



## for the proposed **Composting Requirements for Multi-Family Properties**

### **When will the compostable collection requirements come into effect?**

Timelines are not determined at this time. Attend one of the public consultation sessions to provide input on proposed program requirements and timelines. Sessions for multi-family properties are as follows:

- **Tuesday, February 13, 2018**, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
- **Tuesday, February 27, 2018**, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
- **Wednesday, February 28, 2018**, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

The Matsqui Centennial Auditorium is located adjacent to City Hall at 32315 South Fraser Way.

### **Why is it important to sort compostable waste separately from garbage?**

When taken to a landfill, compostable waste is buried under layers of other material without access to oxygen. As a result, the compostable waste cannot decompose and greenhouse gases are generated. Diverting this material from landfills conserves valuable landfill space and reduces greenhouse gas production. Composting converts this material into a nutrient resource for agriculture, gardening and landscaping.

### **Why is compostable collection being required at multi-family properties?**

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is the regional government that provides the City and other local municipalities with regional solid waste management direction and policy. The FVRD's Solid Waste Management Plan was approved by the Province in 2015 and includes regional targets for diverting 80% of materials sent to landfills by 2020. The FVRD is proposing an initiative to implement sorting requirements for recyclables and compostable material across the region. The City is developing compostable collection requirements to align with the proposed FVRD initiative.

### **Do other communities have similar compostable waste program requirements for multi-family properties?**

Yes. Most other major municipalities in the Lower Mainland already have sorting requirements in place. Metro Vancouver banned compostable waste in garbage in 2015, and the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is proposing a ban in the near future. The proposed requirements will align the City with the FVRD's initiative to incorporate sorting requirements across the region.

### **Will the City collect compostable waste from multi-family property?**

No. Multi-family properties will be required to make their own arrangement with a private waste service provider for the collection and disposal of all waste streams, including compostable waste.

#### **ENGINEERING & REGIONAL UTILITIES**

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[abbotsford.ca/collection](http://abbotsford.ca/collection)





### **Who will set up our compostable collection program?**

Your strata council, landlord, property manager, or property management company will be responsible for setting up compostable waste collection services once it is required.

### **What is a kitchen catcher?**

A kitchen catcher is a counter-top (or under-sink) container with a lid that you use in your kitchen that can be carried to and from the communal compostable waste bin.

### **Where can I get a kitchen catcher?**

Check with your strata council, landlord, property manager, or property management company to see if one will be provided. If not, most local grocery stores and hardware stores sell them or you can make your own using a variety of items such as a lidded coffee tin, a large yogurt container, or an ice cream bucket. Using a container with a lid will help to manage odours.

### **Where can I purchase paper liner bags for my kitchen catcher?**

Kitchen catcher paper liner bags are available for purchase at most local grocery stores and hardware stores.

### **How long does it take to fill a kitchen catcher with food waste?**

The time to fill the kitchen compost pail is dependent on the types of food consumed. Foods such as corn on the cob or watermelon produce larger amounts of compostable material and will quickly fill the container. On average, for a family of four, the kitchen catcher is typically filled every one to two days.

### **Can I just use my food grinder or garburator (and similar technologies)?**

The use of food grinders or garburators is not currently regulated and results in sending food waste to the sewer system, putting extra pressure on the City's wastewater treatment plant. Large amounts of drinking water are used to move food through pipes to the treatment plant, and the treatment process uses significant resources. By composting food waste instead, this material is turned into a valuable resource for landscaping and gardening, and there are fewer impacts on our water and wastewater infrastructure.

### **Won't a compostable waste bin attract rats? And smell in the summer?**

Placing food waste in your compostable waste container is similar to placing it in the garbage – you are still generating the same amount of waste but would just be separating the material into two containers instead of one. Pests and odour can be kept to a minimum with regular emptying and cleaning of containers. Your landlord, property manager or property management company can discuss options with your waste service provider such as switching in clean bins after collection, using an approved bin liner (if available), having bins cleaned at time of collection, or increasing collection frequency during hot weather.



## **I haven't heard from my property management company. What should I bring to their attention?**

Talk to your property management company about the proposed compostable waste collection requirements. They may already be thinking about planning this collection for your property. If not, suggest they visit the City's website ([www.abbotsford.ca/collection](http://www.abbotsford.ca/collection)) for information on the proposed requirements. For more information, they can also call the City at 604-864-5514 or email [compostablecollection@abbotsford.ca](mailto:compostablecollection@abbotsford.ca).

## **Where can I find more information?**

### **City of Abbotsford**

[www.abbotsford.ca/collection](http://www.abbotsford.ca/collection)  
604-864-5514

### **Fraser Valley Regional District**

[www.fvrd.ca](http://www.fvrd.ca)  
[www.bewastewise.com](http://www.bewastewise.com)