



Hotline 250-561-7327

www.reaps.org

Email newsletter@reaps.org

SEPTEMBER 2020

COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 17 REAPS Zero Waste
- 27 World Rivers Day
- 28 REAPS DIY Cleaners
- 29 REAPS AGM (via ZOOM)

OCTOBER

- 1 Waste Reduction Month
- 19 Online Waste Tips (week of)

NOVEMBER

- 4 REAPS DIY Produce Bag
- 21 REAPS Recycle Toy Drive (potentially)

DECEMBER

- 2 REAPS DIY Holiday Gift Bag

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

REAPS News

- 2 Web Pick
- Book of the Month
- Love Food Hate Waste
- REAPS Fall Workshops
- REAPS School Presentations

Local News

- 3 Vanway Used Oil Collection
- Effects of Glyphosate
- Recycling Easier at Return-It Depots

Around BC

- 4 Mt. Polley Mine Research
- Expand Local Food Production

Around Canada

- 5 Salad Containers From Recycled Plastic
- PEI's Single Use Plastic Gone
- Rubbermaid Launches Recycling Program

Around the World

- 6 Program Keep Face Masks out of Landfills
- Retired Cruise Ships Recycled

- 7 Ben and Jerry's Track Palm Oil Is PPE Recyclable?

Back Page

- 8 Dumpty's Tip of the Month
- Recycle Craft Corner
- Membership Application

REAPS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, 29 September 2020 Time: 7– 8:30 p.m.

Calling all members to participate. Non-members are welcome too! Show your support and register by clicking link below or find link on our Facebook page under events.

[Register in advance for this meeting.](#) ONE CLICK AWAY

Prizes for registering! Chance to win a composter / rain barrel / gift card \$50 Birch & Boar / gift card \$50 Books n Co

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

AGENDA:

Year in Review and Election of Board

Guest Speaker: RecycleBC *Why, What, Where and How*

Every wonder what happens to your recyclables? Wonder if this item is recyclable? Where does it go? All these questions will be answered and more.

Movie Link to be shared: The Story of Plastic. *A detailed look into the environmental damage and human rights abuses that occur throughout the lifecycle of plastic. What can companies, countries and people do to fix the issues?*

EVERYONE Welcome.

Volunteer today! Sign up as a member.

Interested being on the board email terri@reaps.org for more information.

Local Food Resource Guide

Are you interested in all things locally made? Whether it be meat, produce, soaps, baking, honey, eggs and more. A local food resource guide is available through the Prince George Food Hub or email events@reaps.org for a copy. It is an ever growing resource and feedback on additions is appreciated.

Don't forget our three Farmers Markets are still operating in September (Saturday 2 in downtown PG and Sunday Willow River).



REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

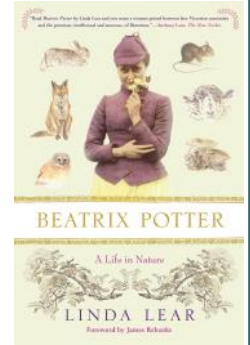
<https://trashisfortossers.com/>

Trash is for Tossers is a website that gives tips and tricks on how to generate less waste. It shows, in the words of the website CEO Lauren Singer, that "living a low or zero waste lifestyle can be cost effective, accessible, and fun!" With sections on Home & Living, DIY & Guides, and Style, this website is especially helpful for anyone starting out on the road to reducing waste.

Book of the Month

Beatrix Potter: A Life in Nature By: by Linda J. Lear
ISBN: 9781250094193

Potter is a household name around the world, few know the woman behind the illustrations. She was a English writer, illustrator, natural scientist, and conservationist. Her personal life, including a romantic relationship with her publisher, Norman Warne, and her significant achievements outside of children's literature remain largely unknown. In Linda Lear's enchanting new biography, we get the life story of this incredible, funny, and independent woman.



Love Food Hate Waste PG

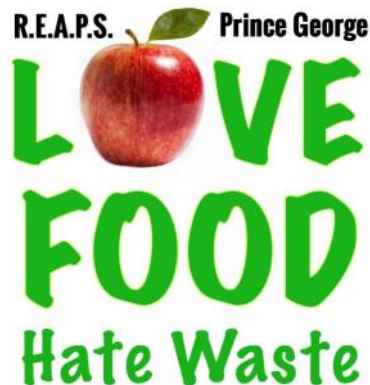
[Love Food Hate Waste PG](#) facebook page is sponsored by REAPS.

