

**Headline: Food Scraps Program Required for All Properties in Vancouver**

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Since the adoption of the Greenest City 2020 Action Plan, Vancouver has been aggressively working to further reduce the amount of waste produced and disposed of as garbage. The City set a target to reduce the amount of solid waste going to the landfill or waste-to-energy facility by 50 per cent from 2008 levels. Achieving this requires recovering organics from the waste stream in all sectors - residential, commercial and industrial.

The City's Green Bin program which services all single family/duplexes dwellings and 1,800 of the 5,700 multi-units in Vancouver continues to yield success. In the first full year since the program launched and the collection frequency was switched, the recovery of organic material for composting increased by 64 per cent, and the amount of garbage collected by the City reduced by 40 per cent. The remaining 3,900 multi-units receive collection service through a private hauler and should contact them about setting up program.

In 2015, a Metro Vancouver ban on disposing food scraps in landfills and waste-to-energy facilities will come into effect across the region. It will apply to all properties in all sectors including residential, commercial, institution and industrial. The regional ban will mean that food scraps, such as raw foods, cooked foods, plate scrapings, leftovers, packaged food, meat, bones, etc. will be restricted from disposal with regular garbage.

To complement the Metro Vancouver ban, the City amended its solid waste by-laws to reflect the upcoming regional changes. The City's by-laws also restrict food scraps from disposal in the garbage, effective January 2015, and require that a food scraps diversion plan be developed and implemented by all by residential and business properties in Vancouver. Throughout 2015 and 2016, after the ban has been implemented, the City's focus will be on providing support and education on how to develop a program at the building level.

City staff continue to provide assistance to all sectors to get ready for the ban. The City's website ([www.vancouver.ca/multi-units](http://www.vancouver.ca/multi-units)) has resources for residents, property managers, strata councils, business owners and the wider public sector alike. The City encourages those without a program to learn more about the upcoming disposal ban as well as the City's amended by-laws, and, to work with their service providers to set up a food scraps collection program.

The ambitious but achievable goals we have to become the world's Greenest City are predicated on sound policy decisions, operational effectiveness and participation by all. Recycling food scraps is a simple, yet extremely impactful way to help us get there.