

# COLLECTING ORGANICS



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## Victor Hugo

“All the Forces in the world  
are not as powerful as an  
idea whose time has come”





# Overview

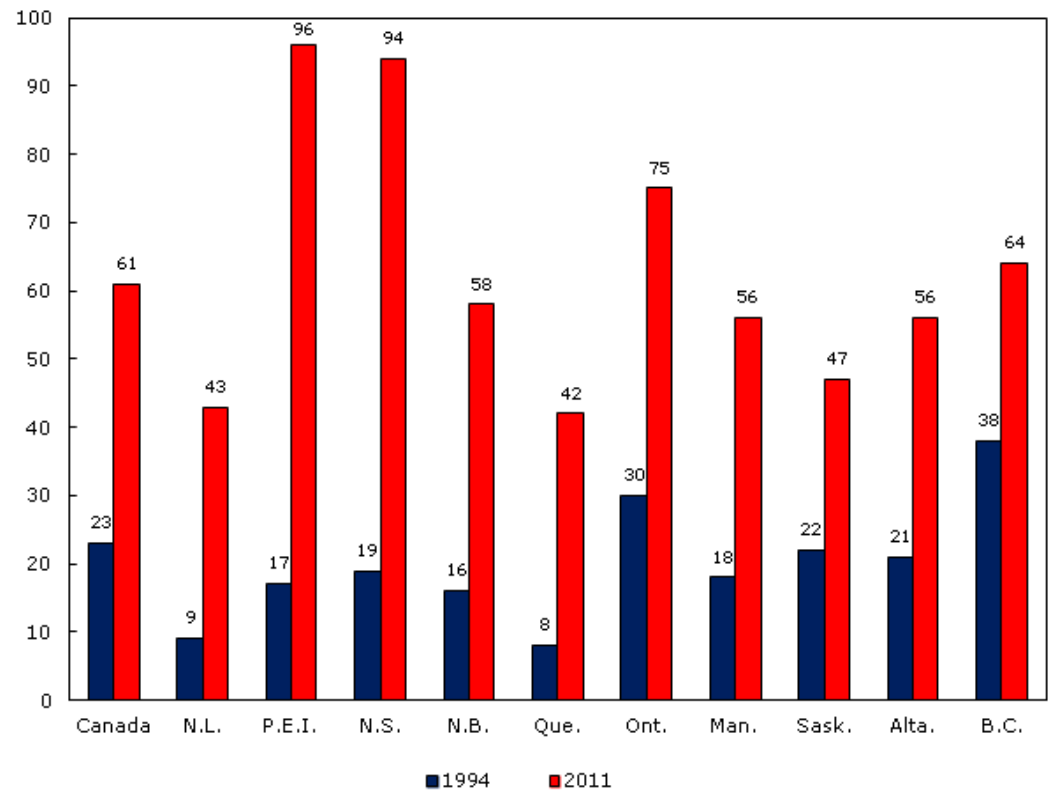
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- Society produces large amounts of organics
- If captured and managed, they can be beneficial
- Collecting organics is necessary to achieve this
- Municipalities across Canada collect organics
- Make use of experience and lessons learned

# Compost by Household in Canada

**Chart 1**  
**Composting, Canada and provinces, 1994 and 2011**

percent



**Note:** As a percentage of all households.

**Source:** Statistics Canada, Environment Accounts and Statistics Division, Households and the Environment Survey (survey number 3881), 1994 and 2011.



# What Organics Are We Talking About?

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- Food Waste
  - Backyard Compostable
    - fruits, vegetables
  - Backyard Non-compostable
    - Meat, bones, breads, non-liquid dairy, fats, food soiled paper
- Yard & Garden Waste
  - Small yard waste
    - Leaves, branches, grass clippings





# Stuff Worth Knowing



- Organics are yucky
- Food waste is wet and heavy
- Yard waste in summer can be wet and heavy
- Yard waste in fall and early spring is light and fluffy
- Collection trucks can easily become overweight
- Winter organic collection can be inefficient (low volume)
- Stuff freezes in winter
- Summer collection will need more trucks and crews
- Organics collected needs to have a place to go

# Collection Methods

- 🗑️ Self-Haul
- 🗑️ Community drop-off
  - Bins
  - Bunkers
- 🗑️ Curb-side
  - Manual
  - Automated Carts
- 🗑️ ICI
  - Self-haul
  - Organic bins





