

# GUIDE TO **Compostable Collection for the Food Services & Processing Sector**

2015 Public Consultation  
A Starting Point for Discussions

June 2015



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# Introduction



The City is undertaking consultation in 2014 and 2015 with the food service and processing businesses to develop a compostable collection program.

This guide is developed with the purpose of providing assistance to businesses within the food service and processing sector for implementing a compostable collection program. Further information, a sample of signage, and a copy of the City Solid Waste Collection Bylaw are available on the City website at [www.abbotsford.ca](http://www.abbotsford.ca).

In addition, City staff are available to visit businesses within the food service and processing sector, and provide assistance and recommendations as needed. To speak with a City staff member, please call 604-864-5514.



# Overview

## The Landfill



It is estimated that 10,000 tonnes of food waste is sent to landfills annually from food service and processing businesses located within the City of Abbotsford. These businesses include restaurants, grocery stores and food processors. Food waste decomposition in a landfill generates methane gas, a significant contributor to greenhouse gases. In addition, landfills may also generate a harmful leachate that impacts ground water and surface water.

Diversion of compostables from landfilling will reduce the greenhouse gas impact from the food waste and will create a valuable resource.



# Overview

## Benefits



### A Simple Action With Big Impacts

By minimizing waste disposal at your business, you will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, minimize leachate (which can contaminate our surface and groundwater), conserve energy, and preserve the world's natural resources.

By implementing a compostable collection program, we can remove almost 50% of materials from the solid waste stream. This action will significantly extend the life of a landfill, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions from the City's wastes by an estimated 5,000 tonnes annually!

Compostable tipping fees are also less than garbage tipping fees. A successful compostable collection program can result in lower waste disposal costs.



# Compostable Collection Required Compostables



The following materials are acceptable for compostable collection and can be placed together in a centralized compostable waste container.



**Accepted Compostable Material**  
(Yard and Food Waste)



 <p>Yard &amp; garden waste</p>	 <p>Pasta, rice, flour</p>
 <p>Fruit &amp; vegetable scraps</p>	 <p>Household plants &amp; cut flowers</p>
 <p>Bread, cereals &amp; grains</p>	 <p>Meat, fish &amp; bones</p>
 <p>Dairy products, cheese &amp; yogourt</p>	 <p>Eggs &amp; eggshells</p>
 <p>Sauces, mayonnaise, salad dressing, syrup, peanut butter, jams &amp; jellies</p>	 <p>Fats, oils, lard &amp; gravy</p>
 <p>Coffee grounds, coffee filters &amp; teabags</p>	 <p>Nuts &amp; shells</p>
 <p>Soiled paper towels &amp; tissues</p>	 <p>Food-soiled paper packaging &amp; take-out containers</p>

# Compostable Collection Lining Your Container



Some waste contractors do not allow containers to be lined with compostable plastic. If this is the case with your contractor, there are a few other options to maintain bin cleanliness.

Paper bin liners are available for most small and medium sized compostable collection containers. If you do not wish to purchase liners, newspaper could also be folded or crinkled up at the bottom of the container.

If you have a yard maintenance contractor, they may be able to use the leaves, grass, branches, or cedar needles collected to line the compostable waste container. This will make emptying the container easier.

Additionally, there are bin cleaning companies available for large, centralized bins or your contractor may be able to make an agreement with you where dirty bins are swapped out with clean ones on a regular basis.



# Compostable Collection Odour and Pest Control



Some businesses may also have a concern with odour and/or pest control. Here are a few tips to alleviate both of these concerns:

1. Keep all compostable waste in a lidded container at all times.
2. Sprinkle baking soda in all compostable collection containers.
3. If odour concerns persist, consider using a carbon filter.
4. Empty container frequently.





# Compostable Collection Providing a Bin



For ease of use, compostable collection bins are best placed near existing garbage cans or recycling containers. For more efficient placement, you may prefer to leave all compostable collection bins in or near a kitchen, staff room or any other area where food is normally prepared or consumed. These bins can then be emptied into central containers by staff or custodians or moved to the central pick-up area. Ensure compostable containers are emptied regularly to avoid the smell from the build up of compostable waste.

