

# City of Yorkton's Compost Program



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CITY OF YORKTON - ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



# Outline

- Current Site
- History
- Programs
- What's Working/Challenges
- Future Steps

# Our Site

- Located at the City of Yorkton landfill
- Approximately 10 acres
- Windrows



# History

- In 2007, Environmental Services Department assumed the City's role in operations of Landfill/Recycling/Garbage Collection
- Canadian Federation of University Women, Saskatchewan Abilities Centre, Prairie Harvest formed a Committee
- January 2008, Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council approached City for a 2 year "mentorship" in establishing or improving Compost Programs

# Pilot Program with SWRC

## Spring 2008

- Site selection
- The Recipe “Greens” – Nitrogen, “Browns”- Carbon - keep moist
- Material for the program?
- Contact landscapers, Heartland Livestock?
- Flax straw and grass was received from Deer Park Golf Course and made into a windrow
- The windrow was moistened by applying bio-solids on a regular basis from the wastewater treatment facility
- The windrow was turned weekly using a pay-loader and temperatures were monitored daily

# Our “First” Compost Pile







### **Tips and Guidelines**

Here are some tips to remember when you begin composting:

- Add water to your composting pile on a regular basis
- Never include plant materials showing signs of disease
- Place larger materials at bottom of pile to allow air to circulate
- Try to use small pieces of material if at all possible
- Warm weather is better for your compost because internal temperature matters
- Avoid having too large a pile as it may interfere with the aeration
- It may be easier to use two compost piles, one for new material and one for ingredients already heating up inside



### **Making your own composting unit**

Although you can go to the store and buy your own compost bin, you can also make your own at home. Here are some tips to follow:

- Make sure you have a lid that protects the pile from rain or snow. This also controls the moisture and it doesn't allow the smell to attract animals.
- You must put holes or vents somewhere in your compost bin. This allows circulation to run through the bin.



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*City of Yorkton*

## *Composting*



**Need more help?  
Just call  
786-1780**



# Compost Pilot Program: Outcome

- Success!
- Built upon the existing program through trial and error – used different materials including: Spoiled Grain/Fertilizer Spills/Gypsum spills
- Commercial and Industrial organizations contacted.
  - Canola plants startup
  - Heartland Livestock
  - Elevators/Oat processor
  - Bio-solids removed at the WWTP

# Rows of Cattle Manure from Local Stockyard



# Addition of Grain By-Product from Canola Plants & Grain Storage Facilities



# City Equipment Used for Bio-Solids Application





# After Bio-Solids Application



# Mixing and Turning of Compost Piles



# Temperature Recording



# Creating a Large Scale Compost Program

- Dedicate area for receiving compost materials
  - Away from homes/subdivisions
  - Estimate size
  - Access
- Identify manpower and equipment to handle input materials and monitoring of compost
  - Time/dedication to operate and monitor project and input material
  - Proper equipment, possibly screening of material
- Work with local business and industries with input source materials
  - Meet with your clients



# Creating a Large Scale Compost Program (con't)

- Prepare rate structure for municipal bylaw for acceptance of input materials (\$150/hr payloader, \$100/hr for a truck/stockpiling material )
- Establish end use for compost product (added cost for screening)
- Contacts!

# End Uses & Markets

- Final capping of the Landfill
- Compost Tea
- Public Works will use it for backfilling curbs/sidewalks; Soccer Fields at Logan Green
- Leisure Services – Planters
- Other markets

# Compost Material 2013-2017

Year	Cubic Yards	Tonnes
2013	23,000	43,000
2014	15,500	29,000
2015	17,000	31,000
2016	9,000	17,000
2017	8,400	15,500

# What's Working!

- Product
- Helping Commercial/Industrial Sector
- Landfill Diversion
- Meeting the Committees mandate
- Creating an end cycle for some material
- Options for experimentation: Gyproc, Shredded paper
- Bio-solids disposal



# Challenges

- Balanced mixture
- Site size/accessibility
- Contaminated loads/Monitoring
- End use of Product
- Odors
- Possibly rodents
- No residential program

# Challenges con'td

- Material preparation i.e. screening
- Ministry of Environment & Ag Canada
- Flammable material
- Manpower









































# Future Steps

- Monitoring/testing
- Other potential sources
- Engaging the community & businesses
- Starting new piles/experimenting
- Determining final markets



# QUESTIONS?

