



# Ridge Meadows Recycling Society

## Recycling Report

JUNE, 2015

### See You This Summer!

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**REMINDER:**

There will be **NO CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICKUP** and the **RECYCLING DEPOT** will be **CLOSED** on the Canada Day statutory holiday on **Wednesday, July 1**



*Get your new red & grey recycling boxes at Canada Day Celebrations July 1!*

Recycling Depot, and give information about **Recycling Stewardship Programs**, Metro Vancouver's **Organics Disposal Ban**, and how to "Keep Wildlife Wild & Communities Safe" through **Wildsafe BC**. The Neighbourhood Events scheduled for July are:

**Saturday, July 11 - 10am-2pm at the Albion Sports Complex**  
**Sunday, July 12 - 4pm at the Boulders Place cul-de-sac BBQ (Silver Valley)**

**Bring to Neighbourhood Recycling Dropoff events:**

<i>electronics</i>	<i>cell phones</i>	<i>small appliances</i>
<i>batteries</i>	<i>CDs, DVDs</i>	<i>lightbulbs (all types)</i>
<i>styrofoam</i>	<i>books</i>	<i>smoke detectors</i>
<i>printed paper</i>	<i>packaging (glass bottles &amp; jars, metal, plastic)</i>	

**Do NOT Bring to Dropoff events: (bring directly to Recycling Depot!):**

large appliances	thermostats	lighting fixtures
car batteries	antifreeze	oil (used motor & cooking oil)
household hazardous waste (flammable or poisonous pesticides & cleaners)		



**Haney Farmers Market**

We will have info booths at two Haney Farmers Markets this summer: **Saturday, June 27** for Multicultural Day and **Saturday, August 8** when the Market moves to Brookfield Farm.



In addition, we will be setting up displays outside stores with high traffic and at other neighbourhoods throughout July & August. Stay tuned & drop by to say "hi!"



**Dennis Kinsey, Board Member, Ridge Meadows Recycling Society**

## Dennis Kinsey Encourages us to Reduce our Buying Power

*Dennis Kinsey has lived in Maple Ridge with his wife Sandra and 3 sons for over 15 years. Dennis has been actively involved in environmental issues since 1984. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Recycling Council of BC and Encorp Pacific and was the chairperson for the Canadian Council of Grocery Distributors National Environmental committee. Locally he served on the Maple Ridge Economic Advisory Committee.*

*Among many varied projects, Dennis was actively involved in encouraging retailers and brand owners to take full life cycle responsibility for the products they sell.*

I usually don't have a lot of trouble putting something together when I am asked to submit an article for our monthly newsletter. After all, after 25 years of working in the sustainability industry I have lots of direct involvement and knowledge in the Recycling Industry. I can honestly say that I have worked in every area and at every level when it comes to Recycling, especially in BC

This time, though, I found it a challenge, not because I didn't have anything to say, but because it has all been said before. What could I say differently that would really challenge those people that don't participate in any of the 3Rs to start to do so? That is really the group that we need to convert if we are ever to achieve the goals that we believe in and stand for.

The R that was suggested I cover was Reduce, which is by and far the most difficult of the 3 R's for the majority of people to support.

Our culture and economic structure is based on consumption and growth. Any suggestion that appears to challenge this structure is met with fierce resistance from industry, government and consumers (us). The world as we know it will collapse if we suddenly realize that we can get by with only 3 TVs in our house, or that we are not a loser if we don't buy a new car every year.

***“Reduce...  
is by and far the  
most difficult of  
the 3 R's...”***

Marketing companies have done an incredible job of convincing us that we need to consume in order for us to be “happy,” yet studies have shown that consuming more does not increase our happiness (just our debt).



I have yet to see anything that explains this issue better than The Story of Stuff (see the original, 20-minute animated film at [www.storyofstuff.org](http://www.storyofstuff.org)). Annie Leonard does a far better job than I ever could in explaining this issue in a factual and entertaining manner and I would encourage you to have a look at her film

I know that there are solutions to the issues that face us and I am encouraged when I see some of the innovations that are coming forth. Ultimately it is still our responsibility to make the small changes in our lives that will make the large changes in the health of our planet.

## Metro Vancouver's Organics Disposal Ban - May 27, 2015 Update



"We are heading towards the end of our education phase of the organics disposal ban, (January 1 to June 30, 2015), where loads with high food volumes are identified but not charged. This has allowed businesses and residential buildings time to put recycling systems in place.

### **What's Next?**

The next stage begins July 1, where enforcement will advance from education-based to a financial penalty. Waste haulers (either municipality or private collector) will receive the surcharge at the waste facility. They will determine how it is transferred back to clients...

### **Positive Results to Date:**

Since the *Organics Disposal Ban* came into effect January 1, 2015, thousands of tonnes of food scraps have been recycled. In the first four months of 2015, only 58 loads (15 per month) were out of compliance. Early results are encouraging, and indicate that in general large generators of food waste are successfully recycling food scraps.

The ***Organics Disposal Ban*** is a commitment on the part of all of us to change the way we manage our waste. By taking food scraps out of the garbage we are:

- Reducing the amount of methane coming from our landfills, generated when food decays in poor conditions.
- Taking the pressure of landfill space, which is limited. Currently about 30% of our food ends up there.
- Making our waste to energy facility, which takes about a third of the region's waste, more effective by reducing the moisture content of the waste being incinerated.
- Turning the food scraps into compost and biofuel, which can grow more food, or help avoid using fossil fuels.



The ban applies to all garbage generated across the region, from Lion's Bay to Langley.

**The way we manage our waste is changing.** Metro Vancouver is responsible for long term planning and disposing of the waste generated by residents and businesses in the region. Managing the waste system needs to be responsive to our citizen's expectations of high environmental stewardship, as well as being kept affordable.

Organizations and individuals have demonstrated commitment to the success of this regulation, through establishing residential and commercial food scraps recycling programs throughout the region. Member municipalities are supporting residents so that most single homes have a food scraps collection program available.

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### **Q: Will I get fined for putting food scraps in my garbage?**

**A:** Starting July 1, fines will be given to waste haulers at Metro Vancouver's waste facilities (eg. MR Transfer Station) if they have more than 25% organic waste mixed in with their garbage. If this continues to happen, the waste haulers may then turn around and pass the fines on to their customers. If you currently have private garbage pickup, the amount of garbage needing to be picked up will go down once organics are removed. If you have a composter or solar cone and take care of your organics privately, make sure you let them know so they don't charge you for this service.

# Together we're keeping food out of our garbage

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An expanding resource collection is available to you, including:

- how-to guide to getting a food scraps recycling program for apartments and condos started, as well as a companion brochures for residents (order copies at 604-432-6200);
- a guide for restaurants, generated by the local restaurant operators;
- an online guide to improving recycling in residential buildings;
- recommended colour schemes for recycling programs, to promote region-wide consistency;
- online posters and artwork from the 'Food isn't garbage', talking food campaign, which is popular in classrooms, staffrooms, and institutions;
- online resources on food waste reduction from the popular Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

**For More Information about the regulation:**

If you have questions please contact the Metro Vancouver Information Centre at 604-432-6200."

Visit our website at [www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org) for links to all of these resources and more!

### **Mission Statement**

*"Ridge Meadows Recycling Society is a community-based, non-profit organization, advocating zero waste, operating responsible waste reduction services and providing environmental education. We employ people with developmental disabilities assisting their integration into the community."*

### **Vision**

*"A waste free, socially responsible community."*



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[www.rmrecycling.org](http://www.rmrecycling.org)

