

Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling at the Vancouver Public Library January 2012

This is a revised list of the Vancouver Public Library recycling list that was presented at the 2001 Staff Conference by the Environmental Awareness Committee (EAC).

If this list is not complete or inaccurate in any detail, feel free to let EAC members know by emailing us at eac@vpl.ca or phone the Chairperson, Keith Edwards at 604-331-3715 (L6).

EAC is a VPL staff/Cupe Local 391, volunteer group formed in January of 1991 with the following goals and objectives:

- to educate staff about environmental and social issues
- to create and initiate programs within the Vancouver Public Library
- to support like programs and initiatives put forward by VPL staff, other locals and worksites within the City of Vancouver.

Vancouver Public Library pays for a monthly recycling pick-up of materials that would not have otherwise been collected through the regular paper recycling program.

Since September of 2009, the library has had a contract with [Pacific Recycling Mobile Depots](#), to what has become a monthly pick-up of what is mainly, Styrofoam blocks, hard and soft plastics, with the occasional other items thrown in.

In late 2011, the Library Square was among a few chosen locations for the city to start a trial Zero Waste program. In early 2012, the Library Square hopes to see this Vancouver City recycling program get started. Once it does, there will be changes within the coordination of recycling and responsibilities of the VPL staff doing it now.

Current practices are for staff to sort, collect and distribute the recycling materials. As of September 2011, "Management confirmed that Keith should only perform VPL recycling on work time."

*Britannia Community Centre, Presentation House and Place Maillardville, are partnering with Pacific Recycling Mobile Depot to recycle materials that the City Blue Box program does not accept. There is a small fee to cover the cost of trucking and to fund other sustainability projects. Visit (<http://www.pacificmobiledepots.com/Mobile-Depot-Info-Rates.html>) for details and fees.

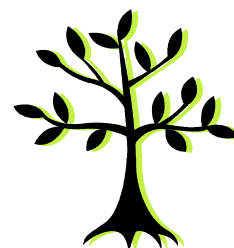
Metro Vancouver drop off depot schedules are for the 3rd Sat of each month. At Britannia it is in the parking lot (just west of the arena).

** Check out VPL's own classified ads where you may sell or buy used but still good items. <http://staff.vpl.ca/tools/wpmu/classifieds/>

***Check out VPL's own Environmentally Sustainable Priorities and Goals
http://staff.vpl.ca/vplinfo/stratplan/PGA_2011-2012.pdf

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BATTERIES:

- VPL has a limited recycling program with batteries going to the Vancouver Manitoba Yards whenever VPL Maintenance staff has to go there. Batteries can be put in the cardboard box in front of the staff elevator on LL.
- The library's monthly recycling with Pacific Mobile will take batteries if they are boxed and labelled for them on the loading dock.
- Household batteries have not been considered hazardous material since 1992 when mercury content was discontinued by major U.S. manufacturers. These Alkaline

batteries are considered common waste but it is still recommended that you do not throw away anymore than 4 - 5 batteries at one time.

BUT WHY THROW THEM AWAY WHEN YOU CAN RECYCLE!!! HERE'S HOW....

An alternative to the disposable household batteries is to use Ni-Cd rechargeable batteries. These can be recycled through the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) with drop-off points such as Best Buy, Canadian Tire, Home Depot, London Drugs, Office Depot, Radio Shack, Source, Staples, Target, Wal-Mart, and Zellers . For locations check the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) website: <http://www.rbrc.org/call2recycle/>. Or phone 1-800-8BA-TTER(22-7737)

For bulk disposal of common alkaline (non-rechargeable) batteries, check these other options:

- Blacks Photography e.g. Metrotown Bby. – ONLY A FEW AT-A-TIME
- Burnaby municipal yard at 4800 Still Creek Ave. - Burnaby residents only.
- Electronics Recycling Unit 1 – 3347 262nd Street, Aldergrove. Free drop-off of all kinds. For info phone 604-582-8087.
- IKEA – All locations, no charge and no limits.
- London Drugs will take some at various locations.
- Mountain Equipment Co-op (<http://www.mec.ca/>) 130 West Broadway – Free drop-off at members service desk (do not have to be a member) – 604-709-6241.
- Newlife Industries in Aldergrove Unit 120 – 13065 84th Avenue - Free for Langley residents only. Phone 604-857-5588. (604-599-8078 – new as of Nov. 2006).

