



BC First Nations Recycling Initiative

BC First Nations Recycling Initiative 2023 IN REVIEW



ABOUT US

The First Nations Recycling Initiative (FNRI) supports recycling in First Nation communities throughout British Columbia. We collaborate directly with First Nation communities across BC to provide information about BC's recycling stewardship programs and support local community collection events and existing recycling programs. The participating stewardship programs work together on projects to remove and recycle small corded and cordless electrical household appliances, household electronics, large appliances, corded and cordless electrical outdoor power tools, and automotive and light duty truck tires, as well as gather information to inform and update on health products, small household batteries, paper and packaging and refundable beverage containers.

The following stewardship programs were partners in the First Nations Recycling Initiative throughout 2023: Call2Recycle, ElectroRecycle, Electronic Products Recycling Association, Health Products Stewardship Association, Major Appliance Recycling Roundtable, Outdoor Power Equipment Institute of Canada, Recycle BC, Return-It, and Tire Stewardship BC.

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS!



CONTACT INFORMATION

Please feel free to visit our website to learn more about the FNRI, read past annual reports, and access other resources: <https://recyclebc.ca/projects/first-nations-recycling-initiative/>

You can contact us by email at info@fnri.ca.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Field Services Specialist and Special Projects Manager for the FNRI actively engaged with communities in 2023 as increased interest in the program resulted in an increase in both the number of community cleanup events and the volume of materials collected. As well as a significant number of in-person community visits, outreach through active communication was maintained with community contacts via virtual meetings, emails, and phone calls. These actions assisted the removal of recyclable FNRI program materials during collection events in conjunction with communities and local governments. In addition, both the Field Service Specialist and the Special Projects Manager further invested in and maintained ongoing relationships with First Nation communities, participating stewardship programs, other Indigenous industry groups and local, regional, provincial, and federal governments.

Ahead of in-person visits, we establish community contacts and communicate with them to better facilitate the cleanup event process, not only with the community but also the local government. Typically, this includes the individuals involved with recycling work within the public works, operation and maintenance or housing departments of First Nation communities.

Community engagement often involves an in-person site visit to determine FNRI support and assess participation. In some cases, the community contacted the FNRI to participate in a scheduled site visit, while at other times FNRI was asked by the local government to participate.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ REGIONAL DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT

**FNRI engaged with the following
Regional Districts (8) this year:**

- 1** Regional District of Mount Waddington
- 2** Cowichan Valley Regional District
- 3** Comox Strathcona Waste Management (Comox Valley Regional District & Strathcona Regional District)
- 4** Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- 5** Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
- 6** Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
- 7** Capital Regional District
- 8** Squamish / Lillooet Regional District

COLLABORATION PARTNERS

In 2023, the FNRI continued to place priority on our continued collaboration with other existing groups which have common shared goals of supporting recycling programs within Indigenous communities. These groups include the Indigenous Zero Waste Technical Advisory Group (IZWTAG) and Indigenous Services Canada's (ISC) First Nations Waste Management Initiative. The FNRI is proud to be an associate member of IZWTAG. This important relationship led to the FNRI participating in IZWTAG Days at the end of April by leading breakout sessions and sharing program details at an information booth. In addition, the FNRI was invited to present as part of a panel at the CWMA conference in October. We also held our annual FNRI strategic planning session during the conference. Finally, collaboration meetings were held more frequently with IZWTAG along with coordinated visits to Bella Bella, Nisga First Nations, Seton Lake, and many others to assess and assist with FNRI materials removal.

RESOURCES

The FNRI Resource Guide is a popular information piece for First Nations contemplating a community cleanup event. The guide focuses on stewardship program information, including what items are accepted by each program and what to consider when collecting program material for responsible disposal. In addition, a comprehensive cleanup event package is available upon request to help with the details and requirements of running a First Nation community cleanup event.

Below you can continue to access the FNRI published revised versions of the [First Nations Recycling Initiative Resource Guide](#) and [BC First Nations Recycling Initiative Program Overview](#), which provide the most-up-to-date information about each participating stewardship program.



COMMUNITY CLEANUP EVENTS 2023

In 2023 there was an increase in both communities visited and communities that worked with the FNRI as part of their organized community cleanup events. Our largest and on going collaborative cleanup project is the removal of 4000 tires and hundreds of large appliances from the Nisga First Nation (Nass Valley). We piloted a "leave in community" approach and will be further developing the process in 2024. In addition we also worked with Return-It to identify First Nation communities interested in partnering to remove refundable items as well as held our first collection of Recycle BC material. Below is a list of communities that we worked with in 2023. We look forward to continuing to grow both our partnerships and collection events in the coming years.

- Wuikinuxv Village - Completed
- Tsoke – Completed
- Tarslip – Completed
- Lil-wat – Completed
- Heiltsuk Nation – Completed
- Kwakwilt – Completed
- Seton Lake – Completed
- Homolco – Completed
- Zeballos – Completed
- Ahoushat – Completed
- Malahat – Completed
- Penticton Indian Band – Completed
- Seabird Island – Completed
- Tla'amin – Completed
- Nisga Nations (Nass Valley) – On-Going
- Seabird Island – Completed
- Skowkale – Completed
- Toosey – Completed
- Malahat – Completed