

ORGANICS COLLECTION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



Sort'nGo
ORGANICS

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is introducing a new organics collection service in Tofino, Ucluelet and some surrounding west coast communities.

In November 2022, residents of single-family homes (four units or less) will begin diverting food and yard waste away from the landfill, similar to the current recycling and garbage collection, with new green carts for curbside pickup. This progressive new service is part of a larger and critical upgrade to an automated cart collection system for all three waste streams, which means residents will also receive new blue recycling carts and black garbage carts prior to launch. The objective of this service is to reduce the costs associated with residential waste, lower greenhouse gasses and extend the lifespan of the West Coast landfill. Below are frequently asked questions about the new program.

ABOUT SORTN'GO ORGANICS

What is roadside organics collection?

Roadside organics collection is similar to the current recycling and garbage collection, with the addition of a roadside solution for disposing kitchen and yard waste, by sending the contents of the green organics carts to a composting facility rather than to the landfill.

Why is this program being introduced?

Currently at the West Coast landfill, food waste contributes to 43 per cent of the total waste on site – that is a lot of space that should be saved for actual garbage. By diverting organics, the ACRD can extend the lifespan of the landfill and create compost that can be returned to community.

Organics also create harmful emissions at the landfill when buried under layers of other waste. Without access to oxygen to decompose properly, this waste creates methane, which is a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming and other harmful environmental issues.

Organic diversion from landfill is a high priority for provincial and federal governments as well; 100 per cent of the capital costs associated with this project are funded through grants.

What can go in the new organics green cart?

When we think about what belongs in an organics cart, let's think about materials that have the ability to break down safely within the natural environment.

Items that go into the organics cart will be turned into nutrient-rich compost such as:

- Leftovers or uneaten food - "scrape your plate" including fruit/veggies, meat, bones, dairy and greases
- Yard waste such as grass, leaves, small amounts of fallen fruit and small branches
- Soiled paper (paper towel, pizza boxes, cardboard and tissues but not soiled newspaper which belongs in the garbage)

A good rule of thumb is if it causes odours it can be placed in the green organics cart.

Download the Sort'nGo ACRD app if you're not sure how to sort an item, and let the Waste Wizard tell you if it can go in the cart – or where to take it if it doesn't belong!



What Goes In ✓

- FRUITS & VEGETABLES
- MEAT, POULTRY, FISH SHELLFISH & BONES
- BREAD, DOUGH, PASTA & GRAINS
- EGGS & DAIRY PRODUCTS
- PAPER TOWELS, NAPKINS, TEA BAGS, COFFEE GROUNDS & FILTERS
- YARD WASTE, LAWN CLIPPINGS & TRIMMINGS

What Stays Out ✗

- PLASTIC COMPOSTABLE BAGS
- ALUMINUM FOIL
- STICKERS ON PRODUCE
- PLASTIC SINGLE-USE CUTLERY

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Can I line my green organics cart?

Yes – with paper only. No plastics belong in the green organics carts, even those labeled compostable or biodegradable. Why? Because these labels are not consistently regulated in the industry, meaning they may not be able to break down as required, which can contaminate the stream. Avoid any plastics and use newspaper, cardboard or other paper-based items for liners.

What about pests and wildlife that are attracted to food waste?

Wildlife-resistant locking mechanisms will be provided for both the organics and garbage carts. This will reduce the chance of wildlife accessing cart contents. The organics carts are certified by Wildsafe BC and have proved successful in other communities for keeping pests out and keeping communities cleaner.

The ACRD is committed to being a bear-smart community and is part of the WildSafe BC Bear Stewardship Committee. This group looks at addressing challenges and priorities for similar communities with the aim of enhancing coexistence with bears, improving public safety, and decreasing the preventable destruction of bears.

When does the Sort'nGo Organics service launch?

The new service is expected to roll out November 2022, for Tofino and Ucluelet residents. The ACRD successfully launched the Sort'nGo Organics curbside service in Port Alberni in September 2021.



ABOUT AUTOMATED CART COLLECTION

What is an automated collection service?

An automated collection service relies on a truck using a mechanical arm to pick-up and empty carts. Currently the method for waste collection on the west coast is manual, where the driver exits the vehicle and physically empties each bin. Upgrading recycling and garbage and soon to be organics into this automated system means the standardized collection carts that residents place curbside will create a more efficient system for residents and the waste collector. The ACRD will provide these new uniform recycling and organics carts to all homes in the service area prior to the launch of the new service.



What sizes are the carts and what is the cost of the new service?

