondering where it would go eventually. He realized green technology doesn't stay green once it is decommissioned or retired.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

UK Boosts Efforts to Keep Fashion, Textiles Out of Landfills

source: JustStyle

The UK government has unveiled fresh plans to promote and increase fashion and textile repair, reuse, and recycling efforts in pursuit of its goal to achieve a circular economy approach.

The UK Government explains it plans to focus on seven key sectors, which include textiles and plastics/packaging as well as construction furniture, electronics, food and road vehicles.

The Waste Prevention Programme aims to reduce fashion and textiles going to residual waste, increase product utilization, and stimulate a profitable textile recycling industry, all while promoting a circular economy.

The report explains the fashion and textiles industry is known for its high resource intensity and environmental impact, which poses considerable challenges to sustainability efforts.

To address these issues, the Waste Prevention Program focuses on circular business models such as resale, rental, and repair, as well as investing in textile reprocessing and recycling in line with the waste hierarchy.

The goal is to keep products and materials in circulation for as long as possible to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, pollution, and waste across the lifecycle from production to end-of-life.

The report highlights a significant amount of textiles waste is generated, with over one million tonnes of textiles estimated to be disposed of in household and commercial municipal residual waste in England alone.

To combat this, the government has committed to near-eliminating municipal biodegradable waste to landfills from 2028 and halving residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per person by 2042, as set out in the Environment Act 2021. UK Government works with fashion industry to make plan a reality

Recognizing the need for a collective effort, the government has partnered with the fashion industry to drive voluntary action through initiatives like Textiles 2030, the UK Sustainable Textile Action Plan. Signatories of the plan commit to ambitious 2030 targets, including a 50% reduction in the carbon footprint of new products and a 30% re-

duction in water footprint. Circular business models and closing the loop on materials are among the key focus areas to achieve these targets.

To further deploy the Waste Prevention Programme and guide businesses managing textiles and fashion products, the government will develop a textiles waste hierarchy, offering robust guidance. Measures such as requiring businesses to provide customer take-back systems for used textiles and banning separately collected materials from being sent to landfill and energy-from-waste without prior sorting will be explored.

To enhance voluntary action in reducing textiles waste, the government will continue to fund Textiles 2030, seeking to expand the program's scope to tackle overproduction and waste. Standardized measurement and reporting of waste generation across the supply chain, with a focus on unsold and surplus stock, will also be encouraged.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

REAPS Growing Knowledge Community Compost Gardens

Our new gardens are slowly taking shape. Our dedicated board members / volunteers are continuing to write grants in hopes of bringing our landscape design to fruition.

Our request in May to Mayor and Council has yet to be brought back to the agenda. This further delays our ability to proceed without dollars in hand to make the next big activity happen - installation of water and electrical on site.

Please assist us in bringing to the table our request to council for assistance in our relocation.

Next grant proposals are for:

- Pergola and seating
- Large shed / meeting space
- Greenhouse put together
- 4 wooden composters built
- Greenhouse beds built
- Signage for garden beds, composters, waste reduction, rainwater collection
- Decorated wooden entrance façade
- Electrical and water Utilities in place
- Residing our Garden Office
- Crushed gravel for pathways

Volunteer Days will be happening mid -
September to assist with:

- Placing garden beds
- Filling garden beds
- Building garden beds
- Laying landscape fabric

Keep eye out for date!



RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

Mailing address:
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Compost Garden and Office Location:
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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

Zero Waste Tips

First week of September is Zero Waste Week. Start thinking about your contributions to the landfill. How can your home reduce the amount at curb weekly? Here are



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Upcycled Self Watering Planters!

Make these incredibly unique and simple self watering planters out of old plastic bottles and have everyone in awe! (Especially mother earth!)

<https://www.ehow.com/13766949/diy-self-watering-planters>



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