

zero|waste

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

Pilot project shapes future region-wide program

TURNING COMPOSTABLE FOOD AND KITCHEN WASTE INTO A RESOURCE

Congratulations on being chosen to participate in the Regional District of Nanaimo curbside food waste collection pilot project.

The project is a partnership of the RDN, the City of Nanaimo, the Town of Qualicum Beach, Waste Services Inc. and the International Composting Corporation. It includes 2,000 households on three routes in Cedar (Route 52), Nanaimo (Route E-3), and Qualicum Beach (Chartwell). Your participation will help determine how much household organic material we can divert from the Regional Landfill, the costs and the best way to design a program for the entire region.



Getting started...

Today you received a green bin and kitchen container, a supply of compostable bags, and decals listing acceptable and unacceptable materials.

1. Attach the small decal to the lid of your kitchen container and the large decal to the lid of your wheeled green bin.
2. Review any changes to your collection schedule. See page 3 for food waste collection start-up dates.
3. Please read this guide to start participating in the project.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING FOOD AND KITCHEN WASTE

Food waste and other compostable organics comprise up to 50% of household garbage. As part of the RDN's Zero Waste commitment to eliminating garbage, reducing greenhouse gases, and creating a more sustainable region, compostable organics are being diverted from the landfill to the region's only licensed composting facility. Since 2005, restaurants, grocery stores and other businesses have participated in this initiative. The next step is conducting a residential pilot project.

The benefits of your participation in the pilot project include:

- Turning waste into a resource by providing valuable feedstock for the region's only licensed composting facility;
- Extending the life of the region's only landfill and reducing greenhouse gases and leachate caused by decomposing organic landfill waste;

- Determining the feasibility of using a single truck with two compartments to collect garbage and food waste;
- Reducing waste you take to the curb by up to half and enabling a garbage collection service of one standard-size container collected once every two weeks;
- Helping staff to design an effective and efficient residential program.

ATTEND A DROP-IN INFO SESSION

Pilot project participants are invited to attend a drop-in information session in their area. The sessions will provide displays and have staff available to answer your questions.

Times:

**2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Dates and Locations:

Oct. 16 - Chartwell Route
Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
747 Jones St., Qualicum Beach

Oct. 18 - Nanaimo – Route E-3
Hope Lutheran Church
2174 Departure Bay Rd.,
Nanaimo

Oct. 23 - Cedar – Route 52
Cedar Heritage Centre
1644 MacMillan Rd., Cedar

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is accepted in the food waste pilot project?

Food waste and other household compostable materials are accepted in the pilot project. This includes any food items such as meat, fish, bones, dairy products, baked goods and food-soiled paper products. Yard and garden waste, and anything containing contaminants such as plastic, metal or foil are not accepted. See the back page of this guide for a list of acceptable and unacceptable materials.

Should I continue using my backyard compost bin?

Continue to compost materials such as yard and garden waste and fruit and vegetable peelings in your backyard composter. Home composting is the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to recycle these materials and produces a beneficial soil amendment for your yard and garden.

How do I prepare food waste for collection?

- You can line your kitchen container with one of the supplied compostable bags. **Any bags used must be compostable.**
- Collect food waste in your kitchen container.
- If a bag is used, loosely knot or tie it when full. **Do not use twist ties.**
- Transfer the materials to your green bin.

Must I use a liner bag?

No. You may choose not to use a liner in your kitchen container. However, if you do choose to use a bag it must be compostable. Compostable bags are designed to break down during the composting process. They help prevent odours, fruit flies and leakage and help keep your kitchen container and green bin clean. **Do not use plastic or 'biodegradable bags'.**

Where can I get additional bags?

After using the initial supply included in your starter kit, you can buy additional compostable bags at Thrifty Foods, 49th Parallel Grocery, Save On Foods, Wal-Mart and many other supermarkets and retailers. Acceptable brands include BioBag, EcoFilm, Compost-A-Bag, Eco-Safe-6400,

EnviroSmart, Great Value (Wal-Mart brand), and Al-Pak Compost Bags. Look for the "Compostable" logo to ensure the bags you buy are approved for use in a composting system.



What if I have too much material?

Food and kitchen waste collected is limited to the green bin during the pilot project. Save your excess materials until the next collection day. By composting suitable materials in your home composter, you can reduce the amount taken to the curb.

What if I don't have a full green bin?

There is no need to fill up your green bin. Put it out weekly even if it is not full.

Can I get additional containers?

No. Each participating household is supplied with one green bin and one kitchen container for the pilot project. **No additional containers will be distributed.**

What if my green bin is stolen, lost or broken?

Please contact RDN Environmental Services at 250-390-6560 (Nanaimo area) or 250-954-3792 (Parksville-Qualicum area) to report stolen, lost or broken green bins.

What happens to food waste collected?

Food and kitchen waste collected is taken to International Composting Corporation's (ICC) facility at Duke Point in Nanaimo for processing into compost or fertilizer. Gardeners, landscapers and farmers use the product to improve soil and aid plant growth. The finished "R-Earth" brand products can be purchased at ICC

(981 Maughan Road, Nanaimo), Thrifty Foods and soon at other retail locations.

