



## Town of Lake Cowichan

### Organics and Garbage Curbside Collection Program

#### *Let's Work together to reduce the impact on the environment*

In an effort to divert organic material from the landfill, beginning January 2015, residential garbage and recycling collection will expand to include automated curbside organics (kitchen waste).

The Town of Lake Cowichan will deliver a Curbside Organics Kit to each single family residential unit currently receiving curbside garbage collection from the Town.

The kit (similar to the one in the picture below) will include:

- one **charcoal** 80 liters easy-roll tote for **garbage**, collected **every other week** year-round.
- one **green** 80 liters easy-roll tote for **organics**, collected **every week** year-round.
- one kitchen catcher, and
- a package of 100 per cent Compostable Kitchen Catcher Liners.

The new automated collection program will start on January 12, 2015. Please store the delivered totes and **do not** use until that date as the new totes are not designed for manual pick up.

All totes remain the property of the Town of Lake Cowichan and are assigned to your civic address. If you move, **do not** take the totes with you to your new address.



More information will be distributed to your residence in the New Year.



## Organics and Garbage Curbside Collection Program 2015

### ORGANICS WASTE/COMPOSTABLE (KITCHEN SCRAPS)

**Step 1** – Collect food waste and compostable items in Kitchen Catcher, lining it with a 100 per cent compostable liner is optional. All bags must have the Compostable logo on the packaging (see acceptable bags below for more details).

You are not required to line your containers with a bag; however if you choose to line your containers it must be with a material that breaks down at the composting facility.

**Step 2** – Empty Kitchen Catcher into **Green** Curbside Tote and firmly close lid.

**Step 3** – Place Green Curbside Tote out for pickup every week year-round.

**Your Collection day has not changed.**

### To Reduce Odours:

- Empty your kitchen catcher frequently; wash or rinse containers as needed.
- Don't leave food waste exposed; keep container lids tightly closed.
- Line the bottom of your containers with newspaper or paper towel to absorb moisture.
- Freeze meat, fish, poultry or bones and put them in your green bin on your collection day.
- Sprinkle a small amount of baking soda, garden lime or vinegar in your containers.
- Store your green bin in a secure, cool, ventilated location.
- Put your green bin out for collection *every week even if it is not full*.

### Organics Tips:

- Curbside Organics Collection is **every week** year-round. Put your **green** bin out for collection every week even if it is not full.
- Please continue to compost in your backyard if you already do.
- Utilize CVRD recycling depots at Meade Creek or Bings Creek for yard waste

### Garbage Tips:

- Curbside Garbage Collection is **every OTHER week** year-round. Put your **charcoal** tote out for collection every second week according to the collection calendar you received.
- Make sure there is about 1 to 1.5 meters of space between the green and charcoal tote. If totes are placed too close together, the truck is unable to service them safely.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How can my family of six produce only one tote of garbage every other week?**

*By composting and recycling you will reduce the garbage your household sends to the landfill by 90%.*

### **How much garbage can I put out on my collection day?**

*The maximum total weight per garbage container is 20kg (44lbs) including container. This is approximately one standard 80L garbage tote.*

*Remember you can put out unlimited amounts of garbage, recyclables and organics in the proper containers as long as the container lid can be completely closed and remains closed until pickup.*

### **What if I have more than 80L of garbage?**

*There are two scenarios:*

*a) If you expect to generate more than a full tote of garbage **on regular bases** (every second week), you may exchange the free 80L tote with a 120L tote available at the Public Works yard upon request. Please note your annual garbage collection utility bill will increase to cover the cost of the larger tote and disposal.*

*We encourage residents to try the free tote for a length of time before deciding on purchasing a larger tote. We estimate that the 80L will be more than adequate to meet your needs, considering the amount of organics removed from the garbage stream your household regularly generates.*

*b) If you expect to generate more than a full tote of garbage **on occasion** (every now and then), please use a garbage bag tagged with a special tag. Purchase the tag from the Town Office at 39 South Shore Rd, place the tag on the garbage bag, place the bag in the garbage can you used to use prior to the new program and place the can beside the new charcoal tote the day of your scheduled collection.*

### **Why wasn't my organics/garbage picked up?**

*The following are some reasons why your organics/garbage may not have been picked up. If you need further information please call the Public Works Department at 250-749-6244.*

- Garbage/organics was put out after 8:00 a.m. or after 7:00 a.m. in July and August. Collection trucks may arrive at any time during the day and may not adhere to a consistent time every collection day.
- Easy-roll totes are not spaced at least 1m (3ft) apart.
- Easy-roll totes are not placed square with the road with the arrows on the lid facing the road.
- Garbage or organics tote has unacceptable material in it.
- Tote lid is not firmly closed. All curbside materials must fit inside the tote with the lid completely closed. To ensure service, please do not overfill the tote.

### **What do I do if a tote is damaged or broken?**

*You can purchase a new tote at the Town Office. If the Tote is damaged by the Town during pickup, the Town will deliver a replacement tote to your residence at no cost.*

## Can I use biodegradable “plastic” bags for organics waste?

The only ‘plastic’ type bags permitted are certified **100 per cent compostable bags** which are commonly made with corn starch or sugarcane fiber. You may buy these bags at most local businesses that sell regular garbage bags.

### ACCEPTABLE

- Newspaper
- Paper bags
- Certified compostable bags

### NOT ACCEPTABLE

- Non-compostable plastics (e.g. plastic grocery bags)
- Plastic bags labelled as: "biodegradable", "degradable", or "oxo-degradable"

Look for these logos !



NOT these !



The following retailers (listed alphabetically) carry 100% compostable bags:

- 49th Parallel Grocery
- Canadian Tire
- Chemainus Foods
- Chemainus Hardware
- Chemainus Health Food Store
- The Community Farm Store (a.k.a. Duncan Garage)
- Galletto Market & Deli (Crofton)
- Home Hardware
- London Drugs
- Planet Clean
- Real Canadian Superstore
- Rona
- Safeway
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- The Home Depot
- Thrifty Foods
- WS Supermart (Duncan)
- Walmart

# Acceptable Organics (Curbside Collection)

## Acceptable Organics Items

- Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags
- Pizza boxes
- Cooked food & leftovers
- Meat & fish scraps/bones
- Egg shells
- Dairy & butter
- Fruit & vegetables
- Nuts & shells
- Bread & cereal
- Used paper plates & cups
- Cut & dried flowers
- Napkins and tissues
- Other soiled paper products (*without plastic coatings*)

## Do Not Include

- Yard and garden waste
- Plastic & plastic lined paper products
- Pet waste & litter
- Styrofoam
- Sanitary products
- Soiled diapers & contaminated cotton balls
- Biodegradable bags - *use compostable liners only*

Please put these items in your curbside recycling container **not in the organics carts:**

- Gable-top cartons for juice, milk, cream, egg substitutes
- Paper cups
- Paper fast-food packaging (that has a plastic coating)
- Ice cream cartons