

2008-Oct-08

Attention: Resident on the Kitchen Waste Collection Pilot Program

Re: City of Nanaimo E-3 Refuse and Recycling Route - Pilot Update

On behalf of the City I would like to formally thank you and your household for your participation in the Kitchen Waste Collection Pilot Program. It has been a great success. Based on the mid term survey the program is strongly supported by participating households. This survey and the questions and concerns you brought to our attention have provided participating municipalities and the Regional District of Nanaimo with valuable information.

WHERE WE ARE

As you are likely aware, the pilot program you have been participating in is over at the end of October. You should have recently received the final Zero Waste Newsletter with the end of pilot program participant survey contained within it. Please take the time to fill out the survey as the feedback and information we receive through it does have value to us. The newsletter also provides some updates on the program and other information that may be helpful to you. As you may have noticed, with this program and the curbside recycling service, households are diverting almost a full 70% of their waste away from our landfill. Awesome result, as everything diverted from the landfill helps us keep your costs down and preserves landfill space for the future. On the City's E-3 route 49.6 % of what was garbage went to a local composting facility where it was made into a value added product instead of being disposed of as garbage. Green house gas emissions are dramatically reduced by composting this waste instead of placing it in a landfill. We also found out that with some changes in the equipment we use to service clients, a kitchen waste service can be provided efficiently and cost effectively. There are still things that need to be put in place to allow expansion of the service to all residents in the City or the Region but it could be done.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER OCTOBER?

Kitchen waste service will continue in your area on the same schedule as you have been following - at least until the early 2009 when City Council will receive a report evaluating the pilot program. At that time City Council will consider either expanding the program city wide or cutting the program. If City Council decides to expand the program city wide, your kitchen waste service will continue to be provided on an ongoing basis. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 250-758-5222 or by email at gary.franssen@nanaimo.ca.

Gary Franssen
Manager of Sanitation and Recycling
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