



COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

Town of Happy Valley – Goose Bay
May 30th, 2017

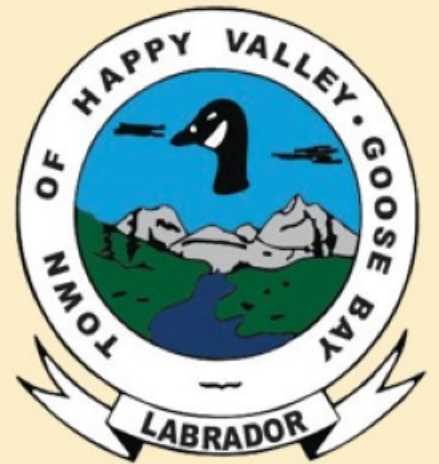
Welcome

- Community Composting Initiative
- Waste 101
- Composting Information
- Troubleshooting Tips
- Questions



Community Composting Initiative

- The Town of HV-GB is committed to community improvement strategies
- These strategies include waste diversion
- Piloting a community compost project to determine interest
- Response and participation from the community will help determine next steps



Community Composting Initiative

- Funding provided by MMSB through Community Waste Diversion Fund
- First community to use this funding for a small scale, community based initiative
- Support from MMSB in terms of information and best practices



Community Composting Initiative

- Community members involved: Sara McCarthy and Shelley Cleary
- Bins will be located in Spruce Park and next to the Community Garden
- Community members will be able to place compost in the bins at any time



Community Composting Initiative



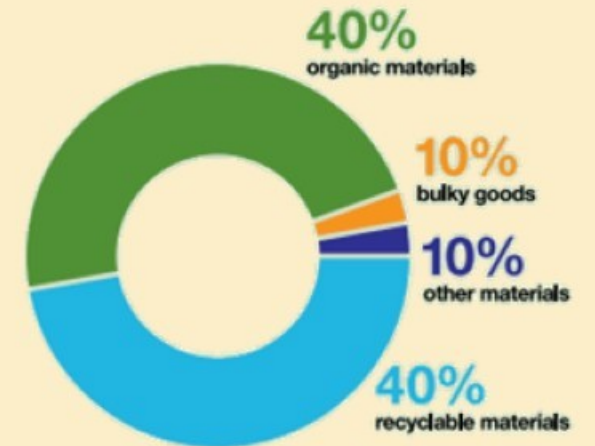
Community Composting Initiative



Waste 101

- The average individual will produce approximately 1000kg of waste per year
- 40% of that waste – or 400kg – is organic material
- Another 40% of that waste is recyclable material
- 80% of our waste could be diverted either through composting or recycling
- This does not include waste that is produced from non-residential sources

TYPICAL CONTENT OF RESIDENTIAL WASTE IN CANADA



Waste 101



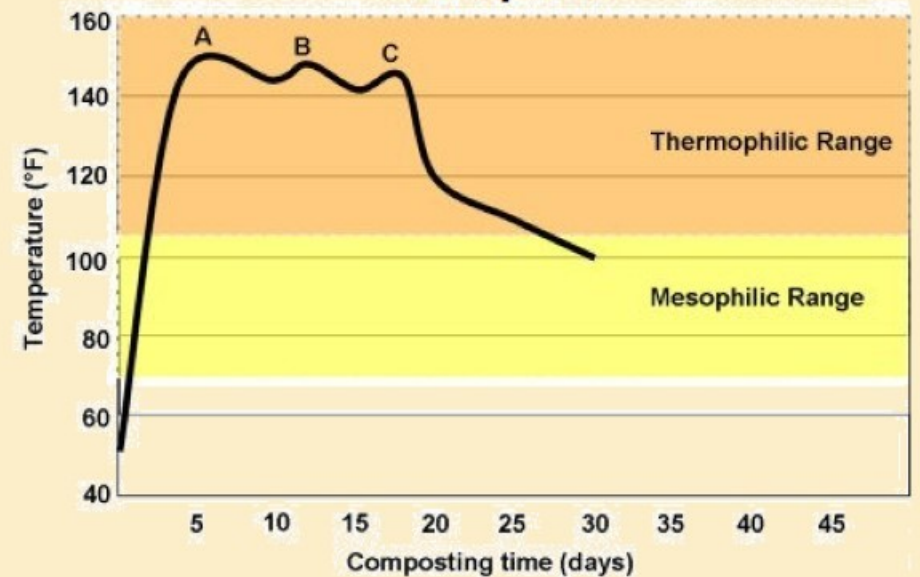
- 61% of Canadian households have participated in some form of composting
- Compared to only 43% of households in Newfoundland and Labrador
- Only about 25% of total waste produced is diverted from landfills
- Waste diversion prolongs the life of our landfill and helps to protect the environment

Composting

How does it work?

