

REAPS



REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

March 2009

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

- 7 REAPS 19th Annual AGM @ Northern Health Unit, 2pm
- 18 CCCA Climate Change presentation @ Civic Centre, 6:30pm
- 21 Farmers' Market @ St. Michael's Church, 5th & Victoria
- 26-31 Traveling World Community Film Festival
- 28 Earth Hour, 8:30pm

APRIL

- 1-4 Traveling World Community Film Festival
- 18 REAPS Garden cleanup
- 18 Farmers' Market @ St. Michael's Church, 5th & Victoria
- 22 EARTH DAY

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Please join us for our

The 2009 REAPS Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday March 7th from 2 to 4pm**, at the Northern Interior Health Unit (across from the Hospital).

The AGM is open to the public, and REAPS encourages new and present members to attend. We count on your voice to assist us with our yearly programming and direction. REAPS is *your* organization, and this is your opportunity to hear what we've been up to and where we are going. Furthermore, by coming you will show your appreciation for the volunteer board members that keep this organization running.



REAPS members, from individuals to businesses, all have one thing in common. They recognize that environmental sustainability affects every living thing on this planet, which requires everyone's efforts to reverse the negative impact that our industrialized civilization

20th AGM

has placed upon our planet. Being a REAPS member makes you a part of the solution and gives individuals and businesses a voice in the direction we go and grow in the RDEFG.

As a registered charity, non-partisan, not-for-profit society, we bring you important and up-to-date news and perspectives on B.C.'s environment. Because you need to know to make a difference!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with REAPS, we invite you to nominate yourself to join the board. Director positions are described on our website: www.reaps.org/society/boardmember.html

This year's guest speaker will be Darren Wahl from METRO Waste Paper Recovery. Darren will talk about current trends in world recycling markets and what it means to us in Prince George and the RDEFG. He will highlight what and where things can be recycled and explain what happens to the materials we recycle, including the new materials that they become.

'Local Climate Change Visioning' Presentation

The Cariboo-Prince George Citizens' Conservation Council on Climate Action presents Dr. Stephen Sheppard from UBC to speak on "Local Climate Change Visioning", **Wednesday March 18th from 7-9pm** at the Prince George Civic Centre.

Stephen Sheppard is a leader of the Future Visioning of Local Climate Change project. In partnership with the GEOIDE Research Network, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, BC Government, Metro

Vancouver, the Fraser Basin Council and others, Sheppard and his team are producing visual simulations to show how climate change, and our responses to it, could play out within a generation or two.

The presentation, open to the public, will address how to build community capacity for action on climate change. Council members (including REAPS' own Terri McClymont) will also be introduced at this event.

Don't forget to renew your REAPS membership for 2009.

See back page for membership application form and fees.
Thank you for your support!

REAPS NEWS

Web Pick of the Month

www.meetthegreens.org - Meet the Greens: A site for kids about looking after the planet



Aimed at children and “tweens”, this website features animated episodic adventures, a blog, kids' mail, and regular updates that explore green living, sustainability, ecology, environmental care, and social equity. The Greens give kids a pop-culture reflection of what environmentally-conscious families can look like.

Book of the Month

Country Wisdom & Know-How: Everything you need to know to live off the land

ISBN: 1-57912-368-6



Although it was published a few years ago, this book is so great that we want to share it with you today. A complete guide to simple living, it contains almost 2000 illustrations and photographs and describes over 8,000 useful skills. Use as a reference for topics as varied as gardening, land surveying, food preservation, massage, bee-keeping, quilting, home brewing, butchering, living with cats, herbal remedies, home maintenance... and much more.

AGM Time change!!

Please note that the previously advertised time for the AGM has been change to **2:00pm** on Saturday, March 7th.

For more information, see page 1.

In January 2009:

- The REAPS hotline fielded 25 calls related to recycling and composting.
- 479 students benefited from 25 REAPS presentations in their schools.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contributions from volunteers are fundamental to every community. Exciting opportunities are available with REAPS; join others in promoting the 3Rs & providing Environmental Education in our community.

