

VANCOUVER BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION

RECYCLING REPORT

April 17, 2003

The City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are committed to protecting the natural environment by adhering to and promoting the principles of urban sustainability by our commitment to **reduce, re-use and recycle** materials. Our principles of sustainability are:

1. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into all our operations and projects;
2. Ensure that our work complies with environmental legislation;
3. Institute and promote compliance with environmental protective municipal by-laws;
4. Institute and develop an energy utilization standard and implement consistency;
5. Seek out opportunities and establish procedures and programs to conserve water and energy; and
6. Ensure that all materials that are identified as recyclable are so treated and pursue opportunities to minimize disposal of such materials in landfills.

The Vancouver Park Board recycling program includes the following:

1. Appliances

Appliances such as refrigerators, stoves and water heaters are delivered to Manitoba Yard for recycling, freon removal, etc.

2. Asphalt

Recycling of our excess asphalt and asphalt debris is contracted to a specialist recycler.

3. Automotive Fluid Wastes

Recovered vehicle and small equipment fluids are either collected at Evans Yard or in 45 gallon drums at various sites and recycled by a specialist contractor. Anti-freeze is

recycled at Manitoba Yard by the City.

4. Batteries

Household batteries and vehicle batteries are collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialist contractor.

5. Biomedical Waste (Needles)

Needles collected in special containers at our facilities and by our park attendants are delivered to Evans Yard for collection by Laidlaw Biomedical Waste Systems.

6. Bottles/Cans/Plastic Containers

Recyclable containers sold at concessions are accepted for refund at all concession locations. Facilities such as community centres usually manage their own Afor deposit@ empty containers. Either individuals recycle them or facilities use the deposit revenue for targetted funding. For other situations, a specialist recycler has been contracted to recycle these products.

We have experimented with blue litter receptacles in parks and adjacent to concessions for recyclable containers but the trials have not warranted implementation of the program because people either recycle their own refundable containers or scavengers recycle them if they have been discarded. The blue receptacles in all trials were found to be devoid of recyclable containers, whether refundable or not, but to contain general garbage which the public also deposited in them even though there would be an adjacent litter receptacle. Placing blue box receptacles in our parks only increased our costs since we also had to dump the garbage from these and the appearance of emptying blue box receptacles into a garbage truck did not convey a good message to the public.

Because the public also deposited recyclable containers in our general garbage receptacles, scavengers would still search through these. The public either keeps their containers for refund or scavengers remove them before we arrive to empty the receptacles. We find virtually no recyclable products in any of our receptacles. We have a successful symbiotic relationship with the scavengers that has resulted in an efficient way to recycle such materials. The expense to hire additional staff, purchase additional vehicles and provide storage space to try to capture the very small number of containers in our garbage stream that may not get recycled could not be justified, especially when others are willing to do it for free.

7. Building Demolition Materials

Where demolition projects involve the removal of heritage or reusable construction material, recycling contractors are contacted to bid on the material.

8. Concrete

Excess concrete and concrete debris are collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialist contractor.

9. Computers/Monitors/Etc

Computers, monitors, etc. are delivered to Manitoba Yard where they are auctioned if they have any value. The new contract to replace computer equipment requires the supplier to refurbish and recycle the old equipment through a charitable organization on the Downtown Eastside.

10. Fat/Grease

Collection and recycling of restaurant fat and grease is arranged by restaurant leasees and our concession operators.

11. Furniture, Etc.

Office furniture, etc. is sent to Central Stores at Manitoba Yard where it is auctioned if it has any value.

12. Green Waste

Plant material, grass and leaves are either composted at locations in our larger parks for recycling or taken to Evans Yard for transport to Burns Bog for composting and recycling. Woody waste is usually taken to Burns Bog for composting and recycling unless there is a special need for wood chips in a park.

13. Gyproc

Gyproc debris is collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialist contractor.

14. High Intensity Discharge Lamps

These used lamps contain mercury and lead and are collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialist contractor.

15. Litter Containers

Old concrete and 45 gallon drum litter containers are sold to other municipalities as we replace them with new plastic totes (which have the benefit of lids and which can be mechanically emptied). The new totes have lids to keep the water out and to prevent the wind and crows and other animals from scattering litter. The totes are mechanically emptied to reduce worker injuries.

16. Mattresses

Mattresses are taken to the City's transfer station at Manitoba Yard for refurbishing. Mattresses that cannot be refurbished are compacted and taken to a landfill.

17. Metal

Scrap metal is collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialist contractor.

18. Paints/Solvents/Thinners

All unusable paints, solvents and thinners are collected at Evans Yard and recycled by a specialty contractor.

19. Pallets

Pallets not returned to suppliers (who often collect them for free) are collected at Evans Yard. Pallets which have deposits are returned to source. Other pallets are stacked outside Evans Yard for collection by scavengers. Undesirable pallets are disassembled and placed in general garbage bins.

20. Paper/Newspaper/Cardboard

All paper and newspaper products are collected at all facilities in blue boxes. These are collected by a contracted specialty recycler.

Cardboard is separated from other paper and collected at all facilities by a contracted specialty recycler.

When purchasing paper products (copier paper, toilet paper, paper towels, etc.), we typically specify recycled paper. We also specify that products that we purchase should have minimal packaging.

21. Plastic

See ABottles, Cans and Plastic Containers@.

22. Playground Components

Playground components are disposed at Evans Yard according to their composition (metal to metal waste bin, plastic to plastic waste bin, etc.)

23. Propane Tanks

Propane tanks are recycled at Manitoba Yard or by a licenced contractor.

24. Special Events

Contracts that we have with special events organizers encourage them to recycle and this is reinforced with charges if the Park Board must dispose cardboard or excessive garbage. From January 1, organizers will be required to have a recycling plan that will form part of their contract with us.

25. Tires

Discarded tires are collected at Evans Yard and Manitoba Yard where they are in turn collected by either Cal-Tire or Fountain Tire.

26. Toner Cartridges

Toner cartridges for photocopier printers are returned for exchange to suppliers who refill and recycle them.

27. Trees/Logs/Chips

In Stanley Park, trees that have fallen or were deliberately felled generally remain there (if they are not in the public way) to act as Anurse@ logs. Trunks of high value with easy access; of use for special projects (such as totems), or in the public way are extracted. Stamped beach logs are stockpiled for return to their owners while unstamped commercial quality logs are claimed by us, stamped and sold by the Park Board.

Non-commercial logs and wood debris are collected for disposal. Some logs are shipped to the Spanish Bank public fire wood holding area and available to the public as free uncut fire wood. Wood chips are sent to Burns Bog for their composting program. Some chips are retained for trail making or for ground cover for blackberry bush suppression. Native trees are then planted in such areas.