

2.2 Regional Concerns

Within the GVRD, the processing and marketing aspects of "closing the recycling loop" have remained the weak links in the overall recycling system. "Closing the Loop" has generally been hampered by outside market forces, supply and demand fluctuations, and potential conflicts in the market place between various jurisdictions delivering materials under varying contracts. To address these concerns the Ministry of Environment has recently issued a discussion paper on "Cooperative Marketing: A Strategy for British Columbia's Recyclables". As part of its Solid Waste Management Plan Review process (scheduled for implementation in late 1993), the GVRD has also included the issues of roles and responsibilities of the private sector and different levels of government in implementation, processing and marketing, as well as regulation making such systems function effectively.

2.3 Safeguards

Some safeguards exist to ensure that material collected for recycling is not sent to disposal sites. Burnaby's curbside recycling collection program conforms to the commonly adhered to recycling protocol in the GVRD where materials collected at curbside for recycling are precluded admittance to any regional disposal facility and must be delivered to processing and marketing facilities. Materials collected at the Burnaby depot are sent directly to processing and marketing plants by Municipal forces.

Burnaby also provides public education featuring prominent information on the difference types of plastics currently in the market place, and the recyclability of the various types of plastic (a copy is attached). The message is conveyed that only containers specifically listed as recyclable by a local recycling program can be recycled; otherwise they can only be reused by the consumer if they are to be kept from disposal. It is hoped that in this way the impact of non-recyclable plastics in the waste stream is lessened.

Curbside recycling programs in Burnaby collect plastic containers marked Code 1 and Code 2 only. The depot program in Burnaby collects Code 1, 2, 3, and 5 plastics (hard containers) as well as Code 4 (plastic film and bags). Staff have confirmed with processors and marketers that some Code 2 plastics delivered to them can be sold locally. Other code plastics are currently sold to markets in China and Taiwan depending on the code of plastic and market conditions.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Plastics recycling, because of the varying types of material on the market remains a difficult material in which to "close the recycling loop". Burnaby continues to facilitate the recycling of plastics by providing recycling opportunities for the largest amount of materials possible through contracts with local processing and marketing firms while encouraging the public to make informed purchasing decisions to lessen the impact on non-recyclable plastics in the waste stream.

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While processing and marketing remain the weak links in regional recycling programs it is anticipated that the adoption of a Regional Solid Waste Management Plan by late 1993, in concert with opportunities arising from the Province's discussion paper on Cooperative Marketing, will address the roles and responsibilities of the private sector and different levels of government in implementation, processing and marketing, as well as regulation making such systems function effectively.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

RGB:jb
Attach.

A throw away plastic container, having a short life cycle, impacts more on the environment. It uses more energy and resources than refillable containers which can be returned for reuse several times before being recycled for remanufacture.

Plastics that are used in food and beverage packaging cannot be reused for that purpose because of possible contamination somewhere in product use cycle. However, the plastic can be remanufactured into another product. For example there is some recycled plastic content in the blue boxes and bags used in collection programs. Commercially manufactured home composters and lawn furniture may also contain recycled plastic.

Where does it go?

By recycling plastic, some of the waste generation of consumer product packaging can be controlled.

It has been estimated that since 1960 the amount of packaging in garbage has increased by 80%. In Canada almost 60% of all packaging is used in the food and beverage industries.

Environmental Benefits

PLASTICS RECYCLING

What is it?

Plastics are rapidly displacing the traditional reusable and recyclable packaging materials of paper, glass, and metal. And while this is happening, plastics recycling remains the most difficult type of recycling to perform economically. This is largely because the number of types of plastics that are used in packaging of consumer household products is almost as diverse as the types of products that are packaged.

Recycling of traditional materials normally calls for separation of the recovered materials to get the most value for a contaminant free product. This is more difficult to do when recovering plastics as there is a much greater variety of plastics used in plastic packaging. Some plastic containers may look alike, but they may have different chemical and physical properties that make their recycling difficult once they have been thrown in the same recycling bin.

However with the introduction of a plastics coding system, some standardization in recovered material, plastic recycling should be able to keep plastic waste generation under control.

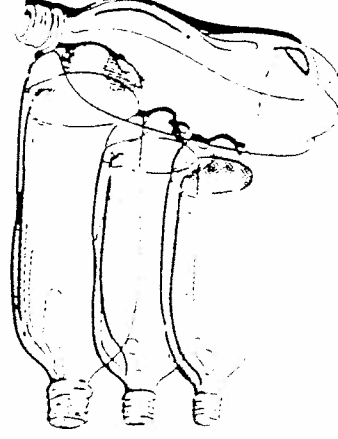


Burnaby Recycles

PLASTICS

RECYCLING

FACTS



Become part of the solution —RECYCLE!

For further information, please contact the Municipal Engineering Department 294-7972.

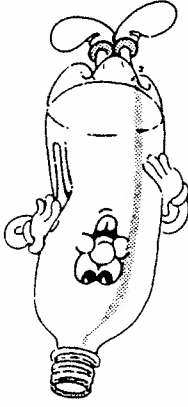
Doing your part

Unlike simply saving glass and metal containers for recycling, to recycle plastics some extra planning has to go into the purchase of a product in a plastic container.

Unless the container is specifically listed as recyclable by the collection program or depot, it cannot be recycled. It can only be reused by you.

If your container is one that can be accepted by the Municipal collection program remember to rinse it well. Remove any tops or rings, and any labels if possible. If you have Municipal collection try to flatten the container to save space in the blue box as well as on the recycling trucks.

If you use the Recycling Depot at Still Creek, or a bin, make sure the plastic is put into the correct bin to avoid contamination. In addition to the materials collected at curbside, the depot takes an expanded range of plastics.



How to identify plastics

Identification number	Abbrivation	Type of Plastic	Appearance	Typical Uses
1	PP	Polypropylene	Clear	Pop bottles
2	HDPE	High density polyethylene	Opaque or coloured	Milk jugs, coloured food & cleaning product bottles, some yogurt and cottage cheese containers
3	PVC & PVC	Vinylchloride & Chloride	Clear or Coloured	Some clear beverage bottles
4	LDPE	Low density polyethylene	Soil & like polyethylene films	Bags & wraps
5	PP	Polypropylene	White or Coloured	Some yogurt & cottage cheese containers
6	PS	Styrene & polystyrene	White or Coloured	Some yogurt & cottage cheese containers
7	Other	Expanded polystyrene	White or Coloured	Cups & bowls

- Code 1 (PET), and some Code 2 (HDPE) plastics are collected under Municipal programs.
- Codes 1 thru 5 are accepted at the Municipal depot.

Information Available

- A variety of recycling pamphlets and brochures are available at the Recycling Depot, Burnaby Libraries, and Burnaby Municipal Hall
- Visit the Compost Demonstration Garden across the street from the Recycling Depot and see how to compost kitchen and yard waste.

Questions? Problems? Compliments?

- Call or write: Engineering Department 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1M2.
- Telephone: 294-7972.
- Burnaby's touch tone information line: 294-7930.
- Recycling Depot: 4800 Still Creek Avenue.

Recycling makes sense

- Recycling conserves valuable resources. It saves trees, natural resources and energy.
- Recycling reduces pollution. The more we recycle the less garbage we send to landfill.
- Recycling keeps Burnaby clean and livable.



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