The default service will include one organics cart (120L), one garbage cart (120L) and one recycling cart (240L) at the cost of \$200/year. Residents and homeowners who think they will need more organics or garbage collection capacity can sign up for larger carts, for an additional annual fee. Visit letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast for info about how to make your request before the **deadline of Feb. 15, 2022**. If you require only the default cart options no action is needed.

Residents will receive these uniform wheeled carts (with lids for inclement weather) during the late summer/early fall of 2022, prior to the launch of the new service in November.

Will the collection schedule change?

Once the program launches, organics carts will be collected weekly, with garbage and recycling carts picked-up bi-weekly on alternative weeks. That means each week, two carts will be wheeled roadside: either the green organics cart and black garbage cart, or the green organics cart and the blue recycling cart. More information about schedules will be provided when carts are delivered.



ORGANICS
Weekly



RECYCLING • TRASH
Alternating Bi-Weekly

ORGANICS COLLECTION

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Why is garbage collection decreasing?

Garbage collection is being reduced because waste composition studies have shown that up to 43 per cent of household waste being sent to the West Coast Landfill is organic or compostable. That means that once these items are diverted from the black waste carts, there should be less overall garbage.

How can I keep track of schedules, and properly sort items?

ACRD residents can keep track of collection schedules, sign up for collection alerts and check what items belong in what carts (or where to take them) with the Sort'nGo ACRD app, available for iPhones or Androids at the Apple Store or Google Play.

WHY SHOULD WE DIVERT ORGANICS?

Can I opt out of this service?

This service will launch for all single-family homes in Tofino and Ucluelet and some of the surrounding communities and opting out of Organics curbside collection is not an option. Organics isn't garbage, and by working together to keep it out of the garbage stream and transform it into compost, the whole community can benefit!

What happens if we don't divert organics?

If high volumes of organic material continue to enter the landfill, greenhouse gas emissions will keep rising, which is going to lead to mandating a gas capture system. This type of system would increase costs to residents significantly when compared to an organic roadside collection service. This is a service that has proved to be a successful diversion strategy and cost-effective solution in many other areas of BC.

The waste collection changes will result in the best overall value for west coast waste services. Diverting organics will also significantly decrease the amount of waste that's going to the landfill, which means we can extend the life of the landfill that we all rely on for decades to come, and postpone the high costs of either siting a new landfill or shipping waste out of the community.

What if I already compost at home?

That's great! We still encourage backyard composting but the bonus of an organics curbside collection is another way to divert waste – you'll now be able to dispose of those items that are unsuitable for backyard systems like meat, fish, poultry, bones and dairy. As well, yard waste like branches will be accepted in the new green organics carts, which currently requires chipping prior to composting.

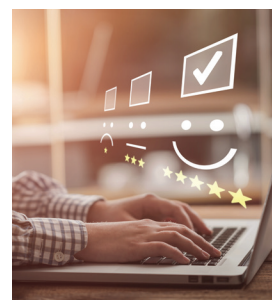
What will happen to the food and yard waste once it's collected?

The organics material collected will be composted at a local facility and the finished product will be returned to community parks and outdoors where it will help keep our spaces green.

GET IN TOUCH

How can I provide feedback on the new service?

We invite Tofino and Ucluelet residents to reach out and ask questions, take our poll, leave feedback, get in touch and much more on our Sort'nGo Organics - Tofino and Ucluelet hub at letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast.



ORGANICS COLLECTION

Infosheet



Sort'nGo
ORGANICS

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is introducing a new organics collection service in to Tofino, Ucluelet and some surrounding communities on the west coast.

In November 2022, residents of single-family homes (four units or less) will begin diverting organic waste from the landfill with new green carts that will be used to dispose of food and yard waste for curbside pickup. This progressive service is part of a critical upgrade to an autocart system for all waste collection in west coast communities, which means residents will also receive new blue recycling carts and black garbage carts prior to launch. The objectives of this service are aimed at reducing costs associated with residential waste, lowering carbon emissions, and extending the lifespan of the West Coast Landfill.

WHY ARE WE MOVING TO CURBSIDE ORGANICS PICKUP?

Lower Costs: If we were to maintain the waste service as it exists now, high volumes of organic material will continue to end up in landfill, causing greenhouse gas emissions to rise and as a result will require mandating a gas capture system. A system of this type would cost west coast residents millions compared to an organic roadside collection service.

