

ORGANICS COLLECTION

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) – Summer 2022



Sort'nGo
ORGANICS

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) is introducing a new organics collection service to the west coast.

In November 2022, residents of single-family homes in Tofino, Ucluelet, Port Albion and Millstream will begin diverting food and yard waste (organics) from the west coast landfill. This progressive new Sort'nGo service is part of critical upgrades to waste management in the region, which includes a transition to an autocart collection system. That means residents will receive three new uniform carts prior to launch: one (green) organics cart, one (blue) recycling carts and one (black) garbage cart. As well, the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation and Yuułu?ił?atł Government in hitaču have signed on with plans to launch the service to residents in September/October, ahead of the full West Coast roll out.

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.



Sort'nGo
ORGANICS

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?

Residents are already dealing with food waste attractants that are currently going into their garbages – the difference with the new Sort'nGo service is that food/yard waste will now go in a separate green cart, which is outfitted with a certified wildlife-resistant locking mechanism (along with the new black garbage cart). While this added security should help reduce the chance of wildlife accessing contents, managing the new collection service will require continued attention by residents to prevent interactions with pests. For tips to 'bear in mind' check out our video at:

bit.ly/sortngo-bear-smart

When does the Sort'nGo Organics service launch?

The new service is expected to launch on the west coast in the fall of 2022. 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.

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

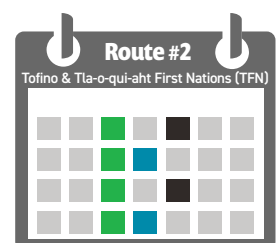
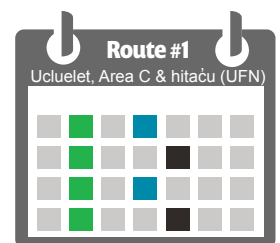
The default service for residents will include one 120L organics cart (42H x 19W x 22Din), one 120L garbage cart and one 240L recycling cart (43H x 24W x 35Din) at the cost of \$200/year. Carts will be delivered to residents prior to launch of the new service in November.

Can we still use cart tags for excess waste at roadside?

The cart tags will not be available when the new service launches, as the three new uniform carts per household offer significantly larger capacity for waste than the bins/bags used previously for recycling and garbage (120L for garbage, 120L for organics, 240L for recycling). Homeowners who require additional capacity for organics or garbage will be able to request larger carts, for an additional service fee and adjusted annual fee, after launch.

Will the collection schedule change?

Once the program launches, organics carts will get collected weekly, with garbage and recycling carts picked up bi-weekly on alternative weeks. That means for residents in Tofino and Ucluelet, each week one cart will be wheeled roadside on its designated collection day. More information about schedules will be provided when carts are delivered.



Any holidays that land on the schedule will be pushed to Fridays.

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What happens if a residence's waste isn't properly sorted?

As the ACRD is working to decrease contamination in the waste streams, a new bylaw (NO. R1036) has been introduced to ensure sorting requirements are being met by residents under the Sort'nGo service.

Educational resources including in-person home visits will be provided for those residences that are repeat offenders of contamination. Continued offences may be subject to missed collection or fines.

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, Ucluelet and some surrounding communities – and opting out of Organics curbside collection is not an option. Just like garbage and recycling, organics collection is an essential service. By working together to keep organics 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 residents to follow our web page for updates and to ask questions of the project team:
letsconnectacrd.ca/sortngo-west-coast



STAY INFORMED

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