

## Kitchen Scraps banned from garbage. But what does it all mean?

By now you have probably heard about the regional ban on kitchen scraps, which came in to effect on January 1, 2015. The landfill restriction applies to both the residential and commercial sector. So how might YOU be affected?

**What are Kitchen Scraps?** Organic materials, Kitchen Scraps include meat, bones, grains, dairy products, eggs, vegetables, fruits and soiled paper products.

**What does a ban from garbage mean? How will it affect me?** As a resident of the capital region, you are now required (as of January 1, 2015) to keep your kitchen scraps out of your household garbage. Once separated, how it's managed will depend on where you live.

- Some municipalities have created a collection program. If your municipality collects your garbage, then they will also be collecting your kitchen scraps.
- Residents living in municipalities without municipal collection services will need to arrange their own private hauling services for kitchen scraps, the same as they do for garbage. As an alternative to hiring a private collector, residents could install an on-site food digester on their property.

More information about on-site food digesters and backyard composting is available through the compost education centre [www.compost.bc.ca](http://www.compost.bc.ca). Another alternative is to self-haul to designated depots, including Hartland landfill. A detailed list of depots and haulers is available at [www.myrecyclopedia.ca](http://www.myrecyclopedia.ca)

WHERE YOU LIVE	COLLECTION TYPE	COLLECTION PROGRAM DETAILS
Esquimalt	<b>Municipal collection using municipal personnel</b>	Service launched 2014
Oak Bay		Service launched 2014
Saanich		Service launched 2014
Victoria		Service launched 2013
Sidney	<b>Municipal collection using private contractor</b>	Service launched 2014
View Royal		Service launched 2007
Central Saanich	<b>Collection by private service provider</b>	Contact your private hauler for collection options <b>OR</b> visit <a href="http://myrecyclopedia.ca">myrecyclopedia.ca</a> for a listing of service providers.
Colwood		
Highlands		
Juan de Fuca E.A.		
Langford		
Metchosin		
North Saanich		
Salt Spring Island		
Sooke		
Southern Gulf Islands E.A.		
Multi-Family Homes	<b>Collection by private service provider</b>	Contact your property manager or building owner for collection options <b>OR</b> visit <a href="http://myrecyclopedia.ca">myrecyclopedia.ca</a> .

### How does collection in my area work?

**Why are kitchen scraps being banned from our garbage?** Once upon a time paper was a major part of our waste, but once we realized that it could be recycled and serve a greater purpose, we banned it from our garbage. Just like paper before it, organic waste has a higher value than garbage heading to into our landfill. Organic waste, such as kitchen scraps constitute 30% of the waste stream at Hartland landfill. In order to achieve the region's waste diversion goals, these materials must be diverted from the waste stream. Kitchen scraps are a valuable resource. By separating them for composting, kitchen scraps can be turned into a valuable soil amendment. Composted kitchen scraps contain nutrients and minerals essential for healthy plant development. They also encourage healthy soil ecosystems through the addition of micro-organisms. These organisms can help reduce garden pests and encourage beneficial insects, which can reduce or eliminate pesticide use.

**What happens to the organics that are separated from our waste stream?** Currently, the Hartland kitchen scraps transfer station is open to both public and private haulers and tonnages are increasing steadily. Kitchen scraps are being transferred from Hartland and processed by Harvest Power to produce both green energy and compost. Other on- and off-Island processing facilities are also available to take kitchen scraps from our region. The Region is currently requesting proposals for the development of a kitchen scraps processing facility in, or within proximity of, the region. This process has the best potential to create long-term and sustainable local processing capacity. The construction completion date of a processing facility is dependent on technology and location and could take up to two years.