WRITERS - If you think you have something to contribute to this newsletter, your words would be *greatly* appreciated.

DUMPY THE OVERFED LANDFILL - is REAPS' mascot that attends school presentations and community events. Approx. 1.5 hours a month.

GARDEN HELPERS - Garden cleanup is on April 18th from 12-3. Volunteers can also help with the Compost Demonstration Garden anytime after then.

BOARD MEMBERS - Position descriptions are available on the REAPS website. Sign up at the March 7th AGM.

Interested in one of the above? Contact Terri at 561-7327 or e-mail volunteer@reaps.org.

STOP BY OUR BOOTH

REAPS will have an information booth at the Canadian Home Builders' Home Show at the CN Centre from April 24-26.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR - REAPS Plant Sale

DATE: Saturday, May 23rd

TIME: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Compost Demo Garden

ADDRESS: 1950 Gorse Street

(Near Fort George Park and Exploration Place).

Featuring: perennials, herbs, vegetables,

vines, and shrubs.

Donations of plants welcomed (we will be happy to dig/ pick up). Pots are available.

For more information or to volunteer with labeling, potting and day of the sale please call 561-7327 or email events@reaps.org



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REAPS introduces new school program outlining the history of our food, where it comes from today, why making healthy choices help the environment? In this interactive presentation children will explore foods and their environment. Learn about the bugs that make it happen, play a game, sing a song or just get down and dirty!



LOCAL NEWS

Smart Growth on the Ground Hosts Workshops

The Smart Growth on the Ground (SGOG) team will be back in Prince George for two workshops in March.

Join them March 4th and 5th to hear preliminary results of research underway, set targets on the future direction of downtown Prince George, and brainstorm future design possibilities. Learn more about SGOG and how it has positively benefited the District of Squamish.

Wednesday, March 4, 6:00 - 9:30 pm
Topics covered:

- Air Quality
- Commercial Energy
- Renewable Energy Potential
- Residential Energy Use
- Storm Water Management

- Street Trees

Thursday, March 5, 6:00 - 9:30 pm

Topics covered:

- Alternative transportation
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Heritage
- Housing
- Local Food

Both workshops will be held in the Ballroom of the Ramada Hotel (444 George Street) from 6:00 – 9:30 pm. Please try to walk, cycle or bus to these free events. Refreshments will be served and door prizes include gift certificates to the Waddling Duck and tickets to a PG Cougars game!



smart growth on the ground

Smart Growth on the Ground (SGOG) is a collaborative visioning exercise run in partnership with the City of Prince George. The goal is to create a vision of future growth in downtown Prince George based on Smart Growth Principles and guided by extensive community consultation.

Your input will help shape the 25-year vision for downtown Prince George.

Learn more about SGOG at: www.sgog.bc.ca

REAPS Supports the Traveling World Community Film Festival

The World Community Film Festival is British Columbia's largest, longest-running international social issues film festival. Organized by the World Community Development Education Society (WCDES), located in the Comox Valley, the *Traveling* version of their festival will be in Prince George from March 26th to April 4th, 2009.

The films included in the festival deal with a variety of relevant social issues in countries around the world, including human rights, economics, fair trade, labour/employment, globalization, U.S. Foreign Policy, agriculture, food security, land use, aboriginal affairs, children and women's issues, sexuality, homelessness, community, spirituality/health, arts and culture, and war and peace. This year's film lineup is billed as "a showcase of stories of everyday heroes who have stepped forward to take action, responding to the challenges they see in their world."

The goals of the Film Festival are to educate BC audiences about international and community development, to emphasize the interconnectedness of local, regional, and global issues, and to provide local Non-Government Organizations and volunteer organizations with the opportunity to showcase their work and reach out beyond their usual constituencies.

