



## INFORMATION BULLETIN

### 'New' Organics Collection Program

In September, the Town of Mulgrave will provide one green cart to each property that currently receives Municipal Curbside Waste Collection in the Town. With this new program launch, all residents and businesses with municipal curbside collection are required to participate. Those that properly backyard compost may continue to do so, however acceptable organic materials that are not recommended for backyard composting must be placed in the green cart for collection.

**Why ?** In 1998, the Nova Scotia Department of Environment banned the disposal of organic material in Nova Scotia landfills. That Provincial regulation also allowed rural municipalities such as ours to adopt a comprehensive Backyard Composting Program, which was initially successful in removing much of the organics from the waste stream. However, over the past number of years, many residents have discontinued this practice for various reasons.

#### **Benefits of Organic Collection & Composting**

- Organics collection ensures the Town is in compliance with provincial regulation.
- The finished compost created at the Guysborough Waste Management Facility is used for landscaping and gardens.
- Increases the life span of our landfill at the Guysborough Waste Management Facility.
- Decreases greenhouse gases such as methane emitted from the landfill.

#### **Backyard Composting**

- The opportunity to create a valuable organic material for personal use, on lawns and gardens is important to some; so the Town will continue to encourage backyard composting.
- Meat, fish and bones are not recommended for backyard composting. If disposed they should be placed in the organics green cart.
- If you backyard compost, you will also require a cart.
- For detailed information on backyard composting, contact Eastern Region Solid Waste Management by calling 902-232-2563 and a detailed package will be sent to you.

#### **The New Organics Collection Program**

Under the new organics collection program/plan, the Town will distribute 350 mid sized (80L) green carts to all homes and businesses that currently receive Municipal Curbside Waste Collection within the Town of Mulgrave. These green carts will be delivered early September and **collection will start Thursday, September 15, 2016.**

## Getting Started

- Each occupied property will be assigned a numbered green cart.
- The green cart must remain with that property. Carts from vacant lots are collected to be reassigned to another property.
- Maintenance and cleaning of the assigned green cart is the responsibility of the owner/occupant of the property.
- It is recommended to use a small (5-10L) container within your home or business to collect organic waste materials.
- Organics will be collected weekly, on your regular collection day.
- Your 80L green cart is not intended for leaf and yard waste; only small amounts can be placed in your cart when space permits.
- The total weight of materials in the cart cannot exceed 34kgs (75lbs).

## Organics Green Cart Collection

- The organics green cart must be placed roadside for collection by 8:00AM on your regular collection day.
- The hauler will inspect the contents of the green cart before the cart is emptied into the collection truck.
- If the cart contains unacceptable items such as plastic, metal, glass, rocks, cigarette butts, ashes or any other unacceptable material it will be rejected and left to the roadside for the property owner/occupant to re-sort for the next collection.
- The organics green cart is to be removed from roadside as soon as possible by the property owner/occupant to reduce potential damage.

## Program Tips

### **Kitchen Container Tips:**

The success of the program begins with the proper use of a kitchen container.

- Refer to the Acceptable Materials list on your sorting guide. When in doubt call.
- Store the kitchen container in a convenient location.
- Raw meats and other wet food waste can be wrapped in newspaper or other acceptable soiled paper or boxboard (i.e. cereal/cracker box).
- It is best to empty the container into the green cart and clean each day.
- To minimize cleaning the kitchen container can be lined with paper.
- Empty the kitchen container into the middle of the green cart to reduce a build up of liquid on the rim of the cart.
- Keep in mind, if the organics arrive at the green cart properly prepared, the vast majority of nuisance conditions can be prevented.

### **Green (Organic) Cart Tips:**

- Store the green cart outside in a ventilated, shady and convenient area, away from outdoor activity if possible.
- Place balled up paper such as newspaper or boxboard on the bottom of the cart at the beginning of each new cycle to help absorb moisture.
- Soiled paper items or boxboard may be torn into smaller pieces; this will absorb some of the moisture and it will increase space available in the cart.
- Be sure to keep the cover of the cart closed when not filling.
- Place the green cart at roadside for collection even if it is not full.
- Periodically hose the cart using a mild detergent immediately after collection.

