



CITY CURBSIDE KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM TO START IN 2010

Nanaimo has come a long way since its curbside recycling program and community recycling depot started in 1987. Today Nanaimo households recycle 32% of their waste, and are among the leaders in BC.

Building on that success, Nanaimo City Council and the Regional District of Nanaimo have approved taking a bold new step to get kitchen organics out of the residential waste stream. Launching curbside kitchen waste collection service in 2010 is part of a plan to divert up to 75% of our waste from the Regional Landfill.

With a program similar to Ladysmith's and a limited number of other municipalities across Canada, Nanaimo residents will soon be separating household materials into three streams: household organics, blue & yellow bag recyclables, and garbage.

Household organics found in kitchen waste include food scraps, soiled paper products, and meat and fish unsuitable for backyard composting. Kitchen waste will be collected weekly. With organics removed, garbage is the dry stuff left over. You will have far less smelly garbage, so it will be collected every two weeks!



What are the benefits?

Kitchen waste is the largest part of household waste. During a one-year pilot project participants reduced their garbage by 50% by putting their kitchen waste in supplied containers for curbside collection. With recycling included, participants diverted up to 70% of total household waste.

A survey of pilot project participants showed broad support for the program,

with 99% of Nanaimo respondents saying the food waste collection should be made available City-wide.

Added diversion from kitchen waste collection will extend the life of the region's only landfill and reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Kitchen waste collected will be taken to a local composting facility, where it will be turned into a value-added commodity.

What are the costs?

A one-time fee of up to \$28-\$30 will be charged per residence to fund start-up costs and kitchen waste bins supplied by the City. Grants are being applied for to hopefully reduce these costs. This program will be introduced without increasing the number of City workers or trucks used to provide the existing garbage collection service.

When will kitchen waste collection start?

Curbside kitchen waste collection will be phased in sometime in 2010 when new split-packer collection vehicles are delivered. Prior to the launch, you will receive a wheeled green-bin, a handy kitchen container and detailed instructions.

FIRST CITY USER FEE INCREASE IN EIGHT YEARS

Higher curbside recycling contract costs and landfill disposal fees resulted in Garbage & Recycling user fees rising by 5% in 2009, the first increase since 2001.

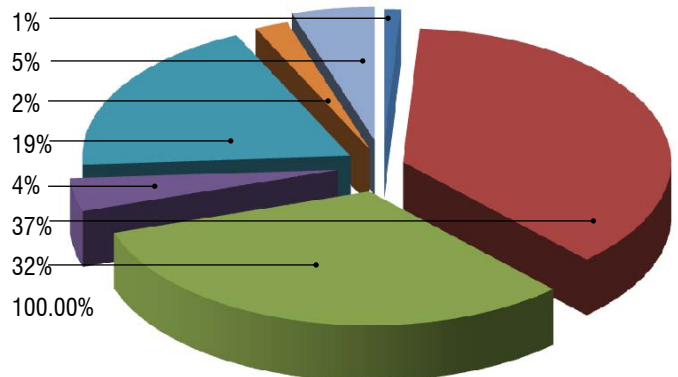
The user fee covers all garbage and recycling program costs and services provided by the City. It is presently \$105.25 per year per residence. In its 2010 provisional budget, the City projects an increase in the Garbage and Recycling user fee of 5 to 7% will be necessary.

The cost of the City's curbside recycling service has risen substantially because of rising fuel prices and a drop in the value of recyclables, such as newspaper and metal, on international markets. Landfill tipping fees rose by 5% in 2009 and are forecasted to increase in 2010. This would have a similar impact on garbage collection costs as landfill disposal fees account for 32% of the total cost of services.

Fuel prices and the cost of replacing some City garbage trucks that are 10 years old have and will also affect the overall cost of programs and services provided and the associated user fee.

2009 Garbage & Recycling Services Budget Breakdown

- Annual Calendar Delivery
- Administration & Discounts
- Education & Promotion
- Curbside Recycling
- Nanaimo Recycling Exchange
- Residential Garbage Collection
- Landfill Fees



INSIDE

- Waste Diversion Explained
- Differences in Plastic Bags
- Green Power at Regional Landfill

WASTE DIVERSION: HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS AND WHY IT MATTERS

Waste diversion redirects what would otherwise be garbage from the landfill.

Diversion is important not only because it conserves landfill space but also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and saves energy and resources.

Reduction, reuse, recycling and composting are among the most common diversion methods.

- Reducing comes first because it avoids materials such as non-recyclable packaging and avoids creating waste in the first place.
- Reusable items, such as cloth shopping bags, avoid waste by providing an alternative to disposable plastic bags.
- Recycling creates new products from waste materials such as paper, metal and plastic.
- Composting converts biodegradable materials such as yard and kitchen waste into a soil amendment. These organics comprise up to 50% of household waste.



