BEANS TO BBQ BONES IN THE BIN!
NO NEED TO GIVE YOUR GREEN BIN A VACATION THIS SUMMER

Summer is the time for outdoor living, barbecues and savouring the region's bounty of fresh fruit, vegetables and seafood. The salad days are also time to remember that food waste and used paper packaging from backyard meals and picnics can be recycled in your green bin.

Please remember, no plastic, glass, metal, or plastic/foil coated paper. While most fruits and vegetables can be composted in a backyard composter, it makes sense to use your Green Bin for meat, fish, poultry, grains and large quantities of waste produce (peelings and cores from canning for example).

Many of the region’s summer festivals now provide containers to collect food waste and recyclables. If you’re at an outdoor event, look for the recycling and compostables bins and check the signage for acceptable items.

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR FOOD WASTE CONTAINERS SMELLING SWEET

In hot weather food waste decomposes more quickly, possibly causing odours and attracting fruit flies. Here are some ways to avoid the “yuck factor”.

- **Wrap it!** Wrap wet food waste in a paper towel, newspaper, empty milk cartons or cereal boxes. Remember to look for these logos if you buy liner bags. They must have a certified compostable logo indicating the bag is designed to break down at the regional composting plant.

- **Put a lid on it!** Keep the Green Bin and Kitchen Catcher lids securely closed.

- **Freeze it!** Freeze food waste, especially fish and meat scraps, and put it in the Green Bin on your collection day.

- **Keep it clean!** Clean your Green Bin and Kitchen Catcher regularly with warm soapy water to help reduce odours and prevent fruit flies. Using a spray bottle filled with diluted vinegar or Lysol also works to keep odours and pests at bay.

BEING BEAR AND WILDLIFE AWARE

Bears are more active in the warmer months and can be attracted to odours emanating from garbage cans and Green Bins. Please do your part to be bear smart:

- Store your green bin and garbage cans in a secure, locked location such as a garage or sturdy garden shed and keep the lids closed.
- Take your green bin or garbage can to the curb as close as possible to 8 am on your collection day. Please don't leave them at the curb overnight.
- Keep your barbecue grill clean and store pet food inside your house.
- Manage your backyard compost properly.
- If possible, collect fruit from fruit trees when it ripens. Avoid leaving fallen fruit on the ground.
- For more information visit the “Preventing Problems with Bears” page at www.beyondcomposting.ca

If a bear becomes a problem call the Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277.

IN THIS ISSUE: Curbside Collection from the Driver’s Side • How Plastics are Recycled • Product Stewardship

Beans to bones in the bin!
If the adjacent help wanted ad sounds like a challenging job description, you’ll appreciate the service provided by the team of drivers employed by BFI Canada, the RDN’s curbside contractor. Here’s a typical work day for BFI driver Steve Bodnaruk as he collects food waste and recyclables from a route in Nanoose Bay.

**EN ROUTE WITH A SPLIT-PACKER COLLECTION VEHICLE**

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF YOUR CURBSIDE COLLECTION DRIVER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.15 am</td>
<td>Pre-trip truck inspection at BFI yard in the Parksville Industrial Park.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.30 am</td>
<td>Leave the yard and drive to start of collection route.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.00 am</td>
<td>Begin emptying containers into separate truck compartments. Check for unacceptable materials in Green Bin and make sure that liner bags have certified compostable logos. Leave notice on container if required. <em>Help your driver by putting the Green Bin, not the kitchen catcher at the curb.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 pm</td>
<td>Stop for half-hour lunch break.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Complete route after having collected food waste and recyclables from about 800 households. <em>Help your driver by ensuring containers are at the curbside by 8 am and placing the yellow bags of recyclable paper beside or on top of (not buried inside) the Blue Box.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.15 pm</td>
<td>Arrive at Church Road Transfer Station to off-load food waste. (If it was a scheduled food waste and garbage collection day, off-load garbage here too).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>On recycling days, go to the BFI Springhill Road Recycling Transfer Facility to offload recyclables.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3.45 - 4.00 pm | Arrive back at BFI yard.  
(Time depends on if it is a recycling day). |
| 4.00 - 4.15 pm | Complete the end of trip and workday paperwork. |

**HELP WANTED:** Must enjoy working outdoors in all kinds of weather, have a Class 3 Commercial Driver’s Licence and be adept at driving a tandem-axle split packer truck up narrow streets. Must be physically fit and be capable of lifting **more than four tonnes** during the course of a working day.
In the Spring 2012 edition of our Zero Waste newsletter we traced the recycling loop for newspaper and mixed paper collected at the curbside. This time we’ll track how household plastic containers are collected and processed for manufacturing into new packaging and products.

Help your driver by setting materials as close to the curb as safely possible. **Please don’t bury the yellow recycling bags under other recyclables in the Blue Box.**

### Household Plastic Containers
Household plastic containers and bottles (check the list of acceptable items on your Garbage & Recycling Calendar) are the second largest component of curbside recyclables after newspaper and mixed paper.

