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Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Summerland to Receive Funding for Summerland Residential Organic Waste Collection Project

Project approved under CleanBC – Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program

The District of Summerland is excited to announce they will receive grant funding for expanding its current curbside collection program to include residential food scraps, from the Province of British Columbia through the CleanBC – Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program (OICP).

The Organics Collection Program funding will help Summerland:

- Reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Increase diversion of residential organic wastes, currently buried, for use in producing additional high-quality compost products;
- Work towards the Province’s Municipal solid waste reduction target of 350 kg/person/year;
- Increase exposure and awareness of food waste prevention; and
- Prolong the life of the Summerland Sanitary Landfill.

The District of Summerland submitted a grant application in February 2021, for the Summerland Residential Organic Waste Collection Project to expand its residential organic waste curbside collection program to accept residential food scraps for both single and multi-family homes.

The separated organic materials will be composted for beneficial reuse at the Summerland Organics Processing Facility (SOPF), scheduled for construction in 2022, located within the Summerland Sanitary Landfill. Summerland received 66% funding of eligible project costs for the SOPF up to \$1,581,000 through the BC Organics Infrastructure Program in December 2019.

Under the OICP stream, 66% funding of eligible project costs up to \$451,639 will be provided to help implement the required changes to the Curbside Organic Waste Collection for diversion of residential food scraps and create a comprehensive education program to ease the transition and reduce contamination in the organics waste stream. The funding will go towards program materials and implementation, such as the purchasing of additional curbside carts, kitchen catcher packages for all residents to use within their homes for collection of food scraps, development of communication and educational outreach packages and/or programs, and the initial distribution of these materials to residents.

“Proceeding with changes to our curbside collection program to include food waste in our organics green cart and remove it from our garbage waste stream is a step in the right direction for Summerland

in many ways,” said Mayor Toni Boot. “The diversion of residential food waste from burial in the landfill will reduce our environmental impact and makes financial sense for the entire community. Doing so will lower our greenhouse gas emissions, extend the life of the Summerland Landfill and create a new compost product for use within the community. We are delighted that our application has been selected to receive Provincial dollars for this important project.”

District staff will now begin working through the initial stages of the project, with roll-out of the curbside collection changes for food scrap inclusion scheduled for 2023. Once implemented food waste will no longer be disposed of in the garbage, but collected in the green yard & garden waste carts for composting at the SOPF. Community involvement will be a key factor in the project’s success. The District will provide public engagement opportunities as it progresses and has created a dedicated webpage at www.summerland.ca/organics for easy access to information and responses to questions the community may have regarding the Summerland Organics Processing Facility Project and the Summerland Residential Organic Waste Collection Project.

Quick Facts

- The Province of British Columbia will provide 66% of eligible project costs or \$451,639, whichever is lower, for the project through the OICP.
- The District of Summerland will be responsible for all remaining costs of the project.
- The total estimated cost (eligible and ineligible) for this project is \$743,000.

Associated Links

More information on the CleanBC - Organic Infrastructure and Collection Program is available at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/food-and-organic-waste/organic-waste-diversion/cleanbc-organic-infrastructure-and-collection-program>

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