Your Garbage & Recycling Program's Diversion

Each month an average Nanaimo household produces about 26 kg of garbage and recycles 12 kg of paper, plastic, and metal cans by participating in curbside recycling.

The waste diversion rate (waste not taken to the landfill) is calculated by dividing the combined average weight of monthly garbage and recycling by the average recycling total. Nanaimo's diversion rate is 32%.

Looking ahead...

A recent trend has been a .5 kg average drop per household in monthly garbage, with a corresponding drop in recyclables collected. Nanaimo's diversion rate has been flat over the past four years but next year's expansion into kitchen waste collection will change that significantly.

"Our goal is to increase diversion where it makes sense by providing long term viable programs," says Gary Franssen, Manager of Sanitation and Recycling. "Curbside food and kitchen waste collection should increase a household's total diversion by 70% or more.

The results ultimately depend on the efforts of our clients. We provide the opportunities through services and programs and encourage them to respond and participate but they are the ones who make the difference. It's because of their effort that up until recently we were able to hold the line on user rate increases for the previous eight years."

MAXIMIZE YOUR CURBSIDE AND OTHER LOCAL RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES

Surprising as it sounds as much as 25% of the waste Nanaimo households send to the landfill could be recycled or composted in their backyard.

In 2004, the Regional District of Nanaimo conducted a Solid Waste Composition Study. Garbage from City of Nanaimo routes was sorted into its primary components indicating:

- 6% was metal food cans, recyclable paper and plastic containers;
- 4% was clean, reusable textiles;
- 15% was compostable through backyard composting; and
- 3% was wood waste.

Take Advantage of Product Stewardship Recycling Programs

Product Stewardship is a way of making producers and consumers responsible for the life-cycle of products. These programs have to provide recycling or drop-off locations for the producer's products. Existing programs include:



The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange (NRE) is a designated drop-off for computer equipment, televisions, paints, solvents and flammables. It also accepts drywall, yard waste, and household batteries. For more information call the NRE at 250-758-7777 or the BC Recycling Hotline at 1-800-667-4321.

Be A Good Sort

Ask yourself if paper, plastic, or metal can be recycled at the curbside before you trash it.

Coming Soon: City-Wide Curbside Kitchen Waste Collection

Spoiled food and leftovers will not be the only materials that can go in your Kitchen Waste Bin. Remember you will also be able to feed your Kitchen Waste Bin food soiled paper products including:

- Pizza boxes and paper takeout food and drink containers
- Paper ice cream, milk and cream cartons
- Paper plates and cups
- Soiled paper meat and fish wrapping
- Paper towels and tissues
- Wax coated cardboard, paper and containers

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 more complete list of acceptable and unacceptable compostable materials.

PLASTIC BAGS: BIODEGRADABLE, COMPOSTABLE, RECYCLABLE?



There's no doubt about it, plastic grocery bags are in the news these days. Concern over wasted resources, litter, and wildlife impacts have some retailers switching to biodegradable plastic bags or discontinuing plastic checkout bags altogether.

The introduction of biodegradable plastic and their mixing with non-biodegradable bags makes them unsuitable for conventional recycling. This may result in

the City having to discontinue collecting plastic grocery bags from its curbside recycling program.

Reusable Bags—Reusable shopping bags are a sustainable choice because they save resources and reduce litter. Typically they are made from nylon, canvas, hemp, polyester or woven polypropylene. If used to carry heavy goods, choose a strong but not too large bag and check for washing instructions.

Biodegradable Plastic Bags—Unlike regular plastic, biodegradable bags will breakdown when exposed to oxygen and sunlight. They do, however, leave plastic particles and petroleum residues that make them unacceptable for use in a composting facility.

Compostable Bags—Compostable bags can be made from non-fossil fuel materials such as corn starch and vegetable oil.

Liner bags that are certified as compostable for use in a composting facility must meet specified standards such as how quickly they breakdown, the maximum material leftover after a specified time and that the material has no harmful effect on the final compost or composting facility.

Liner Bags for Food Waste Collection

The choice of using a liner bag will be up to you. If you buy liner bags you will have to ensure the bag used has the certified "Compostable" logo. Approved bags are sold at most major grocery and hardware stores and other retailers throughout the region.



If you choose not to use a liner bag, you could 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 keep containers clean.

PARTNERS IN A CLEANER COMMUNITY MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For the past seven years, organizations involved in Nanaimo's Partners in a Cleaner Community Program have helped make our city a cleaner and more attractive place to live.

Sixteen service groups participated in the 2009 spring and fall clean-up along community streets. More than 600 volunteers collected over 550 bags of broken glass, tires and other debris.

