

First Nations Compost

by Kim Richardson, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

IZWTAG has been working with the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy to support several First Nation communities that received funding from the Organics Infrastructure Program (OIP) and CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP) to build local organic waste processing facilities. Six of these Nations have adopted in-vessel composting systems, a technology tailored for small-scale and remote communities. These Nations include Heiltsuk Tribal Council, Kwadacha Nation, Old Massett Village Council, Esk'etemc First Nation, Kitasoo Xai'Xais Nation and Gitxaala Nation.



Heiltsuk Tribal Council & Earth Flow, January 2024
The new organic waste processing facilities aim to replace the practice of transporting organic waste, sometimes over long distances, to landfills where it breaks down and produces methane,

a powerful greenhouse gas (GHG). These projects provide in-community waste processing services, reducing GHG emissions, and produces valuable compost for community gardens. These projects are nearing completion and are set to start organic waste management services for residents in the coming months. Most communities chose the Earth Flow in-vessel composter, manufactured by Green Mountain Technologies. One community chose a Jora composting system. These community-owned facilities are a big step forwards in managing waste and ensuring a sustainable future.

Executive Director Update

By Lucinda Phillips, IZWTAG Executive Director



In the last year, we have had tremendous growth within IZWTAG. Our staff has grown to include Trudy O'Donaghey, our Training & Circuit Rider Coordinator, Curtis-James Gagnon (aka CJ), our Administrative Assistant. We have also contracted a Waste Reduction Coordinator, Filene Mussell, to assist communities in launching and/or relaunching, amongst many other initiatives. We are still doing our quarterly training sessions for all Operators. Our Circuit Riders continue to travel throughout BC. We continue to build partnerships with the Province, Indigenous Services Canada, Product Stewards and Regional Districts. For more information, feel free to check out our website (IZWTAG.com) or email us at frontdesk@izwtag.com! Kúkwstum'ckacw, (Thank you)

CleanBC Plastics Action Fund

by Tania Solonas, IZWTAG Treasurer

The CleanBC Plastics Action Fund (PAF) has been moving along quite well! As of December 2023, eight Indigenous projects have been approved, for a total of \$1.3 Million. The applicants were Mother Earth Recycling (study to beta-test glass/windshields for recycling); Vitatek Cleaning Solutions (conversion of cleaning supply to refillable containers); Kanaka Bar Band (commercial dishwashers & reusable dinnerware); Tseil-Waututh Nation (educational workshops, community champions & competition to increase awareness); Gitxaala Nation (baler & reconfigure site, reusable containers for Loaf of Bread company, commercial dishwasher & storage); Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School dedicated recycle bins, dishwashers & reusable dinnerware); Boston Bar First Nation (recycling receptacles, workers to service sites); Daylu Dena Council (Kaska Nation) (bins for homes/offices, reuse fabric from share sheds, fabric quilt artwork, reusable dishes).

I am available to assist all BC First Nations communities, organizations and individuals, with the deadline of December 2nd, 2024. You can easily reach me at Tania.Solonas@IZWTAG.com!

THE Merganser

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



Spring 2024

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

First Nations Recycling Initiative

by Tim Ames, Manager First Nations Recycling Initiative, Recycle BC



In 2023, the FNRI program assisted 20 First Nations with collection events that removed recyclable materials at no cost to the communities. Pictured at the top is Heiltsuk Tribal Council's Big House.

The First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI) supports recycling in First Nations communities throughout British Columbia. We support local community collection and clean-up events as well as existing recycling programs. FNRI includes eleven recycling stewardship programs, all working together to remove and recycle the following materials:

- Small corded and cordless electrical household appliances
- Household electronics
- Large appliances
- Corded and cordless electrical outdoor power tools
- Residential thermostats
- Empty beer containers
- Automotive and light-duty truck tires

As well, we help provide important information and updates related to health products, small household batteries, paper and packaging and refundable beverage containers.

Current FNRI partners: Brewers Recycled Container Collection Council, Call2Recycle, ElectroRecycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, Return-It, Tire Stewardship BC and Thermostat Recovery Program.

In addition, the Manager of the FNRI, Tim Ames further invests in and maintains ongoing relationships with First Nation communities, participating stewardship programs, IZWTAG, other Indigenous industry groups and local, regional, and federal governments. If your community is interested in the FNRI being a partner with you in a community clean up event, please email us at info@FNRI.ca or visit us at recyclebc.ca/first-nations-recycling-initiative/ for more information.

IZWTAG Celebrates Earth Day!

IZWTAG was proud to be able to extend a funding opportunity from the Land and Economic Development Services Program (LEDSP) at Indigenous Services Canada (Pacific Region) to supplement Indigenous Earth Day Celebrations across British Columbia! First Nations communities and schools were asked to submit applications with plans for community or school-run projects and events that would enhance the environment or waste awareness practices. We were fortunate enough to approve over \$285,000 in grant funding, going directly into zero waste initiatives in Indigenous communities!



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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 CJ Gagnon
Initial Design by Miso Creative
Merganser Duck artwork by Alex Jamieson
IZWTAG Logo by Roger Vickers



Community Updates



C'eletkwmx (Coldwater Band) celebrated the launch of the community compost system (Jora tumbler composters arranged inside bear-proof vented seacans). IZWTAG and the Jora supplier were on-hand to help with community education and crew training. Pictured here are Veronica Charters, Rosanna Narcisse and John Tom, the Coldwater crew, who are led by Ron Aljam, Public Works Manager.



The Nisga'a Nation is embarking on a zero waste program to divert recycling and hazardous materials from the landfill with the support of IZWTAG, the province and recycling agencies. Pictured here from left to right: Allen Gonu and Reuben Gonu (New Aiyansh - Gitlaxt'aamiks Village crew) and Will Burrows (Director of Consumer Collection & Sustainability at Interchange Recycling).



IZWTAG assisted Lheidli T'enneh and Nooaitch install SOS bins for household garbage. These bins are robust and animal resistant, with lockable lids which are lighter than metal. Pictured here are Derek Bolen, Lheidli T'enneh's Housing Manager, and Evan James, IZWTAG Zero Waste Contractor.



The Tl'esqox (Toosey) First Nation crew cleaned up an illegal dumping site with IZWTAG's support on the ground. The site was then closed off to deter non-residents from dumping there. The Nation is taking the next steps towards implementing a Mobile Eco-Depot later this year.



Jerome Billyboy, one of the main operators of the Mobile Eco-Depot at William's Lake First Nation. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Nation has successfully collected 10 tonnes of recycling over the past year.

How to Join the Program

The B.C. First Nations Zero Waste Program is funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and carried out by IZWTAG. Since the program began in 2008, 106 First Nations have participated to upgrade their community waste management systems. If your community is interested in joining, please contact Saran Nair, ISC Senior Engineer (Saran.Nair@sac-isc.gc.ca) or call Emily Chu, Zero Waste Planner at (604) 347-6627.

