



B e y o n d R e c y c l i n g

RDN CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

A partnership of the
 Regional District of Nanaimo
 City of Nanaimo
 Town of Qualicum Beach
 Waste Services Inc.
 International Composting Corporation
Fall 2008

PARTICIPANTS MAKE PILOT PROJECT A BIG SUCCESS

The 12-month evaluation phase of the curbside food waste collection pilot project will end in October. The cooperation, support and input provided by participating households in Cedar, Nanaimo and Qualicum Beach has helped demonstrate the benefits and feasibility of introducing a region-wide program.

You have shown that curbside collection of food waste and other compostable organics can work on urban, rural and suburban routes. Your success in recycling food waste and other compostable materials through your green bin has well exceeded initial diversion targets.

Next steps

Volumes collected during the pilot project, along with performance of collection equipment and your input on containers, liner bags and collection schedules are being analyzed and summarized. Final reports will be presented to the regional board and respective municipal councils.

Regional District of Nanaimo staff have recommended

including curbside food waste collection in the new garbage and recycling contract, with a proposed start in 2010 for all RDN households. The municipal partners will be considering similar recommendations and are expected to follow suit. Targeting 2010 allows time to prepare the infrastructure required to collect, transfer and process food waste from an additional 40,000 households. Expanding the program will put us well on our way to achieving our Zero Waste Plan goal of diverting 75% of our garbage away from landfill.

It is anticipated that the regional board and municipal councils will support continued collection of food waste on the three pilot project routes.

Municipal or RDN staff will confirm this and provide updated collection schedules.

Food waste collected exceeds expectations

In just nine months you surpassed the 160 tonnes forecast for the

entire 12-month pilot project. By the end of July, more than 178 tonnes of food waste and compostable material were collected from 1,985 participating households for composting. When food waste tonnages are added to other curbside recyclables, pilot project participants are diverting on average 64% of their waste from the landfill, twice the level of households not on the program.



Residential food waste is unloaded on the tipping floor at International Composting Corporation.

Organic waste from the pilot project is made into compost and used by local landscapers and golf courses.

Breakdown by routes - Oct 07 - Jul 08		Kilograms per household per week (kg/hh/wk)		
Route	Garbage	Recycling	Food Waste	Diversion from Landfill (%)
Chartwell	2.9 kg/hh/wk	2.7 kg/hh/wk	2.4 kg/hh/wk	64%
Nanaimo	2.8 kg/hh/wk	3.2 kg/hh/wk	2.7 kg/hh/wk	68%
Cedar	3.5 kg/hh/wk	2.4 kg/hh/wk	2.0 kg/hh/wk	55%



Please complete the project's fall survey! Enter the draw to WIN a 6 month supply of compostable bags. Enclosed is a brief survey with questions and issues not covered in the last questionnaire, such as the use and preference of compostable liner bags. Households completing the survey will be eligible to win a six month supply of Eco Safe 6400 compostable liner bags. Ten winning names will be drawn from each collection route.

ALTERNATIVES TO BUYING AND USING COMPOSTABLE LINER BAGS



Deposit food waste directly into your kitchen catcher and green bin

Placing your food waste directly into your kitchen catcher or green bin avoids the expense of buying compostable bags. Here are some tips to help prevent odours, fruit flies and leakage problems:

1. Use an empty paper milk carton to collect your food waste. When the carton is full, close the top and drop in your green bin for collection.
2. Use a paper bag, newspaper or paper towel to line the bottom of your kitchen catcher and green bin to soak up any liquids. Remember, soiled paper can be included in your green bin.
3. To control odours and fruit flies, sprinkle baking soda, garden lime or vinegar in your kitchen catcher and green bin and rinse them regularly using vinegar, hot water or biodegradable detergent.

Use a large size compostable bag to line your green bin

Line your green bin with a large size compostable bag. Transfer food waste from your unlined kitchen catcher to your green bin as required. This means you will use only one compostable liner bag per food waste collection. Tips #2 and #3 above provide helpful suggestions on minimizing odours, leakage and fruit flies.

Only certified compostable bags are acceptable!

- Compostable bags with the certified "compostable" logo are designed for use in a



composting facility. These bags leave no toxic or distinguishable residues in the finished compost. Biodegradable and other retail carry-out plastic bags break down into small pieces but do not compost and will contaminate finished compost.

If I move, what should I do with my green bin and kitchen catcher?

If you move, please clean out your green bin and kitchen catcher and leave them along with the schedule and program information for the next owner or tenant so they can participate.

Where can I buy compostable bags

Compostable bags are sold at various retailers throughout the region. Prices can vary dramatically and several new brands have been introduced. Here is our latest list of retailers and brands available; if you know of any other stores stocking compostable bags or brands, please let us know.

