



ORGANIC PICKUP PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (MULTI-RESIDENTIAL CURBSIDE)

Why do we need an organics diversion program?

The main reason is that the Sechelt Landfill is anticipated to reach capacity in the next 10 to 12 years. To help extend the life of the landfill, the Sunshine Coast Regional District is expected to implement a complete ban on recyclables, including all organic waste, in the next two years.

While this is clearly a necessary step, we know from a recently conducted survey that a large majority of Gibsons residents are not currently positioned to eliminate 100% of food scraps from their garbage. Accordingly, Gibsons' Town Council has decided to implement a universal weekly curbside organics collection program.

How much is this going to cost?

The annual fee for the combined services (solid waste and organics collection) will be \$205 (\$135 for bi-weekly collection of solid waste + \$70 for weekly collection of organic waste.) This is an annual increase of \$51 from the \$156 charged in 2017.

The annual fee includes the offset gained by reducing solid waste pickup from weekly to bi-weekly. It also reflects the fact that organics collection costs less than solid waste collection, because the organic waste ultimately becomes top-quality organic compost, which can be sold to local gardeners and farmers.

GETTING STARTED

Where do I get the materials I need to participate in the program?

Grayco Disposal will drop off starter kits at each building about one week prior to the launch of the program.

Each resident will receive a 2-gallon EcoSafe Kitchen Caddy and educational materials.

The building will also receive one or more 65-gallon communal totes (depending on the number of residents), a mountable compost bag dispenser and a sample roll of compostable liners for the 2-gallon Kitchen Caddies.

How does the program work?

Communal Space

Select a secure, dry, accessible spot in a common area where you can install the compost bag dispenser, display the educational posters and place a 65-gallon communal tote.

Residential Space

Place a compostable liner inside the 2-gallon Kitchen Caddy and put it on your kitchen countertop or below the sink.

ALL organic waste materials (including fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, bread, plants and food-soiled paper) should now be placed in the Kitchen Caddy.



When the Kitchen Caddy is full, remove the liner bag and place it in the 65-gallon communal tote which has been placed in a common area of your building.

How soon can I start separating my organics?

You may start using the Caddies as soon as you receive them.

How do I know what can and can't go into the Kitchen Caddy?

Your 2-gallon Kitchen Caddy is accompanied by an easy-to-read Organics Poster, which clearly shows what can and can't go into your organics bin. Alternately, you can refer to posters displayed near your building's 65-gallon communal tote, or check the [Organics Diversion](#) page on the Town website for a list of acceptable organic waste.

****Because it is essential that contamination is kept to a minimum, if you are not sure whether an item should be placed in your organics bin, please throw it in the garbage.****

COMMON QUESTIONS

Do I have to use compostable bags in my Kitchen Caddy?

You do not have to use a compostable bag in your Kitchen Caddy. If you prefer, you may choose to fill the Kitchen Caddy directly (i.e. with no liner), then transfer the contents of the Kitchen Caddy to the Curbside Caddy when full.

However, if you do choose to line your Kitchen Caddy, you may use a brown paper bag, newspaper or a certified compostable bag (available for purchase at your local grocery store) to do so.

No other type of plastic bag should ever be used as a liner.

Why are we moving to bi-weekly garbage collection?

Organic waste typically makes up about 40% of a resident's garbage. Therefore, by diverting organics, you should create much less garbage. Additionally, a recent survey conducted by the Town of Gibsons found that more than 70% of Gibsons residents fill only half their garbage can each week.

What happens to the organic material after it is collected?

Collected organics will be taken to Salish Soils in Sechelt, where it will ultimately become valuable, Grade "A" organic compost.

What are the benefits of this program?

In total, this initiative is expected to reduce the waste our community sends to the Sechelt Landfill by approximately 40%, or 515 tonnes per year, thereby helping to extend the site's lifespan. Additionally, because organics create methane gas and a toxic liquid known as "leachate" as they break down in landfills, converting them into nutrient-rich compost is extremely eco-friendly.