



NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHERN LAKES COLLEGE GOING GREEN

Several staff at Northern Lakes College have taken the initiative to 'go green' on campus. A compost site was developed with assistance from Paul Chaulk, Northern Lakes College Facilities Assistant Director, and Doug Bolan, Cafeteria Manager. The cafeteria staff have committed to placing their compostable waste into designated buckets. Tim Locke, Administrative Assistant, has volunteered for the task of taking this and adding it to a central compost pile.

Two other Northern Lakes College offices have taken the steps to composting, WorkForce Development and the Educational Development Centre. This is the first step towards encouraging all departments at the Slave Lake Campus to participate.

Currently being implemented is the collection of rain water for the plants inside the Slave Lake campus. The plans for installing rain barrels to collect rain water are being finalized. In the winter months, snow will be collected in buckets and left indoors to melt and then used for the plants so year round tap water will not have to be used for this purpose.

The Slave Lake campus is also being fitted with lighting ballasts that use 1/3 less power, 1/3 less the number of lamps and 1/3 less cost. Over 1200 lamps/bulbs have been retrofitted. In keeping with staying 'green' the old ballast are not simply being disposed of, they are being recycled in a very special manner. The bulbs contain mercury, sending them to a recycling plant is not an option. Special containers are being shipped from British Columbia that will crush the glass and separate the mercury. The mercury and glass is then shipped back to BC where the mercury will be disposed of properly. The glass then undergoes a second process to ensure that all trace mercury is completely removed. The glass can then be recycled.

This September approximately 300 desk side recycle bins will be made available to promote paper recycling and an expansion of the Recall secure shredding program will enable a further increase in paper recycling across the college. As a result all paper waste generated by the college will be diverted from landfill to be recycled.

Other ongoing 'green' initiatives at Northern Lakes College include garbage pickup days in the park areas, bike racks to encourage manual transportation, plastic bottle donations and encouraging staff to 'think twice before they print'.

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