

## “Recycle Now” Frequently Asked Questions

The new “Recycle Now” program is made up of two parts, a new blue bag recycling service and a “pay as you throw” garbage service. Here are some important questions and answers about the program.

### When does the new program start?

The new program will officially start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Over the next six months you’ll start to see the recycling bins added to the transfer stations, as has already been done at Clinton, Logan Lake and Lytton as part of the pilot project. Fees for garbage disposal will be required on January 1<sup>st</sup> and you’ll be able to start buying your “Eco-cards” at convenient retail locations and local government offices starting in December. In the meantime, as the recycling bins are set up you’ll be able to start using them at no charge. Please note that fees for demolition, construction, land clearing and bulky waste at landfills start July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

### Why is the waste collection service changing?

There are a number of reasons why recycling is being added and the garbage collection service changing. These were shared with communities as part of the “It’s Time to Talk Trash” public consultation process in 2006 and include:

- Increasing amounts of garbage to manage
- Significantly rising costs to manage the garbage
- Current collection system of transfer stations not sustainable given increase in amount of waste and cost
- Increasing demand for recycling
- Unstaffed garbage drop-off attracting garbage from other areas as well as illegal dumping
- Reducing environmental and animal concerns at landfills and transfer stations
- Meeting current provincial regulations to manage solid waste and emerging ones to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from landfills
- Creating a more sustainable system, where the burden of managing our garbage won’t be left to future generations
- Ensuring that TNRD residents can recycle more and ultimately pay less

### How were these decisions made?

In keeping with provincial regulations, the TNRD is required to have a Solid Waste Management Plan that provides a roadmap to reduce and manage waste over the next 10 to 20 years. The process to update the Plan started in 2005 with three committees to help guide the process. These were the technical committee, the public advisory committee and the plan review committee.

Next, the TNRD took the plan “on the road” and invited residents and businesses to have their say in an extensive public consultation process dubbed “It’s Time to Talk Trash” that included:

- Newspaper and radio advertising
- A newsletter to all homes and businesses
- Website and media promotion
- 13 open houses and public meeting presentations held across the TNRD

The public feedback from the open houses and more than 600 responses to survey questionnaires and emails significantly shaped elements of the plan, such as introducing recycling at transfer stations and landfills, as well as introducing user-pay fees.



## What can I recycle?

You can recycle as much of the following materials as you like at for free:

- . Newspaper
- . White office and mixed coloured paper
- . Boxboard, like cereal boxes
- . Tin and aluminum cans
- . Household plastics containers numbered 1-7 (no Styrofoam)
- . Plastic film, like plastic bags
- . Magazines and books
- . Corrugated cardboard
- . Glass food and beverage containers

Once it starts, simply keep recycling separate from your garbage in blue or see-through bags and dump them into the recycling bins provided – you can also reuse your bags or any other convenient container that allows full view of the recyclable materials. There will be two other bins, one for corrugated cardboard and one for glass food and beverage containers. These items need to be kept separate and don't need to be in bags.

## What does “pay as you throw” mean?

Each bag of garbage for disposal will cost \$1 and just like many other utilities such as electricity or gas, the less you use the service the less you will pay. Under the “pay as you throw” program, you'll have more control of your garbage disposal costs. By recycling, composting or smart shopping you'll create less waste and pay less at the transfer stations and landfills.

The TNRD is one of the few regional districts in BC that has yet to charge tipping fees at its landfills; as a result most customers are not aware of the costs associated with garbage. This also serves to attract garbage from other areas where tip fees are in place.

Adding a small fee for garbage has been shown to reduce the amount of garbage and increase the amount of recycling. You will pay less by recycling more. According to research done across Canada by the Canadian Federation of Municipalities, “pay as you throw” programs have been shown to reduce waste by as much as 40%. In the US, more than 7000 communities have “pay as you throw” programs. Similar programs run in neighbouring regional districts, including communities such as Falkland, Sicamous and Vernon.

Reducing waste and recycling helps us reduce overall costs by extending the life of our landfills and conserves resources. For example, recycling one aluminum container uses 95% less energy than making one from new materials. Recycling paper saves 60% in energy, results in 95% less air pollution: each tonne of paper recycled saves 27 kilograms of air pollution, and a savings of roughly 10 barrels of crude oil for every metric tonne of plastics recycled (Cdn Federation of Municipalities, Solid Waste as a Resource Guide for Sustainable Communities).

## What about larger loads of waste?

Larger loads, such as a pick up truck will start at \$5.00 for a small truck, or \$10 for a larger truck for a full load of residential waste. At landfills with weigh scales, loads will be weighed and the cost will be based on \$60.00 metric tonne, similar to most landfill operations in BC. Please be sure to cover your load with a tarp to reduce litter and the dangers of waste falling out of the back of moving vehicles.



### **I already pay for solid waste on my taxes, isn't this an extra charge?**

The costs to operate all of our transfer stations and landfills are already on our taxes, but the costs for waste collection and disposal are rapidly rising. Rather than raise the rates for everyone, this new user-pay program will give you more control over your garbage. It will provide an incentive for people to recycle rather than throwing everything in the garbage. The more you recycle, the less you pay for garbage disposal.

### **What's an Eco-Card?**

Instead of paying for your garbage at the transfer station each time you go, you'll be able to purchase punch cards called Eco-cards from convenient municipal and retail locations throughout the TNRD. These cards will be available in various amounts such as \$5, \$10 and more. You simply present your card to the attendant at the transfer station to punch out the number equal to the number of bags or amount of waste you have for disposal. For example, a pick-up truck with a box less than 7' will be charged \$5.

### **Will there be changes at the transfer stations?**

As part of the changes to provide recycling, and to reduce waste and abuse at the transfer stations, these sites will be fenced and open set hours with an attendant on site, similar to those in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District.

### **Is this program more difficult for low income and large families?**

We recognize that user-pay programs place the costs on those who use the system and that's a shift from before. As with other utilities and services, the less you use, the less you pay. All households will have the same opportunities to reduce their waste by using recycling, composting and creating less waste with good buying practices.

### **Could "pay as you throw" cause an increase in illegal dumping?**

Sadly, illegal dumping is not new in the TNRD region – even with unlimited access to transfer stations! While some communities have reported a small increase in illegal dumping shortly after a "pay as you throw" program is implemented, they also note a decline again as people get used to the program. In the short term, the TNRD is setting up an illegal dumping program that includes:

- A hotline for the public to observe, record and report illegal dumping
- Working with Provincial Conservation Officers to monitor the situation and patrol "hot spots"
- Establishing a community clean up program where local residents can get free bags and disposal when they clean up litter or an illegal dump site on public property

### **Where can I get more information?**

More information will be sent to residents and businesses over the next 8 months. In the meantime, you can get more information by:

- Visiting the website at [www.tnrd.bc.ca](http://www.tnrd.bc.ca).
- Emailing [recyclenow@tnrd.bc.ca](mailto:recyclenow@tnrd.bc.ca)
- Calling 1-877-377-8673
- Mailing TNRD, #300 – 465 Victoria Street, Kamloops, BC, V2C 2A9

