


GIVE BACK To The EARTH COMPOST



www.compost.org

 Recycle your organics.

 Return Life to your soil, lawn and garden.

WHERE FOOD BEGINS

FEED THE SOIL COMPOST!





 2015
 International
 Year of Soils

COMPOST

L'avenir c'est maintenant

The Future Starts Here!

 The Composting Council of Canada

 Le Conseil canadien du compostage



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SAVE OUR SOIL

We walk on it and eat from it ...
we have to stop taking our soil for granted.

Quality soil is based on a simple equation:
What you take out, you must put back in.

Adding compost restores our soil's vitality,
providing the texture, structure and nutrients needed
for healthy plant growth.

Make compost happen --- recycle your organics.

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Improving the Quality of Organic Residual Inputs in Organics Recycling Collection



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- The reduction/elimination of contamination is a constant and significant ongoing concern to all composting facilities. The findings of this project have the strong potential to deliver immediate and direct impacts on improving efficiencies and effectiveness of green bin collection programs and results.
- To-date, from a residential involvement perspective, any efforts to reduce contamination have been relatively piecemeal with limited documentation on residential perception of the impact of contamination to the process.



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Key Goal

This research project will undertake an assessment of opportunities to improve the quality of finished compost, both through residential participation in green bin collection as well as the implementation of operational practices at the compost facility



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Project Scope

This project will involve research on two levels:

- Engaging with Regional Solid Waste Staff (Regional Coordinators, Compost Facility Operators) to document the current challenges with organics contamination to:
 - o Identify the top organic contaminants by category and product type
 - o Identify practices relating to communication/outreach to residents (pre) as well as practices that facilities undertake once they have received the material (post) i.e. screening and other operational procedures.
 - o Identify operational procedures and technologies that some facilities are doing or equipment that is being used to help reduce contamination. Evaluate the benefits/costs of undertaking such procedures. Are those facilities getting a better product as a result? Undertake a cost-benefit analysis.
 - o Are there strategies that the regions would like to undertake but cannot? What are the reasons for this? Cost? What would help reduce these barriers.
- Collate gathered information from all regional visits. For each contaminate category, list the top products. Investigate other jurisdictions to document challenges and programs that have been adopted to help with contamination of these products. Any lessons learnt that can adopted within NS?
- Identify possible strategies/program initiatives that can be adopted by a test region/facility to help reduce contamination of a select material. Visual audit before and after to measure impact.
- Recommendations for possible adoption of equipment to help with screening of material once received, based on the cost/benefit analysis conducted; list potential impact within region/NS, if adopted. Cost of equipment vs. increased value of compost.
- From this base, various communication material templates will be developed along with consumer behavioral tools to test opportunities to increase diversion and decrease input contamination.



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Test Location = Pictou County

Research Student to be led by Dr. Lord Abbey (Dalhousie); Pictou County (Earle Cameron); The Compost Council of Canada (interested members); Divert NS



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Key Actions

- Baseline Waste Audits & Qualitative Survey
- Development of Communication & Behavioral Tools
- Identification of Processing and Technologies, including costs as well as results, for Contamination Removal at Composting Facility
- Repeat Waste Audits & Qualitative Survey to identify progress



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