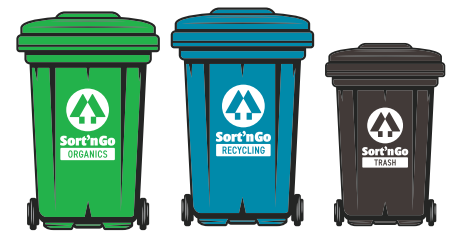
Reduce Harmful Gases: Organics create harmful emissions when left buried under layers of other waste in a landfill. Without access to oxygen, the organic waste can't decompose properly which creates methane, a powerful greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming and other harmful environmental issues.

Extend Landfill Lifespan: Food waste in garbage collection is currently contributing to 43 per cent of a household's total waste, where it's then sent to the landfill to negatively impact the environment and take up space. By diverting organics, we can extend the lifespan of the landfill.

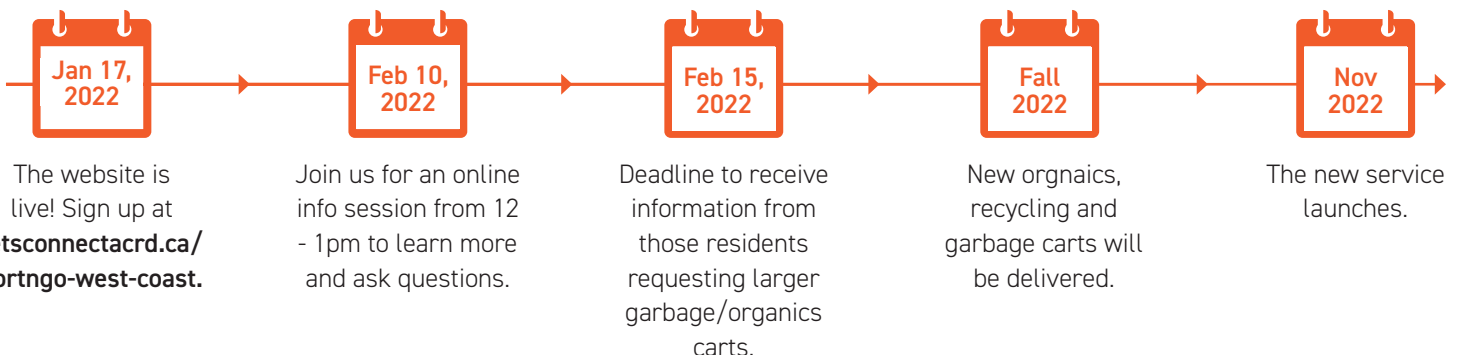


REQUEST FOR CART SIZES

The **default** service will include one organics cart (120L), one garbage cart (120L) and one recycling cart (240L) at the cost of **\$200/year**. Residents and homeowners who think they will need more organics and/or garbage collection capacity can sign up for larger carts, for an additional annual fee. Visit letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast for info about how to make your request before the deadline of **Feb. 15, 2022**. **If you require only the default cart options no action is needed.**



ORGANICS COLLECTION: TIMELINE



ORGANICS COLLECTION

Infosheet



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WHAT CAN I PUT IN THE NEW ORGANICS CART?



- Scrape your plate! All food scraps, including meat, bones, dairy and greases
- Yard waste, including grass, leaves and small branches that are no larger than 24 inches, or two feet, with a two-inch diameter
- Soiled paper (newspaper, paper towel, pizza boxes, cardboard and tissues)
- Coffee grinds (no pods, grinds only)

WHAT CAN'T I PUT IN THE NEW ORGANICS CART?



- Compostable bags or plastic of any kind regardless of label (depot for soft plastics/recycling for hard)
- Dog feces and cat litter (garbage/landfill)
- Invasive weeds (garbage/landfill)
- Plastic ties, stickers and rubber bands from produce (garbage/landfill)
- Diapers (garbage/landfill)

COLLECTION SCHEDULE



*Garbage collection is reduced because waste composition studies show that up to 43 per cent of household waste is organic or compostable. Once diverted, the result should be less garbage.

GET THE SORT'NGO ACRD APP

Ask the Waste Wizard for help sorting items into the carts or finding out where to take them when they don't belong! Keep track of collection schedules, sign up for alerts and more. Available for iPhones and Androids on Google Play or download from the App Store.



QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE NEW CARTS

Lids on the new carts will keep the material dry and intact during inclement weather.

Wildlife-resistant lid locking mechanism will reduce wildlife encounters.

Organics carts are certified by Wildsafe BC and have been successful in other communities for keeping animals out and keeping communities cleaner.

The new carts come with wheels for easy mobility and can be stored outside at your property.

