



## for the **Composting Requirements for the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sectors**

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

The new sorting requirements will come into effect **April 1, 2020**. The new Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) sorting requirements approved by the regional Board apply across the region, and across all sectors with the exception of agricultural and other special waste exempt in the FVRD Solid Waste Management Plan. The City's Solid Waste Collection Bylaw will be updated in the coming months to align with the requirements adopted by the FVRD.

### **Why is compostable collection being required at ICI properties?**

In October 2015, the City began requiring the food services and processing sectors to collect compostable waste separately from regular garbage. The new sorting requirements will include the remaining businesses and institutions that were not previously included in those requirements. The sorting requirement is a regional initiative with everyone sharing the responsibility to sort waste separately. There is no "opt out" option.

### **Do other communities have similar compostable waste program requirements for businesses and institutions?**

Yes. The Metro Vancouver Regional District banned compostable waste in garbage in 2015 so most other major municipalities in the Lower Mainland already have sorting requirements in place. All businesses and institutions in municipalities and electoral areas within the FVRD will be required to follow the same sorting requirements as those in the City of Abbotsford.

### **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 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.

### **Will the City collect compostable waste from my business or institution?**

No. Industrial, commercial and institutional properties will continue to be required to make their own arrangement with a private waste hauler for the collection and disposal of all waste streams, including compostable waste.

### **Who will set up our compostable collection for our property?**

Your landlord, property manager or property management company will be responsible for setting up compostable collection services for your property.



## When should we start compostable collection at our property?

The separate collection of compostable waste will be required by April 1, 2020. However, setting up sorting systems take time and may require staff or tenant training. We recommend you contact your waste hauler and start discussing what will work best for your business or institution. Don't wait to #sortitout!

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

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. Food waste flushed down the drain may also cause blockages in pipes in your home or in the City's sewer system. 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 a 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 hauler 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 or landlord. What should I bring to their attention?

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

## Are there posters, signage or other educational material available for me to use to assist with waste sorting at my property?

Yes! The City is currently developing resources to assist with waste sorting at multi-family properties. Additional resources will be added to the Compostables Consultation web page once available. The FVRD also has a number of resources available at [bewastewise.com](http://bewastewise.com).

## Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

**City of Abbotsford;** Go online at [abbotsford.ca/waste](http://abbotsford.ca/waste) or call 604-864-5514.