### **Spring/Summer Tips:**

- Insects and their eggs may come into your home on fresh produce. Wash fruits and vegetables to help control insects.
- Also to minimize fruit flies, you can rub the inside of your kitchen container with vinegar.
- It is very important to keep the green cart dry to reduce potential insects and odour.
  - Place wet food waste, especially meat, fat, solid dairy products, chicken, shells and fish scraps in a boxboard container or wrap in paper.
  - Wait to empty wet food waste into the green cart as near to collection day as possible.
- Some will also sprinkle baking soda or carpet freshener in the kitchen container and a little powdered lime in the green cart through the warmer months of the year to help control potential insects and odour.
- Moth balls are also used; tie six inside an old pair of knee highs to the underside of the green cart lid.
- Rock salt can also be sprinkled into the green cart to control insects.

### **Fall/Winter Tips:**

- It's important to keep your cart dry to help prevent organics from freezing in your cart.
  - Wrap wet food waste in paper before placing in your cart.
  - It also helps to ball up paper to place on the bottom of the green cart, to absorb moisture, at the start of each new collection cycle.
- To ensure your organic cart is not damaged by the snow plow; place the cart for collection at the location along your driveway near the roadside so it doesn't interfere with snow clearing operations.
- Once the material is collected, the cart must be removed from roadside and returned to the storage location on the property.

## **Cooperation & Appreciation**

We would like to thank you for your participation in our waste related programs and for your cooperation to ensure this new Organics Collection Program is a success.

**Thank you!!**

# REMEMBER COMPOSTING IS RECYCLING TOO!

Please note: All food must be emptied from unacceptable packaging for collection.

## WHAT'S IN!!

### (Acceptable Materials)

#### ALL FOOD WASTE

- ✓ Fruit & Vegetable Peelings
- ✓ Table Scraps
- ✓ Meat, Chicken, Bones & Fish
- ✓ Shellfish (including shells)
- ✓ Dairy Products
- ✓ Cooking Oil, Grease & Fat
- ✓ Bread, Rice & Pasta
- ✓ Egg Shells
- ✓ Coffee Grinds & Filters
- ✓ Tea Leaves & Bags

#### NON-RECYCLABLE PAPER

- ✓ Napkins
- ✓ Paper Towel
- ✓ Soiled Newsprint
- ✓ Soiled Boxboard (i.e. fish stick box)
- ✓ Pizza Boxes (restaurant)
- ✓ Fast Food Wrappers (i.e. Fry Box & Burger Wrap)
- ✓ Freezer & Waxed Paper
- ✓ Paper Plates & Paper Cold Drink Cups
- ✓ Sugar, Flour & Potato Bags (no plastic)
- ✓ Salt Box (paper with food touching)

#### YARD WASTE (when space permits)

- ✓ Small amounts of grass, leaves & twigs
- ✓ Small amounts of house & garden plant waste

## WHAT'S OUT!!

### (Unacceptable Materials)

<b>Absolutely No:</b>	PLASTIC
	STYROFOAM
	METAL
	GLASS
	ASHES
	ROCKS

#### Examples of materials that cannot be placed in the Cart for collection:

- ✗ All Metal Products
- ✗ Aluminum Foil & Cans
- ✗ Animal Waste
- ✗ Cat Litter
- ✗ Coffee Cups
- ✗ Diapers
- ✗ Household Hazardous Waste or Sharps
- ✗ Milk Cartons
- ✗ Netted Bags (i.e. Onion Bags)
- ✗ Painted or Pressure Treated Wood
- ✗ Paper Bags with Plastic Liners
- ✗ Personal Hygiene Products
- ✗ Plastic Bags, Wrap & Containers
- ✗ Sod, Rocks & Bricks
- ✗ Styrofoam (i.e. Meat Trays)
- ✗ Textiles & Clothing
- ✗ Wrapping Paper

## Contact Information:

Town of Mulgrave: 902-747-2243

Guysborough Waste Management Facility: 902-232-2316 or 1-888-232-2316

Eastern Region Solid Waste Management: 902-232-2563 or 1-888-377-9622

You can also find a Waste Sorting Wizard and sign up for Collection Reminders at [www.erswm.ca](http://www.erswm.ca).