BEVERAGE & FOOD CONTAINERS:

- The library does have a program for beverage & food container recycling at Central Library only. (see composting)

We encourage staff to take home any refundable containers from their worksites, rather than put them into the waste can. Any refundable containers can be used for a party fund, if not for your own reward. However, EAC will take them and use the cash for any of our environmental promotions. Currently the practice is for EAC chair to collect them, while Shipping delivers them to an Encorp Pacific depot for the deposit, which is then brought back for the EAC fund kept in the Accounting safe.

Approximately ninety-eight percent (98%) of the refund money goes toward the EAC fund for events promoting environmentally sound practices and or products. That 'other percentage' goes towards buying plastic trash bags. The 100% bio-degradeable bags such as maintenance uses, however are unfortunately too weak to use as a single bag. If used, we would need to double-up for strength of these materials, or use more of them for smaller loads. The bags are used for the collection of the recyclables and refundables.

Pacific Mobile Recycling prefers us to use bags instead of boxes, with the exception of the sharper edged materials, such as the hard brittle plastic CD or DVD cases.

The library account at the Encorp Recycling Depot, deducts 10% off of our returns for their labour of sorting and counting.

At Central, on level's 4 & 6, a blue recycling bin encourages the public to put any refundables into it as well as to take any out, with minor supervision from a staff member to clean it or keep paper and other garbage out.

For non-refundable items such as glass, metal and Tetra Paks average about a small bag every two weeks.

We used to depend upon volunteer help to transport recyclable materials and refundables where possible through their good will. However, now our computer packaging of non-returnable Styrofoam blocks go to Mobile Pacific Recycling, as does our CD and DVD cases.

Return for Refund (Beverage Containers):

Bottle depots

- 5 cents refund for under and including 1 litre, 20 cents for over 1 litre
- unlimited number of returns
- accepts liquor bottles and cans
- will not accept items without labels
- will not accept those large 10 gallon water jugs that are used for water coolers, some Oriental and U.S. beverages. For details of items and locations contact: Encorp Pacific (Canada): **1-800-330-9767, or (604) 473-2400** or website at:

<http://www.encorpinc.com/cfm/index.cfm>

or types of containers: <http://www.encorp.ca/cfm/index.cfm?It=907&Id=4>

Grocery stores:

- 5 cents refund for under 1 litre, 20 cents over 1 litre
- official limit of 24
- may refuse brands they do not sell

Refundable beverage containers include:

- Aseptic drink boxes (tetra paks)- except those for milk & soy products
- Aluminum cans - may leave tabs on
- Coated gable top cartons – (except those for milk & soy product),
- Glass bottles - remove caps, leave labels on
- Metal juice cans - leave labels on,
- Plastic bottles - remove caps and leave labels on

<http://www.encorpinc.com/cfm/index.cfm?It=903>

Please leave labels on beverage containers destined for the EAC recycling bins as they are preferred when returning for a refund at the depot.

Recycling (non-refundable):

- Glass, metal & plastic containers can be put in Vancouver blue boxes or EAC recycling bins & should be rinsed, no lids, and when possible, labels to be removed.

Acceptable plastic containers are those marked on the bottom with a recycling triangle with a number 1,2,4 or 5, including milk containers. Items that are not acceptable include plastic bags and those tough plastic packing straps.

CARDBOARD:

- Broken down corrugated boxes can go in the VPL blue bins in the staff hallways at Central.
- Larger boxes to be leave beside the bins.
- Pizza or cake boxes are now allowed.

CIRCULATION CASH ROLL SPOOLS:

- Circulation roll tapes are thermal paper. Thermal paper is low grade but is accepted in VPL recycling bins.
- The center plastic spool is a wanted item by Urban Source. This is an "alternative" arts supplies store called Urban Source, located at Main & 15th. They generally have a vehicle that will come to the Central library for pick-up of these and other materials, when arranged with the owner.
- EAC member Keith Edwards collects these from Circulation along with the trickle from participating branches.

Please do send them along, with your other recycling materials, preferably separated in an envelope or a plastic bag, addressed "Recycling for Keith," as it helps with the sorting part.

CLOTHING FOR RAGS:

- Maintenance department will accept some materials for cleaning rags. Phone ahead and ask if it is ok.

COMPOSTING:

- Some VPL worksites store organics in the freezer & staff, take them home for composting
- For those lucky enough to have your own backyard or even an apartment container of red wiggler worms, look for more information at: (<http://cityfarmer.org/wormcomp61.html>)

- Central started a composting program with *Growing City* in December of 2010. On a weekly basis, they come and empty the two stainless steel bins for composting of materials on Level 7.
- Look for more information on the Residential Food Scraps Collection (<http://vancouver.ca/projects/foodWaste/index.htm>)

COMPUTERS / Electronics (E-Waste)

- Old library computers are usually sent to City Hall for resale at auction, or donated to the Vancouver School Board.

