

REAPS



REPORT

Hotline 250-561-7327

May 2006

COMING EVENTS

- May 14 DDBGS Plant Sale @ UNBC
- May 27 REAPS Annual Plant Sale
- May 27 Backyard Composter Construction Workshop (registration req'd)
- June 4 -Community Gardens Plant Sale @ Milburn & Spruce
- June 4-11 Environment Week watch local news for coming events

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REAPS Plant Sale

Our annual plant sale and fundraiser has been happening for the past 11 years! It is one of our many fundraisers to help cover costs of operating our society, and running the Compost Demonstration Garden. It provides an opportunity for gardeners to select a large variety of plants that are grown locally and thrive in our climate

Our plant sale will have a selection of herbs, vines, shrubs, vegetables, an-

nuals and perennial flowers that are suited for shade, sun, or drought tolerant.

Volunteers are the key:

if you are able to assist with:

- the donation of plants or gardening tools,
- potting up plants at the garden,
- dropping them off at the garden,
- labelling a week before the sale
- helping the day of the event, please



Saturday May 27,

call 561-7327 or e-mail events@reaps.org

TIME: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

LOCATION: Compost Demo Garden

ADDRESS: 1950 Gorse Street

(Near Fort George Park and Exploration Place).

Stats Can Report Shows Waste Continues to Grow

Canadian households continue to generate more solid waste, and the majority of it ends up in landfill sites that is the conclusion of the Statistics Canada report on Human Activity and the Environment.

In total, the nation produced just over 30.4 million tonnes of solid waste in 2002 from all sources, such as residential, industrial, commercial, institutional (IC&I), construction and demolition. This was 3.9% higher than the total in 2000, and amounted to 971 kg per person on average. Of this total, residential waste accounted for just under 40%, while IC&I

sources accounted for just under one-half.

The residential component of Canada's waste was estimated at just over 12 million tonnes, a 6.8% increase from 2000. An estimated 2.5 million tonnes about 1/5 of the residential total, were recycled or diverted, a 17% increase from 2000.

Many factors affect production of waste. Solid waste tends to grow with economic output. Changes in society, such as the trend toward fewer people per household, also have an impact. Census data shows that 1981 households consisting of one or two people represented 49% of all households;

by 2001, they accounted for 58%

In 2002, 6.6 million tonnes of non-hazardous waste materials were prepared for recycling by local waste management groups or companies. The bulk of the recycled material consisted of paper & cardboard, which accounted by 46% of the total and organic materials which made up 18%. IC&I sources provided just over 1/2 of the materials recycled. Households accounted for 39%

For more information:

environ@statecan.ca

R.E.A.P.S. NEWS

REAPS Sponsored Award

The Central Interior Science Exhibition was held on April 1st at UNBC. REAPS sponsor an award for the best recycling entry in the amount of \$50

Congratulation to recipients Lucas Hiller and Miguel DaSilva from Immaculate Conception School. Their project was called "Solar Energy".



Book of the Month

The Weather Makers : How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth by Tim Flannery

Interested in gaining a better understanding of the environmental issues surrounding climate change and global warming. Understand that the author is an avowed environmentalist, and although he does want you to go out and buy a hybrid vehicle, he is for the most part willing to let the facts speak for themselves by presenting them in a clear and logical manner. His sources are well documented, and he offers commonsense solutions for those people who wish to try to make a difference.

Web Pick of the Month

<http://www.gardenweb.com/>

The GardenWeb Forums comprise the largest community of gardeners on the Internet. Whether you're a new gardener or an old master, here you will find like-minded people and friendly discussions.

Rain Barrels, An Old Idea with a New Following

Harvesting Rainwater with Rain Barrels

Collecting rainwater for use during dry months in rain barrels or other depositories is an ancient and traditional practice. Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as 2,000 years ago in Thailand, and throughout other areas of the world after that. With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions now facing much of the United States during the summer months, more and more homeowners in our own modern society are turning to the harvesting of rainwater to save money and protect this precious natural resource.

