

September 27, 2007



Dear Cedar Resident,

WELCOME TO THE RESIDENTIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

Congratulations on being chosen to participate in the region's Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project.

Food waste and other compostable organic materials comprise almost 50 percent of household garbage. As part of the Regional District of Nanaimo's (RDN) Zero Waste commitment to move beyond recycling, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create a more sustainable region, we would like to stop these materials from ending up in the landfill. Materials such as table scraps, bones and food-soiled paper products, while unsuitable for backyard composters, can provide the region's only licensed composting facility with valuable feedstock for making compost and plant fertilizer.

Since 2005, restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses have participated in a commercial food waste collection program and are currently diverting almost 500 tonnes of food waste per month to International Composting Corporation (ICC), a licensed composting plant at Duke Point. You can help build on this success by participating in the residential food waste collection pilot project. The pilot project will give us valuable information on how to design a successful program in the future, customized to fit our region's needs.

The pilot project will run for 12 months and includes 2,000 households on three collection routes in Cedar, Nanaimo, and Qualicum Beach. It is coordinated by the RDN, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, the Town of Qualicum Beach, Waste Services Inc. and ICC and is being co-funded by the RDN, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund.

Collection containers for your food waste will be delivered to your home along with information on how to participate in the program between October 9th and October 20th.

Please note the following concerning your garbage and recycling collection:

1. Food waste will be collected every week, starting Thursday November 1, 2007.
2. Recycling collection will remain on a bi-weekly schedule.
3. Garbage, which was collected weekly, will now be primarily dry waste and will be collected every two weeks. One standard-size garbage container will be collected.
4. You will receive a new Garbage and Recycling Schedule that shows your new collection days.

Your input is an important part of evaluating the pilot project. On-line surveys and focus group sessions will be conducted throughout the process. Look for more details in the information kit which will be delivered, along with compost collection bins, after the Thanksgiving holiday.

We also encourage you to attend the drop-in information session for pilot project participants that will be held:

Date: October 23, 2007
Times: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Cedar Heritage Centre, 1644 MacMillan Rd., Cedar

Thank you for participating in the pilot project. Your cooperation will help us determine how much household organic material we can divert from the landfill and how to develop an effective region-wide program.

If you are a home owner and do not currently reside at the household on collection Route 52 in Cedar, we would appreciate it if you would forward this letter to the current residents or tenants. Thank you.

Sincerely



Joe Stanhope,
Chairperson, Regional District of Nanaimo