In general, used computers are broken down and stripped of useable parts for resale.

Phone the Recycling Council of British Columbia Recycling Hotline (604-732-9253) for some locations that take electronic equipment.

Here is a link to the new provincial regulations (<http://www.return-it.ca/electronics/products/>) starting, February 1, 2011, explains the Environmental Handling Fee (EHF) which is levied on the sale of new products. For example, prices for TVs: \$9 – \$31 (depending upon size), Printers: \$6.50 and Laptops: \$1.20.

However, for old TV's or computer's, the screens have to be intact, if broken, they will then be considered a hazardous. There are but a few specialized locations that will handle these items. (<http://www.return-it.ca/cfm/index.cfm?It=939&Id=19&Se=40>)

A neighbour of mine whom used to repair things, always would snip the cords of any discarded non-working electronic appliances, indicating that they did not work. The ones with the cords intact, would imply that they still worked. This however, may not be a widely known common rule?

- Office Depot recycles cell phones and rechargeable batteries.
- Staples accepts old phones, Personal digital assistants (PDAs), printer cartridges and rechargeable batteries at all stores.

Electronic Recycling Association

<http://www.era.ca/donations/recycling/vancouver.html>

New as of June 2007—Free Geek Vancouver is a non profit, environmentally ethical computer recycling and education centre. Check out their website:

<http://freegeekvancouver.org/>

Between 1992 and 2000 Canadians disposed of enough personal computers to fill approx. 1,000 Olympic size swimming pools, but only about 10% were recycled or refurbished for reuse. In 1999, the estimated quantity of disposed of equipment was about 37,000 tonnes...to an estimated 72,000 tonnes in 2005 (Source: Natural Life Magazine 2003)

****VANCOUVER LANDFILL & VANCOUVER SOUTH TRANSFER STATION RATES:**

Effective as of January 3, 2012, (<http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/solidwaste/landfill/rates.htm>)

ELASTICS:

- When possible, save and reuse good elastics rather than purchasing new ones. If you run out, you can order used ones (mixed sizes) from Shipping.
- If in the event that there is no time to sort and remove the elastics from discarded material, they are allowed in recycling bins and are filtered out at the sorting end.

INK CARTRIDGES:

- Refer to TONER CARTRIDGES

KEYS & OTHER METALS:

- Keys are items that have been turning up lately. They can be returned for some money as most keys are made of brass with a monetary value of approx., \$1.70/lb.
- Ferrous metals and non-ferrous metals can be returned to [North Star Recycling](#) or MB Superior Metal Recovery on Powell St. in Vancouver. Even though you need a car and a driver's license to recycle any items at these places, they are not a normal place of business for the library.

LIBRARY MATERIALS:

- Audio cassettes:
 - Not repaired if broken, stretched or mangled – garbage, unless, someone bothers to take these apart to separate the two plastic halves for recycling.
- BOOKS:
 - Discarded books go into the blue bins on the loading dock. They are picked up by Urban Impact Recycling for recycling at a cost ranging from (\$500) five hundred to (\$700) seven hundred dollars per month!
- CDs, CD-ROMs, DVDs:
 - Send scratched items to Ed for possible repairs.
 - In the event of items being discarded, Urban Source will gladly accept these material.
 - Discarded CDs, etc. make nice looking candle bases (to catch drips), coasters, flashy things to hang in a tree to scare away birds or even ornamental ceiling decorations. I have even seen some stuck in between bike spokes! When not reused, they can be recycled, please send to Keith in a marked box (for L6).
- CD & DVD CASES:
 - These are recycled through the library's paid pick-up service, Pacific Mobile Recycling Company

- CIRCULATION CASH ROLL SPOOLS: *Refer to the body of work.*
- COMPOSTING: *Refer to the body of work.*
- COMPRESSED AIR CANS: *Not recommended* for use, as they are combustible and not easily recyclable.
- COMPUTERS & E-WASTE: *Refer to the body of work.*
- ELASTICS: *Refer to the body of work.*
- MAGAZINES: *Refer to the body of work.*
- MICROFILM & MICROFICHE: *Refer to the body of work.*
- PAPER: *Refer to the body of work.*
- PAPER CLIPS: *Refer to the body of work.*
- PLASTIC BAGS: *Refer to the body of work.*
- STAPLES: *Refer to the body of work.*
- TAPE: *Refer to the body of work.*
- TATTLE-TAPE STRIPS: *Refer to the body of work.*
- TONER CARTRIDGES: *Refer to the body of work.*

MAGAZINES:

- Can go in regular paper recycling bins. (The glossy finish on most magazines and posters is water-based.)
- Branches should box magazines for discard separately from books.

