



# Sustainability Newsletter

## Solid Waste Management Plan Update

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's Environmental Services Department has been working on updating our Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP). This is a process that every Regional District has to go through and it is mandated by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The SWMP is a comprehensive plan for the next 10 years, with vision for the next 20-30 years. It includes all material streams and aspects of solid waste management, such as collection, recycling & composting, waste reduction, disposal, financing and education.

The staff and board of the RDBN, along with some wonderful volunteers have been working as a Regional Solid Waste Advisory Committee to look at our current system, identify gaps and issues and then review and provide feedback along the way. The result of this work has been a draft SWMP.

### What's in the draft plan?

- Expanding access to recycling by partnering with Recycle BC to accept residential packaging and printed paper where practical. Expanding public education and communication to encourage greater use of available residential and commercial recycling services.
- Future expansion of organics diversion opportunities through partnerships with municipalities and development of infrastructure in RDBN to produce usable soil. Improve existing backyard composting program.
- Developing a fair and sustainable way to fund our solid waste management system. The cost to manage municipal solid waste is projected to increase over the next 10 years.
- The plan aims to decrease what we send to the landfill by 100 kg per person per year, bringing us closer to the provincial average of 472 kg per person.

## Summer 2018

### In this issue:

- Solid Waste Management Plan Update
- Contamination in Recycling
- Invasive Weeds
- Huckleberry Recipe



Follow the Sustainable RDBN Facebook page for the latest information. You can also check out our webpage at [www.rdbn.bc.ca/wastewatchers](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/wastewatchers).

*This newsletter can be viewed online at: [www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmentalservices/recycling/sustainability-newsletter](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/environmentalservices/recycling/sustainability-newsletter)*

If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please call Elaine Wiebe, Environmental Services Assistant for the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at 250-692-3195, toll free: 1-800-320-3339, email: [elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca](mailto:elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca)

# What is contamination in recycling?

You may have heard the term before, but what exactly is contamination in the context of residential recycling? Simply put, contamination is material that is not accepted for collection in Recycle BC's curbside or multi-family packaging and paper collection program.

Contamination, in this context can include one or more of the following examples:

- Material that is not packaging or paper (for example: books, dishes, windows, mirrors or clothing)
- Material that is not recyclable with today's recycling technology
- Containers with more than 10% of contents remaining, (Please rinse your containers before recycling them)
- Hazardous material or hazardous containers with any contents remaining (For example: batteries, medical syringes, compressed gas cylinders or motor vehicle oil)
- Material collected in a way that doesn't allow the materials to be recovered for recycling (e.g. recyclables tied in a small plastic bag before being placed in your recycling collection container)

## Why is reducing contamination important?

### Safety:

Certain types of contamination can present significant health and safety issues for both collection and post-collection staff. Hazardous materials such as medical sharps, propane tanks, flammable liquids and batteries can be extremely dangerous when collected, and in some cases have caused fires in processing facilities in BC. Food products that are left in containers can attract bees and other insects and pose a problem for site staff.

### Ability to be recycled:

Contamination can reduce the ability to effectively recycle material or meet the requirements of recycling markets. If the material can be recovered, contamination will reduce the commodity value of recyclables. In some cases, material may be recyclable, but only when collected separate from other materials and very clean. Some material is not well suited to being mixed with other recyclables in curbside/multi-family recycling programs. Materials like plastic bags and foam packaging should be taken to a Recycle BC depot for recycling. We want to ensure we can effectively recycle what is collected from residents in the most appropriate market for the materials, keeping them local when possible.



#CanIRecycleIt





# Invasive Plant Management—Landowner Rebate

Invasive plant management in the RDBN is conducted through a partnership with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC), which covers the area from Valemount to Haida Gwaii, and north to the Yukon border (excluding the Peace Region). Since 2005, invasive plant control has been conducted using a "single agency approach". Various organizations, including the RDBN, various municipalities, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Forests, Land and Resource Operations, BC Hydro and others, contribute funding to the NWIPC. The contributed funds are managed using a partnership delivery model to achieve on the ground control of invasive plants in each jurisdiction, as well as public awareness, inventory, and assessments. On-the-ground treatments and inventory are conducted by contractors in each Invasive Plant Management Area (IPMA).

If you are struggling to treat an invasive plant infestation on your property, you may be eligible for a 50% reimbursement from the NWIPC under the landowner rebate program. Chemical, mechanical or manual treatments will be considered for a rebate up to a maximum of \$500. For more information on the program, and to see if the invasive plant species on your property is eligible, please visit <http://nwipc.org/projects/land-owner-weed-removal-rebate-program> or call 1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337).

Common invasive plant species in the RDBN include:



**Orange Hawkweed**



**Field Scabious**



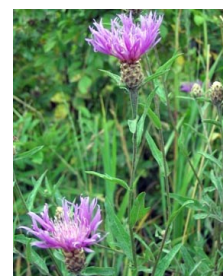
**Canada Thistle**



**Mountain Bluet  
(Bachelor's Button)**



**Common Tansy**



**Spotted Knapweed**



The NWIPC website is a great resource for all things related to invasive plants. The rebate program is not limited to the weeds pictured above. Check out the website for full details. Read about the history of the NWIPC, learn more about problem plants in your area, or take part in the "Weed on the Web" ID contest. Visit [www.nwipc.org](http://www.nwipc.org).

If you see an invasive plant and want to identify it on the go, the "Report a Weed" mobile app is a great tool. Go to [www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca) for more information.

# Seasonal Eats: Huckleberries

The huckleberry is a deciduous shrub that grows as tall as 1.5m, with small yellow or pink flowers that ripen into berries that are purple or black in colour. The plants can be found in shady woodland areas and often grown in large patches and grow in many areas of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. They are comparable to blueberries in taste, and can be used in similar recipes. Huckleberries are high in Vitamins A, B and C, and antioxidants. To enjoy these berries all year-round, pick as many as you can while they are ripe, and freeze them for use in baking or smoothies!



## Huckleberry Streusel Bars

### Ingredients

3/4 cup brown sugar  
1 1/2 cups old fashioned oats  
1 1/2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
3/4 cup butter, cut into very small pieces  
1 cup huckleberry jam



1. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 9" by 13" baking pan with butter or cooking spray. Set aside.
2. In a bigger bowl, mix all the dry ingredients (except the butter) very well.
3. Add the butter and mix it in with your fingers until the dough gets crumbly and all the butter is worked in very nicely.
4. Set 2/3 cup of streusel mixture aside.
5. Press the remaining mixture evenly into the prepared baking pan.
6. Spread the jam evenly on top.
7. Sprinkle the reserved streusel evenly over the jam.
8. Bake for about 40 minutes.
9. Let cool in the pan for about 30 minutes.
10. Cut baked goods into bars.
11. Store in air tight container.

**Wild Huckleberry JAM**



## Wild Huckleberry Jam

### Ingredients

3 cups huckleberries (frozen or fresh)  
1/2 cup raw honey  
2 tablespoons lemon juice

1. Place the huckleberries in a medium sized sauce pan on medium high. If berries are fresh, crush them using a potato masher or the back of a fork. If the berries are frozen, cook & stir frequently until they begin releasing juices, then mash, 5-7 minutes.
2. Once the berries are mashed, add lemon juice and honey, stir for about 5-7 minutes.
3. Turn the heat down to low, continue to stir for about 2-3 minutes. Let it cook on low until jam starts to thicken, about 10 minutes. You can test the thickness by placing a spoonful in the freezer and check after 5 minutes. The longer it cooks, the thicker the jam.
4. Store in a tightly covered sterilized jar in the fridge for a couple of weeks.