Local organizations have become involved with the Festival by supporting one or two films that are relevant to their work and mandate. This provides the organizations with an opportunity to get the public out to hear what they do in the community, to understand the importance of their work on a global scale, and to understand how our actions can and do affect the world.

This year, REAPS has sponsored the film "49 Megawatts". This 2007 production looks at the future of BC's rivers after the issuing of hundreds of private water licenses for power production. In an attempt to uncover the backroom politics behind the approval of the Ashlu Creek Hydro Project, Bryan Smith reveals how the government of BC is fast tracking hydro projects under the name of "green power" without efforts to curb power demand, adequately assess the environmental impacts of "run of river" hydro projects, or consider the input of local communities and governments. 49 Megawatts has been acclaimed for its amazing kayaking footage and for exposing the controversy over these energy projects.

49 Megawatts will be shown on the evening of Sunday, March 29th. Venues and show times are as of yet unknown, so watch for more information closer to the date. To see the rest of the film lineup, go to www.worldcommunity.ca and select "film festival". If you have questions about the Prince George festival, please contact Jovanka Djordjevic at 250-564-3859 or jovanka@netbistro.com.



AROUND BC

2009 RCBC Award Nominations

Source: www.rcbc.bc.ca

The Recycling Council of BC recognizes valuable contribution that individuals and organizations have made toward the preservation protection of British Columbia's environment.

The 2009 RCBC Environmental Award will be presented at 35th Annual RCBC Zero Waste Conference on May 28, 2009 at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler Resort, Whistler, BC.

RCBC are accepting nominations in the following categories: Individual, Youth, Educator, Private Sector, Public Sector, Non-Profit and Journalists and Media.

Download the nomination form for more information on criteria. Deadline for nominations is April 3, 2009. www.rcbc.bc.ca



ECONomics: The Green Economy Summit

Source: www.rcbc.bc.ca

The 2009 Recycling Council of BC (RCBC) Zero Waste Conference will be held on May 27-29, 2009 at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler Resort in Whistler, BC!

This year's conference theme is ECONomics: The Green Economy Summit. The focus will be on Green Economics and the transition we need to make as a society towards a more sustainable economic and environmental model.

Last year, over 250 delegates, speakers, exhibitors and guests attended this premier annual event! Book your seat now to learn how you can profit from the incoming wave of the new green economy.



Core of Climate Plan Intact but Environmental Groups Say Budget Lacks Green Stimulus

Source: Sierra Club BC Press Release

Victoria, BC – Seven leading environmental groups praised the BC government February 17th for reaffirming its commitment to tackle climate change. Yet the groups say BC's promised transition to a "low carbon economy" will be stalled by the BC government's lack of leadership in failing to introduce a true green stimulus package, and the jump in subsidies to carbon-emitting sectors such as oil and gas industries.

"This budget sustains the core of B.C.'s climate change action plan by maintaining the carbon tax," said Ian Bruce, Climate Change Specialist, David Suzuki Foundation. "But it falls short by failing to provide adequate funds for public transit, and sends the wrong signal by continuing to subsidize the fossil fuel industry heavily."

Subsidies to the oil and gas sector are to soar by 57 percent—to a whopping \$1.5 billion over the next three fiscal years. "The government had the op-

portunity to lead us into the economy of the future but give-aways to heavy polluters and carbon emitters condemn us to the mistakes of the past," said Charles Campbell, spokesperson for the Dogwood Initiative.

A 15 per cent cut to environmental stewardship—down to \$34 million from \$41 million--was also singled out by the seven groups as alarming.



"Aside from staying the course on

climate change, the government has given the environment short shrift in this budget," said Susan Howatt, Campaigns Director for Sierra Club BC. "Substantial cuts to environmental stewardship are of great concern for a province that still has no endangered species law--and 1,600 endangered species."

Another gap in the budget is that new infrastructure projects will not require a transparent analysis of global warming emissions and life-cycle costs that clearly demonstrate how projects--like proposed highway expansions--will help or hinder achievement of BC's legally-binding climate change goals.

