



Zucchini to Diapers: Craik Community Composting

By Crystal Stinson

Overview

- Funding/ Partners
- Craik Community Composting Program (CCC)
 - Pails and compostable bags
 - Home distribution
 - Central bin and home pick-up
 - Central bin to Titan
 - Processing
 - Use of compost in the community
- Future

Funding

- Eco-Action Community Funding Program
 - The CSLP applied for funding to start a community composting program in Craik
 - The grant runs from Oct 2009 to June 2011.
 - The grants helps with the cost of pails, compostable bags, signs, advertising, costs for hazardous waste and e-waste collection events, and salary for project co-ordinators.
 - The grant requires that we match their contributions with equal funding, which in our case is in-kind donations from partners.

Partners

- Titan Clean Energy Projects
 - Titan is processing the compostables using a thermal screw press, and donating the compost back to the community for use in community green spaces.
- Waste Management
 - Waste Management is supplying the central bin,
 - Transferring the waste from the central bin to Titan's site

Partners

- Town of Craik
 - Compostable bags are available for sale at the town office.
 - Supportive roll; town council on board
- Palliser Regional Library – Craik Branch
 - The library is supplying office space for the project co-ordinators.

Partners

- Craik 4-H Sustainability Club
 - The members of the 4-H club will use the compost to improve community green spaces
- CSLP
 - Promotion (through website) and moral support
- Naomi Hunter
 - Volunteer who will do the home pick-up for the project

CCC Pails

PAILS

- Purchased 11 litre plastic pails for the project
- Painted 150 pails with logos and “Crail Composting”
- We did try to get some used pails, but decided to go with these smaller ones so they would fit into kitchens better.



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Compostable Bags

- 12 compostable bags were given to each household
- Bags are not necessary, but make it easy to use the pail, especially in winter when washing the pail out is harder
- More bags available at the town office for \$1.40 for 10 bags

CCC - Distribution of pails, bags and info

- About 168 homes in Craik
- Visited them all twice
- Of 126 homes we talked to:

85% said they would try

11% said no

4% unsure

We will continue to encourage people to participate through advertising and word of mouth.



CCC Do's.....

Acceptable items –

- ALL food items (including meat, cheese, bones)
- House plants, including soil
- Diaper and other sanitary products
- Pet food, animal waste and bedding, kitty litter
- Paper towels, tissues, napkins, flour/sugar bags, meat paper, ice cream boxes, fast food paper packaging, paper plates

CCCand Don'ts

Things not allowed

- Plastic
- Glass
- Metal
- Textiles
- Clothing

CCC Central Bin

- A central bin is set up close to the community recycle bins
- Mulch added as needed
- Emptied every 2 weeks



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Home Pick-up

- Offered to seniors and people with mobility issues
- They give us a call when they require pick-up

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Central bin to Titan

- The contents of the bin is transported to the Titan site every two weeks by Waste Management



CCC Processing

- Titan uses a thermal screw press to turn the waste into compost



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Compost created



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Using the compost

- The compost will be returned to the project
- The Craik 4-H Sustainability Club will use the compost to improve community green spaces
- Once community green spaces are improved, compost will be offered to community members

The future

- As part of the grant, we will study how this program will be able to continue once the grant is complete
- Like to see funds directed towards garbage pick-up reduced and re-distributed to support this type of project.
- Need community buy-in with high percentage of people using the system.