Retailer	Brands sold	Retailer	Brands sold
49th Parallel Grocery	Eco-Safe 6400 Glad, BioBag	Fairway Market, Nanaimo	Eco-Safe 6400
The Green Store, Port Place Mall	Eco-Safe 6400	Thrifty Foods	BioBag, Eco-Safe 6400
Wal-Mart	Al-Pak Great Value	Save On Foods	Glad
Quality Foods	Glad, BioBag	Shoppers Drug Mart, Country Club	Biolife
Naked Naturals Whole Foods, Parksville	Eco-Safe 6400	Zellers	Glad Biosak
Home Depot	Biosak	Canadian Tire	Glad
London Drugs	Glad	Home Hardware	Biosak
Dollarama, Nanaimo	Tuff Guy		

Who do I contact about missed pick-ups?

Depending on your route, food waste is collected by Waste Services Inc., the City of Nanaimo Public Works or the Town of Qualicum Beach Public Works. Please use the phone number for your area:

- Cedar (Electoral Area A) 1-866-999-8227
- City of Nanaimo (250) 758-5222
- Town of Qualicum Beach (Chartwell) (250) 752-6921

RESIDENTIAL FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PARTICIPANTS' SURVEY – FALL 2008

The RDN and its partners in the Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project are asking participating households to complete the following survey. Your participation and input will help the participating municipalities and the regional district better prepare for a potential region-wide program.

Options for completing and sending the survey:

1. Click on the survey link at www.rdnfoodwaste.ca. Completing the survey on-line is easy and will speed up compiling results.
2. By hand – Check the appropriate boxes and print your comments. When completed you can:
 - Mail the survey to: RDN Environmental Services, 6300 Hammond Bay Rd., Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2
 - Drop the survey at: **Town of Qualicum Beach Municipal Office** (Town Hall); **Ravensong Aquatic Centre; Oceanside Place Arena; RDN Administration Office** (6300 Hammond Bay Road); **City of Nanaimo Public Works** (2020 Labieux Road); **North Cedar Improvement District Office** (2100 Yellow Point Road)

Deadline: Completed surveys must be received by October 28, 2008.

1. I live in: Chartwell City of Nanaimo (Route E-3) Cedar (Route 52)

2. Which of the following best describes your household?

One person is mainly responsible for ensuring garbage, recycling and food waste is sorted correctly and put out on the right day.

It's a family affair and we all try to do our bit.

3. Has your green bin been rejected by the collection staff? Yes No

4. If your green bin has been rejected, how often has it happened?

Only once A couple of times Several times

5. If your green bin was rejected, did collection staff contact you to explain the reason?

Yes No

6. Was the explanation for rejecting your green bin helpful?

Yes No Somewhat

7. Was a tag left on the bin explaining why it was not collected? Yes No

8. Was the tag left on your green bin helpful in explaining why it was rejected?

Yes No Somewhat

9. Have you experienced any of the following?

Unacceptable odours with the green bin Yes No

Unacceptable odours with the kitchen collector Yes No

An unacceptable increase in flies or other pests around the containers Yes No

An increase in animals disturbing your waste containers Yes No

Difficulty meeting the 1-can-every-2-weeks garbage limit Yes No

The need to buy more garbage tags than you previously used Yes No

An increase in the amount of curbside recycling you put out Yes No

Any other issues or difficulties associated with the food waste collection program?

Survey continued over . . .



Beyond
Recycling

10. Are you using compostable bag liners?

For your kitchen container (small beige bucket)? Yes No

For your green bin? (large size compostable bags) Yes No

11. If you are using compostable liner bags, we'd like to know more about them.

Compostable Bag	Most Widely Stocked	Perform Best	Lowest Priced
Al Pack (Wal-Mart brand)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bag-To-Nature	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bio Bag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bio Life (Shoppers Drug Mart brand)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bio Sak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Compost-A-Bag	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
EcoSafe 6400	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glad Compostable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great Value (Wal-Mart brand)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please name)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. Do you think food waste collection should be made available to everyone in the region?

Yes No

General comments about food waste collection: _____

Enter to win a six month supply of Eco Safe 6400 compostable bags. Ten names will be drawn from each collection route.

Please enter my name in the draw:

Name: _____ **Phone or email address:** _____

Thank you for participating in this survey !



MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the Food Waste Collection Pilot Project or the survey, please contact:

RDN Solid Waste Department

Ph. 250-390-6560 (Nanaimo area) or
250-954-3792 (Parksville-Qualicum area)

Email: foodwastepilot@rdn.bc.ca

Website: www.rdnfoodwaste.ca

For information regarding collection on your particular route, please use the phone number for your area:

- Cedar (Electoral Area A) 1-866-999-8227
- City of Nanaimo (250) 758-5222
- Town of Qualicum Beach (250) 752-6921 (Chartwell)