Our aim is to raise awareness of the need to reduce food waste. Join in on the action to help benefit both the environment and your wallet!

We share local, regional and world activities that support the reduction of food waste.

Post recipes, tips, tricks, gardening information and more. We also love to hear from you and your ideas!

Follow / Like today.



REAPS School Programs

We have been busy this summer and have put a number of our presentations on PowerPoint so you may share with your students at your convenience. Other options to participate are to: book a ZOOM presentation or invite us into the classroom to deliver a LIVE, INTERACTIVE and FUN presentation.



We have our popular Adopt-a-Worm program that has a few bins to adopt for the school year. This program is supported with a detailed care, info and interactive presentation when the bin is dropped off to the class, followed by monthly newsletter and visits to ensure the health of the worms.

Interested in our other presentations check out www.reaps.org

PLANTS FOR SALE

We have some perennials, shrubs, grasses and herbs that are available via donation.

Come down and find a few plants to give a new home in your garden.

Monday - Friday 9 - 4 p.m.

REAPS 1950 Gorse Street



REAPS Workshops For the Fall

We are always interested in hearing what you wish to learn or participate in, so drop us an email @ events@reaps.org

We have some workshops planned for the fall (in person or via ZOOM preference is yours).

17 Sept. @ 6:30 PM Zero Waste - Beginner Guide

27 Sept. all day online World Rivers Day (lots of info shared)

28 Sept. @ 6:30 PM DIY Cleaners

19 Oct. all week online Waste Reduction Week (easy steps)

4 Nov. @ 6:30 PM DIY Produce Bag

2 Dec. @ 6:30 PM DIY Holiday Gift Bag



LOCAL NEWS

Vanway Used Oil Collection Facility Upgraded source: Citizen Staff/ PG Citizen

Prince George residents looking to dispose of used oil will be able to access a newly-upgraded used oil recycling facility at the Vanway Regional Transfer Station.

Over the past three months, the BC Used Oil Management Association upgraded seven used oil facilities with new, environmentally-safe infrastructure, the non-profit group said in a press release.

"The Return Collection Facility infrastructure grants that businesses and municipalities received from BCUOMA provided them with a 10 foot or 20 foot modified sea container, and 1,100- (to) 2,200-litre tanks," association CEO David Lawes said in a press release. "We are dedicated to providing British Columbians with environmentally safe, free to use, and convenient collection facilities."

In addition to the upgraded facility at Vanway, the association funded upgrades at the Mackenzie Regional Transfer Station, McBride Transfer Station, Nazko Lake Landfill and construction of a new facility in New Hazelton.

The grants requires landfill operators to responsibly collect, transport, store, process and recycle used oil and antifreeze materials.

The association collects and recycles approximately 50 million litres of oil and three million litres of antifreeze each year. Both used oil and antifreeze can be reprocessed and used again, while oil filters and plastic containers can be recycled into new products.



**BC Used Oil
Management Association**

Effects of Glyphosate on Northern BC Forests source: Citizen Staff/ PG Citizen

Ecosystem Science and Management Assistant Professor Dr. Lisa Wood conducts field work into the impact of glyphosate-based herbicide use.

With the help of more than \$280,000 in grant funding, a University of Northern British Columbia professor is studying the long-term ecological impacts of glyphosate-based herbicide on forests in northern B.C.

Ecosystem Science and Management Assistant Professor Dr. Lisa Wood said she and her students are currently focused on plant responses to both climate-induced stress and herbicide-induced stress.

"Since glyphosate-based herbicides have been used for decades in B.C. forests, and largely in the interior and northern portions of the province, and due to the importance of forests to our regional land-base, UNBC is the perfect centre for this type of research," she says.

"The local community is very interested in the topic, and many organizations are keeping close tabs on what my lab is up to."

Wood and her collaborators received a total of \$281,726 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Of that, \$149,226 will purchase three new state-of-the-art growth chambers for controlled experimentation.

