

Collaborating with First Nations Communities

by Will Burrows, B.C. Used Oil Management Association

The B.C. Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA) is a member-based organization dedicated to the collection and recycling of lubricating oil, antifreeze, the containers those products are sold in, and oil filters. Our role is to support the responsible management of these products throughout the province by keeping them out of the environment and making sure they get recycled.

Since becoming the first associate member of the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group in 2019, we have worked with multiple First Nation



Lyle Billy, Ehattesaht Band Member

communities around the province to implement used oil collection systems. We help by assessing community needs, supplying equipment and infrastructure

through our grant program, training site operators, and connecting the facility to the BCUOMA collection network to ensure materials are recycled. To date we have provided support to the Tahltan Band, Takla Nation, Kitasoo Band Council, Heiltsuk Environmental Services, Hesquiaht First Nation, Lil'wat Nation, and Ehattesaht Nation.

If your community has used lubricating oil or other program materials that need to be managed, we encourage you to reach out to us through IZWTAG, or by email to RCF@bcusedoil.com.



First IZWTAG Day held April 2022 in Richmond, B.C.

Executive Director Update

By Lucinda Phillips, IZWTAG Executive Director

Fiscal year 2022/23 was full of challenges and opportunities for IZWTAG. Our programs are ongoing and steady, and keeping us busy! We are very excited to have the opportunity to work with so many communities. Some of the things we accomplished this past year:

- Level 1 Operator Training 80 Participants
- Level 2 Operator Training 33 Participants
- Recycle Champion Training 15 Participants
- Technical Training Module 10 Participants
- Circuit Rider Community Visits 98 Total

The current training schedule is on the izwtag.com website.

If we haven't worked with you yet, please feel free to reach out to IZWTAG at executivedirector@izwtag.com.

kukwsturnckálap (Thank you)

Provincial Partnerships and Program Implementation

By Kim Richardson and Avery Gottfried, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

The B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy understands the importance of Indigenous leadership and knowledge in addressing waste and climate change. We are grateful for IZWTAG's hard work and support to strengthen our provincial waste prevention programs. Through our Organics Infrastructure Program and CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collections Program, they have helped First Nations access grant funding to establish or expand compost facilities and residential organics collection programs in their communities, including Esk'etemc, Kitasoo, Gitxaala, Tla'amin, Heiltsuk, Kwadacha, and Old Massett. Currently, IZWTAG is assisting applicants to the CleanBC Plastics Action Fund Indigenous Funding Pilot Program. The program has up to \$1 million in funding available to support Indigenous-led projects that prevent plastic waste through community or business-based ventures dedicated to zero waste solutions. Project applications remain open until April 28, 2023, or until all funds are allocated.

THE Merganser

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



Spring 2023

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

Zero Waste Learning with Connect

By Myra Connaty, teacher librarian at Fort Rupert Elementary and Gwa'sala'Nakwaxda'xw School

Since 2017, Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) has been reaching into school classrooms across B.C. to help promote zero waste learning within Indigenous communities. What started as a small sampling of resources and hands-on activities for teachers to use has bloomed into an online version: introducing CONNECT.

Connect was developed to provide online learning about waste management to both urban and remote Indigenous communities. The website used input from teachers across the province to create a learning portal that includes lessons, activities, quizzes, and online games. The lessons are currently geared for learners that are in

elementary school (Pre-K to Grade 8), although future development is planned for high school learners. These online lessons are both engaging and informative for young learners and they all have connections to the B.C. curriculum in areas like science, math, and art. Students will investigate, analyze, question, and create!

Children are one of our greatest resources. Not only is education important for their own future, but children are also the best gateway to teach older generations about innovative ways and methods to reduce waste. Connect is a user-friendly online resource that keeps learners engaged and motivated. Check it out at connect.izwtag.com.



New IZWTAG Board Member Shawn Quick



I've been the Public Works Manager for the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations for the last 5 years. My background is in carpentry and environmental restoration. Many of my favourite hobbies are outdoors, inspiring me to work on ways to improve our footprint here and make a difference. I do everything I can to give my family a brighter future.



IZWTAG
INDIGENOUS ZERO WASTE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP

658 Lillooet Lake Road, PO Box 341
Mount Currie BC V0N 2K0 Canada
Tel: (604) 902-9440 Web: izwtag.com

Indigenous Services Canada began the B.C. First Nations Zero Waste Program in 2008 to help meet similar needs and challenges to manage waste, recycling and compost in communities. Solutions are developed locally together with Regional Districts, product stewards and service providers.

Edited by Emily Chu and Robyn Weisner
Design by Miso Creative
Merganser duck artwork by Alex Jamieson

Community Updates



Coldwater Indian Band (C'eletkwmx) closed the transfer station and cleaned up the site with IZWTAG's support. The community set up a Mobile Eco-Depot recycling system in the summer of 2022 and will launch a compost system shortly.



Binche Whut'en Nation combines recycling pick-up in the Mobile Eco-Depot with garbage pick-up using a dumping trailer hitched to the van. The system was launched in 2021.



Pacheedaht First Nation cleaned up stockpiles of illegal dumping and installed an interim transfer station with a bear fence in the summer of 2022. With the support of Indigenous Services Canada and IZWTAG, the community is working on a long-term system jointly with the Capital Regional District and Recycle B.C.



Gitanmaax Nation started their Mobile Eco-Depot system in August 2022. It was slow at first, with only 4 mega bags filled per week. As households became more aware of the recycling days, pick up has doubled to a steady 8 bags per week. Mobile Eco-Depot supervisor Tina O'Brien tags the mega bags before they are unloaded at the end of the week to Kitwanga.



Williams Lake First Nation (T'exelc) conducted composting and recycling information events and launched the Mobile Eco-Depot system in 2021.



The new transfer station/eco depot at **Gitga'at (Hartley Bay)** is able to house recycling, composting, oversized items and household garbage for periodic removal by barge to Prince Rupert.

How to Join the Program

The B.C. First Nations Zero Waste Program is funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Since the Program began in 2008, nearly 100 First Nations have participated to improve their community waste management systems. If your community is interested in joining, please contact Rachelle Ormond, ISC Senior Engineer (rachelle.ormond3@sac-isc.gc.ca) or call Emily Chu, planner, at (604) 347-6627.



Waste is unhealthy and costly. I like ZERO waste!