Each group designated a minimum of six volunteers to collect litter along an assigned route. The City of Nanaimo provided garbage bags, gloves, safety signs, vests and collection and disposal of all debris collected.

The City contributes \$50.00 per kilometre to each non-profit group. The community groups raised a total of \$10,000 for their organizations.

If your community service or sports group is interested in participating in the 2010 Partners in a Cleaner Program, call City of Nanaimo Public Works at 250-758-5222.

Thank you to these dedicated groups for a job well done!



Members of the 3rd Nanaimo Pathfinders pick up litter along Hammond Bay Road as part of the 7th Annual Partners in a Cleaner Community Program.



- Church of the Nazarene • Christ Community Church • Clay Tree Society • Edgewood Foundation
- 1st Wellington Brownies • 3rd Nanaimo Pathfinders
- Chase River Pathfinders • Island Crisis Care • Morrell Sanctuary Society
- Nanaimo Area Land Trust-Tuesday Hikers • Nanaimo Association for Community Living
- Nanaimo South Pony Club • Nanaimo Lions Club • Royal Canadian Air Cadets
- 1st Neck Point Venturers • Young Life

A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE - Project Turns Landfill Gas into Green Energy

The landfill gas utilization facility at the Regional Landfill serves as a model for small to medium size landfills in BC



The Regional District of Nanaimo has been a leader in landfill gas (LFG) collection since 2004. Today a demonstration facility is turning the methane produced by decomposing garbage at the Regional Landfill into green electricity.

Cedar Road LFG Inc., a Nanaimo bioenergy company, owns and operates

the LFG-to-energy facility at the Regional Landfill. Landfill gas is created when oxygen mixes with decomposing garbage. This gas is composed of roughly equal quantities of carbon dioxide and methane. Methane is a natural gas that can serve as an energy source but it is also a potent greenhouse gas. The facility at the Regional Landfill has engines that produce electricity by burning the methane collected from a network of wells and pipes.

The \$3 million facility is fed by a LFG collection network constructed in 2004 with funding from the Canadian Federation of Municipalities Green Municipal Fund. The facility began operations in March 2009 with the electricity providing sufficient power to supply the needs of 1,000 homes.

A study of GHG emissions in the RDN showed in 2002, landfill gas represented

11% of the region's total emissions. Implementation of a Design & Operations Plan for the Regional Landfill will eventually increase the capture of LFG from 50 to 70%.

In July 2009, the RDN began collaborating with the BC Bioenergy Network and Cedar Road LFG to help other local governments establish sustainable LFG-to-energy projects. The Regional Landfill's facility will serve as a demonstration centre for small to medium-size landfills in BC.

"This agreement is an important opportunity for the region," said RDN Chairperson Joe Stanhope. "It allows us to meet our objectives regarding energy, climate change, and solid waste by helping to establish a sustainable Bioenergy industry in BC."

GARBAGE COLLECTION - HELP MAKE A DANGEROUS JOB SAFER

Most people take prompt pick up of their household waste for granted and give limited thought to the dangers faced by collection personnel. On-the-job risks include injuries from sharp objects and needles, hazardous wastes, and traffic accidents.

According to a U.S. study of workers' compensation claims, garbage collection is now a riskier occupation than being an airplane pilot or taxi driver. Injury rates for garbage collectors in the U.S. are 5-7 times higher than the average worker. Many injuries are back related or result from impatient drivers who unsafely pass collection vehicles.

Garbage collection and recycling personnel attend regular training sessions to minimize the risk of injuries. It's important for the public to realize that it's a person, not a machine, who has to lift materials put out at the curb.



Collection staff can suffer serious injury if broken glass or other sharp objects aren't tagged and separated from regular garbage.

Here are some ways you can help:

- Safely dispose of hazardous materials such as flammable liquids, aerosol cans and needles. The Nanaimo Recycling Exchange is a convenient drop-off for flammable liquids and pesticides.
- Do not put hypodermic needles in your garbage and separate, wrap and clearly identify broken glass, ceramics or other sharp objects.
- Ensure your garbage container does not weigh more than 22 kg or 50 lbs. If you use wheeled or oversize containers, the contents must be bagged in standard-size garbage bags. (See back of your Collection Schedule)
- Slow down and use caution when passing collection vehicles; their visibility is limited.
- Ensure your garbage is properly secured and placed at the curb by 8 a.m. on your collection day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Nanaimo Recycling Exchange 250-758-7777

Regional Landfill, Cedar Road 250-722-2044

BC Recycling Hotline 1-800-667-4321

Garbage Collection 250-758-5222 www.nanaimo.ca

Curbside Recycling 250-758-5360

The Waste Line 250-758-5222



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