"These units can be used to control the environmental conditions for organisms, to test response to stimuli," Wood explains. "We expect to have them in place by the end of this year, and will be pursuing a project that looks at how the intensity and duration of glyphosate-based herbicide actions are altered by changes in environment."

The remaining \$132,500 will be used to support Wood's research as well as multiple graduate and undergraduate research projects.

Recycling Made Easier at Return-It Depots Source: Veronica Beltran/ CKPG News

Recycling just got a bit easier. Customers visiting Return-It depots in select areas across the province will be able to participate in a pilot project aiming at making recycling a bit easier for British Columbians.

The six-month-long pilot-project will allow recyclers to return their alcohol and non-alcohol aluminum containers together, without having to sort them. The Return-It Centre in Prince George providing this service is the P.G. Recycling and Return-It Centre.

This is one of several initiatives, announced back in July by Return-It B.C., in an attempt at make recycling easier for B.C. residents

The company is also: Expanding the number of Return-It Express Plus and solar-powered Express & GO contactless return stations around the province, including Vancouver Island, with new stations located in partnership with major retailers and shopping centres; implementing a 10-cent unified deposit for all beverage containers — starting this fall — to simplify the overall system and make it even easier for consumers to recycle all their beverage containers — re-

gardless of the size; reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the implementation of a hybrid compaction truck that will reduce the number of vehicles used to transport containers for processing; partnering with the Salvation Army to expand Return-It's popular textiles collection program to safely drop off used clothing for recycling; introducing new automated sorting technologies and reverse-vending machines inside select Return-It depots to limit touch-points in order to improve safety for depot employees and support the recycling experience.



AROUND BC

Mt. Polley Mine Research Indicates Environmental Effects On Quesnel Lake

source: Gordon Hoekstra / Vancouver Sun

Six years after the Mount Polley gold and copper mine dam collapse sent millions of cubic metres of tailings into Quesnel Lake, academic research shows there are effects on the lake environment.

Studies by researchers at the University of B.C., the University of Northern B.C., the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge found changes in the bacteria in the lake bottom where the mine waste was deposited, increased seasonal cloudiness in the lake and copper that is getting into organisms that live at the bottom of the lake.

First Nations, lake residents and environmentalists have been concerned about the long-term effects of the catastrophic dam collapse, one of the worst mine spills in Canada in 50 years.

When the dam collapsed on Aug. 4, tailings -- the ground-up rock remaining after the milling process and containing potentially toxic metals -- was dumped into the environment along with water. An estimated 12.8 million cubic metres of tailings (enough to fill 5,100 Olympic-sized pools) was deposited in Quesnel Lake along with natural soil stripped by the torrent. The covered area measured about 5.5 kilometres wide and up to 1.2 kilometres across the West Basin of Quesnel Lake, according to company and academic reports.

The most recent academic study, published in June in the journal *Water Resources Research* by scientists from UBC, UNBC and the University of Alberta, found each year since the spill, the turbidity, or cloudiness, of the lake has increased in the spring and autumn during lake turnover, apparently caused by spilled material being lifted off the lake bottom by wave movements.

The findings, and the continued discharge of mine waste water di-

rectly into the lake, raises concerns over the seasonal movement of mine contaminants and their effect on aquatic ecosystems, concluded the study.

Petticrew and a UNBC colleague, ecologist Phil Owens, both of whom helped write the study, say more research will be needed to determine the effects of this seasonal turbidity.

They said they've been told by Imperial Metals the company plans to write a rebuttal to their findings.

Imperial Metals has long said the tailings is relatively benign and would not produce acid that would release heavy metals into the environment, including in the lake water.

While the rock that has been milled in the Mount Polley mine does contain acid-generating pyrite, the acid-generating potential is neutralized by the significant amount of carbonate in the rock, company officials said following the spill in 2014. Company officials likened it to having a whole box of the antacid Tums to neutralize stomach acid.

Greg Pyle, a University of Lethbridge biologist, doesn't disagree with that assertion, but says his team's research shows there may be another mechanism in which aquatic creatures living at the surface of the tailings deposited at the lake bottom take up copper. Copper is a nutrient but it is also toxic at high levels, said Pyle, who specializes in the effect of environmental contaminants on aquatic animals.