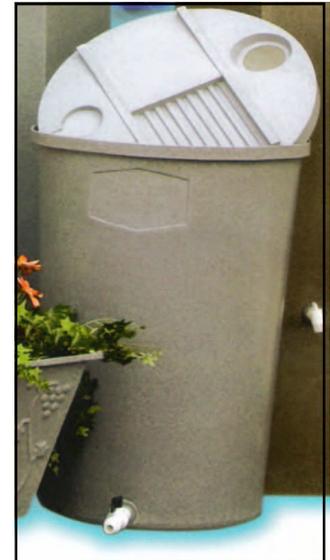
Why Harvest Rainwater with Rain Barrels?

Besides helping the environment, an obvious reason for harvesting rainwater is to save money. Depending on the size of your house and the amount of rainfall in your area, you can collect a substantial amount of rainwater with a simple system. This extra water can have a significant impact on your water bill. The use of rainwater combined with the domestic use of grey water can further increase your savings. Even if you live in a

rural area and have your own well, the fact that rainwater is a naturally soft water may be enough to justify harvesting rainwater. (Keep reading for information on how to calculate the potential volume of rainwater you can collect.)

Rainwater stored in rain barrels has many uses. Some people find it mostly useful for watering their landscapes and gardens. Others find uses within the house as well. Rainwater can also be used for drinking but requires special treatment with a filtration system. Note that many cities require the filtration system for drinking water to be certified and the water to be tested on a regular basis. You do not need a filtration system for landscape uses. You can use it directly from your rain barrel on your garden.

If you're harvesting rainwater with rain barrels to use for watering your landscaping, the rainwater can help to improve the health of your gardens, lawns, and trees. Rain is a naturally soft water and devoid of minerals, chlorine, fluoride, and other chemicals. For this reason, plants respond very well to rainwater. After all, it's what plants in the wild thrive on!



City of Prince George Water Conservation Program and REAPS are partnering to provide low cost rain barrels to the residents of Prince George. The rain barrels are available from the Compost Demonstration Garden 1950 Gorse Street. The cost is \$50 cash per unit. Please call 561-7327 to arrange pick up

LOCAL NEWS

Gardening with Pete

As I was sorting the seed packs in my "Greens" seed box, I realised just how much my tastes have changed over the years in regard to salad greens. At one time, the only "greens" I added to my salads was the imported head of iceberg lettuce. In the spring I would take advantage of early spinach to make a few bowls of Lebanese spinach salad.

Yesterday, I made a salad that contained arugula, romaine, spinach, chard, tatsoi, mizuna, cress, two types of parsley, red orach, joi choi, cottage greens and even some leaf lettuce. This year I am trying mustard greens and santoh sei, two new ones for my collection.

The mixed bouquet of flavours is such a change from the watery bland taste of "regular lettuce". The arugula has a nutty flavour, mustard greens add a spicy taste, Italian parsley has ten times the flavour of the usual curly type. With such variety mixed into the salad, every bite holds a pleasant surprise!

I find the best time to start the greens is no more than four to six weeks before you set them out in the garden. If started too early, they will bolt to seed when transplanted. They can all be direct seeded around the middle of May but you will get an earlier crop by starting a few transplants in mid to late April.

Most will keep producing until the hot weather arrives when they have a tendency to send up a seed stalk and go to seed. Almost all greens do best in cool growing conditions, so if you have a part of the garden that is in



the shade during the hot part of the day, plant your greens there. A regular supply of water is also essential for tender tasty greens. A lack of water will turn some varieties bitter and tough so water two or three times per week with a good deep watering.

Harvesting methods depend on how the different varieties grow. Those that grow in a whorl with new leaves coming out of the center can be harvested by breaking off the outer leaves as low as possible. Don't leave stubs of leaf stem or they will rot. Tatsoi, chard, spinach, joi choi, cottage greens, and romaine can all be harvested this way.

