



## CITY OF DUNCAN

### Curbside Compost Collection Coming to City of Duncan

Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 the City of Duncan will increase its curb appeal by more than a third as it rolls out its complementary curbside compost collection to join its comprehensive recycling program.

In an effort to divert organic material from the long, environmentally damaging trip to the landfill, the City of Duncan is delivering a Curbside Compost Kit to each residential unit currently receiving garbage collection from the City. These kits will provide an effective way for residents to recycle organic materials.

Beginning in March, residents will be expected to put their organic waste in 48-litre green curbside totes on a weekly basis for collection.

Heralded in many communities as Extreme Composting, curbside compost collection goes beyond the materials accepted in backyard composters to include such items as grease, cooked foods, meat, bones, fish, dairy and food-soiled cardboard.

Programs like this have been successful in other Island towns such as Ladysmith, with Nanaimo also recently offering curbside compost collection. The diversion of organics has seen household garbage decrease by an average of 35 to 40 per cent.

Besides the reduction of the amount of material going into the trash, the introduction of curbside compost collection also typically increases household's recycling rates through an increased awareness of source separation.

The positive effects on the environment are further realized by dealing with the waste locally on Vancouver Island rather than transporting the material to a landfill on the mainland.

Organic materials decomposing in landfills create methane gas, a potent greenhouse gas 20 times more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, making it a serious contributor to climate change.

The City of Duncan is looking at ways to reduce its impact on the environment and organic resource recovery is a perfect fit.

In a compartmentalized resource recovery truck, compost and unlimited recycling will be picked up one week, while compost and one 70-litre garbage can per household will be picked up the next.

City of Duncan Curbside Compost Collection Accepted Materials:

- \* Fruits and Vegetables
- \* All Food Scraps — Cooked or Raw
- \* Meat, Fish and Dairy
- \* Bones
- \* Bread and Pasta
- \* Cakes, Cookies and Candy (no wrappers)
- \* Coffee Filters, Coffee Grounds, Tea Bags
- \* Egg Shells
- \* Pizza Boxes, Sugar and Flour Bags
- \* Food Soiled Wax Paper
- \* Food Soiled Waxed Cardboard including Milk and Cream Cartons
- \* Pizza Boxes
- \* Food Soiled Paper
- \* Paper Towels and Napkins
- \* Paper Coffee Cups, Paper Plates (no Styrofoam or Plastic)
- \* Wooden Stir Sticks

The compostable material will be shipped to the Duke Point International Compost Corporation via Bings Creek Transfer Station for processing.

For more information please contact the City of Duncan Public Works Department at 250-746-5321.

Sincerely,



Abbas Farahbakhsh  
Director of Public Works