

## Organic Waste Pick-up Services

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### **Did you know?**

About 40% (by weight) of your household waste is organic material. ([Recycling and Waste Reduction: A Discussion Paper](#), MB Conservation and Water Stewardship 2014).

## Minimum Sustainable Recommendations

Request vendor to follow the steps below:

- Organic materials collected must be delivered to a composting facility and used to create compost in accordance with all requirements set out by provincial legislation.
- Organic materials must be delivered to a composter that is a member of the Composting Council of Canada and/or US Composting Council and develops compost product that meets the CCME Standard "Guidelines for Composting Quality".

### **Other things to consider**

The following steps will help to make the implementation of a composting program easier:

1. Use compost-friendly supplies in the cafeteria such as compostable dinnerware, wooden stir sticks in lieu of plastic, plastic free butter pats and using compostable bag lined bins.
2. Preference given to products bearing the Biodegradable Products Institute compostable accreditation.
3. Determine the cost of compost pick up on a by-weight basis

In keeping with provincial commitments to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and solid waste production, the vendor should be encouraged to develop sustainable delivery strategies:

1. Product delivery consolidations
2. Efficient transportation logistics and route planning
3. No idling of vehicles
4. Use of fuel efficient delivery vehicles

## What are the issues?

Organic materials include food waste, landscape trimmings and grass clippings. These materials, if managed properly (composted), can be a renewable resource. If not managed properly (landfilled), these materials can create many environmental issues.

Landfilling organic materials especially food wastes generates methane gas, a greenhouse gas twenty-one times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Methane emissions from landfills account for 2.9% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. The moisture content of organics contributes to the production of leachate in the landfill. This is a management problem for landfills and is a threat to ground and surface water. In Manitoba, it is estimated that at least 40% of the wastes deposited in landfills are comprised of organic materials taking up valuable landfill space. In both [TomorrowNow: Manitoba's Green Plan](#) and [Manitoba's Climate Change and Green Economy Action Plan](#), composting is highlighted as an effective strategy to reduce landfill waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

This document contains key considerations and suggestions for sustainable specifications and standards. Use of these specifications are intended to be guidelines for public sector procurers. Mention of any company name or product does not constitute or imply endorsement.

## What are the options?

Similar to office recycling programs, organizations can separate out organic materials from the waste stream and divert to a commercial composting facility for processing. This simple step has many environmental benefits such as preventing the production of methane gas and leachate as well as extending the life of municipal landfills. In addition, the finished compost is high in nutrients, has a high water retention rate and is sought out by farmers, landscapers and gardeners as a valuable soil amendment.

Commercial compost facilities can accept materials from both food prep waste (produce scraps, egg shells, etc.) and post waste (paper napkins, coffee grinds, newspapers, yard waste, cooked meat, bread, pasta, cereal, etc). Commercial compost facilities cannot accept materials such as raw meat, glass, plastics, metals, polystyrene foam products or liquids.

### References

Recycling Council of British Columbia. (July 2008). Diverting Compostable Organics.  
[http://www.rcbc.bc.ca/files/u6/Factsheet\\_Composting\\_Organics.pdf](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca/files/u6/Factsheet_Composting_Organics.pdf)

David Suzuki Foundation. (June 2009). Landfills. [http://www.davidsuzuki.org/climate\\_change/solutions/landfills.asp](http://www.davidsuzuki.org/climate_change/solutions/landfills.asp)