Mizuna, one of my favourites, can be harvested by grasping the entire loose "head" in one hand and cutting the entire thing with a sharp knife about an inch (2.5cm) above the ground. In a few weeks, it will give you another harvest. I have cut the same plant of mizuna up to six times in one season.

Some folks like to plant a "mesclun mix". This is a pre-mixed selection of salad greens and can be planted in one row. You can cut a bit of the row with a pair of scissors and by the time you have worked your way to the end of the row, the first part is ready to harvest again. The seed companies offer different types of mesclun mixes. Some are for colour, some are spicy and some are mild.

This year, try a few new greens in your garden and spice up the taste and looks of your summer salads!

Arbour Day

First originating in Nebraska, USA in 1972, many Canadian Cities have adopted a regionally appropriate day as their Arbour day. The first in Canada took place in Prince Edward Island in the 1880's. Arbour Day is not a set date in either country, but rather a date appropriate for the local climate and other events.

Arbour Day in Prince George provides an ideal opportunity for many community initiatives, such as The ForesTree Fest tree planting festival, as advocated by the International Society of Arborists. The whole community can become involved schools can hold poster con-

tests, libraries can highlight their books about trees and forest, and local governments can celebrate heritage trees around town and to celebrate Arbour Day 2006 the second ForesTree Fest tree planting season will begin with an Arbour Day event on Saturday May 6, 2006 at the Railway and Forestry Museum from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.



Toilet Paper Seed Tape

A creative idea for budding gardeners. Some seeds are so small that they're difficult to handle, and even big seeds can spill out of your hands when you don't want them to. Here's a project that takes care of those problems and is a great activity for your children.

By gluing your seeds to a long, biodegradable "tape" and then planting the whole tape, you won't misplace a single seed. You won't need to remember how far apart to plant them, and the children will have an easy way of recognizing the row and covering the seeds.

What you'll need

Newspapers	Flour or gelatin
Water	A mixing bowl
A stirring spoon	Seeds
A ruler or tape measure marker	A waterproof marker
Cotton swabs	
Spacing and depth of planting information for your seeds	
A roll of plain white toilet paper, preferably unbleached	

TIPS

You will be able to find seed spacing facts printed on the seed packets and in some garden catalogs.

Try to assemble your seed tapes right before you plan to "plant them". The tape can be rolled up and stored in empty jars or cans, but they're easily damaged.

What to Do

- 1/ paper If your work surface needs to be protected, cover it with news-
- 2/ Have your child / children mix up the flour or gelatin with just enough water to make a thick mush. When the mixture feels and looks like soupy mashed potatoes, it's perfect.
- 3/ Choose a packet of seeds, and decide how long you want the row of that vegetable or flower to be. Label the tape with the type of seed.
- 4/ On top of your work surface, unroll a strip of toilet paper the length of your planned garden row.
- 5/ Find out how far apart these particular seeds should be planted. Then, with your ruler and marker, measure down the centre of the strip and make a mark at the place each seed should go. If you're making a carrot-seed tape, for example, make the marks every 2 – 3 inches.
- 6/ Have the child / children dip a cotton swab or narrow stick into the paste mixture and dab a drop or two of it onto every mark on the tape.
- 7/ Have the child / children place the seeds onto the paste, one at each mark you made. Then let the paste dry.
- 8/ When it's time to plant, make a trench in your garden soil as deep as the planting depth for your seed. (for carrots, the trench should be about ½ inch deep)
- 9/ Have your child or children help you set the tape down into the trench.
- 10/ The child / children can cover the seed tape with the soil.



Sow Your Own Seeds - Garden Plots Available

Community Gardens Prince George Society is now taking registrations for garden plots. Plot rental is \$10 and ten volunteer hours per season.

Don't know how to garden? We have garden mentors to help you learn all about gardening. Call 564-3859.