More research will be needed to determine the broader implications, which Pyle said he hopes will start in the fall.

[READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Expand Local Food Production on Vancouver Island

source: CBC

An old fish processing plant in Port Alberni, B.C. has been given new life as a place where food companies can make their products with the goal of scaling up local business and providing more food sector jobs in the community.

The Sea to Forest food hub is a centralized shared-use food processing facility that currently provides five tenants with affordable access to production facilities and specialized equipment so they can scale up production and expand their businesses.

The facility is funded by the city, the provincial government, the Island Coastal Economic Trust and the Port Alberni Port Authority and is located on the industrial waterfront in the Vancouver Island community. Part of the B.C. Food Hub Network, similar hubs exist in the Lower Mainland and another is planned for Quesnel, B.C., in the fall.

Sea to Forest food hub tenants include Flurer Smokery, Cascadia Seaweed, Nova Harvest Oysters and Canadian Seafood Processing. Ben Patarin, co-owner of a

mushroom harvesting and processing business, is the only tenant living up to the forest portion of the hub's name.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



AROUND CANADA

Canadian Company Switching to Salad Containers Made of Recycled Plastic

Source: Plastic Action Centre

Vegpro, the largest fresh baby lettuces producer in Canada, has teamed up with Cascades, a leader in eco-friendly recovery, packaging and hygiene solutions, to replace all Fresh Attitude salad containers, traditionally made from virgin plastic, with 100-per-cent recycled and recyclable plastic containers.

Custom-designed for Vegpro by Cascades, the containers are manufactured at the Cascades Inopak plant in Drummondville, Que.

The containers will have a smaller environmental footprint that also helps to extend the shelf life of salads. The containers improve airflow and prolong conservation time by limiting the build up of excess humidity. This way, the baby lettuces remain fresh and crisp longer.

A life cycle analysis of similar Cascades packaging demonstrated that, compared to virgin PET, using 100-per-cent recycled PET reduces GHG emissions and the consump-

tion of non-renewable resources required to manufacture packaging. This scientific analysis was conducted by Groupe AGÉCO, an independent specialist.

[READ ARTICLE](#)



PEI's Single-Use Plastic Bags All But Disappear

source: Plastic Action Centre

One year after Prince Edward Island became the first province to ban single-use plastic bags, the Island has managed to keep millions of them from entering its waste management system.

The province implemented the Plastic Bag Reduction Act on July 1, 2019. Since then, businesses have been prohibited from offering single-use plastic bags at the check-out. Before the ban, the Island saw between 15 and 16 million plastic bags collected by Island Waste Management Corporation (IWMC) every year.

"We would ship probably in the vicinity of a tractor-trailer load of that material probably every two to three weeks," said CEO Gerry Moore.

"That's been totally ... eliminated." Although the single-use plastic bags are recyclable, it had been increasingly difficult for IWMC to find any recycling market for the bags.

They had been used as fuel for heating and cooling some public buildings in Charlottetown.

The Plastic Bag Reduction Act requires retailers to charge a minimum of 15 cents for replacement bags, often paper or reusable plastic.

The Island's plastic bag ban seemed to spur other provinces. Newfoundland and Labrador's ban on single-use plastic bags goes into effect this year.



Rubbermaid Launches National Recycling Program

Source: Clare Goldsberry / Plastic Today

Through the Rubbermaid Food Storage Recycling Program, consumers can now send in all brands of well-used glass and plastic food storage containers to be recycled for free. Consumers can sign up on the [TerraCycle website's program pages](#) for the United States or Canada and mail in well-used food storage containers using a downloadable prepaid shipping label. Once collected, the containers are cleaned and melted into hard plastic or glass that can be remolded to make new recycled products.



ty to divert waste from landfills and responsibly dispose of food-storage containers that may initially seem unrecyclable. By accepting and recycling any food storage product, regardless of brand, through the recycling program, Rubbermaid is expanding its commitment to sustainability and helping to build awareness that a recycling solutions exists for just about everything."

The Rubbermaid Food Storage Recycling Program is open to any interested individual, school, office, or community organization.

