

WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR GARBAGE

Over the years the Village of Fruitvale Council has moved towards a complete user pay system with household garbage where the home owner is in control of how much they pay for garbage. No longer will you have to pay taxes to subsidize your neighbour's waste. By reducing your own waste you will save money. If you choose to produce garbage you will have to pay for it. **People have to change their habits – and they can be changed – one step at a time.**

The Village of Fruitvale Council is proposing to change garbage collection from once a week pick-up to once every two weeks pick-up. Reason being is that it is costing the Village more for garbage than what we are collecting. So instead of increasing the cost of the garbage bags or adding another tax, Council decided to try a 6 month trial period of garbage collection once every two weeks. It is possible that residents may find that they CAN reduce their garbage consumption and that pick-up every two weeks is sufficient.

Council has received some concerns from residents about moving to a two-weekly garbage collection. We have come up with some ways to decrease the garbage consumption, reduce the possible smell of having garbage about for two weeks and to keep animals out of your garbage are:

- Use a solid lidded garbage can
- Don't put garbage out until garbage day
- Double bag smelly garbage
- Freeze foodwaste until garbage day
- Make sure that everything you put in your garbage is actually garbage
- Make sure all recyclable material is put out for recycling and not as garbage
- Buy items that are in recyclable packaging
- Compost all organic, compostable waste
- Offer to work with your neighbour to help them reduce their garbage
- Flatten all milk cartons before putting them into your garbage bag
- Use "moth balls" to keep the smell down and animals away (but keep moth balls away from children)

If you have any questions regarding the two-weekly garbage collection, please feel free to contact Mayor Libby Nelson at 367-7048.

RECYCLING

The Village of Fruitvale Council has adopted a **ZERO WASTE** policy and would like to see everyone in the Village utilizing the "**Three R's**" (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to their fullest potential, ultimately to reach the goal of ZERO Waste.

Landfills have become the resting place of far too much of our shrinking resources. A recent waste audit of the RDKB wastestream revealed that more than 70% of what ends up buried in our landfills could be recycled or reused. This means that what we are throwing away is ending up in the wrong pile. By piling dirt on our garbage we are ensuring that these items will never be used again. Under the mounds of dirt plastic endures; metal corrodes; and paper fiber and organic items slowly decompose emitting greenhouse gasses (methane gas).

ZERO Waste is a different way of looking at our resources. There is value in our trash and we are determined not to waste the resources that pass through our community. The goal of ZERO Waste focuses our attention on the entire cycle of consumption. From the manufacture of products to the end use, we need to be aware of how product and packaging designs add costs to taxpayers. Recycling and reuse programs seek to extract value from resources we often think of as 'garbage'.

We want residents to look at their waste as a resource that has more use left in it, not as garbage. For example, kitchen waste is not garbage – it can be composted to become an excellent fertilizer and soil conditioner. Tin

cans should never be thrown away, the metal in them can be used again and again. Tires, lead acid batteries, rigid plastics #1 - #7, mixed paper, newsprint, cardboard, propane tanks, glass, household paint (in the original containers), antifreeze, hazardous household chemicals (call the Recycling Hotline at 1-800-355-7352 for details of the program), propane tanks up to 100 lbs., scrap metal including appliances (fridges and freezers must have refrigerant removed first), concrete, asphalt, bricks, asphalt roofing shingles, clean construction wood waste, yard and garden waste and rechargeable batteries can all be recycled at the McKelvey Creek landfill site. There is a charge of \$10/tonne for concrete, asphalt, bricks and asphalt roofing shingles. Tree prunings over 15 cm in diameter and clean construction wood waste is charged at \$30/tonne. There is also the ReUse Centre at the McKelvey Creek Site that takes items that are in good condition and re-useable except clothing, mattresses, fridges and freezers.

Each one of us has to take personal responsibility and this starts when we shop and ends when we send the items on to be recycled. Each one of us makes these decisions with every product we buy.

REDUCE:

- Choose products with less packaging. These products are also often less expensive than over-packaged brand names.
- Buy Bulk products. This way you get just the amount you need which cuts down on spoilage.
- Buy concentrates. The packaging used for concentrated frozen orange juice is a fraction of plastic orange 'drink'.
- Buy items in recyclable packaging.
- Remove your name from bulk mailing lists (Visit the Canadian Marketing Association website (<http://www.the-cma.org/index.cfm>) to get your name removed from mailing lists

REUSE:

- Make thrift stores part of your community. Drop off unused items. Thrift stores are often mined by creative people just looking for new treasure.
- Use rechargeable batteries. Again, the savings add up after only a few uses.
- Compost: Nearly half of our household waste is potentially compostable material. This is an ideal resource that is an excellent fertilizer for indoor plants, gardens, lawns and shrubs.
- Use the ReUse centre at the McKelvey Creek Landfill. Drop off and look for treasure
- Reuse your plastic shopping bags

RECYCLE:

Items that are included in the Blue Box recycling program are banned from the McKelvey Creek Landfill Site. This includes:

- Paper products including cardboard, newsprint and mixed paper. Milk cartons are not included
- Tin cans: Jar lids, bottle caps and metal concentrated juice lids can also be included.
- Glass: labels can stay on
- Plastics: All rigid plastics number #1-7 are now accepted in the Blue Box. (**Bags and styrofoam are not accepted.**)
- Return all beverage containers for deposit as they are not accepted in the Blue Box or at the landfill site

Contact Raymond Gaudart, Resource Recovery Co-ordinator at the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, 368-9148, for more information on recycling programs.