

zero|waste

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

Summer 2009

PILOT PARTICIPANTS LEADING THE WAY TO A GREENER FUTURE FOR THE REGION

Thanks to everyone on the Cedar, Nanaimo and Qualicum Beach pilot project routes for making the Green Bin program part of your household's routine.

You have done a great job of getting food waste and other compostable organics out of your garbage and to the curbside. You've demonstrated that once all households are on the program we can take a big step towards reaching the 2010 goal

of diverting 75% of our region's waste from the landfill.

Launch of region-wide food waste collection

Communities across Canada are turning to curbside food waste collection to save valuable landfill space and protect the environment. Municipalities both large and small throughout Ontario have established curbside food waste collection programs. Closer to home, Whistler began accepting residential food waste in November 2008. The Town of Ladysmith has had mandatory curbside food waste collection for over three years now. Since 2006, businesses, health care facilities and schools in the RDN have

been participating in the region's commercial food waste diversion program.

The Regional Board and Town of Qualicum Beach Council have supported expanding food waste collection to households in their jurisdiction in 2010. The City of Nanaimo Council will shortly consider adding food waste to its residential collection program.

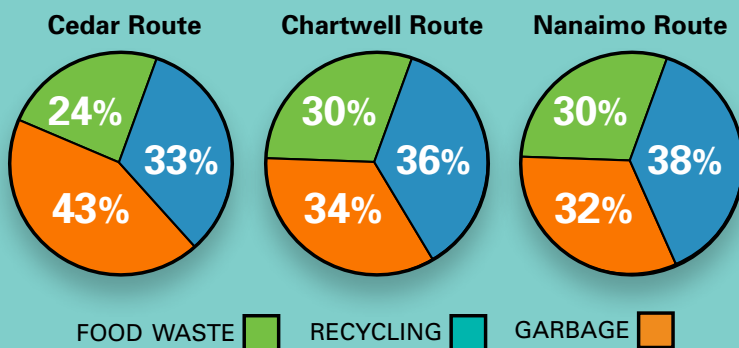


Food waste pilot participants, Town of Qualicum Beach Deputy Clerk Heather Svensen, and her son Devin take their Green Bin and Blue Box to the curb.

How are we doing?

In the 18 months since starting food waste collection in October 2007, more than 345,000 kgs of contaminant-free food waste and other compostable organics have been collected.

You've kept the equivalent of 40 garbage truckloads of food waste out of the landfill, extending its life, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a useful compost product. Cedar route residents diverted 57% of their household waste by separating their food waste and other recyclables, the Chartwell route diverted 66%, and the City of Nanaimo route diverted 68%. The charts below show the breakdown.



FEEDING AND CARING FOR YOUR KITCHEN CATCHER AND GREEN BIN



Pilot project participants have discovered putting spoiled food and leftovers in their Green Bin can take a big bite out of their household garbage. Average food collection weights have dropped slightly over the past six months but you are still doing a great job!

Remember, food soiled paper products such as pizza boxes, paper meat wrappings, paper towels and used paper plates and cups can also go in your Green Bin. Anything containing plastic or metal should either go in your garbage or in your curbside recyclables if accepted in the program.

Visit www.rdnfoodwaste.ca for a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable compostable materials or call the RDN Solid Waste Department to have the list mailed to you.



Warm weather tips to prevent odours and pests

There are several ways to help prevent odours and pests in your Kitchen Catcher and Green Bin.

- Empty your Kitchen Catcher often and don't leave food waste exposed.
- Keep container lids tightly closed.

- Store your green bin in a secure cool ventilated area and take it to the curb on the morning of your collection day even if not full.
- Line your kitchen catcher and green bin with paper. This also keeps liner bags from breaking down by absorbing moisture.
- Freeze meat and fish waste until collection day.
- Frequently rinse or wash your containers with vinegar or biodegradable detergent.
- Prevent odours by sprinkling baking soda, garden lime or vinegar in your containers.

To line or not to line

Whether or not you line your Kitchen Catcher or Green Bin is up to you. If you buy liner bags ensure the box or bag has the certified "Compostable" logo. Approved liner bags



are sold at most major grocery stores, hardware stores

and other retailers throughout the region. Home Depot is now offering its Husky Eco Guard brand at a competitive price.

A list of retailers is available at www.rdnfoodwaste.ca or by calling RDN Solid Waste Services.

If you don't use a liner bag, try wrapping food waste in newspaper, paper food bags or using a paper milk carton (plastic spout removed) to collect food scraps. This along with frequent rinsing will help keep your containers clean and reduce odours.

From your Green Bin to your garden

Using the compost produced from the curbside collection

program is a proven way to add nutrients and water retaining organic matter to your lawn and garden.

First Choice Landscape Supply in Parksville is now selling bulk screened compost made at the composting facility, as well as selling a compost/soil mix.

Call 250-248-3850 for pickup or delivery options.

Bulk compost from the program is also available at International Composting Corporation's Duke Point facility.

Call 250-722-4614.



Beyond Recycling

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