



# **RAVEN RECYCLING**

*Our Commitment is the Environment*

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## **WASTE REDUCTION WEEK**

This coming Monday is the start of the 2004 Waste Reduction Week. It will run until Sunday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.

Waste Reduction Week is about encouraging everyone to do more to reduce waste in their homes, at work, at school and in recreational activities.

Examples of waste reduction at home include participating in the City of Whitehorse's compost pickup program.

This program picks up compostable material every two weeks from residences that receive municipal garbage pickup.

Remember to place the compostable material in a Bio-Solo bag.

Waste reduction at work can include paper recycling.

Most offices in Whitehorse are part of the Raven Recycling PaperSave and Cardboard pickup program.

For a small fee, Raven picks up recyclable papers from participating businesses.

This removes a valuable commodity from the waste stream.

At school, waste reduction initiatives should include having a garbage free lunch.

Pack food items in reusable Tupperware-style containers instead of single-use cling-wrap plastic.

Instead of buying small drinks in single-use cans or Tetra-packs, consider purchasing drinks in large bulk containers or as frozen concentrate.

A lunch-size portion can be served in a reusable water bottle.

While there will still be some waste associated with the bulk or frozen concentrate container, it is a lot less than the single-use ready-to-drink containers.

The Raven Recycling Society is holding its Garbage Free Lunch contest to celebrate Waste Reduction Week.

The contest runs for two weeks, from this coming Monday to next Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>.



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This contest pits classrooms against each other over a two week period. The goal is to produce as little lunch time waste as possible.

Winning classes can win fabulous cash prizes.

Points are awarded based on the number of pupils who have lunches that don't create waste.

Tupperware containers should be used instead of single-use plastic cling-wrap. Reusable drink bottles are an alternative to single-use pop cans or drink boxes.

Now pop cans and drink boxes are recyclable.

Having recyclable leftover lunch items is better than having garbage leftover, so some points are awarded for recyclables.

However, more points are awarded for having a Zero Waste lunch.

Recyclables take energy and effort to remove from the waste stream.

While recycling is commendable, having a garbage free lunch is better.

For more information on the Garbage Free Lunch contest, contact the Raven Education Coordinator at 667-7269.

To encourage Whitehorse residents to get involved in Waste Reduction Week check out the Raven advertisement in today's Yukon News.

Part of it is a clip-out sheet that has to be signed and sent over to Raven.

If a person signs and makes a commitment to have a Waste Free Week, they could get a free cloth bag from Raven Recycling.

Another exciting giveaway is free Bio-Solo bags from City Hall.

These bags are what compostable material must be placed if they are to be picked up by the City as part of the fortnightly compost pickup program.

They'll be available from Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, or while supplies last.

Check out [www.wrwcanda.com](http://www.wrwcanda.com) for more information on Waste Reduction Week across Canada.

*Lewis Rifkind is an employee of the Raven Recycling Society.*