

## **Smithers Curbside Recycling FAQs:**

### **What do I do with extra recycling?**

Although there is no drop off at this time, there is also no limit to the amount of recycling you can place at the curb, as long as it is from your residence. Extra recycling can be placed in a box of equal or lesser size than the blue cart and will be picked up along with the regular collection.

### **Is the Smithers Recycling Depot still going to be open for drop off?**

Yes! You can bring items there as before: paper products, milk jugs and tin cans.

### **Is the transfer station still open for public drop off?**

Yes! You can continue to bring yard trimmings, large appliances, paint and flammable liquids, scrap metal and extra garbage there.

### **What can be taken to the bottle depot?**

Items to go to the Bulkley Valley Return-It Centre:

- Electronics
- Small appliances (literally anything that plugs in)
- Beverage containers (to receive refund)
- Light fixtures

### **What items are NOT accepted in the curbside recycling?**

Any stewardship program items such as: electronics, small appliances, light bulbs and fixtures, beverage containers (deposit), paint cans, batteries, hazardous materials, any container with product left inside, oil and anti-freeze containers, Styrofoam, and soft plastics and film. Anything that is a product and NOT packaging.

For information on these items or other items not included in the curbside program contact the Community Recycling Educator or the BC Recycling Hotline: 1-800-667-4321.

### **Is [*specific item*] included in the curbside program?**

Please contact the Community Recycling Educator.

### **When will there be a public drop off of the curbside materials in town?**

At present the Town of Smithers only has a post collection facility that is not able to accept drop off of curbside materials or other MMBC materials from the public. The bottle depot is in the process of becoming a registered MMBC depot in the future. We ask for your patience during this time.

### **When is the garbage collection?**

On the opposite weeks of the recycling, on the regular collection day for your area.

### **Where do I put lids and caps?**

ALL lids and caps, metal and plastic, can go loosely in your blue bin. Remove lids from containers, jars and bottles and place loosely into the blue cart.

### **Do I have to flatten cans and containers?**

Flattening anything is not strictly necessary, it a suggestion in order to fit more into your bin.

**Do I have to bundle my cardboard and boxboard?**

No, again, this is simply a suggestion to fit more inside your cart. If you have a large amount, too large to fit inside your cart, either break it down to fit inside, bring it to the transfer station or Smithers Recycling depot, or you can bundle it nicely in a stack, tied with string or twine and place it beside your cart on collection day.

**Why isn't soft plastic and plastic film included in the cart program?**

When plastic film is collected with other material, it is difficult to separate, meaning that less of the plastic film, and less of the other material, is recycled. MMBC is all about decreasing contamination and increasing the amount of what is actually being recycled.

**Is shredded paper accepted?**

Shredded paper is accepted if it is tied firmly inside a clear plastic bag. This is so the sorters at the recycling facility can easily identify the bag's contents.

**How clean do containers need to be?**

Containers should be empty and rinsed. They do not need to be washed thoroughly, however, rinsing containers help reduce odors and pests while the containers are stored before collection day and while the containers are being managed at the recycling facility.

**Where is the recycling going, or going to be sorted?**

At this time, the recycling from Smithers is being baled and sent to a sorting facility in the Lower Mainland. These facilities sort out the recycling into different material classes (plastic codes, paper, newspaper, etc.). All the sorting is done within BC, and as much processing as possible is also done within BC. Of course, once plastic is processed it gets sold to the highest bidder, which means recycled plastic pellets may be shipped to manufacturers abroad.

MMBC guarantees that NONE of the materials collected under this program will be incinerated.

In 2015, we hope to have a registered MMBC depot here in Smithers where drop off can happen as well as a certain amount of sorting. We appreciate your patience during this time, and stay posted for information on this in the future.

**Who is paying for this collection, are my taxes going to increase?**

No! The funding for this program comes directly from industry, this is an industry paid for initiative. Your taxes are not going to increase. For more information on this aspect of MMBC please contact the Community Recycling Educator.

For all other inquiries, please refer to the Community Recycling Educator, **Alexie Stephens: 847-1600.**