ENVIRONMENT WEEK starts with COMMUNITY GARDEN ANNUAL PLANT SALE FUNDRAISER

10 am - 2 pm on **Sunday, June 4th**

Our Annual Plant Sale is our biggest fundraiser of the year. So be patient and wait until all signs of frost have passed before you buy those tender tomato, squash and pepper plants.



Our sale will have a good

selection of organically grown seedlings of these types, as well as herbs, other vegetables, flowers and drought tolerant annuals and perennials.

If you can help out by

growing, transporting, labelling and selling plants, please call. If you see a neighbour doing some garden clean-up, don't let them compost the plants, ask them to donate them to our plant sale. See you June 4th!

AROUND THE WORLD

Battery Industry Commitment to Eliminating Mercury

The U.S. battery industry announced a commitment to eliminate added mercury from button cell batteries by June 30, 2011. The battery industry voluntarily eliminated The U.S. battery industry announced a commitment to eliminate added mercury from button cell batteries by June 30, 2011.

The battery industry voluntarily eliminated mercury, which had been used as an additive to reduce gassing and leakage, from standard size alkaline and carbon zinc batteries in the 1990s. At



that time, the technology was not available to do the same for smaller for smaller cell batteries, which are predominantly used in watches and hearing aids.

Thus button cells are the only batteries that continue to contain small amounts of mercury. To achieve its goal of eliminating mercury from button cells, the industry will advance emerging technologies.

Manufacturers will also dedicate resources to solving technological and manufacturing challenges that exist today. For the past two decades, the battery industry has worked diligently to solve the technological challenges of eliminating mercury from all types of batteries. During this period, the industry has made substantial progress discontinuing production of mercuric oxide batteries and replaced them with new and improved battery systems containing far less mercury.

For more information visit www.nema.org/media/pr/20060302a.cfm

Environmentally Friendly Theft-Resistant Packaging

A new type of packaging has been created that is claimed to be environmentally conscious, consumer-friendly and theft-resistant. This paperboard-based product is an alternative to the clamshell plastic packaging that has become increasingly popular due to its anti-theft qualities. The hardness of the plastic prevents would-be

thieves from slitting the plastic and replacing the empty packaging on the shelf. Packaging featuring some sort of security



precaution has been shown to increase positive perception of a product. Plastic clamshells, currently used to encase many products on the market, have proved to be dangerous to consumers, causing hospital visits to treat wounds inflicted in attempts to open this type of packaging. The clamshell plastic casing also has limited recyclability, being ex-

cluded from many municipal recycling programs in Canada. The plastic bubble in the new packaging is sandwiched between two pieces of paperboard, so recyclability in typical municipal recycling programs is still not guaranteed.

For more information visit

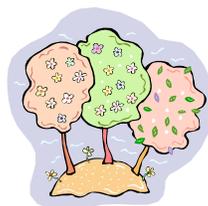
www.natralock.com/news.html

A TREE'S BREATH

from the Lake Clark's Kids Page at the National Park Service website

http://www.nps.gov/lackl/kids/tree_breath.htm

"Trees take in carbon dioxide (Co2) and release oxygen (O2). In 1772 Joseph Priestly discovered that if he put a mouse in a jar with a tightly sealed lid the mouse would soon die. However, if Priestly put a plant in the jar with the mouse and sealed it tightly the mouse lived. He reasoned that is was because the plant was breathing in Co2 and releasing O2. The mouse survived on the oxygen provided by the plant. Trees help to regulate the amount of Co2 in the atmosphere and provide us with O2 and



water vapour. They take in Co2 and use it in photosynthesis to produce sugar, food, for them. This is good for the tree but it also helps us. As trees use Co2 they remove it from the atmosphere. This is good because Co2 is GREEN HOUSE GAS. Green House Gasses are a contributing factor to GLOBAL WARMING. Also a single tree can supply you with all the O2 you need in a day, 360 liters." Put that 360 liters into gallons. That would be 360 liters times .26 to equal 93.6 gallons of

air. Rarely does anyone drink a gallon of WATER a day but we each need 94 gallons of oxygen a day!