How is the pilot project funded?

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Green Municipal Fund has contributed up to half the cost of the residential food waste collection pilot



project. The RDN has provided matching funds.

When will the pilot project end?

The pilot project will last 12 months to provide reliable data and account for seasonal variations. Staff, the Regional Board, and Municipal Councils will

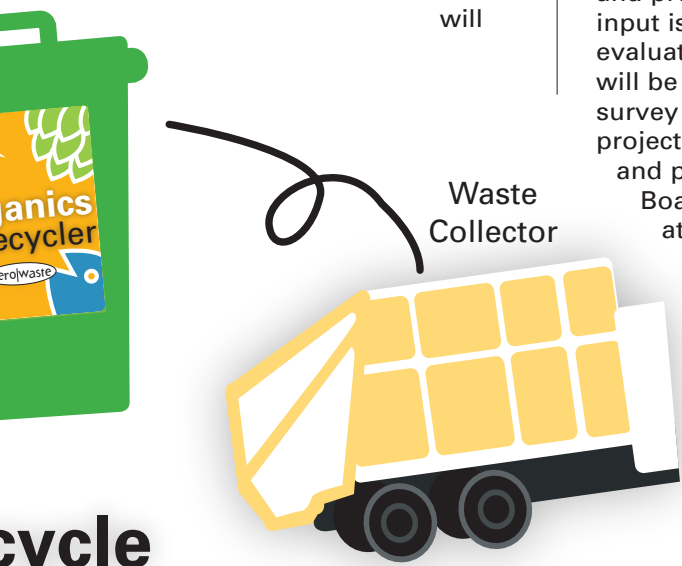
review the results and determine the next steps.

How will the pilot project be evaluated?

Issues to be assessed include cost effectiveness, reliability, volumes diverted, ease of implementation, participation and program acceptance. Your input is an important part of the evaluation process. Participants will be invited to complete a survey mid-way through the pilot project. Reports will be prepared and presented to the Regional Board and Municipal Councils at the mid point and end of the pilot project.

HELPFUL HINTS ON FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

- Wrap wet food waste in old newspaper.
- Store meat and fish waste in a paper bag in your freezer until collection day – especially during warm weather.
- Empty your kitchen container frequently and rinse it with mild detergent.
- Store your green bin in a cool, ventilated area secure from animals. Close the bin's lid tightly after use.
- Continue to use your home composter.



Waste Collector

Recycle Recyclable Waste



Processed at International Composting Corporation (ICC)

COLLECTION & SCHEDULING

When do I start?

The start dates for curbside collection of food and kitchen waste are:

- Chartwell – Tuesday, October 23
- Nanaimo (Route E-3) – Friday, October 26
- Cedar (Route 52) – Thursday, November 1

How will the pilot affect garbage and recycling collection?

- **Please note: garbage, which was collected weekly, will now be primarily dry waste and will be collected every two weeks.**
- **Only one standard-size container of garbage will be collected, per scheduled collection.**
- **If you have extra containers of garbage, you may as usual buy \$2 garbage tags and attach one to each additional standard-size container.**
- Food waste will be collected weekly with either your garbage or recyclables as per the collection schedule. Chartwell residents please refer to your revised collection notice.
- Please have your green bin at the curbside by 8 a.m. on your collection day.

Who do I contact about missed pick-ups?

Depending on your route, food waste is collected at the curbside by Waste Services Inc., City of Nanaimo Public Works or 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 |

Food Waste Pilot Website and Email Updates

- To access the food waste collection pilot project Website, go to www.rdnfoodwaste.ca and when prompted enter **compost** as the password.
- To receive email updates on the pilot project, please forward your email address to foodwastepilot@rdn.bc.ca

Thank you for participating!

Acceptable Compostable Materials

- Food leftovers, plate scrapings
- Meat, fish, giblets and bones
- Fruit and vegetable scraps
- Dairy products, butter, mayonnaise
- Egg shells
- Bread, cereal, grains
- Pasta, pizza
- Baked goods, candies
- Soiled paper towels and tissues
- Soiled paper food packaging
- Used paper cups and plates
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea bags
- Ice cream cartons, milk & cream cartons
- Baking ingredients, herbs, spices
- Houseplants, cut and dried flowers
- Nuts and shells



Not Acceptable

- Plastic bags & wrap, Styrofoam
- Plastic containers and cutlery
- Yard and garden waste
- Foil wrap, pouches and pie plates
- Metal cans or glass jars
- Cereal and cracker box liners
- Chip and cookie bags
- Pet food bags and other lined bags
- Make-up remover pads, cotton swabs and balls
- Butter wrappers (foil)
- Dental floss, rubber bands
- Soiled diapers, baby wipes
- Dryer sheets and lint
- Cigarettes and butts
- Vacuum contents and bags
- Pet feces or litter

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project please contact:

RDN Environmental Services, Solid Waste Department

6300 Hammond Bay Road

Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2

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

Email: foodwastepilot@rdn.bc.ca

www.rdnfoodwaste.ca



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Residential Food Waste Collection Pilot Project Partners

