

Opportunities for Input

We want to hear your questions, thoughts and ideas! Please come to an Open House in your own or the most convenient community or get in touch with the project team.

All events take place from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm, with Focus Group sessions running from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Community	Date	Location
Grand Forks	Tuesday Oct. 19/04	RDKB Boardroom 2140 Central Ave
Trail	Thursday Oct. 21/04	RDKB Boardroom 843 Rossland Ave
Castlegar	Monday Oct. 25/04	Recreation Complex 2101 6 th Ave Monoshee Rm
Nelson	Tuesday Oct. 26/04	Nelson Public Library 602 Stanley St.
Creston	Thursday Oct.28/04	Community Complex 312 19 th Ave Creston Room

Project timelines

- Funding secured and project scope defined March 31, 2004
- Business Plan to be completed by December 31, 2004
- Based on study results, Pilot Collection program for commercial producers by 2006
- Based on study results, Municipal pilot projects 2007/2008
- Full scale program for major communities by 2009/2010

FOLLOW THE MONEY...

Funding for this project is provided by:
Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
Regional District of Central Kootenay
Federation of Canadian Municipalities'
 Green Municipal Enabling Fund, and
Celgar Pulp Company.

Composting Paradigm

Project Team Who's Who

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Composting Paradigm Project

...from landfills to livelihoods

OPEN HOUSE PRIMER September 22, 2004

Paradigm: a general agreement of belief of how the world works;
 What could be called "common sense".

Project Mission Statement

The Composting Paradigm Project will evaluate options and recommend a solution for recovering or reducing at source organic materials that would be landfilled or otherwise wasted.

The solution will consider the economic and environmental feasibility of changing the existing one-way garbage system of handling resources.

The project includes all rural areas and communities of the Central Kootenay and Kootenay Boundary Regional Districts including: **Fruitvale, Grand Forks, Greenwood, Midway, Montrose, Rossland, Trail, Warfield, Castlegar, Kaslo, Nelson, Salmo, Slocan, Creston, Nakusp, New Denver, and Silverton.**

It's our choice: another landfill or a new composting industry?

Seven Step Project Strategy

1. Identification of feedstock volumes, types, and sources
2. Evaluation of organics recovery processing options
3. Cost comparison/sensitivity analysis of zero organics to landfill
4. Initial recommendations for an organics recovery collection system based on successful community models and local considerations
5. Initial recommendations for public education and policy initiatives to reduce organic waste at the source
6. Public open houses and focus groups
7. Final recommendations for moving to a composting paradigm, based on a Closed Loop system design.

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Visit the Project Team's webpage at:
<http://www.footprintbc.com/html/CompostingParadigmProject.htm>

Closed Loop Systems are Community-friendly.

A “**Closed loop**” system optimizes economic benefits and environmental stewardship in our own backyard. In our economic modelling work, we assume that selling to markets outside of the Kootenays will provide the only viable solution given the huge volumes of materials that can be recovered. Even so, the local market remains a critical driving force. Basic business marketing lessons remind us that word-of-mouth is the most effective form of advertising, and we want locals to proudly endorse the Composting Paradigm product.

To source materials locally, we need to consider what should be collected, the best type of containers, frequency of collection, and special concerns on a neighbourhood and community level. Open Houses and Focus Groups are being organized from mid-October on to make sure we have the needed community information. See page 4 for the schedule.

More about cost comparisons...

Western BioResources Consulting Ltd. is busy number crunching to assess the viability of a centralized composting facility (potentially with smaller decentralized units) versus maintaining the status quo of landfilling.

The results will be presented in a standard pro-forma financial statement format. This analysis takes into account technology costs, effect on collection contracts, and the direct impact of recovering organics on existing costs and regional ecosystems.

Origins of the Paradigm

The usual suspects come into play here – economics; existing and future environmental concerns; and public policy/regulations. Paradigm shifts require human catalysts and teachers, and there have been many of both for this project. In this case, the catalysts are a group of visionaries who want to set things right and have the resources to get the ball rolling. Some of them are on the project team, others are playing a supporting role – all of them make a difference.

The economics: Garbage collection and landfills don't make money for taxpayers – they cost money. Organic materials make up roughly 42% of all materials entering Kootenay landfills.

The environment: Organic materials in landfills are a potential health and environmental hazard. Organics produce methane gas, which is one of the major greenhouse gases contributing to global warming.

Organics also liquefy as they decompose in landfills, and this “leachate” picks up whatever else is in the landfill to make a soupy substance that follows the line of gravity. If not collected and treated properly, leachate can be a source of groundwater contamination. Composting organics on the other hand, can produce top quality fertilizer for gardens, farms, and landscaped areas.

Locally, we have also seen organics work wonders at reclaiming contaminated sites through the Teck-Cominco/Celgar Pulp company trials in Trail.

Policy and regulations: Evaluating different strategies for diverting materials from landfill in a way that supports sustainable economic development is the foundation of the Zero Waste strategy for Kootenay Boundary Regional District and the City of Nelson. Provincial, national and global mandates to reduce solid waste and greenhouse gases are also a powerful driving force. These mandates create the necessary funding to evaluate

possible solutions and create new “green” infrastructure to support communities.

The vision: The slogan says it all! “Zero Waste: Imagine another use”. A paradigm shift that is based on ethical economics and environmental stewardship is already happening. This project builds on that momentum.

Collection Options: Garbage vs. Feedstock

Many communities in the Kootenays are already diverting some of their organic feedstock through yard and garden waste collection programs and backyard composting.

Across North America, particularly in Ontario, Nova Scotia and California, and even the Yukon, curbside food and paper waste programs are also offered. In these communities, residents and businesses put their organic material in a special cart. Collection frequency varies, but a common system for households is to alternate weekly garbage collection with organics collection.

Communities that are really serious about recovery organics and reducing garbage collection and disposal costs will want to evaluate weekly organics collection and monthly garbage collection.

What goes in...a list of possibles.

Sometimes in our zeal to send “zero waste to landfill” we may include things in our composting cart or recycling bin that aren't part of the collection program. Good intentions, bad results. Including items not on the final list of **what goes in** is bad for business, and is definitely not part of a sustainable solution.

Examples of what could be included in a collection program.

Plate scrapings and Kitchen rejects

Baked goods, Bones
Bread/toast, Butter and margarine, Cake, Candy
Cereal, Cheese,
Cookies, Coffee filters



and grounds, Corn cobs and husks, Dairy products, Dough, Eggs and eggshells, Fish and fish parts, Flour, Fruit, Grease/lards/fats, Herbs and spices, Jams and jellies, Mayonnaise, Grains, Gravy and sauces, Meat and

meat products, Nuts and nut shells, Oatmeal, Pasta, Peanut butter, Pizza, Popcorn, Pumpkins, Rice, Salads and salad dressings, Shellfish, Sour cream, Sugar, Syrup, Tea bags, Vegetables, Yogurt.



Paper Products and other Good Stuff



Agriculture byproducts, Brown paper bags, Dryer lint, Facial tissues, Feathers, Greasy pizza boxes, Milk cartons, Microwave popcorn bags, Newspapers, Paper plates, napkins and cups, Wood wine corks, Paper towels, Paper vacuum bags, Popsicle sticks, Sawdust, Toothpicks, Wood chips and Wood ashes (cold).

ZERO WASTE
Imagine another use