



Beyond Recycling

September 27, 2007

Dear 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, the City and the RDN have been working to find a way to divert residential kitchen waste from the landfill. Materials such as table scraps, bones and food-soiled paper products, while unsuitable for backyard composters, can provide a composting facility with feedstock for making value added commodities, such as 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. Your participation in this project will help build on this success. The pilot project will give us valuable information regarding how to design and implement a successful regional and City-wide program in the future.

City Council has approved participation in a 12 month field test. A total of 2,000 households will be participating with over 700 being from Nanaimo. One collection route has been chosen in each of the following communities: Cedar, Nanaimo, and Qualicum Beach. The field test will be coordinated by the RDN, in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, the Town of Qualicum Beach, Waste Services Inc. and ICC. The RDN and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities Green Municipal Fund will provide the funds necessary to conduct the field test.

NEW 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.

We encourage you to attend the following drop-in information session established for pilot project participants.

Date: October 18th, 2007
Times: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Location: Hope Lutheran Church, 2174 Departure Bay Road

Please note the following concerning your garbage and recycling collection:

1. Your **food and kitchen waste** (the wet, smelly waste) will be collected every week, starting Friday, October 26th, 2007.
2. Your **recycling** collection will remain on the same bi-weekly schedule (Blue square).
3. **Garbage**, which was collected weekly, will now be primarily dry waste and will be collected every second week with one standard-size garbage container being collected (Red square) each scheduled collection.
4. **Attached to this letter is a sticker** which can be placed over the legend at the bottom of your 2007 orange coloured garbage and recycling schedule. It provides a more graphic representation of your schedule and service changes.
5. You can also **download a revised schedule** for your collection route from the garbage and recycling area on the City's website at www.nanaimo.ca
6. 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.

Thank you for participating in the pilot project. Your cooperation will help reduce waste now and in the future and also help us determine how to develop an effective RDN and City-wide program.

Sincerely,



Gary Franssen,
Manager of Sanitation and Recycling

City of Nanaimo
Public Works Department
2020 Labieux Road, Nanaimo BC V9T 6J9
Tel: (250) 758-5222
E-mail: gary.franssen@nanaimo.ca