"Funding for closed containment fish farming was also notably lacking, missing an opportunity for long-term green, rural economic development," said Ruby Berry, of the Georgia Strait Alliance.

AROUND CANADA

Canada Says Shampoo Ingredients Are Toxic

Source: Reprinted with permission from GreenBiz.com: The Resource Center on Business, the Environment, and the Bottom Line (www.GreenBiz.com). © Green Business Network. All rights reserved.

OTTAWA, CA -- Among the latest substances the Canadian government recently labelled toxic are two found commonly in shampoo, personal care products and a range of items such as paints and food additives.

The substances were evaluated as part of Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca/plan/index_e.html). The latest assessment of 16 substances found that five pose concerns for human health and three are a concern for the environment.

Siloxanes D4 and D5 are two of the substances toxic to the environment, and are found in a wide swatch of products: shampoo, antiperspirants, lipstick, textiles, paints and coatings, sealants, plastics, non-medical ingredients in pharmaceuticals, food additives, surface treatments for wounds and more.

These two silicon-based chemicals were not found to be a concern to human health based on how much of the substances humans are exposed

to, though they were found to be a danger to the environment since products that contain them are widely used, leading to high levels of D4 and D5 entering the environment. The substances persist in the environment and can harm fish and aquatic organisms.

The government aims to minimize the amount of D4 and D5 used in products and regulate the amount that is released through wastewater from manufacturing plants.



The third substance of concern for the environment is TTBP (2,4,6-tri-tert-butylphenol), a fuel additive that is persistent, bioaccumulates and harms wildlife. It will be added to the Virtual Elimination List so that the amount of it that is released into the

environment is reduced below levels that can be measured.

As for the substances toxic to human health, current exposure levels to them is very low, according to the Canadian government, though regulations are being proposed for four of them so that they must undergo new assessments if they will be used in the future.

Two of the substances, epichlorohydrin and isoprene, will also be added to the Cosmetic Ingredient Hotlist and banned from being used in cosmetics. Isoprene is also used in vehicle tires, footwear and paint resins, and Health Canada is proposing that manufacturers use the best available technology to control releases of it into the environment.

The other substances declared toxic are thiourea - a substance used to make printed circuit boards - and pigments Yellow 34 and Red 104, chemicals that are used in commercial printing inks and paints.

Public Consultation for Sustainable Packaging and EPR

Source: www.ccme.ca

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)'s Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Task Group was established to provide guidance on the development and implementation of EPR and product stewardship programs, and to consider packaging as a first priority.

They are currently inviting all interested organisations and individuals to review the following consultation documents and provide comments.

- *Towards a Proposed Canada-wide Action Plan for Extended Producer Responsibility*

- *Towards a Proposed Canada-wide Strategy for Sustainable Packaging*

The documents may be accessed online at: <http://www.ccme.ca/about/consultation.html>

Comments can be submitted until May 29, 2009 via the electronic comment form.



Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

AROUND CANADA

Hometown Heroes Award: call for nominations

Source: www.earthday.ca

TORONTO (22/01/09) – Earth Day Canada (EDC), in partnership with Cascades Inc., is searching for Canada's 2009 Hometown Heroes Award winner. The Hometown Heroes Award program recognizes and encourages environmental leadership and achievement in local communities. Canada's 2009 environmental hero will receive a cash-prize of \$10 000 (\$5 000 to keep and \$5 000 to donate to the environmental cause of their choice).

Receiving the award has become a prestigious honour in the environmental sector. Last year's winner, David Donnelly, legal counsel to some of Canada's leading non-profit and charitable organizations, credited the award as his highlight of 2008.

"I am so thankful Earth Day Canada is able to recognize the heroics of community environmental leaders,"

stated Donnelly. "Receiving the Hometown Heroes Award made my year and re-energized my personal commitment to the environment."

