

Recycling Organics and Other Stuff (why it matters and what you need to know)

Green Carts - Organics Recycling

Like the rest of Metro Vancouver, Anmore is required to separate organics (e.g. food scraps, yard clippings) from other recyclables and garbage. Our organic materials are processed at Enviro-smart Organics Ltd in Delta and turned into compost. There are good reasons to recycle food scraps. When they end up in the garbage they:

- create methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that adds to climate change;
- use up a lot of landfill space. About 30% of all garbage in Metro-Vancouver's landfills is organic material that could have been recycled. Space is limited, and creating more landfills is undesirable. In the landfill, buried under layers of waste and without access to oxygen, food cannot decompose properly;
- waste all the resources (energy, water, etc) that went into producing the food;
- waste opportunities to create new soil and promote more food production and clean energy.

Typical Green Cart materials include:

- all food, including plate scrapings, meat, fish, bones, produce, pasta, bread, rice, dairy, eggshells, sauces, dressings;
- coffee grounds/filters and tea bags;
- wooden utensils, chopsticks, and toothpicks;
- napkins, pizza boxes, unlined paper plates;
- paper bags or newspaper used to collect food scraps.

Also use your Green Cart for disposing of invasive plants [e.g. English Ivy, Lamium, English Holly, Periwinkle, Himalayan blackberry, Orange Hawkweed, Scotch broom, Canada Thistle, Policeman's Helmet, Japanese knotweed and more (see <http://www.iscmv.ca/target-species>)] and yard trimmings. Never dump invasives in your yard or on the roadside. Your tax dollars are paying for invasive plant control on Village lands so make it worth it by not adding to the problem.

If you are a gardener, you will want to have your own composter for vegetable materials (<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/SolidWastePublications/HeresTheDirt.pdf>). Egg shells can be composted too if they are rinsed first. You will still need your Green Cart for invasive plants and non-vegetable food scraps.

Tips to minimize mess and odours:

- Line your kitchen compost container and Green Cart with newspaper or kraft paper bags (plastic liners and even supposedly biodegradable plastic bags do not degrade and are not wanted at the composting facility);
- Put mucky or smelly organics in an empty milk or cream container (waxed cardboard) and freeze it. Fridge freezers make this very convenient and easy to do.

Recyclables

Recycling Guides were distributed to residents. It is also available on-line at:

<http://recyclinginbc.ca/anmore/>). Paper (yellow bag), newsprint (blue bag), glass (glass box), and most containers (blue box - see list below) are picked up weekly curbside. The following containers are accepted in your blue box:

- plastic or paper take-out cups, bowls, and lids;
- cartons for soup, milk, sauces, ice-cream, etc;

Recycling Organics and Other Stuff - Continued

Recyclables - continued

- metal cans and lids for food;
- empty aerosol cans and caps;
- microwavable bowls and cups;
- spiral wound cans and lids for frozen juice concentrate, chips, etc.;
- aluminum foil wrap, aluminum foil take-out containers;
- plastic bottles, jugs, jars, tubs and trays;
- caps, tops, lids, and pumps;
- rigid plastic clamshells for baked goods, fruit, eggs, etc.;
- plastic garden plant pots and seedling trays;
- plastic pails, less than 25 L, for laundry detergent, pet food, etc.;
- corrugated cardboard.

Remember:

- empty and rinse containers (labels are OK), otherwise it will attract wildlife - remember a fed bear is a dead bear;
- remove caps, pumps and lids and place loose in blue box;
- put metal lids inside cans and squeeze slightly;
- save your return deposit containers for our 1st Anmore Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts bottle drives, or take them to the depot for a refund.

Blue box items may also be taken to a depot. The nearest one to us is Return-It at 104 - 2560 Barnet Hwy (at Falcon Drive). The depot will also accept the following items. Check out their website for more information - <https://www.return-it.ca/recycling/>:

- plastic bags and overwrap;
- plastic foam packaging (e.g. styrofoam) - foam food containers and trays and foam cushion packaging used to protect electronics, small appliances, etc., overwrap on mattresses, furniture and electronic equipment;
- electronics;
- household batteries (there is also a box on the counter at the Village Hall for these);
- light bulbs.

Some materials not accepted in your Blue Box (e.g. non-numbered plastics, foil bags - chip bags, coffee bags, etc.) may be disposed for a small fee through PMD Recycling Solutions. The nearest depot is at Glen Elementary School (3604 Glen Dr., Coquitlam) from 9 am - noon the 3rd Saturday each month. Check out their website for more information (<http://pmdrecycling.com/>).

H&M stores (nearest one at Coquitlam Centre) take clothing (any brand) that is no longer suitable for reuse and recycle it into various products.

Most items can be recycled. Information on what, where, and why is available at: <http://recyclinginbc.ca/> and <http://www.rcbc.ca/recyclepedia/search> or by calling the Recycling Hotline at 604-732-9253.

You can help to keep our fees to a minimum by sorting your organics and other recyclables properly as there is a penalty for non-compliance. It is also the environmentally responsible thing to do. Thank you for doing your part!

Prepared by Anmore Environment Committee - March 2016