

# The State of Composting in Saskatchewan

# Why now?

- ▶ Blue box recycling
  - ▶ 454 municipalities
- ▶ Next big thing: organics
  - ▶ 58% of waste stream (Saskatoon)



# Why Composting?

- ▶ Simple process
- ▶ Low tech - most communities have the equipment
- ▶ Reduce GHG (methane)
- ▶ Movable product



# How does it work?

- ▶ Helping Mother Nature along - speeding up a natural process
- ▶ You need:
  - ▶ Green materials (nitrogen)
  - ▶ Brown materials (carbon)
  - ▶ Water
  - ▶ Air - composting is an aerobic process - you need some way for air to circulate
  - ▶ Soil/bacteria (a small amount)
- ▶ Mother Nature does NOT work in a landfill

# Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council

## swrc.ca

The screenshot shows the website [www.saskwastereduction.ca](http://www.saskwastereduction.ca) in a browser window. The page features a dark header with the council's logo and navigation links: EVENTS, SERVICES, NEWS, RECYCLE, COMPOST, and ABOUT. A search icon is also present. The main content area has a large heading "Where do I recycle my..." and a sub-heading: "Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council helps you find the best places to recycle anything from your home and workplace. Select a location and material to find out how you can recycle." Below this, there are two dropdown menus: "Select a Community" and "Find your Material". The "Find your Material" dropdown is open, showing a list of categories: Building Materials for Reuse, Cell Phones, Clothing / Textiles, Composting / Yard Waste (highlighted), Computers / Electronics, Construction / Demolition, and Furniture. To the right of the dropdowns is a green "SEARCH" button and a "Keywords" input field. The background of the page is a collage of images, including a group of people and a landscape with birds flying.

# Highlights

- ▶ Our database lists 144 communities with composting programs
  - ▶ Aberdeen to Zealandia
- ▶ Most common system:
  - ▶ Drop off site at landfill or transfer station
  - ▶ Yard waste (grass, leaves, garden waste)
- ▶ Pick up programs
  - ▶ More likely to include kitchen scraps
  - ▶ More likely to be contracted out
- ▶ Only one comprehensive program (all organics): Lloydminster

# Programs by Community Size and Type

Municipality Type	Compost programs	%	Depot only	Curbside only	Both
Cities	13 / 16	81%	7	1	5
Towns	84 / 149	56%	72	4	8
Villages	46 / 317	15%	44	2	0
Total	144 / 483	30%	123	7	13

# Programs by Materials Accepted

Material	# of programs
Yard (grass, leaves, plants)	142 (99%)
Food - no meat, dairy, grease	40 (28%)
Food - all	1 (.7%)
Branches	71 (49%)



# Simple tech - static pile



# Simple tech - aerated static pile



# Simple tech - windrows



# Simple (but expensive) tech- compost turner



# Lloydminster— just not the kitchen sink



- Bones
- Branches
- Bread
- Cat litter
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Cold ashes
- Cooking oils
- Corks
- Dairy products
- Dryer lint
- Egg shells
- Fish
- Grass clippings
- Grease
- Leaves
- Meat
- Pet waste (bagged, small amounts)
- Pizza boxes
- Popcorn bags
- Produce
- Rice
- Sawdust
- Shells
- Soap
- Soiled paper and cardboard
- Tea bags
- Tissue
- Wax paper
- Wood (small pieces)

# Compost End Use

End Use	# of programs
Give away	74
Sell	4
Municipal landscaping	25
Landfill site maintenance	25
Landfill cover	11
Burning	10
Nothing (leave it sit)	44

# Home composting support

- ▶ Humboldt, Saskatoon - rebates on compost bins
- ▶ Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw - subsidized bins for residents
- ▶ Saskatoon - Compost Coach program
- ▶ (SWRC has many resources for home composting)



# Commercial Composting operations

- ▶ Titan Carbon Smart Technologies - Craik
- ▶ GFL- Regina (formerly PV Waste Solutions)
- ▶ Loraas Disposal - Saskatoon
- ▶ Landscapers
- ▶ Farmers



Okay, so this slide should be at the beginning ...

- ▶ REDUCE
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  - ▶ Food waste prevention
  - ▶ Grasscycling (leaving clippings on the lawn)
  - ▶ Using leaves for mulch

Everything that is reduced / avoided doesn't need to be handled later!

Thank you!

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