This really shows us how much we need that one tree for each of us every day! Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kenyan Wangari Maathai, who helped her countrywomen plant 30 million trees over 30 years, told SHAKLEE people in Chicago that we each need 10 trees to live--and that we should want to know where our 10 trees are--and to take good care of them--and to plant more!

B.C. District Returns Responsibility for Discarded Products and Packaging

The response to the first unilateral action by a local government in North America to "return all responsibility for the management of product waste" to senior levels of government was applauded by the Athens, Georgia-based Product Policy Institute (PPI). "Product waste" is all the manufactured goods and packaging or "made stuff" discarded in our society which local governments are typically responsible for managing or regulating. Product waste is contrasted with "organic waste" or "grown stuff" such as food and yard trimmings.



The local body, Kootenay Boundary Regional District (KBRD) in BC, wrote the provincial Environmental Minister in August, 2005, indicating that KBRD's goal of achieving "Zero

Waste" would be difficult if not impossible to reach unless Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) is extended to a broader range of products.

The Minister responded that product waste is an appropriate definition for the ultimate scope of EPR programs, which would leave local governments with the responsibility to manage only materials such as organic-based waste for composting and demolition, land clearing and construction refuse.

The movement seems to be gaining steam, as the San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted top pass a resolution that supports statewide legislation and local initiatives requiring

manufacturers to take responsibility for collecting and recycling their products and packaging at the end of their useful life.

This is the strongest statement yet from a local gov't in the US on the matter of who is responsible to pay for the diversion or disposal of the ever-growing waste generated by the consumer society. The resolution signals a fundamental shift in thinking among local gov'ts, which have borne responsibility for collecting and disposing refuse since a century ago.

PPI is a nonpartisan research and education nonprofit organization promoting policies that advance sustainable production, consumption and waste management in North America.

For more information contact KBRD zerowaste@rdkb.com

Consumers Prefer Recycled Paper

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A new independent study shows that four out of five consumers are willing to pay more for books and magazines printed on recycled paper. In the study, 80% of consumers who had purchased a book or magazine in the past six months or who currently have a magazine subscription said they would be willing to pay more for a book or magazine printed on recycled paper.

According to the survey, the following percentage of consumers said they are willing to pay more per book:

- \$1 more : 42%
- 75 cents : 4%
- 50 cents : 14%
- 25 cents : 19%

And for magazines, consumer are willing to pay:

- 75 cents more: 23%
- 50 cents more: 24%
- 20 cents more: 17%

- 10 cents more: 16%

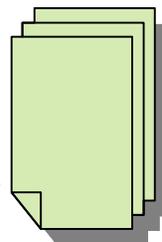
The full report was schedule to be published in early 2006. For more information, including a demographic breakdown of survey respondents and an analysis of regional results, look for the January/February 2006 issue of BookBusiness.

The web-based "Paper Calculator."

<http://www.greenbiz.com/frame/1.cfm?targetsite=http://www.ofee.gov/recycled/cal-index.htm>

Here is the ultimate recycled-paper tool. The calculator makes estimates based on the quantity and type of paper products purchased and the percentage of post-consumer recycled content. It calculates the average environmental releases and en-

ergy and wood consumption across the full life cycle of five major grades of paper and paperboard. Commissioned by the Office of the Federal



Environmental Executive, the calculator is a joint project of Environmental Defence, the U.S. Postal Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Green TV Channel Hits the Airwaves

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BRUSSELS, April 10, 2006 - The world's first environmental broadband TV channel is now on air -- and online -- with films and programs on everything from NO2 emissions around airports and offshore wind farms to "carbon speed dating."

green. TV, developed with support from the United Nations, aims to be a one-stop shop for broadcast environmental information, with a searchable database of programs made by NGOs, community filmmakers, and public and commercial organizations.

