

**REPORT TO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2013**

SUBJECT REGIONAL KITCHEN SCRAPS STRATEGY UPDATE

ISSUE

To provide an update on the implementation of the Regional Kitchen Scraps Strategy.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of April 11, 2012, the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board approved a three-phased Regional Kitchen Scraps Strategy. The strategy is currently being implemented, and includes:

- incentive funding program
- on-site digester distribution in areas without municipal curbside collection
- education and communications
- interim kitchen scraps processing contract

Appendix A provides a detailed overview of activities to date.

Feedback from the municipal and solid waste industry liaison groups indicates that collection programs will be established by the January 2015 ban date; however, the processing industry is responding slowly to the scheduled ban. Foundation Organics is currently the only licensed facility in the region with an annual processing capacity of up to 10,000 tonnes of organic materials and they are reaching capacity. Michell Brothers Farm has recently been awarded a processing contract by the District of Saanich. They are expected to apply for a license to process up to 14,000 tonnes annually, most of which will be committed to the Saanich contract.

Approximately 50% of the tonnage processed by a composting facility is kitchen scraps; the other half is organic materials such as yard waste, which provides essential carbon sources for the composting process. Subject to approval of the Michell Brothers Farm licence application, the capacity for processing kitchen scraps in the region could reach 12,000 tonnes by spring 2014. Additional kitchen scraps processing capacity of at least 5,500 tonnes annually may be available at Fisher Road Recycling, located in Cobble Hill, raising the total potential processing capacity for kitchen scraps generated in the Capital Region to 17,500 tonnes per year. It is estimated that the kitchen scraps ban will divert 30,000 tonnes of materials, indicating a potential shortfall of 12,500 tonnes of processing capacity (Appendix B).

IMPLICATIONS

The fixed kitchen scraps ban date was meant to drive the development of a long-term collection and processing infrastructure and capacity for kitchen scraps within the region. The processing industry is responding slowly to the scheduled ban. It may be necessary for the CRD to establish interim processing capacity, and possibly establish an interim plan or confirm private sector capacity, until sufficient private sector capacity is established within the region. Staff are actively monitoring the situation and will provide an update in the fall.

CONCLUSION

The regional kitchen scraps strategy is currently being implemented. It appears that collection programs are expected to be established by the January 2015 ban date. The processing industry is responding slowly to the scheduled ban. It may be necessary for the CRD to establish processing capacity on an interim basis until private sector capacity is established in the region. Staff are actively monitoring the situation and will provide an update in the fall with options for committee's consideration in the event processing capacity does not increase.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environmental Services Committee receive the Regional Kitchen Scraps Strategy Update for information.

Russ Smith
Senior Manager
Environmental Resource Management

Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng.
General Manager
Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence

Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP
Chief Administrative Officer
Concurrence

AB:dd

Attachments: 2

REGIONAL KITCHEN SCRAPS STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

INCENTIVE FUNDING

In 2013 and 2014, the Capital Regional District (CRD) is offering an incentive of \$20/tonne for source-separated kitchen scraps delivered to a CRD-approved transfer station or composting facility. A number of funding applications have been received from municipalities and private sector haulers. Tonnages have increased steadily since the beginning of the year, with approximately 700 tonnes of kitchen scraps per month currently being accounted for as part of the incentive funding program. This is lower than anticipated for 2013; however, major kitchen scraps program launches are scheduled within the next year, which will increase diversion levels significantly.

DIGESTER DISTRIBUTION

On-site food digesters are an alternative for residents in areas without municipal collection services. The CRD obtained 1,000 units at a bulk purchase price well below the regular retail cost. They are for re-sale at two scheduled distribution events on June 1 at Panorama Recreation Centre and June 15 at Westshore Parks & Recreation and will continue to be sold at the reduced rate by the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre until September 2013. The digesters have also been made available to Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands. Residents are advised that the digesters are meant to complement existing programs, not replace them. Depending on demand, more events may be held in the future. The program works on a cost recovery basis.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT

Staff have updated the CRD website with a Backgrounder and Frequently Asked Questions and prepared a rack card. The program is being promoted through a variety of community outreach events. A number of service providers are listed on myrecyclopedia.ca. CRD Source Control staff continue to provide outreach to local businesses during their site inspections.

INTERIM PROCESSING CONTRACT

An interim processing contract for residential kitchen scraps, from confirmed municipal partners, was awarded to Foundation Organics until December 31, 2014. Current participating municipalities include the City of Victoria, the District of Oak Bay and the Town of View Royal.

Note: The District of Saanich recently awarded a separate five-year processing contract for 10,000 tonnes of residential kitchen scraps and yard waste to Michell Brothers Farm, scheduled to commence in the spring of 2014.

REGIONAL KITCHEN SCRAPS PROCESSING CAPACITY

KITCHEN SCRAPS PROCESSORS (JUNE 2013)	POTENTIAL KITCHEN SCRAPS PROCESSING CAPACITY
Foundation Organics* • Total licensed tonnage: 10,000 t	5,000 t (at capacity)
Fisher Road Recycling* • Total licensed tonnage: 18,000 t	5,500 t (minimum additional capacity)
Michell Brothers Farm • Anticipated licensed tonnage: 14,000 t (subject to application and approval)	7,000 t (new capacity)
Total Potential Capacity (Spring 2014)	17,500 t
Estimated Kitchen Scraps Diversion • 2012: 7,500 t • 2013: 15,000 t • 2014: 22,500 t • 2015: 30,000 t Required Processing Capacity	 30,000 t
Potential Processing Capacity Shortfall	12,500 t

* Can apply for amendments.