

# RCBC Recycling Fact Sheets

## Think Twice!

### Where does our garbage go?



Approximately 67.2% of Canada's **GARBAGE** is disposed of in a landfill.

**How much garbage?** Canadians generate approximately 31 million tonnes of garbage a year and only recycle about 30 per cent of that material. This means that each person generates approximately 2.7 kg of garbage each day. The sheer volume of waste that many existing landfill sites are approaching capacity, and few people want new sites built near their communities.

**What is the solution?** REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!



### What exactly is a landfill?

A landfill is a large area of land or an excavated site that is a carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground. The garbage collected at the landfill is isolated from the surrounding environment with a bottom liner and a daily covering of soil.

Canada has over 10,000 landfill sites.



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### Recycling: is it worth it?



- A littered aluminum can takes **500 years** to disintegrate.<sup>1</sup>
- It takes **100 years** to dissolve tin cans.<sup>1</sup>
- Paper takes **80 years** to break down.<sup>1</sup>
- Glass would take **1 million years** to break down naturally.<sup>2</sup>
- Plastic takes **1 million years** to break down.

### If recycled...



- 60 days is how quickly an **aluminum can** might be collected, transported for recycling, melted down, made into a new can, refilled and placed back on to the grocer's shelf.<sup>3</sup>
- A **glass container** takes 8-12 weeks to be recycled and returned to the store shelf.<sup>2</sup>
- Recycled plastic is made into fibre to make **new bottles, buckets, pails, carpeting, and fleece jackets.**<sup>4</sup>
- **Paper** is hydro-pulped into new paper products such as newspapers, books, magazines, catalogues or office paper.<sup>4</sup>

#### Sources:

1. Township of Langley. <http://www.township.langley.bc.ca/>
2. GVRD Just the Facts: Glass <http://www.gvr.bc.ca/recycling-and-garbage/pdfs/facts-glass.pdf>
3. GVRD Just the Facts: Aluminum. <http://www.gvr.bc.ca/recycling-and-garbage/pdfs/facts-aluminum.pdf>
4. Encorp Pacific. Recycling Fee. <http://www.encorpinc.com/cfm/index.cfm?It=907&Id=7>

For more information:

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