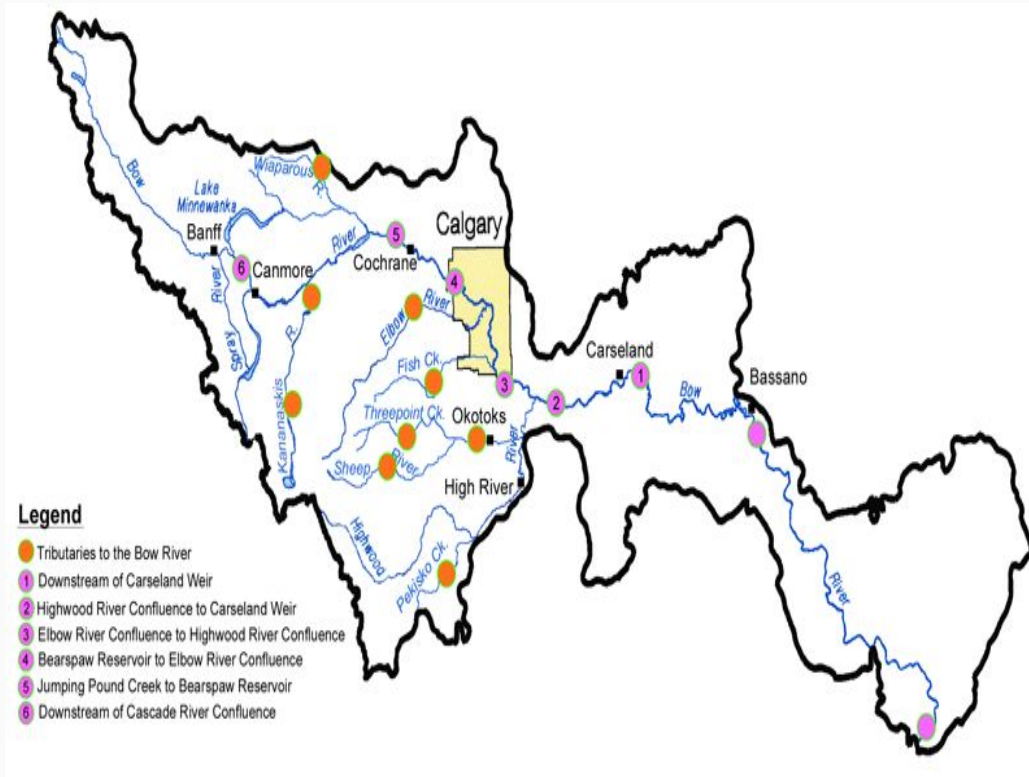


Helping our Watersheds: Recycling and Compost

By: Avalin and Sana (Centennial High School)

Introduction

Calgary's water is comparatively cleaner than the cities below it.



Calgary is one of the privileged cities in Canada that is above most of the cities. So, the water coming from the mountains is usually clean and healthy. Whereas, the water going from Calgary is contaminated. There is a desperate need to improve our watershed so that people below us could get clean water.

Summary of our solution

A large percentage of people want incentives in order to work for the betterment of the society. We came up with an idea of connecting the house hold people with farmers and organizations who would be willing to take peoples compost and recycled products by paying them with sufficient amount of money.



Problems



Recycling



https://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKewiGj_i_mPPgAhVjwFQKHUA7BqwQJR6BAgBEAU&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sciencenewsforstudents.org%2Farticle%2Ftiny-plastic-big-problem&psig=AOvVaw07h2FZa0FzsCHGypaaqfm&ust=1552156697642458

It's suggested that 89% of plastic is not recycled in Canada and ends up in landfills. Recycled products are not biodegradable and remain in those landfills forever and sometimes are washed out and end up in our lakes, rivers and oceans. Not only is this bad for our watershed, but animals can mistake the plastic as food and consume the harmful materials as well as getting caught in it and eventually leading to be the cause of them dying.

In some cases, recycling in the landfills get incinerated with the rest of the garbage and release toxic fumes into the atmosphere. Plastics that contain things like PVC, which is a organic-lor-based substance, release fumes like dioxions that can be extremely harmful and shouldn't be burned.

Composting



Not just in Calgary but in many parts of the world people are not aware of the importance of separating their household waste (compost, recycled products etc). About 63% of Alberta's compost and recyclable products end up in landfills through leakage from different areas. Which not only affects our food supply but farmers and often big organizations are forced to use different harmful fertilizers that drain into rivers thus affecting aquatic and human life. Compost which could have been used as fertilizers are useless now as it is impossible to separate the two products (recycled products from composts).

How can we stop this?



Composting and Recycling:

Like a bottle depot, we want to encourage people to recycle and compost by giving them a reward. We could have warehouses that take recycled goods and compost and sort it into its proper place. People would be rewarded \$1.00 per pound of compost and \$1.25 per pound of assorted recycling. Recycled goods would be brought to proper places where they would be turned into new things and the compost would be sold for \$2.25 per two pound bag (lower than typical fertilizers) to farmers to help prevent the use of harmful and toxic fertilizers.

Scope of our project:

This idea could be used by all the countries around the world, but we want to start it as minimal so that we increase over the years. In Calgary we would have a meeting point for all the farmers and the people who are bringing their waste, while the volunteers would distinguish and separate the required recycled and compost materials.

How will this benefit the society?

People can benefit from this by earning bits of money for bringing in their recycling and compost goods. Eventually, as this grows, these warehouses would be able to provide jobs for people.

Properly disposing of recycling keep plastics out of our landfills and our waters. It will also reduce the amount of plastic that is being burned and releasing toxic fumes in the air. Overall, everyone benefits in some way and so does the environment.

Budget

Cost of advertising our products info = \$500

Workers = volunteers = \$0-----> eventually to minimum wage \$15.00 per hour

Warehouse rent = \$500 monthly

Disposal of unwanted material= fuel = \$20 per day

Extra bags= \$50 per week

Other expenses(electricity, etc) = \$1000 per month

Conclusion

We believe that by keeping recycling out of our landfills/water and reducing the use of harmful fertilizers and pesticides, we will be able to keep our watershed clean, as well as the environment around us by encouraging people to separate their waste so that other organisations could benefit from the products.

Sites

- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/compost-inspections-calgary-1.4842518>
- <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/news/articles/canadas-battle-against-plastic-pollution-environmental-defence-canadian-environmental-policy-national-strategy/117183>
- http://www.wecf.eu/cms/download/2004-2005/homeburning_plastics.pdf
- https://www.google.com/search?safe=strict&rlz=1C1GCEB_enCA839CA839&ei=jr2JXNifHsHG-qSGv46ADQ&q=fuel+prices+per+liter+calgary&oq=fuel+prices+per+liter+calgary&gs_l=psy-ab.3...4871.10322..10418...2.0..0.90.1035.12.....0....1..qws-wiz.....0i71j35i304i39j0i13i30j0i13i5i30j0i8i13i30.KRGzo1d77q8