



ORGANIC PICKUP PROGRAM – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (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. This will enable all residents to easily divert their organics from the landfill AND turn it into nutrient-rich compost to replenish and feed local soil.

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 and includes the provision of organic waste collection bins.

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 residence approximately one week before curbside pickup begins.

The starter kits provide everything you need to start diverting your organic waste, including: educational materials, a 2.0 gallon EcoSafe Kitchen Caddy, a 6.0 gallon EcoSafe Curbside Caddy and a sample roll of compostable liners for the Kitchen Caddy.

How soon can I start separating my organics?

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

How does the program work?

Place a compostable liner inside the 2.0 gallon Kitchen Caddy and put it on your kitchen countertop or below the sink.



Place the 6.0 gallon Curbside Caddy in a secure location where animals cannot access it. (This is typically wherever you currently keep the garbage cans you set out for collection.)

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 6.0 gallon Curbside Caddy.

On the morning of your organics collection day, place the Curbside Caddy at your curb for weekly pickup by Grayco Disposal.

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

You will find an easy-to-read Organics Poster in the Starter Kit, which clearly shows what can and can't go into your organics bin. Alternately, you can check the [Organics Diversion](#) page on the Town website for a list of acceptable organic waste.

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.