

## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**

I have been working towards a low waste lifestyle for a few years now. It started with some trips to developing countries and concern about the plastic waste that I saw in the oceans. It made me sad and angry and I decided that I had to take some personal action.

As I move about our community, I hear a lot of concerns regarding waste. A lot of other people want to contribute to a cleaner planet. I thought I would do some research and share what I know.

I want to thank the Golden Star for publishing this information and thank you to the board of Wildsight Golden for their support in my position as the outreach coordinator.

Now that the introduction is out of the way, the first concern that I have been hearing from people is confusion regarding recycling in Golden. What can go in the curb side bins and what must be taken to the depot?

Keeping in mind that Recycling is deliberately down the list in the order of Reducing waste, it is the easiest way to start. It is also a good way to understand what you are producing for waste. It's a great way to start setting goals for change.

Within the Town of Golden, we have our blue recycling bins. The first rule of these bins is that they can only take clean waste. This means all items in the bin must be washed. If there are dirty cans or greasy plastic or contaminated cardboard (think pizza boxes), this can turn an entire load of recycling into garbage. Don't be that person!

This will give you the first clue of what can be recycled in your blue bins. The list is on the lid of your bin. At the curb, you can recycle most rigid types of plastic, paper, cardboard, cartons and paper cups, aluminium foil and containers and steel containers. Everything must be completely empty and washed. You cannot recycle things that are composed of more than one material, for example, hard covers of books or the cardboard foil tops of aluminium containers.

Other materials can be recycled at the depot, but I'll save that until next time.

If you need more information about your curbside recycling, check out <http://www.golden.ca/Residents/Curbside-Waste-and-Recycling-Service.aspx> and <https://recyclebc.ca/>. Recycle BC has excellent printable sheets and there are also instructions on the top of your Blue Bin.