Some of the first films to go on air were produced by environmental organizations like Friends of the Earth, Water Aid, and the European Environment Agency. But there are also items from "companies with a firm interest in the protecting the environment,"

the first one to feature being Barclays Bank with a film on sustainable sports facilities.

"Green TV is a truly innovative project which will no doubt influence the field of environmental film-making and research. It will eventually offer a comprehensive 'one-stop shop' for environmental TV programming -- something that has so far not been available," said Eric Falt, director of communications and public information at U.N. Environment Program.

Areas covered include climate change, air, water, land and green technologies. As well as making use of the broadcast medium to communicate environmental issues, the channel taps into the potential of the internet, including a chat room and the search facility.

Director and producer Ade Thomas compared this to a green-video Google that lets you find specific watch programs on specific environmental issues on demand.

U.K. environment minister Elliot Morley commented on the launch of green.tv: "There are many more people using the internet than watching TV and we also know that there is enormous interest in environmental issues.

"I think green.tv has tremendous potential, bringing together new technology and innovation in terms of how we spread information," he said.

The channel can be accessed <http://www.green.tv/>

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/index/faqe.shtml#term>

Is there truth to the rumour that Formosan termites could be shipped to Canada through mulch and other wood products from southern hurricane-impacted areas?

The CFIA has received a large number of enquiries regarding a rumour that Formosan termites are being shipped out of southern hurricane-impacted areas, such as Louisiana, through mulch and other wood products.

This information is false. The rumour has been circulated via a widely-distributed email that warns

home gardeners not to buy mulch made from trees destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The email indicates that the "termite-infested mulch" is being sold at cheap prices by gardening retailers across North America.

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry put in place strict quarantines in October 2005 which forbid hurricane-impacted areas in Louisiana to transport mulch, wood, or

any other kind of wood waste outside their area. The material is being put

into landfills.

Please see the following link for more information regarding Louisiana's restrictions -

<http://www.ldaf.state.la.us/divisions/AES/formosans.asp>

The CFIA has determined that Formosan termites would not present a risk in Canada. Formosan termites are a tropical pest that would not survive in Canada if they were to enter the country. Secondly, the mulching process would likely exterminate a termite colony.

Finally, U.S. mulch is subjected to an extensive treatment process to further mitigate the risk of pest spread.

"The CFIA has determined that Formosan termites would not present a risk in Canada."

RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLANNING SOCIETY

Mailing address:

PO Box 444, Prince George, BC V2L 4S6

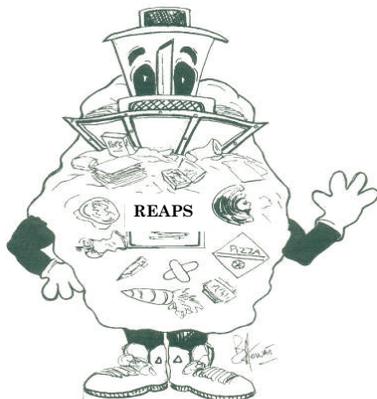
Compost Garden and Office Location:

1950 Gorse Street

Phone: 250-561-7327

Fax: 250-561-7324

E-mail: newsletter@reaps.org



Practice the 3 R's

Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society,

(AKA R.E.A.P.S)

The R.E.A.P.S Report is published six times a year, on the first of Jan., March, May, July, Sept., and Nov. of every year.

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 can be submitted to the R.E.A.P.S office @ garden@reaps.org

RECYCLE CRAFT CORNER

Materials:

ice-cream bucket
cement
two-gallon mixing bucket
two cups of water



Steps:

1. Empty cement (amount as directed) into a two-gallon bucket.
2. Pour in two cups of water and mix thoroughly with the stir stick. When the cement reaches the consistency of cake batter, pour it into the plastic ice-cream bucket or any premade shape .
3. Use the side of the stir stick to smooth the cement out evenly and level in the form. Wait about 90 minutes for the cement to set sufficiently for decorating.
4. Use a tapered end of a stir stick as a writing tool or push in rocks, shells, etc.

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