MICROFILM & MICROFICHE:

- Also gladly accepted by Urban Source for craft projects. Please forward them to Keith Edwards on the Lower level at QIS until June 2008, then to 6th level.

PAPER:

Recycling

At Central each worksite has large recycling bags & there are smaller WOW cardboard recycling boxes available from Purchasing - especially good for cramped locations. Delivery truck picks up boxed (in #73 boxes) recycling material from branches to be brought to Central as time and space permits.

- Paper products that are not accepted include paper cups, paper towels, & tissues.
- Carbon paper is acceptable.
- Hot bright (fluorescent) colours, due to their pigments, are not considered to be as recyclable as lighter colours. Only one to three percent contamination with fluorescents is allowed. (Fluorescents are also much more expensive than other colours.)

Reusing

- Correction slips (grey 3 5/8"x 2 3/4")
- Return to Catalogue.
- Division study guides can be returned to the division.
- Envelopes (internal) - reuse until both sides are full. If you run out, order used envelopes
- from Purchasing rather than using new ones.
- Put empty pre-printed envelopes (ACCT., HR, DGR, etc.) in out mail and they will be returned
- to appropriate location.
- Mend flags (white 2" x 11" slips) - return to Circulation or reuse in branches.
- One-sided sheets of paper - Save for scrap for staff and patrons.
- Rebind flags (green 2" x 11" slips) - return to Catalogue.

P-Slips

- Save your one-sided sheets of paper and send them to Preparations. They will be cut into P-slips and sent to Purchasing to fill orders. Box paper in orderly piles (by size) with staples and paper clips removed.
 - When ordering, specify 3 x 5 scrap one-sided p-slips from Supplies rather than virgin paper p-slips (when they have a supply).

Photocopying & Printing

- Use one-sided sheets of paper for printing & do double-sided copying whenever possible.

PAPER CLIPS:

- Better to remove and save for reuse rather than purchase new supplies. However they are allowed in recycling bins as they are filtered out at sorting end.

PARTY FUND:

- Returning your own recyclable beverage containers can add to any party fund!

PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP:

- Some branches accept clean plastic bags for patrons to reuse. Carnegie **always** needs bags for the patrons. Label them and send them in delivery to CAR.
- Clean plastic bags can be taken back to some locations of Safeway stores.
- Plastic wrap/bubble wrap are recycled through our monthly pick-up with Pacific Mobile Recycling. Most of this type of material comes from OIN and Acquisitions.

Many plastic bags are being printed with the #2 inside the recycling triangle but are still not accepted in the Blue Box Recycling Programs. Only rigid plastic containers are accepted.

The rigid plastic strapping or ties that are used for packing, are acceptable through Pacific Mobile Recycling, otherwise these are considered to be a waste product in with the Vancouver City Blue Box Program

STAPLES:

- Allowed in recycling bins - filtered out at the sorting end.

TAPE:

- Minor amount acceptable in recycling bins. If in doubt, remove tape or discard material.

TATTLE-TAPE STRIPS:

- Plastic green and yellow strips from tattle tape are gladly accepted by Urban Source on Main St. Currently Bindery, Preparations, and Levels 4 & 6, save them for EAC member to pickup. If you wish to start doing this at your worksite, be sure to check with your supervisor first.
- Branches can send them in a marked box or grey tote, to Keith Edwards in Central, Level 6.

TONER CARTRIDGES:

- Send to Shipping and Receiving for reuse.
- Central toner cartridges from microfilm readers/printers can be reused. Send empty ones to Newspapers & Magazine division for pick up. Please label with a post-it note stating that it is used.
- Empty laser toner cartridges from photocopiers should be returned to Kelvin, LL room L01B. Please read the instructions on how to properly pack up the empty cartridges that should be posted by your staff photocopier.
- The library no longer refills ink printer cartridges. You can send them to Rita Contois or Lily Hanson in Systems on L7. Rita returns them to Save-on-Foods, which offers points for each used ink-jet cartridge (not including Epson) that you bring in to their Changes Recycling Depot. Not all locations offer this option so phone ahead.

WATER FILTRES:

- Many worksites have water filters on their taps, however, Brita no longer provides a collection service for them at London Drugs or anywhere else that I can find.