Tom Szaky, TerraCycle founder and CEO, commented: "Newell Brands and Rubbermaid are offering consumers a unique opportuni-

[MORE INFO](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

The Venetian Resort Announces New Innovative Recycling Program To Keep Face Masks Out Of Local Landfills

Source: PRNewswire

The Venetian Resort expands Sands ECO360 recycling efforts as the first Las Vegas-based property, and one of the first in the nation, to develop an innovative program to recycle surgical face masks, which are being used by guests and Team Members as part of the resort's Venetian Clean initiatives.

As part of this pilot project, in partnership with TerraCycle, the discarded masks are collected on-site at The Venetian Resort and sent to a recycling facility where they are separated, shredded and densified into a crumb-like raw material. This material will be

used to make repurposed products such as composite lumber for shipping pallets, railroad ties and composite decking.

This project, part of the company's Sands ECO360 initiative, will help provide "proof of concept" for such recycling, to encourage others to replicate the program. Currently, consumer masks are not recycled through main-stream or curbside recycling programs, due to the complexity of the recycling process. Surgical face masks are made of a multitude of materials, and need to be sorted and separated before recycling. In addition a

magnet is used to separate the metal nose strips, which can melted and utilized in other recycled materials.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Carnival Corporation Recycles Two Retired Cruise Ships

source: PRNewswire

World's largest cruise company reinforces commitment to protecting environment by engaging reclamation and recycling specialists to sustainably dismantle retired cruise ships

Carnival Corporation worked with the environmental non-profit Bellona Foundation – a lead partner in the NGO Shipbreaking Platform – and the specialized ship recycling experts Sea2Cradle to formulate an approach to dismantling

and recycling the ships. The organizations also helped identify best-in-class certified maritime vessel retirement solutions worldwide that are able to reuse, reclaim and recycle retired ships in support of Carnival Corporation's commitment to a sustainable cruise industry.

After an intensive review of sustainable ship recycling facilities, Carnival Corporation se-

lected Turkey-based Ege Celik and Simsekler based on their track records of compliance with key national and international environmental agreements and regulations.

The recycling companies will formulate a Ship Recycle Plan for each vessel – Carnival

materials are safely removed and processed, the companies will begin dismantling each ship.

Ships will be stripped of machinery, electronic equipment, glass, wood and other materials that can be directly upcycled for reuse in

new ships, used in ship repair or repurposed for other applications. Steel and metal scraps will be salvaged and recycled for direct use or be sent to the mill for producing other products



Fantasy and Carnival Inspiration – that goes beyond what is required by consulting with Carnival Corporation's advisor Sea2Cradle to ensure optimal compliance with key national and international environmental standards. Each plan will include a complete inventory of hazardous and regulated materials and the procedures planned for safely removing and processing the materials in an environmentally friendly way. Once these

and goods. Working on behalf of Carnival Corporation and as an added assurance, Sea2Cradle will supervise ship dismantling and recycling at the demolition yards throughout the entire process to ensure the highest health, safety and environmental standards are maintained.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

Ben and Jerry's Maker Uses Phones to Track Sustainable Palm Oil

source: Anuradha Raghu, Bloomberg News

Unilever is planning to use new geo-location technology to make its palm oil supply chains more transparent and tackle a farm-to-table traceability problem that has plagued the industry for decades.

The maker of Ben & Jerry's ice cream, Hellmann's mayonnaise and Dove soap will use cell phone geo-location data to track palm oil moving across thousands of supply chains and to achieve the elusive "first-mile" traceability. After a pilot test in Indonesia, Unilever is scaling up that approach to cover all palm facilities in Southeast Asia, including farms, refineries and processing plants, and is looking into whether the technology can be applied to other regions.

"With a clearer picture, it's easier to estimate the risk of issues, such as deforestation," says Marc Engel, chief supply chain officer at Unilever. "We want to be the first to know, and the first to act."

The technology is another step toward making the controversial industry more transparent as growers face increasing scrutiny over production of the oil used in everything from chocolate to lipstick and shampoo. Rapid expansion of plantations in past decades, fueled by surging demand for a cheap and versatile edible oil, has been linked to the burning of tropical rainforests, de-

struction of wildlife and land conflicts with local communities.