- Microbes are present in your foods and these tiny organisms are the cause of the composting process
- You need the right combination of composting ingredients, moisture levels, oxygen and volume of materials
- Once you have this combination, the pile should start to heat up – this heat is generated by the microbe's metabolic activity (eating, excreting, breathing, multiplying)
- Compost piles will go through different phases based upon the level of decomposition

The Temperature Cycle of Compost



Composting

What is the right combination of organics?

- Three KEY ingredients:
 1. "Greens" and "Browns"
 2. Oxygen
 3. Moisture



Composting

What are the characteristics of “greens”?

- Fresh and moist
- Rich in nitrogen
- Vital for growth and reproduction of the decomposing organisms

What are the characteristics of “browns”?

- Dry, absorbent and fibrous
- Rich in carbon
- An essential energy source for the decomposing organisms in your pile



Composting

Building your compost pile

Greens

- Fresh grass clippings
- Fruit/vegetable scraps
- Plant trimmings
- House plants
- Tea bags
- Egg shells
- Coffee grounds

Browns

- Dried leaves
- Dried grass
- Shredded newspaper
- Shredded paper
- Egg cartons
- Straw
- Sawdust from untreated wood



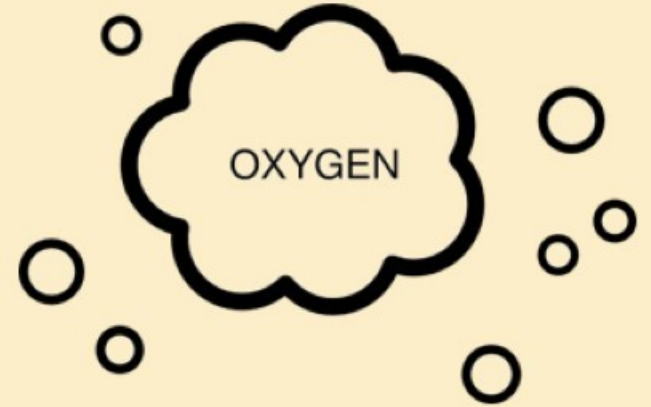
Layer equal volumes of “browns” on top of your “greens” each time you add compost to your pile

Composting

Building your compost pile

Oxygen

- Microbes require oxygen to survive – this is called aerobic decomposition
- If there is not enough oxygen the decomposition process becomes anaerobic – this is much slower and causes bad odors
- Layering “browns” on top of “greens” and turning your compost pile will help to create aerobic conditions



Composting

Building your compost pile

Moisture

- Microbes need moisture to survive
- If your pile becomes too dry, the microbes cannot perform essential functions and will die
- If the pile becomes too wet, the air spaces will fill with moisture – this will promote anaerobic decomposition (smelly!)
- Reference point: your pile should be as moist as a rung out sponge

DO NOT WATER YOUR COMPOST PILE!



Composting

How long will it take?

Determined by:

1. Ratio of “greens” to “browns”
2. Amount of oxygen
3. Moisture
4. Particle size of the waste
5. Size and shape of the compost pile
6. Temperature of the compost pile





Composting

So what can I compost?

Household Items

- Houseplant trimmings
- Pet fur
- Dryer lint
- Hair
- Shredded newspaper
- Vacuum bag contents
- Wood ashes
- Sawdust and wood shavings

Yard Waste

- Lawn clippings
- Leaves
- Plant debris
- Old potting soil



Composting

What can't I compost?

- These items will decompose but they can causes problems such as odors and pests
 1. Dairy products
 2. Meat, fish, bones
 3. Fats and oils
 4. Sauces which include anything listed above
 5. Pet wastes
 6. Large pieces of wood, thick branches, heavy cardboard
 7. Invasive weeds, roots or flowers such as morning glory or gout weed
- Plastic, rubber, metals, glass and ceramics will not decompose



Troubleshooting Tips

Issue #1: Smells

- Caused by imbalance of “browns” and “greens”
- Anaerobic bacteria build up because of wet conditions
- Solve this issue by adding browns, mix and turn

Issue #2: Wasps and Flies

- Wasps and flies love sweet smells which can be caused by an imbalance of “browns” and “greens”
- Solve this issue by adding browns, mix and turn



Troubleshooting Tips



Issue #3: Rodents

- Prefer food which is easily accessible (garbage) and do not like disturbances
- Prefer warm and dry shelter as opposed to hot and moist environment of compost bin
- A well maintained compost bin will not attract rodents
- Solve this issue by regularly maintaining compost and ensure it is moist, hot and disturbed regularly. Also make sure the bin is covered and not easily accessible
- Make sure that there are no meats, dairy or other “attractive” foods

The End Product

Humus

- Garden Gold!!
- Dark in colour and crumbly in texture
- Humus should not be considered a fertilizer in itself, it could be considered as an additive
- Humus produced from the community compost bin will be free for anyone to take



Questions?

