



Sustainability Newsletter

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Backyard Composting Rebate

Summer 2017

This year, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's composting program looks a little different. Visit your local participating retailer and receive a \$30 rebate off your purchase right there. Various styles are available, check with your local store! There are a limited amount of rebates, so don't delay. Go buy a composter today!!!!

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Composters must be purchased in-store at participating retailers. Rebate forms must be filled out prior to purchase. There is a limit of one rebate per household.



If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact the RDBN! You can call us at 1-800-320-3339 or 250-692-3195 and ask for Elaine. Or email: elaine.wiebe@rdbn.bc.ca. And last but not least, check out our webpage <http://www.rdbn.bc.ca> or find us on Facebook at "Sustainable RDBN".

Participating Retailers near you:

In Burns Lake — Burns Lake Home Hardware

In Fort St. James — Ouelette Bros. Building Supplies

In Fraser Lake — Fraser Lake Building Supplies

In Houston — Reitsma's Home Hardware

In Smithers — Smithers Home Hardware

In Vanderhoof — Taylor Bros. Home Hardware



This newsletter can be viewed online at: 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

The Year of Sustainable Tourism!

The United Nations has designated 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. In doing this, the UN General Assembly noted “the important of international tourism in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere, in leading to a greater awareness of the rich heritage of various civilizations, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world”.



The year is an opportunity to look at how tourism is affected by climate change and how emissions from the sector can be curbed, along with finding ways for the industry to better adapt to the inevitable impacts of rising global average temperatures.

More than one billion international tourists travel the world each year, which means that tourism provides millions of jobs and is crucial for national and local economies, especially in the developing world.

More than many other industries, tourism relies on a stable climate, and is already being impacted by increased incidents of storms and heat waves, desertification, fresh water loss, rising sea levels that threaten coastal resorts and diminished snowfall in alpine skiing areas.

Why tourism? **Social inclusion, employment and poverty reduction.** In the world, 1 in every 11 jobs is in tourism. It is the largest category of exports in many developing countries. Women entrepreneurs are almost twice as many as in other sectors. **Inclusive and sustainable economic growth.** Since 2009, annual increase in international tourist arrivals of 4% or more. 7% of total world exports and 30% of exports of services. In 2015, international tourism generated 1.5 trillion (USD). That's 10% of the

world GDP. **Efficient use of resources, environmental protection and the fight against climate change.** The sector is committed to reducing 5% of CO2 emissions. Increases funds for heritage, wildlife and environmental conservation. Can be a tool to protect and recover biodiversity. By 2030, it is expected that the industry will need to sustainably manage 1.8 billion international tourists.



So let 2017 be the year you get out there and see more of our world. Do some research before you leave home and choose tourism operators with environmental policies and community projects in place. Be a responsible, informed, respectful traveller.

Zero Waste Traveling Tips

While traveling expands our horizons, here are some ways to travel without expanding a landfill!

First off, instead of traveling frequently for short periods of time, opt for fewer trips for longer periods of time. This will help to cut down on emissions.

A bit of planning ahead and a couple of key, zero-waste items can make it more sustainable.

1. An empty water bottle — Empty is the key word here. DO NOT try and bring a full water bottle through security. After you're through security, fill up your water bottle. There should be a water fountain or a café that would be able to fill it for you.



2. A cloth napkin — It can double as a plate in a pinch and you can wrap up delicious bakery treats in the airport, or really anywhere on the go.



3. A tiffin carrier or mason jar — Perfect for grabbing food on the go. The mason jar can also be used for drinking out of. You can take home leftovers in these as well.



4. A reusable bag — for any shopping trips or extra clothing during outings.



5. A reusable coffee cup — this works for cold or hot drinks that you might be offered. A great alternative to disposable plastic or Styrofoam cups.



At the end of the day, just like when we're at home, a little planning ahead can help us cut back on the "single use" type of container and lower the amount of waste we create.

Happy travels!!!

Digester Solutions

If you already have a backyard composter you will know that some food waste is just not composter-friendly. Cooked foods such as bread or pasta, oil or grease and any fish, meat or bones can create odours, and attract animals, including bears and rodents.

Although these foods may only be a small portion of your food scraps, wouldn't it be nice to keep it ALL out of the waste stream and have an odour free (and smaller) bag of garbage? Here are some options for dealing with these hard to compost wastes:

⇒ The Green Cone

You can throw ALL food waste into this container. It requires decent drainage—because most of the food waste is converted into nutrient rich liquid that flows into the soil—as well as sunlight, which along with air circulation, powers the decomposition process. For more information about the Green Cone, including how to use it properly in bear country, please visit:

<https://www.greencone.ca/partner.php?partner=Durablesolutionsinc>.



⇒ DIY Backyard Digester

If you have sufficiently deep and well-drained soil, you can make your own backyard digester to handle those food scraps that are unsuitable for your regular composter. Here's how:

- ◆ Take a galvanized steel garbage can and drill or punch about 20 holes (1/4" to 3/8" diameter in size) around the sides of the cylinder. Have the bottom cut or welded out.
- ◆ In a location that is sunny, well drained and away from any water source, dig a hole deep enough to sink the garbage can, leaving the handles above the surface. If your soil isn't quite deep enough, you can mound it up around the sides.
- ◆ Before sinking the can into the hole, improve the drainage by mixing gravel or pebbles into the soil in the bottom of the hole.
- ◆ Backfill the soil around the edges of the can.



After each addition of food scraps, sprinkle some wood ash or lime in the hole to cover the scraps and provide odour control. When the hole is filled to within 1 foot (30 cm) of the surface, just pull up the garbage bin, cover the hole with soil, and start over.



⇒ Feed the Pigs

Find out if there is a pig farmer in your area who would like to take your extra food scraps as feed.

Q: What happens to organic waste in a landfill?

Myth: Organic waste is excellent to add to the landfill. When it breaks down it helps to decompose all the other waste!

Reality: Organic waste doesn't do any good in a landfill. In the absence of air, it turns into a liquid, which moves through the landfill, mobilizing toxins and creating nasty leachate. It also creates methane—a greenhouse gas 21 times stronger than carbon dioxide.