## What are Options for Smaller Communities

- Low Technology Compost Site
- Typically yard waste
- Self haul to compost site
- Community bunker
- Community bins
- Chuckwagon concept





# Transfer Station Collection

- Residents drop off organics
- Transfer & Recycling Depot
  - Bunkers
  - Dedicated bins
- Rocky View County – Chuckwagon



## Curb Side Collection of SSO

- Larger municipalities
- Regional service
- Weekly in summer
- Bi-weekly in winter



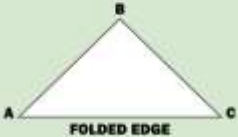
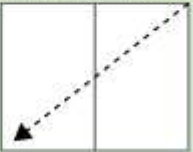
# Dealing with the Yuk

**BeWasteWise**

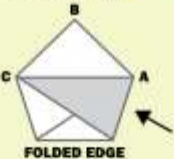
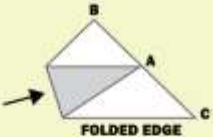
**ORGANICS ORIGAMI**

Use newspaper to make a liner for your food scraps container


**STEP 1** Fold a stack of 4 or 5 sheets of newspaper into a triangle.




**STEP 2** Fold corners A to middle of B and C, and fold corner of C to middle of A and B.



**STEP 3** Fold down half of the newspaper at point B on one side, then flip it over and fold the remaining layers down on the other half.



Open the liner and place into the food scraps container.



[statbert.ca/waste](http://statbert.ca/waste)

*St. Albert*





## Don't get stuck

During winter, the contents of your organics cart may freeze to the sides or bottom of the cart. Drivers performing the collection make every effort to dump all contents, but it is **your responsibility** to ensure your cart contents are loose.

If the cart doesn't get completely emptied because of frozen contents, please be patient, wait until your next organics collection day and ensure contents are loose.

Use these tips to  
avoid organics  
freezing  
to the cart:



- Wrap food with high moisture content in soiled boxes or newspaper



- Layer wet organics (food waste, leaves) with dry organics (newspaper, pizza boxes)



- Line your cart with an acceptable green cart liner such as newspaper, paper bags, soiled pizza boxes, or compostable bags with one of these logos:



- Don't force the contents of the cart down

- Strain excess liquid from soups and sauces with a strainer and only place the solid pieces in the cart



- Store well-wrapped organic waste in your freezer until it's time to place it in your cart on collection day

CITY OF  
**AIRDRIE**  
COMMUNITY & OPPORTUNITY



# Dealing with Winter



# Questions to Ask

- What can the compost facility receive?
- What are budget limitations?
- What organics are to be collected?
- What level of service is needed?
- How are organics to be collected?
- Municipal or contracted service?
- What is collection frequency?
- How will organics collection be implemented?
- What are supporting policies?
- How will communication and education be done?



## A Few Best Practices

- Promote reducing food and yard waste
- Phase in organic collection service
- Start with Pilot Project
- Set collection frequency
- Determine truck and route details and containers
- Address the “yuk’ issue
- Be specific about what is to be collected?
- Be aggressive with supporting communication and education
- Promote participation
- Use only craft paper bags or compostable bags – **NO Biodegradable bags**
- Give back the compost – “Free compost day”



# Food Scraps

## A Few Lessons learned

- High level of compost technology and management
- Weekly collection of combined yard and food waste is beneficial
- Comingling increases collection efficiencies and reduces odours
- Collection trucks can be overweight
- Including yard debris with collection maximizes diversion
- Food scraps is a new concept and requires continuous education and frequent reminders
- Distributing kitchen catchers is an effective tool for a program roll-out
- Address contamination issues early



# Marketing The Program



- Door to Door personal contact
- Website with updated info
- Media Communication
- Community workshops
- Master Composter Program
- Cart labels
- Kitchen catcher labels
- Instruction brochure or flyers
- Cart or door hangers (notices)
- Collection calendar
- Hotline



## To Sum Up

- Make the effort to prevent food becoming waste in the first place
- Instill a community mindset that organic materials can be beneficial
- Set achievable goals
- Formulate policies – incentives
- Consider investing in technology
- Communicate the story



## Victor Hugo

“Many great actions are  
committed in small struggles”

