

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



WASTE DIVERSION UPDATE

The Reduce, Relax and Chill Out Edition

WINTER 2026

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE - AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE

For more than a decade, the RDNO has partnered with Interior Recycling to provide North Okanagan residents with a comprehensive Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program. This service provides an accessible year-round option to dispose of HHW responsibly. HHW includes products that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive. Keeping these items out of landfills and the environment protects people, pets, wildlife, and the natural landscapes and water sources we depend on.

The most sustainable option for HHW is to reduce the amount we generate in the first place. Many hazardous products - other than paint – cannot be recycled and need to be managed responsibly to minimize environmental and health impacts. Specialized handling and incineration is required, which consumes significant public resources for collection, transportation, and processing. Residents can help reduce these impacts by buying only what they need and using the products fully for their intended purpose.

Interior Recycling has a long standing history in the region and provides much more than just the HHW program. What began as a bottle depot and freight service in the early 1980's, has continued to expand the range of services provided. Today it serves as a convenient drop-off location for many recyclable items including: batteries, lightbulbs, electronics, packaging and paper products, and more. Bringing refundable beverage containers to the depot along with your other recycling and HHW can put money back in your pocket.

Managing hazardous waste responsibly involves extensive measures to ensure safe handling and transport. Since the HHW program started in December 2015, Interior Recycling has developed and refined these processes.

The RDNO extends its appreciation to the Interior Recycling team for their hard work and commitment to keeping the North Okanagan safe and beautiful!

To learn more about the HHW program, visit rdno.ca/hhw

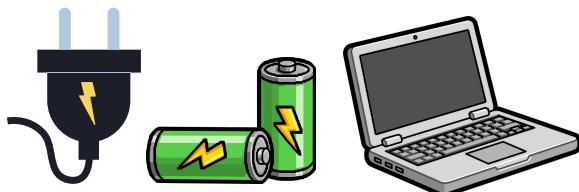


**REGIONAL DISTRICT
NORTH OKANAGAN**

ReTHINK E-WASTE

A new year often inspires new electronics, but it's a good time to **ReTHINK**. Producing new devices uses significant resources. While recycling electronics is important, it also requires substantial energy to collect, transport, and process materials—and all electronics eventually become **hazardous e-waste** that needs to be managed through its respective EPR program collected at a participating retailer or bottle depot.

If you're unsure about upgrading, consider holding off. Extending the life of your devices saves you money and helps avoid planned obsolescence. When electronics truly reach the end of their life, make sure to recycle them at a dedicated drop-off location. Find free options at rcbc.ca or rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere



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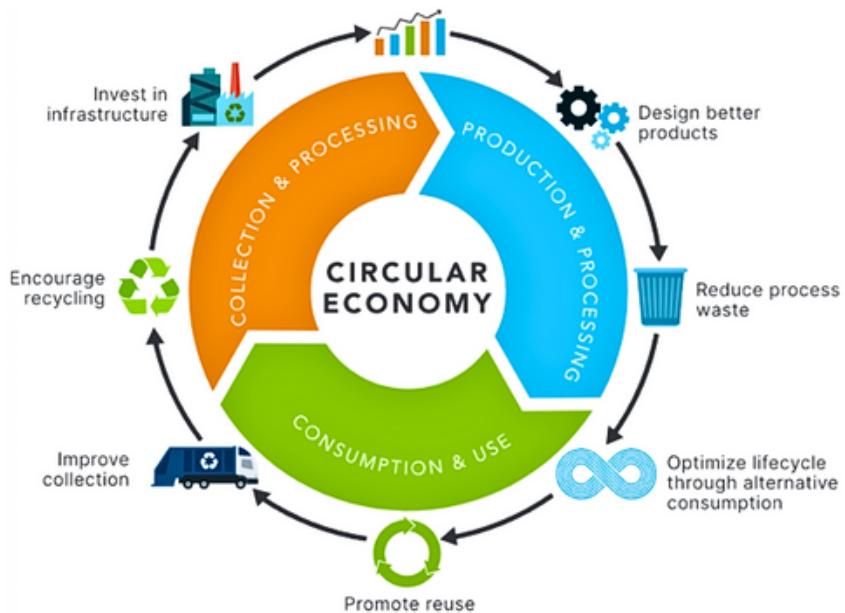
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SHOPPING TO SUPPORT A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A circular economy keeps resources in circulation for as long as possible, reducing waste and environmental impacts. A key component is **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**, a system that supports recycling, which can otherwise be a very expensive process. To encourage more recycling, EPR shifts the costs of recycling into the costs of products (such as through eco-fees), so the people who buy the products ultimately pay up front to have them recycled at the end of the product's useful life. EPR holds industry organizations responsible for running free and accessible recycling programs for a wide range of products including: batteries, electronics, lightbulbs, motor oil, paint, product packaging and more.



EPR enables retailers to participate in the circular economy through return-to-retailer programs, where customers can drop-off eligible products for free recycling—ideally at the same place the item was purchased. Participation varies, and not all retailers accept EPR materials. Bottle depots often accept a wide range of EPR products, providing another convenient option for residents.

Today, many everyday products are covered by EPR, and many recycling options exist right in the communities we shop.

To find participating retailers search **Recyclepedia** at rcbc.ca or at rdno.ca/whatgoeswhere. It's a helpful tool for choosing retailers that support a circular economy.