Environmental concerns have spurred the adoption of sustainable palm oil, but complex supply chains that begin with estates spanning millions of hectares make it difficult for the industry to be fully traceable. What's more, the credibility of certified-sustainable palm oil, like that of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, has been questioned by environmental groups who say greenwashing and bad practices still take place, albeit hidden from the public.

Palm oil is one of the most important raw ingredients in Unilever's products. The consumer goods giant purchases about 1 million tons of palm oil, palm kernel oil and derivatives annually for use in products such as ice cream, cosmetics and soaps, making it one of the world's largest buyers. It aims to make all its supply chains deforestation-free by 2023.

The first mile, which oversees palm oil from estates to mills, is a "particularly unique challenge for sustainable sourcing," Engel said. "Crops such as palm oil fruit or soy can be harvested from lots of different areas of land, belonging to several farmers, and mixed with raw material from other farms or plantations several times

before reaching the mill," he said.

Providing granular visibility into Unilever's palm-supply chains is Orbital Insight, a California-based Big Data company that uses geo-location data, satellites, drones and balloons to track what's happening on the planet. Orbital will use a combination of geo-fencing, anonymous mobile data and satellite imagery to monitor movement of trucks and their deliveries, and to identify any deforestation that has taken place in the past, or recently, at suppliers' sites. For example, it'll be able to track if a virgin rainforest was leveled to plant oil palm or to build roads and buildings.

[TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



Is PPE Recyclable? How to Properly Dispose of PPE

source: Stephanie Waldek / House Beautiful

Five months after the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, we're finally at a point where it's a little bit easier to find personal protective equipment (PPE) like disposable masks and gloves in stock. Thank goodness for that! But while the acquisition of these goods is no longer a huge problem, have you ever considered how you should dispose of them? Here's everything you need to know about getting rid of your PPE.

Can I recycle PPE?

No! PPE cannot be recycled. "Many types of PPE are flimsy or flexible in design—think gloves and masks—and can clog sorting equipment at the recycling center, making it difficult to sort the right stuff," says Jeremy Walters, sustainability ambassador and head of community relations for recycling and waste company Republic Services. "The other concern with used PPE is for the

health and welfare of workers at the recycling centers that are sorting through the recyclables."

In fact, prior to the pandemic, the Bureau of Labor Statistics deemed recycling and waste collection the fifth most dangerous career in the United States, based on the annual number of fatal incidents. Now with the pandemic, workers in the field are more exposed to risks than ever.

Here's exactly what PPE and associated materials cannot be recycled:

- Disposable masks
- Gloves
- Disinfecting wipes
- Paper towels, napkins, and tissues
- Medical equipment and supplies

If you're not thrilled about the ecological im-

pact of single-use PPE, consider buying reusable options, which are far more sustainable. With those items, you'll want to be sure you are sanitizing them regularly. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggest you wash your reusable mask after every use.

What should you be recycling during the pandemic?

While PPE itself can't be recycled, there's plenty else that can and should be. "Hand sanitizer, liquid disinfectants, disinfectant wipes, and other cleaning or sanitizing products often come in packaging that is great for recycling," says Walters. "Rigid plastic bottles, jugs, and tubs are excellent candidates. Just be sure your plastic containers are empty, clean, and dry before tossing them in your recycling bin." [READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & PLANNING SOCIETY

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

Dumpy's Tip of the Month

Go green when going (or sending) back to school!

◆ Make eco-friendly lunches - use a reusable water bottle, containers and cutlery (instead of disposable ones)

◆ Look through the school supplies you already have and see if you can reuse them (instead of buying new)

◆ Write on both sides of the paper

◆ Turn off computers when they are not in use (especially relevant for those who are learning online this fall)



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

DIY CLOTH WRAP

Make your own cloth wraps for sandwich or snacks. The inside is lined with waterproof material (easy to wipe down), and they're machine washable. They make a lovely place mat when open, too.

Want to try making your own? Here's a quick tutorial.

[DIY WRAP](http://ginadwagner.com/saving-the-world-one-sandwich-at-a-time/)

<http://ginadwagner.com/saving-the-world-one-sandwich-at-a-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](mailto:newsletter@reaps.org) 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

Date: _____

Cheque payable to:
R.E.A.P.S.

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