## **Central Containers**

When locating both indoor and outdoor bins, it is important to consider the ease with which they can be accessed and collected. The storage area should not block or impede any fire exits, public right-of-ways, or pedestrian and vehicular access. Central bins also need to consider the BC building code.

The access route to garbage, recycling and compostable collection bins must be designed so that the collection vehicle is able to enter the site, collect the garbage, recyclables and compostables and exit without the need to back up onto a public road. Two acceptable options include a turn around area, allowing for a three point turn, or a drive through access route.

A typical truck is approximately 11 m long, 3 m wide and 4.5 m tall. Collection trucks generally require a turning radius of 18 m. However, consult with your service provider before designing access routes.

The size of collection trucks and the manner in which they collect materials differs. Some lift and empty carts at the side of the truck, while others lift and empty at the front or back of the truck. Each of these must be considered in bin placement. Contact a service provider to discuss the placement of your bins. Remember, a full container of compostables can become very heavy. This is important to consider if you plan to manually move the bins before they are collected.

# Compostable Collection Providing a Bin



Retailers that provide collection bins include:

- office supply stores
- hardware stores

Bins may also be available for purchase or rent from:

- waste management retail companies
- waste collection contractors

## Personal Bins



## Indoor Central Bins (180L, 240L, 360L)



## Outdoor Central



# Compostable Collection Providing a Bin



Depending on the volume of compostables anticipated at your property, centralized collection container options include:

Container*	Volume	Height	Width	Length
<b>360 L Cart</b>	0.36 m <sup>3</sup>	118cm (46")	71cm (28")	79cm (31")
<b>2 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	1.5 m <sup>3</sup>	1.0m (3'3")	0.9m (3')	1.83m (6')
<b>3 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	2.3 m <sup>3</sup>	1.22m (4')	1.1m (3.6')	1.83m (6')
<b>4 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	3.1 m <sup>3</sup>	1.22m (4')	1.4m (4.6')	1.83m (6')
<b>5 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	3.8 m <sup>3</sup>	1.52m (5')	1.4m (4.6')	1.83m (6')
<b>6 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	4.6 m <sup>3</sup>	1.52m (5')	1.7m (5.6')	1.83m (6')
<b>8 Cu. Yd. Bin</b>	6.1 m <sup>3</sup>	2.13m (7')	1.7m (5.6')	1.83m (6')

\*Remember that all bins and containers also require clearance for opening lids (1.02m for bins and 0.8m for carts)



# Compostable Collection Design Suggestions



## 1. Container Location

- ✓ Have a level and hard-surfaced floor for centralized bins.
- ✓ Provide centralized bins for kitchen areas.
- ✓ Provide personal bins for individual office spaces.
- ✓ Locate all containers so that they can be individually accessed.
- ✓ Ensure containers are secure to minimize pest and wildlife access and outside dumping.

## 2. Container Collection

- ✓ Ensure ease of access to central compostable collection containers by compost collection contractor or service provider.
- ✓ Locate compostable collection containers adjacent to garbage and recycling containers for convenience.

## 3. Container Messaging

- ✓ Provide clear signage and adequate lighting.
- ✓ Educate staff on new compostable collection program.

# Compostable Collection Signage



All garbage, recycling and compostable collection containers must have clear signage to ensure that appropriate materials go into the appropriate container. Ideal signage includes a wide range of pictures, not just text. The signs should be large enough to be easily read, and placed in a prominent location, such as the front of the bin, for maximum clarity. This will reduce the contamination of the collected compostables.

Some signage options are available for download from the City of Abbotsford Engineering webpage at [www.abbotsford.ca](http://www.abbotsford.ca). or they can be mailed to you from the City of Abbotsford Engineering Department upon request.

It is also important that adequate lighting is provided. This increases the ease with which the signs can be read and the containers can be accessed.