Earth Day Canada has long recognized that the most important environmental work happens at the community level. Whether people are involved in the community garden movement, the protection of natural spaces or have started their own environmental network or organization, these heroics need to be recognized and supported.

"We are looking for environmental leaders who have shown commitment and achieved results in their community," says Jed Goldberg, President of Earth Day Canada. "They are the unsung heroes of the environmental movement in Canada that work tirelessly for a cause that every household in Canada is concerned about.

Equally important, they inspire others to action."

The recipient of the 2009 Hometown Heroes Award will be recognized as part of the 6th Annual Earth Day Canada Gala in Toronto in June. As part of the event, Maude Barlow, the first Senior Advisor on Water Issues to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, will be honoured with EDC's 'Outstanding Commitment to the Environment Award'.

For more information, or to nominate yourself, an individual or group from your community, please visit www.earthday.ca.

The deadline for applications is Earth Day, April 22, 2009.



Turn the lights out for Earth Hour

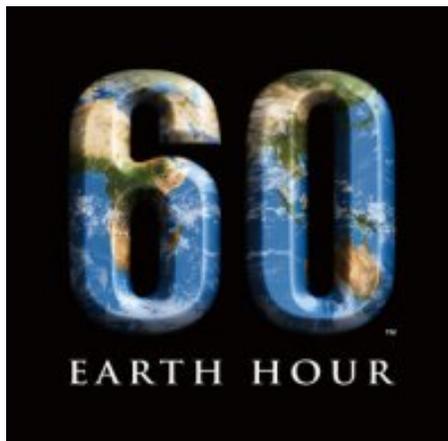
Source: adapted from: <http://www.wwf.ca>

Turn out the lights on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 8:30 pm. Millions of Canadians (and others around the world) will turn off their lights for 60 minutes on March 28th for Earth Hour in support of action on climate change.

Everyone can participate in Earth Hour! It's as simple as flicking off a switch – literally. You can participate by yourself or with family, friends and just a few candles. Encourage your friends and family to participate. Get your business or workplace involved. Individuals or organisations can sign up at www.earthhourcanada.org.

Earth Hour is a symbolic event. Turning off our lights for an hour won't stop climate change but it does demonstrate that our individual action is important and adds up to make a big

difference. More importantly, it sends a very powerful message to government and world leaders that people want policies and regulations put in place that can achieve meaningful emission reduction to help fight climate change.



The WWF (World Wildlife Fund) led event continues to show amazing momentum. What began as an awareness-raising event in Sydney, Australia in 2007, grew to an astounding 371 cities across 35 countries in 2008. This year, the number of countries participating has already doubled and discussions are under way or nearing completion in hundreds of other cities worldwide.

In Canada, Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax have confirmed their participation as official partner cities and more cities and municipalities across the country are joining every day. Cities can join the movement or get information by emailing WWF-Canada at earth-hour@wwfcanada.org.

AROUND THE WORLD

Making Fuel from Candy Waste and Cow Manure

Source: Reprinted with permission from GreenBiz.com: The Resource Center on Business, the Environment, and the Bottom Line (www.GreenBiz.com). © Green Business Network. All rights reserved. By Ariel Schwartz, February 11, 2009



Candy waste and cow manure sounds like a nasty pairing, but the combo will be used to brew ethanol thanks to a Waco, Texas start-up called EQMA.

The company, which has received \$250,000 in funding, will create 500,000 to 2 million gallons of alcohol each year using grocery store and bakery food waste, as well as leftovers from Waco's Mars Snackfood plant.

Eventually, EQMA wants to expand into dairy-heavy Erath County. The company hopes to build microdistilleries on dairies to convert manure into ethanol fuel. Once EQMA receives a US Department of Energy grant, the company plans on building a demonstration manure-to-ethanol plant at Tarleton State University's model dairy.

A company called Microgy already takes manure from Erath County and converts it to methane, but EQMA is convinced that energy recovery will be greater and transportation costs will be lower with ethanol conversion.