Recycling plastic extends the life of the region's only landfill and because plastic is made from petro-chemicals, recycling it conserves a non-renewable resource. Using recycled content to make new plastic products results in energy savings of up to 40 per cent.

### The Recycling Loop Collection
Plastics and other Blue Box materials are collected in a vehicle with two compartments. This ensures recyclables are kept separate from Green Bin materials.

### Processing and consolidation
At BFI’s multi material recycling facility, plastics are mechanically separated from other recyclables and compacted into bales. A bale can weigh as much as 730 kg. Roughly 20 tonnes of plastics per week are loaded onto a trailer and barged to Lower Mainland sorting and processing facilities such as Merlin Plastics in Delta BC.

### Manufacturing plastic for post-consumer feedstock
At Merlin Plastics, a mechanized process breaks the bales apart. The plastic containers are graded according to the numerical code displayed on the bottom of most containers. (See the table below for the # categories) After sorting, the plastics are washed, chopped into flakes and fed into an extruder which melts the flakes to form strands. The strands are cut into pellets which get sold as feedstock to make new plastic products.

#### NEW PRODUCTS from recycled plastic content

1. **PET**
   - beverage containers
   - food packaging
   - new bottles

2. **HDPE**
   - milk jugs
   - drainage pipe
   - pails

3. **PVC**
   - window cleaner,
   - detergent/
   - shampoo bottles

4. **LDPE**
   - squeezable bottles,
   - frozen food
   - packaging

5. **PP**
   - yogurt containers,
   - syrup bottles,
   - ketchup bottles

6. **PS**
   - medicine bottles
   - egg cartons,
   - vents
   - rulers

7. **building products such as siding & piping**
   - new milk jugs
   - drainage pipe
   - pails

   - insulation
   - light switch plates
   - egg cartons,
   - vents
   - rulers

   - plastic lumber
   - automotive headlamps
   - lenses (sunglasses & prescription)

   - household plastic storage containers,
   - baby bottles

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Stay in the loop

The 2004 waste composition analysis of residential garbage showed plastic comprised 10 per cent of household waste. Please keep this resource out of the landfill by separating your household plastic containers and bottles and putting them in your blue box.
**WHAT TO DO WITH WHAT CAN’T BE TRASHE OR RECYCLED AT THE CURB**

Starting on July 1st, BC Product Stewardship Programs are expanding to include more small appliances and electrical products (see highlighted materials below). Future Product Stewardship Program expansion will include materials such as printed paper and packaging.

Product Stewardship materials are **not accepted** in the RDN Curbside Garbage and Recycling Service. Check the Recycling Directory at [www.rdn.bc.ca](http://www.rdn.bc.ca) to find locations where you can return Product Stewardship materials. For more information on each of these important programs, visit [www.bcsstewards.com](http://www.bcsstewards.com).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stewardship Program Name</th>
<th>PRODUCTS COVERED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AlarmRecycle</td>
<td>Used or expired smoke alarms, carbon monoxide (CO) alarms and combination smoke &amp; CO alarms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Used Oil Management Association</td>
<td>Antifreeze, lubricating oil, oil filters and oil containers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brewers Association of Canada</td>
<td>Beer containers (bottles, cans and kegs).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call 2 Recycle</td>
<td>Rechargeable batteries and cell phones, non-rechargeable batteries such as alkaline, UPS and lithium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canadian Electrical Stewardship Association</td>
<td>Old and broken small appliances. <em>Expanded to include power tools, sewing machines, electrical exercise and sporting equipment, and other electrical products.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Products Recycling Association</td>
<td>Computers and peripheral components, televisions, video players, home audio-visual items, portable and car audio devices. <em>Expanded to include I.T. &amp; Telecom Equipment, electronic musical instruments, medical monitoring &amp; treatment devices and video gaming systems &amp; accessories.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encorp Pacific (Canada)</td>
<td>Beverage containers (return for deposit), non-deposit containers (milk), electronics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Recycle</td>
<td>Residential compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and tubes. The program is operated by Product Care Association.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Consumer Pharmaceutical Stewardship</td>
<td>Leftover medicines returned to participating pharmacies throughout BC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Care</td>
<td>Paint, flammable liquids, domestic pesticide and gasoline. Product Care also administers the BC fluorescent light bulb and tube (residential use) stewardship program, the smoke alarm program, and the small appliance recycling program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycle My Cell</td>
<td>Cell phones, smartphones, wireless PDAs, batteries and pagers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch the ‘Stat</td>
<td>Older mercury-containing thermostats and electronic thermostats.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telus Return &amp; Recycle Program</td>
<td>Used mobile handsets and accessories, and wireline telecommunication items such as corded phones and cordless phones (including the battery), set top boxes, modems, routers, gateways, TV remote controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tire Stewardship BC</td>
<td>Scrap vehicle tires, bicycle tires and tubes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unplugged Small Appliance Recycling Program</td>
<td>Old and broken small appliances ranging in size from toasters and electric toothbrushes to countertop microwaves and vacuum cleaners. <em>Expanded to include power tools, sewing machines, electrical exercise and sporting equipment, and other electrical products.</em></td>
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