

Zero Waste and Earth Day Grant Awards

Indigenous Services Canada – British Columbia Region (ISC) offers two annual grant funding opportunities to support community and school based waste management and environmental projects: The Zero Waste Grant and the Earth Day Grant. This year, ISC, Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council (NmTC), and the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) decided to recognize grant recipients for exceptionally creative and innovative projects. After reviewing the completion reports, six were formally recognized at the Coast Waste Management Association (CWMA) conference at the Westin Bear Mountain Resort, near Victoria, BC.

Earth Day Grants



Kwantlen First Nation and the Langley School District held a communal Earth Day event (pictured above), which brought 120 students to the Kwantlen Cultural Centre to learn from 11 local experts representing 6 different organizations. The students took part in language learning, storytelling, and arts & crafts related to environmental conservation.

To promote Earth Day, **McLeod Lake Indian Band** (MLIB) showed their students and the students from the neighbouring community of Mackenzie how to be Stewards of the Land. This was the first time such a joint venture was tackled and accomplished by MLIB and the schools in Mackenzie. Over 2,000 lbs of waste was cleaned up! The teachers are making plans for more joint environmental projects.

Skidegate's Earth Day Clean-Up (pictured below) started with a comedy show and involved all of the communities on **Haida Gwaii** via posters, Facebook, and word of mouth. Many communities cleaned up beaches, neighbourhoods, streets and yards. Skidegate filled up two industrial sized bins with garbage twice!



Zero Waste Grants

Gitwinksihlkw Village Government partnered with the elementary school to get both a composting program and

Indigenous Services Canada began the B.C. First Nations Zero 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.

recycling program implemented in the community. Feedback on the project was very positive, and waste in the community has decreased by half!



Saulteau Muskoti Primary Program students (ages 4 to 7) visited the local recycling depot and learned about composting and recycling. They started a recycling program first in their classroom and then throughout the school. The students presented their findings to their families and the wider community. The recycling bags purchased for the community helped members to reduce their waste by up to 50% (pictured above).

In order to reduce the amount of organic waste going to landfill, **Tzeachten Nation** purchased 62 compost bins for household use and then produced an educational and entertaining video about composting. They plan to follow up with community members to ensure the bins are being used for many years to come.

THE Merganser

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

Fall 2019

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

Mobile Eco-Depots Adopted in Northern B.C.

By Nolan Boate and Emily Chu

Starting with Gitsegukla, 8 First Nation communities near Hazelton are adopting the Mobile Eco-Depot system. The Mobile Eco-Depot combines roadside collection and sorting of recyclables with movable storage and hauling of materials in a cube van outfitted with mega-bags and containers. A power tailgate lift, pallet jack, and appliance dolly help the crew to move household recyclables weekly and large bulky items monthly to a regional depot within driving distance of the community.

Each household is supplied with a set of reusable recycling bags and a

wheeled blue collection cart. Households separate recyclable materials into three categories: mixed containers, paper and cardboard, and other recyclables (e.g. foam, glass, and plastic bags). Full recycling bags are placed inside the blue cart, which keeps material dry and safe from birds and small animals.

Recycle BC is working with several Regional Districts to pilot the acceptance of materials dropped off by First Nation Mobile Eco-Depots.



The Mobile Eco-Depots provide an all-in-one operation for the collection, sorting, and storage of recyclables in the communities. Pictured in the Kispiox Nation truck are Willie Brown (outside) and Oliver Berger (inside).

IZWTAG Launches As Non-Profit

By Emily Chu and Isaiah Robinson

The Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) is gathering momentum as a non-profit society dedicated to supporting zero waste systems in all B.C.

First Nation communities. In the words of IZWTAG President, Calvin Jameson, "Cleaning up our lands is the foundation for clean water and healthy sustenance for our children and grandchildren."

IZWTAG works with partners to fund and offer zero waste training, recycling services, and waste reduction programs. Two new programs underway are the Recycling Champion Training (see photo) and the

Zero Waste Circuit

Rider pilot. The Circuit Rider pilot aims to provide communities with on-site, annual zero waste check-ups, coaching/mentoring, and technical support.

Information and resources can be found on IZWTAG's website, www.izwtag.com, or by contacting IZWTAG via email at info@izwtag.com or by phone at 604-946-7468.

Any organization keen to help with First Nation zero waste efforts can join IZWTAG as an Associate Member and take part in exciting partnership opportunities.



In early October, IZWTAG ran a Community Recycling Champion training for a dozen indigenous members in Williams Lake. This was the first training of its kind in B.C. Pictured from left to right are: Kristie Paul, Kizzy Draney, Sharon Wilson, John Fox, and Rob Sam.

Community Updates



▲ Takla Nation's new Transfer Station & Eco-Depot is in operation. Designed to help towards zero waste, all items are sorted and recycled where possible.



Waste is unhealthy and costly. I like ZERO waste!



▲ Gerald Quash gets ready for the opening of the new Tahltan Eco-Depot at Telegraph Creek, where the community is recovering after the 2018 wildfire.



▲ New Jora composters were installed at the community garden in McLeod Lake. The finished compost is used for soil in the garden and the greenhouse.



▲ Removing used oil and antifreeze is challenging in remote communities. The B.C. Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA) recently provided assistance to Heqiaht First Nation to clean up a stockpile.



▲ Henry Carlick shows off the new recycling station in Iskut, which has been in operation since June. The community collects paper and packaging, electronics, and small appliances.