For more information :

B.C. Recycling Hotline: 604-732-9253 or 1-800-667-4321

Metro Vancouver:

City of Delta: <http://www.corp.delta.bc.ca/EN/main/residents/garbage.html>

City of Vancouver: <http://vancouver.ca/engsvcs/solidwaste/index.htm>

Composting: <http://www.cityfarmer.org/CompostPaul.html>

E-Waste: <http://www.encorp.ca/cfm/index.cfm?lt=925> Province wide starting August 1, 2007

FreeGeek: <http://freegeekvancouver.org/>

Hemptown Hemp Fabrics: <http://www.budget-t.com/section.asp?secid=37&uid=197>

Karmavore: <http://www.karmavore.ca/>

Metro Vancouver (aka Greater Vancouver Regional District):

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Natural Burial in Canada: <http://www.naturalburial.coop/canada/2011/04/12/mountain-view-cemetery/>

Nice Shoes: <http://gotniceshoes.com/>

North Shore Recycling Program: www.nsrp.bc.ca/

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC): <http://www.spec.bc.ca/>

Trees Organic Coffee: <http://www.treescoffee.com/>

Urban Source: www.urbansource.bc.ca/

Vancouver blue box program: Manitoba Yards Sanitation & Recycling Dept.: 604-323-7710

<http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/engsvcs/solidwaste/recycling/bluebox.htm>

Vancouver.com: Top 5 Vancouver Vegetarian Restaurants:

http://www.vancouver.com/things_to_do/top_fives/eat/5/index.htm

Vancouver Tool Library: <http://vancouvertoollibrary.com/>

Vegetarian Directory: <http://www.earthsave.ca/vegdirectory>

Western Wilderness Committee: <http://www.wildernesscommittee.org/>

British Columbia:

British Columbia's Product Stewardship Programs:

<http://www.productcare.org/British-Columbia>

The BC Energy Plan: <http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/>

B.C. Ministry of Environment: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/env/>

Georgia Strait Alliance: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/?q=node>

The Land Conservancy of B.C.: <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/>

London Drugs Green Deal: <http://www.greendeal.ca/recycling.aspx>

Natural Pod (wooden B.C. products): <http://www.naturalpod.com/shop/>

Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC) <http://www.spec.bc.ca/>

Canada:

Canada Post website (stop junk mail):

http://www.canadapost.ca/cpo/mc/personal/support/helpcentre/receiving/choice_opt_in.jsf

Red Dot Campaign: <http://www.reddotcampaign.ca/>

Canadian Green Burial Laws: <http://www.forestofmemories.org/policy/canada/provinces.htm>

David Suzuki Foundation: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/>

Earthsave Canada: <http://www.earthsave.ca/>

Environment Canada : <http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=FD9B0E51-1>

How to have a Green Wedding:

http://www.canadianliving.com/life/green_living/how_to_have_a_green_wedding.php

Marine Pollution Sources and Regulations: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/marinesafety/oep-environment-sources-menu-769.htm>

Natural and Organics: <http://www.naturalsandorganics.com/index.cfm>

Natural Burial in Canada: <http://naturalburial.coop/canada/>

Organic Consumers Organization: <http://www.organicconsumers.org/>

International:

Behind the Label: <http://www.behindthelabel.org/>

Cotton Ginny: Eco-ganic:

http://www.greenthinkers.org/blog/2008/10/cotton_ginny_goes_ecoganic.html

Environmental Bamboo Foundation: <http://www.bamboocentral.org/>

Environmental Paper Network: <http://www.papercalculator.org/>

Forest Ethics: <http://www.forestethics.org/>

GiveMeaning provides free online fundraising: <http://www.givemeaning.com/tc.aspx>

Global Marine Oil Pollution Information Gateway: <http://oils.gpa.unep.org/facts/oilspills.htm>

The Green Living / National Geographic: <http://greenliving.nationalgeographic.com/>

Greenpeace International: <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/>

International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF):

<http://www.itopf.com/information-services/data-and-statistics/statistics/index.html>

Life without plastics: <http://www.lifewithoutplastic.com/>

List of Oil Spills: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_oil_spills

Many Moons Alternatives: <http://manymoonsalternatives.com/index.php>

NASA Orbital Debris Program Office: <http://www.orbitaldebris.jsc.nasa.gov/>

Saltspring Soapworks: <http://saltspringsoapworks.com/>

The Story of Stuff: <http://www.storyofstuff.com/>

Ten Thousand Villages: <http://www.tenthousandvillages.ca/cgi-bin/category.cgi?category=homepage>

Vegan Essentials: <http://www.veganessentials.com/>