Epuramat's Box4Water Turns Wastewater to Drinking Water in Portable System

Source: Reprinted with permission from GreenBiz.com: The Resource Center on Business, the Environment, and the Bottom Line (www.GreenBiz.com). © Green Business Network. All rights reserved. Press Writer, Feb. 12, 2009

CONTERN, LU -- Luxembourg cleantech firm Epuramat has developed a portable wastewater treatment system called Box4Water that the company says can be deployed in sites ranging from communities, fairs and sports venues to remote areas and scenes of disaster.



The heart of the system is a high efficiency extreme separator, called an ExSep. It enables the 20-foot-long Box4Water and larger units the company builds as turn-key plants to process residential and industrial wastewater using less water and less energy in about 90 percent of the space occupied by a standard treatment plant.



The company, whose systems are being used in community and industrial pilot projects in Luxembourg, delivered a presentation about its technology at the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi in January. It was one of only seven enterprises invited to do so.

Holey Font Saves Ink

A Dutch creative company called SPRANQ has developed a new font that saves toner and ink when printed. The Ecofont uses up to 20% less toner or ink compared to the font it is based on, a version of Veranda.

The goal in designing the Ecofont was to remove as much of the letter as possible while maintaining readability. After experimenting with a variety of shapes, including thin letters and partial letters (like zebra stripes), the best results were found with small, slightly ovoid, circles.

Since, at smaller font sizes, the holes all but disappear, the greatest savings

in ink or toner are realized with larger font sizes. However, at large size, the font is not terribly attractive, and may be most appropriate for home and internal usage. This certainly does not devalue the ecofont of its value.

ecofont

Further, it has been speculated that a holey font would be ideally paired with a porous paper such as that used for newspaper and paperback novel publishing, since the more fluid ink used and the capillary action of the paper

would result in smaller holes, thus overcoming some of the visibility issues. It cannot be denied that such usage in the media would result in a significant (and measurable) savings in ink.

As this version of the Ecofont is the company's first crack at it, they are continuing to develop several other versions.

The Ecofont is available free of charge, and can be downloaded from www.ecofont.eu for use in Windows, Mac OSX and Linux.

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

Mailing address:
PO Box 444, Prince George, BC V2L 4S6

Compost Garden and Office Location:
1950 Gorse Street

Phone: 250-561-7327
Fax: 250-561-7324

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 garden@reaps.org

Dumpy's Tip of the Month



Instead of using the plastic bags provided in the produce section of the grocery store, make a stash of simple, reusable bags.

Method 1: Reuse the plastic mesh bags that come with oranges or onions - just cut off the label and tie a knot in one end.

Method 2: Sew lightweight drawstring bags from sheer or meshed fabric.



RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER—Wool Felting

Turn a torn, stained or shrunken wool sweater into snazzy coasters, a baby change pad, a tote bag, a stuffed animal, mittens, slippers, or anything your heart desires.

A 100% wool sweater can be "felted" either by hand or in your washing machine. The following instructions are for the latter:

Place the sweater(s) in a zippered pillow case to prevent the lint from clogging up the machine. Add jeans or other articles to balance the space if needed (note that the dye in the sweater could run). Set the washer on hot, with a cold rinse and maximum agitation. Use a small amount of laundry soap. Repeat the wash once or twice if needed—the sweater should end up about half it's original size. If it won't shrink, the sweater may simply be of the amazing "no shrink" variety—try another.

Dry the sweater on hot in the pillow case or just lay flat to dry. Remove lint. The felting process brings the stitches so close together that you can cut it like fabric. Cut off and discard the seams and collar (these can be saved to use as stuffing for toys). You are now ready to sew anything you wish with your wool felt.



Wool is naturally water repellent and anti-bacterial, making it ideal as an alternative to plastic and vinyl waterproof products.

RECYCLING and ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone: _____

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