

<http://www.coastreporter.net/article/20120427/SEHELTO101/304279971/-1/sechelt/glass-recycler-now-on-the-coast>



Glass recycler now on the Coast

GIBSONS RECYCLING



Ben Ingram Photo

Residents on the Coast can now have their glass recycled rather than thrown in the landfill thanks to a new initiative at Gibsons Recycling.

APRIL 27, 2012

BEN INGRAM/STAFF WRITER

Residents on the Coast can now have their glass recycled rather than thrown in the landfill, thanks to a new initiative in Gibsons.

"On the Sunshine Coast, it's all land-filled," Gibsons Recycling owner Buddy Boyd said of the glass material. "Most people don't realize that. It's like a hidden little secret."

Gibsons Recycling began processing glass this week. Recyclables are crushed and screened to remove impurities. The resulting product is a glass aggregate of various sizes and colours.

This makes Gibsons the only community to have access to both glass and Styrofoam recycling options, Boyd said.

The depot began generating an inventory of sorted glass in anticipation of the move roughly a year and a half ago.

Boyd is hoping a market for the product can be generated and he highlighted the economic incentive he hopes will come from doing business sustainably.

"What we're going to do is start stockpiling it. It's a pulverized product now. We've got it into different colours. We're going to start making local markets and we've got several inquiries from people who

are artisans, who work with glass," Boyd said. "It's now a resource. We will be one of the few communities in B.C. that won't be land-filling our glass, but instead recycling glass."

The equipment was purchased from a source in New York late last year and is the company's Earth Day project for 2012.

The materials must be cleaned before they are subjected to processing, which includes removing impurities like paper and plastic lids. This is accomplished in part by running the aggregate through water and allowing things like labels to float free of the material.

Boyd recommended that users of the facility bring in their glassware, so long as it is clean.

"Real recycling is about keeping everything source separated, keeping it clean," he said. "This attitude of lift lid and throw, that's not recycling."

Boyd and his staff tested the machine last weekend, and everything went well.

"This is so cool — we were amazed at how quiet the machine is," he said.

New glass recycling equipment in Gibsons



Every year Gibsons Recycling does something for Earth Day. This year, they launched their new glass-recycling program. They recently received the equipment ordered late last year from New York, and worked hard to have it all assembled and running in time to launch it for Earth Day.

The launch of the new equipment went better

than expected. Gibsons Recycling manager, Buddy Boyd commented, "Oh this is so cool. We were amazed at how quiet the machine is. The end product is from a sand-like consistency to about a 3/16th inch or minus size." He added, "We plan to run the material through a final screen to separate any little bits of paper. But all the caps and plastic and the labels have been separated."

The Sunshine Coast will be one of the few communities in BC that won't be land-filling glass but will instead recycle it. Said Boyd, "We have received a fair bit of interest from folks who would like to buy our glass, once it is turned into an aggregate."

Drop by the Gibsons Recycling centre to see the new equipment in operation and remember – don't trash it if you can recycle it!

Coast Glass Can Now Be Truly Recycled

Written by [Beverly Saunders](#)



BuildingGreen.com

So you thought when you brought your glass jars and bottles to the depots they were being recycled? Well, not really. The SCRCD crushes the glass and uses it as aggregate in roads and at the dump site. This is something that has disturbed many here on the coast for years. It also disturbed the people at Gibsons Recycling Depot. They have found a way to be part of the solution. A new glass recycling program was launched at the depot on Earth Day. Owners Barb Hetherington and Buddy Boyd have purchased a glass crusher machine, the Andela Pulverizer, that takes the glass, sorts the caps and paper from the containers and produces a product that is sized from a sand-like consistency to about a 3/16th inch minus. "We were amazed at how quiet the machine is," said Boyd. "We plan to run the material through a final screen to separate any little bits of paper. But all the caps and plastic and the labels have been separated."



New machine is ready to go!



Glass is sorted into colors first.

Boyd points out that every ton of glass that's recycled results in more than one ton of raw materials saved. That's 1,300 lbs. of sand, 410 lbs. of soda ash, 380 lbs. of limestone, and 150 lbs. of feldspar.

It bothered them that the "Sechelt Blue Box program continues to force Sechelt residents to put their glass into their trash bins or they take their glass to the Extra Foods Mall where it is put in a filthy pile at the Sechelt Landfill," said Boyd. "Both services cost taxpayers money to waste the glass. Yet there is no incentive, nothing in any tender or RFP that supports contractors who are not throwing glass into the dump but recycling it?"

Now residents have the option to bring their glass to Gibsons Recycling Depot where they know that their glass bottles will be turned into a product to be reused. "This is how Buddy and I bring glass recycling to the coast," says Hetherington. "We work long hours, we research, we do without pay cheques and we go into debt so we can bring this opportunity to the coast. We are committed to advancing Zero Waste opportunities for our community."

Hetherington says they are working with some coastal artists and businesses to find uses for their recycled glass. Which shouldn't be a problem once the word gets out. The first to use some of the recycled glass is Wayne Harjula of Mellon Glass Studio in Langdale.

Only a year ago in Sandpoint, Idaho resident Terra Cressey started Glassroots Recycling. She now gives residents an alternative to the dump. The glass is broken and then washed and tumbled into a beach glass-like aggregate. People are using it for landscaping, tiles, table and counter tops and as a substitute for sand. It turns out the larger companies such as landscaping firms want the product. And Cressey finds herself in an unusual business position. She doesn't have enough of the product to meet the demand. She is also moving to larger facilities after being in business only one year.

What can you imagine for this recycled glass? The opportunity is here thanks to Gibsons Recycling Depot.