# Compostable Collection Service Providers



The City does not provide garbage, recyclable or compostable collection services to businesses. Collection is a private arrangement between the business property owner or occupier and a waste collection contractor. Some waste contractors currently operating in the City of Abbotsford include:

Name	Address	Phone Number
<b>Emterra</b>	44255 Yale Road, Chilliwack	604-795-7795
<b>First Class</b>	933 Coutts Way, Abbotsford	604-504-2818
<b>Maple Leaf Disposal</b>	20380 Langley Bypass, Langley	604-533-4993
<b>Northwest Waste</b>	19500 56th Ave, Surrey	604-539-1900
<b>Progressive (BFI)</b>	34321 Industrial Way, Abbotsford	604-864-9177
<b>Remple Disposal</b>	35321 Delair Road, Abbotsford	604-866-9020
<b>Sierra Waste</b>	621-7231 - 120th Street, Delta	604-270-4722
<b>Smithrite</b>	70 Golden Drive, Coquitlam	604-529-4030
<b>Super Save Disposal</b>	19395 Langley Bypass, Surrey	604-533-4423
<b>Urban Impact</b>	15360 Knox Way, Richmond	855-214-2613
<b>Valley Recycling</b>	#2 31255 Wheel Ave, Abbotsford	604-504-7758
<b>Waste Management</b>	2330 United Blvd, Coquitlam	604-520-7800

Additional contractors may be available in the yellow pages, or by searching the Internet.

## Some questions to ask waste contractors:

- Are you able to provide collection for compostables?
- What bin sizes and frequency of collection do you offer?
- Can I reduce my garbage collection frequency and costs?
- How will this additional service change my costs?
- Where are the compostables being delivered to?
- Is the compost facility authorized?

Be sure to get several quotes, and carefully monitor your collection container to see if collection frequency and costs can be reduced.

# Compostable Collection Cost



Garbage tipping fees have increased significantly in the last few years, and are projected to continue to rise in the future. Therefore, reduced garbage could result in cost savings, especially if you can sufficiently reduce garbage collection frequency and bin size. Be sure to check your central garbage bin regularly, and if it is never full talk to your contractor about decreasing your collection frequency.

If you chose to drop it off personally, there is a fee for food waste drop off at the Net Zero Waste Abbotsford Composting Facility.





# Compostable Collection Grocery Store



In a grocery store, large compostable waste carts or bins should be located in the stock area for significant volumes of food waste. Smaller bins should also be located in any food preparation area, such as a bakery or deli. Smaller compostable waste containers should also be offered in the staff lunch area. These can be emptied into large bins in the centralized collection area.





# Compostable Collection Restaurant



In a restaurant space, compostable waste containers should be located in the food preparation area alongside all garbage containers. Compostable waste containers should also be located by the dishwasher so plate scraps can be received. Smaller compostable waste containers should also be offered in the staff lunch area.

For a smaller restaurant, the wheeled compostable carts may be collected directly by the waste contractor, and for larger restaurants they may be emptied into a large compostable waste bin.



# Compostable Collection Fast Food Restaurant



In a restaurant space, compostable waste containers should be located in the food preparation area alongside all garbage containers. Smaller compostable waste containers should also be offered in the staff lunch area.

Compostable waste containers could also be located beside garbage cans where customers empty table trays, although this is not required. These should be clearly labeled to avoid contamination.

Another option is to have a receiving area for customer trays for staff to sort into compostable products and garbage. This will minimize contamination of the compostable stream in the customer area.

For a smaller restaurant, the wheeled compostable carts may be collected directly by the waste contractor, and for larger restaurants they may be emptied into a large compostable waste bin.



# Compostable Collection Food Processing Plant



In a food processing plant, compostable waste containers should be located in all areas where food wastes are generated and alongside all garbage containers. Smaller compostable waste containers should also be offered in the staff lunch area.

The food processing plant should have sufficient carts or bins for compostable collection. A larger processing plant would need two or more centralized collection bins, where each bin is three cubic yards or larger. These bins should be located in an easily accessible location.



# Compostable Collection Hotel with Food Services



In a hotel with food services, it is recommended that each room have a compostable waste container alongside the garbage can and recycling bin. Many guests will be from out of town, and it is important that the compostable waste container is clearly labeled. The compostable waste container can be emptied into central compostable waste containers.

The hotel should have sufficient carts or bins for compostable collection. A larger hotel would need two or more compostable waste bins, where each bin is three cubic yards or larger. These bins could be located in an underground parking lot, or outdoors near the kitchen in an easily accessible location.

The kitchen area should be equipped with compostable waste containers alongside garbage cans. The cafeteria and any other area where food is consumed should also be provided a clearly labeled compostable waste container.











**For more information contact**

Abbotsford Engineering  
32315 South Fraser Way,  
Abbotsford BC  
604-864-5514

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