

Depolluting Major Appliances and Vehicles

Contributed by Jennifer Court, Senior Director, Scout Environmental and Emily Chu, In.tent Planning

High transport costs lead remote communities to stockpile discarded appliances and vehicles, however, stockpiles increase the risk of harmful pollutant release, and become costlier to dispose.

In 2016, Gitxaala Nation took a different approach with the help of Scout Environmental and a volunteer recycling expert (David Peaire from SLM Recycling). Local work crews were trained and equipped to remove potential pollutants, e.g. Freon, batteries, mercury switches, and lead weights from tires. Long-term this

allows for smaller batches of appliances and vehicles to be readied for transport on the regular barge service, thus avoiding stockpiles. Although transport is still costly, pollution risk is reduced and transport options are increased.

The Gitxaala program is based on the successful Scout Environmental *Tundra Take Back* projects in remote northern Canadian communities. A practical guide for B.C. was produced along with a short reference video for depolluting appliances. INAC was the major funder with additional support from the



Freon removal equipment was generously donated by ABC Recycling.

Automotive Recyclers of Canada, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Tire Stewardship of B.C., and ABC Recycling. Scout Environmental is a not-for-profit organization specializing in creative programs that engage people on issues related to the environment.



Recycling expert David Peaire (right) watches as Roger Vickers drains the oil from the fridge compressor into a storage drum.



Brake fluid is drained using a hand pump.



An end-of-life vehicle is placed on a platform of lock-blocks to enable safe access to the underside.

Managing Used Oil in Bella Bella

Thanks to grant funds from the B.C. Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA), Bella Bella recently added a modified sea-can and steel drums to its Ecodepot, to receive used oil and antifreeze, as well as used oil filters, and empty containers. The sea-can has steel roll-up doors, venting and spill containment. Inside the sea-can, the steel drums are used to store all the items because they are convenient to ship when full.



Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada began the B.C. First Nations Solid Waste Program in 2008 after an assessment showed that the communities have similar needs and challenges. A common theme is the desire for recycling, composting and waste reduction activities. Solutions are developed locally and in cooperation with many different Regional Districts, product stewards and service providers.

Produced with the assistance of Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council



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Merganser duck artwork by Alex Jamieson

THE Merganser

Reports on First Nations Waste Management Programs in British Columbia, Canada

The Merganser is a diving duck found in coastal waters and lakes all over BC.

At Aatse Davie School We Care About Our Environment

Contributed by Kyla Smith, Grade 3/4 Teacher at Aatse Davie School (Kwadacha Nation)



Aatse Davie students help to sort recycling at the school (from left to right) Leland Poole, Tyson Larson Wilson, Cora Boya and Storm Seymour.



Aatse Davie School is a small First Nations School located 600km North of Prince George. There are under 100 students enrolled from Kindergarten to Grade 12. In the past few years, our community has been moving towards being more sustainable. The community has started recycling and is beginning to compost.

Last school year we celebrated Earth Day at the school. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 voluntarily created wonderful awareness posters about how we can help our Environment. Participants each received a Smencil (a scented coloured pencil made from recycled newspaper). This small, whole school introduction to Earth Day activities has led to more focused lessons on Environmental Awareness in the classroom.

This year at Aatse Davie School, our students and teachers will have an added focus on the outdoors and our environment. Several classes have visited our community's hydroponic greenhouses. With the newly implemented BC curriculum, some classes will focus on experiential learning by using the outdoors, and our local natural and environmental resources in and around Kwadacha.



Aatse Davie School, Fort Ware, B.C.



The community's hydroponic greenhouses allow Kwadacha residents to grow a variety of organic fruits and vegetables.



Community Updates Inside...
?Esdilagh opens new transfer station!

Community Updates



Welcome to our new program communities Gitsegukla, Tahltan, Stswecem'c Xgat'tem (Canoe Creek), and Fort Nelson

- Start-up Phase
- Intermediate Phase
- Full Implementation



Towards Zero Waste in Ahousaht

Situated on Flores Island (north of Tofino) on the Pacific Coast, Ahousaht's nearly 1,000 residents are steadily moving towards their Zero Waste goal.



A few months after launching, the Ahousaht community compost program reduced the monthly garbage volume by one-third (from 3 bins to 2 bins). The proud crew, Russell Frank (pictured) and Scott Frank, attended Dr. John Paul's compost facility operator's course to prepare for the program.



Ahousaht's current compost program was built on a successful pilot run by Joe James Rampanen, now an Ahousaht Councillor. The pilot scale-up uses a new compost shed and low-tech methods initially designed for Bella Bella, and is suited to remote conditions.



The finished product is a rich soil booster, highly valued in remote communities for local gardens and food security.



Ahousaht is about to be included into the provincial MMBC recycling program, and Regeneration (Product Care) Paint Plus, and CESA (small appliances, power tools and exercise equipment) programs. These will help expand Ahousaht's recycling capacity, bringing the community closer to its Zero Waste goal.



EFN's new transfer station features a solar powered bear fence and containers for (clockwise from left) large metals, household hazardous waste, bulky waste, and household waste & recycling.

?Esdilagh Community Profile

Contributed by Daryl Johnny, ?Esdilagh Waste Management



Daryl Johnny unloads residential garbage collected from the community into the new roll-off bin at the transfer station.

Located about 45kms south of Quesnel BC, ?Esdilagh First Nation (EFN) is 1/6 of the Tsilhqot'in Nation. Our new transfer station is open from 9am until noon week days, and since we are a small community, I can also open upon request. We have bins for household garbage, recycling, metals, bulky waste and hazardous materials plus a separate area for the carcass pit.

EFN would like to thank INAC, the engineers and contractors for the great job of capping and closing our old landfill and building the new transfer station and carcass pit. This was not only important but also very needed for a lot of reasons. Now EFN is healthier and excited about recycling materials, which we never used to do. I am writing a report with pictures so we can share our story with other local communities.

PINK (People I Need to Know)



Name: Vince Davis
Community: Gitxaala Nation
What I do: I am the Public Works Manager. I oversee a crew of five, look after band buildings, waste management (such as coordinating the barge and trucking, and work scheduling), and maintenance for the community's infrastructure.

Best part of my day: Knowing how well the community has responded to recycling and how children have taken the message home from school.

Biggest challenge: Trying to determine if transport and destination for recycling should change to line up with the garbage system, which goes to Prince Rupert.

Operations Tip: It's important to keep the community up to date on new programs, new charges or fees, and when the weekly recycling and garbage pick-up are.



Name: Roger Vickers
Community: Gitxaala Nation
What I do: Solid Waste Management (recycling, garbage and composting programs). We pick up garbage and recycling once a week. Garbage is stored in large hydraulic bins (Transtors) and emptied into trailers about every two months for transport to the landfill. We ship about 12 bales

of recycling every 10 months. We will soon be starting a community compost program and adding weekly compost pick-up to our schedule.

Best part of my day: Knowing that a lot of materials are being recycled and kept out of landfill. Recycling is heading in the right direction in our community – we're now in the process of decommissioning vehicles before shipping, and removing Freon from appliances and vehicles. This will help stop soil contamination.

Biggest challenge: Getting people in the community to stop using burn piles and dumping their appliances around the community.

Operations tip: For odour control we use a liquid spray at least three times a week. I mix the odour control 50/50 with water to dilute the concentrate. I also layer shredded paper in the garbage bins to keep down odour (it's a good use for shredded paper as it is not preferred in recycling bales).